



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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**ROUTE 9 PROJECT RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR FEDERAL
RECOVERY FUNDS**

“Shovel-ready” project advertised for bid

BOSTON – Tuesday April 7, 2009 – As part of Governor Deval Patrick’s Massachusetts Recovery Plan to secure the state’s economic future, the Patrick Administration and local legislators today announced that a Route 9 resurfacing project was advertised for bid on Saturday as one of the “shovel-ready” transportation projects using federal highway stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The \$5 million project involves resurfacing of three sections of Route 9 in Belchertown and Ware, a total of 14.3 miles.

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 stated, “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.”

"These road improvements are crucial because Route 9 is a major east and westbound connector in Massachusetts that creates commerce throughout the entire region," said Senator Stephen Brewer. "Not only does Route 9 serve as an important part of the Commonwealth's infrastructure, it is also the main access route to and from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst."

Senator Gale Candaras notes: "This project represents an important step forward in both addressing critical transportation infrastructure needs as well as investing in the region."

"This section of Route 9 is an increasingly important resource for economic vitality and quality of life in the Quabbin region, especially in the growing community of Belchertown," stated Representative Stephen Kulik. "The resurfacing will improve public safety, enhance efforts to grow jobs, strengthen our recreational tourism economy, and is an excellent investment of federal stimulus funds. "

"I am pleased to see that the Federal Recovery Funds are in place, and as intended, able to stimulate the job market in Belchertown," stated Representative Thomas M. Petrolati. "This project has always been a priority to the legislature relative to public safety, and I am pleased to be joining my colleagues along with the Governor in making this announcement today."

"I am pleased to see stimulus money coming into the district," stated Representative Gobi. "The funds are critical to improving the safety of our roadways for all."

"This is great news," said Representative Todd Smola. "The quicker these projects get the green light, the quicker we're able to get people in our community back to work."

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.

"The Route 9 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 inherited and a \$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.

The Governor's Recovery 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 Governor Patrick's Massachusetts Recovery and Reinvestment Plan website visit www.mass.gov/recovery.

>> For more information about Massachusetts' transportation stimulus projects, including an interactive Google map, visit EOT's recovery web page at: <http://youmovemassachusetts.org/stimulus.html>

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