

Oregon Department of Transportation
Public Transit Division

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Rural and Small Urban Areas (5311) Eligible Recipients Program

Oregon Transportation Commission
April 15, 2009

Background

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Federal Register Notice was published on March 5, 2009, allocating \$14,627,158 in capital funding for current participants of FTA's Rural and Small Urban Areas Program (5311). ARRA projects are meant to maintain and create jobs, infuse funds into state programs, and to build and repair infrastructure.

Program Description

- ARRA funds are to be distributed to current 5311 recipients
- All existing 5311 program requirements must be met
- ARRA funding does **not** require local match
- ARRA requires the normal 15% set-aside for Intercity projects
- ARRA funds are only available for capital projects, and **not** for operational expenses
 - Funding for capital projects include: vehicles; facilities (including deferred maintenance, and other infrastructure needs); passenger shelters; preventive maintenance; and equipment (computer/communications, security, signs, etc.)
- FTA ARRA funds are required to be obligated within 180 days after the Federal Register Notice was published with the final allocations

Project Eligibility Criteria

Project eligibility for capital projects is based on the following criteria:

1. ARRA funding is limited to current 5311 recipients
2. Projects must be identified in a Transportation System Plan or other local transportation plan, such as the Transit/Human Services Coordinated plan
3. Projects must be prioritized
4. Readiness: Priority will be given to projects that sustain and/or create jobs this summer and that can be completed within three years of obligation
5. Sustainability: Applicant must certify that its agency has adequate resources to maintain capital assets and to operate vehicles or facilities after the grant period
6. Intercity projects are limited to 5311 formula program participants and will be selected through a competitive process

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ARRA Project Selection Timeline

- 2/17/2009 President Obama signed the ARRA bill into law
- 2/23/2009 PTD presented its plan and program description to its advisory committee (PTAC)
- 2/27/2009 PTD published program information on Web site and notified eligible applicants
- 3/5/2009 ARRA funds were published in the Federal Register Notice
- 3/11/2009 PTD published solicitation and application materials to Web site
- 3/27/2009 Application Deadline
- 4/8/2009 PTD publishes list of projects for public comment and provides to Oregon Transportation Commission
- 4/15/2009 Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) reviews and approves projects conditional to completion of public comment period
- 4/16/2009 PTD submits federal grant application and begins subrecipient grant agreement preparation. FTA deadline for this action is 5/15/2009.
- 7/1/2009 FTA funds must be obligated to the state (FTA grant executed) no later than this date. PTD can start requesting ARRA funds from FTA
- 3/5/2012 All projects must be completed within three years of the date the Federal Register Notice was published