



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION IX  
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American Samoa  
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**JAN 16 2009**

Dear Colleague:

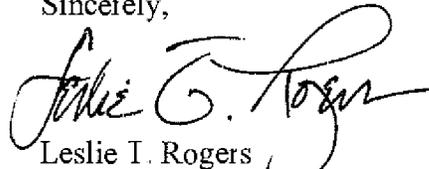
As you may be aware, with economic stimulus and recovery as national priorities, Congress is considering a range of funding options targeted to the Nation's infrastructure improvement needs, including those of public transportation. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is supporting this effort by working with state and local governments and transit agencies to identify "ready-to-go" and "imminent" projects that could be funded upon enactment of economic stimulus legislation, currently projected for mid-February 2009.

If you have projects that may be eligible for consideration of stimulus funding that are not already in Federally-approved statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), please be prepared to take the necessary actions, including any necessary public comment periods, to include projects in metropolitan and statewide TIPs once stimulus funds are available. If you have not been contacted on this matter by a representative of your State Department of Transportation, the metropolitan planning organization for your urban area, or a local unit of government, please contact my office immediately. A FTA staff member will refer you to the appropriate contact persons in state or local government with whom you can discuss the capital improvement needs of your agency and the prospects of receiving funding support through stimulus legislation.

I urge you to take these early steps to identify candidate projects for stimulus funding that are "ready-to-go", to ensure that these projects are properly referenced in the planning documents and to prioritize projects that have or could quickly meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements. These are important steps that will expedite a future obligation of stimulus funding that is being contemplated under new legislation. Also, your early action to prepare for an eventual contract award will ensure that these funds are put to work immediately to stimulate the economy.

We are committed to working closely with you and will keep you informed as we learn more about the funding specifics and terms of availability.

Sincerely,



Leslie I. Rogers  
Regional Administrator