



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JAMES A. ALOISI JR.
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2009

CONTACT:

Colin Durrant
(617) 973-7870
Adam Hurtubise
(617) 973-8093

**NORTHFIELD ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR FEDERAL RECOVERY FUNDS**

"Shovel-ready" project advertised for bid

BOSTON – Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – The Patrick Administration and local legislators today announced that a Northfield road reconstruction has been advertised for bid as one of the "shovel-ready" transportation projects using federal highway stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The project involves a \$1.7 million scenic byway construction along Route 10/63 in Northfield. The work includes sidewalk reconstruction along Main Street and Parker Avenue. The project also includes safety improvements at the Parker Avenue intersection, sidewalk repair on several adjacent roadways and restoration of the town common as part of an effort to restore the town's historical character.

Massachusetts has received the authority from the federal government to spend a total of \$437.9 million on highway projects through the federal recovery law. At least \$153.2 million will be committed to "shovel-ready" projects that will be advertised by June 27, 2009.

"Funds from the President's recovery bill come to us at a critical moment, and we are well prepared to put these funds to work," said Governor Patrick. "Thanks to a careful review process, we will soon have shovels in the ground on necessary road and bridge projects throughout the Commonwealth and start to put people back to work."

"These funds will help enhance the historic and cultural resources of the town, increase economic development in downtown Northfield, improve the livability of the downtown, and provide accessible sidewalks for all," said Congressman John W. Olver. "This project, and others like it, are just the sort intended by the stimulus package to help jolt our economy and get it moving again."

Federal recovery transportation projects are selected from the State Transportation Improvement Plan, which is comprised of projects submitted by the state's 13 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) following a collaborative public review process including the public and dozens of state, regional, and local officials.

"It's exciting to see this project under construction soon," said Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg. "These improvements will enhance safety for residents and will be a great economic boon to the downtown area."

"This project is vital to the long term economic development strategy for Northfield and I am pleased that the Patrick-Murray administration has moved this ahead," said Representative Denis E. Guyer.

"This Northfield project was one of many identified by our partners at the federal, state, regional, and local level that address important basic road maintenance needs," said Transportation Secretary James Aloisi, Jr. "These job creating projects, which get underway in the spring, will help jumpstart the economy and make our roads safer."

"The Executive Office of Transportation and MassHighway have identified several important projects that can move forward immediately thanks to these recovery funds," said Governor Patrick's Director of Infrastructure Investment Jeffrey Simon. "Federal stimulus funds allow us to accelerate road and bridge maintenance projects while creating and maintaining jobs."

Federal officials have also announced an additional \$319 million in recovery funds for transit projects at the Regional Transit Authorities and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Federal recovery funds enhance the Patrick-Murray Administration's two-year effort to address a legacy of neglect and \$15-\$19 billion maintenance backlog. The Administration working with the Legislature has approved more than \$9 billion for road, bridge and transit projects through Transportation Bond bills and an historic eight-year Accelerated Bridge Repair Program.

Moving to secure our common economic future, Governor Patrick recently unveiled his Massachusetts Recovery Plan. The Governor's plan will combine state, federal and, where possible, private efforts to provide immediate and long-term relief and position the Commonwealth for recovery in the following ways:

- **Deliver immediate relief** by investing in the road, bridge and rail projects that put people to work today and providing safety net services that sustain people who are especially vulnerable during an economic crisis;
- **Build a better tomorrow** through education and infrastructure investments that strengthen our economic competitiveness, prepare workers for the jobs of the

future and support clean energy, broadband and technology projects that cut costs while growing the economy; and

- **Reform state government** by eliminating the pension and ethics loopholes that discredit the work of government and revitalize the transportation networks that have suffered from decades of neglect and inaction.

For more information about federal transportation recovery funding visit Governor Patrick's Massachusetts Recovery and Reinvestment Plan website, www.mass.gov/recovery.

####