March 9, 2009

CIRCULAR LETTER 2009-05

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS - DIRECTORS

It has come to our attention that some of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and local agencies may not be able to submit their ARRA projects to their applicable IDOT District Local Roads office by the March 25, 2009 deadline listed in the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets’ Circular Letter #2009-03, dated February 25, 2009. As a result, the target date for project listing submittals is now being extended to May 1, 2009.

If a local agency cannot meet the May 1 submittal date, please provide the district office an indication of when the project list is expected to be submitted. Projects should be submitted as soon as possible after this date. While we work with FHWA to interpret the reporting requirements laid out in the ARRA, and given the emphasis on transparency for this program, we anticipate that we will have to provide a project listing of the local ARRA program for possible publication. If we are required to produce or publish the local ARRA program prior to receiving all the local agencies’ listings, we will provide the explanation that some local agencies’ projects have not yet been received.

Please note that even though projects must meet the necessary Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Surface Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public involvement requirements, these ARRA projects must still be coordinated through the IDOT districts in order to be programmed in the IDOT local program in the usual manner as projects in our annual programming process.

Please continue to work with your applicable IDOT District Local Roads staff to ensure we accomplish the local ARRA program and have all of our funding federally authorized by the March 3, 2010 deadline established by the ARRA.

Sincerely,

Darrell W. Lewis, P.E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets