



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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**RTE. 7 PROJECT IN LANESBOROUGH AND NEW ASHFORD  
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 Route 7 resurfacing project in Lanesborough and New Ashford 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 \$2.1 million project advertised Saturday involves resurfacing and related work on about 6.7 miles of Route 7 in New Ashford and Lanesborough. The project area spans from about 1,000 feet north of Bailey Road in Lanesborough to the New Ashford/Williamstown line to the north.

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.”

Congressman John Olver said, “For far too long we have underinvested in our aging transportation infrastructure. The stimulus funds provide us with the ability to finally address necessary improvement projects while putting local people to work in these difficult economic times.”

“This resurfacing project illustrates an important injection of federal dollars into the Berkshire economy and will ensure traveler safety along a stretch of road that sees a high volume of commuter and commercial traffic,” said Senator Benjamin B. Downing.

“I am pleased to see the Patrick/Murray administration investing on Route 7, which is an important corridor not only for my district but for the entire Berkshire area as well. I am happy to see this investment in what I consider a critical component of the Massachusetts infrastructure system,” said Representative Denis E. Guyer.

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.

“This Route 7 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 unveiled his Massachusetts Recovery Plan earlier this week. 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](http://www.mass.gov/recovery).

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