

# THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT WORKSHOP

Presented by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy & Governor James Douglas

March 6, 2009 - Burlington, Vermont

## VERMONT'S INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS, BRIDGES, WATER PROJECTS, HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a long-overdue, historic investment of over \$150 billion in our national infrastructure – including our roads, bridges, public transit, housing and water systems. With the recent report that the nation's infrastructure earns a "D" grade for its poor and decaying condition, the cost of waiting still longer to make these investments to protect our families, businesses, and communities is clear.

As our national infrastructure has crumbled, our roads, bridges, and water systems have become more unsafe for everyday use. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act addresses this challenge by focusing on ready-to-go repairs and maintenance that will make community and state infrastructure systems more resilient and secure.

In addition, the Act makes an unprecedented investment in public transit and innovative high-speed rail initiatives to bring new, efficient transportation alternatives to millions of Americans across the country.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also helps communities affected by foreclosures and blight to rebuild by providing an infusion of over \$10 billion to help expand the availability of quality affordable housing and support communities seeking to reduce the effects of foreclosures in their neighborhoods.

### Specifically, the Act includes:

- \$27.5 billion for formula highway investments – **providing Vermont \$125.8 million;**
- \$6.9 billion for formula investments in public transportation – **providing Vermont \$5.7 million;**
- \$1.5 billion for competitive grants to state and local governments for surface transportation investments;
- \$9.3 billion for competitive investments in rail transportation, including Amtrak;
- \$1.3 billion for competitive investments in air transportation;
- \$1.38 billion for competitive investments in waste water projects through the USDA Rural Utility Service's Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program;
- \$6.4 billion for formula clean drinking water grants through the EPA's STAG Program – **providing Vermont \$19.5 million through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and \$19.2 million through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund;**
- \$100 million for competitive economic redevelopment projects through the EPA's Brownfields Program;
- \$1 billion for formula community investments through the Community Development Block Grant program – **providing Vermont \$2.2 million;**
- \$2 billion in additional competitive resources to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program;
- \$4 billion in formula public housing assistance through the Public Housing Capital Fund – **providing Vermont \$3.2 million;**
- \$2.25 billion in formula low-income housing tax credits distributed through the HOME Program – **providing Vermont \$5.5 million;**
- \$2.25 billion in retrofits for subsidized housing through the Section 8 Program;
- \$100 million for lead reduction in housing.

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