

Agenda Item Number 12.f.

Federal Jobs Bill, ARRA-II, Update

Presenter: Byron Vanderpool

Action Recommended: None, Information Only

Background:

For some months rumors have been flying about a second round of “stimulus” funding being made available.

On December 16, 2009, the House of Representatives passed HR 2847, the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, on a vote of 217 to 212.

This bill is very similar in structure and amounts to the original round of ARRA funding, but generally allows for much shorter timelines. For example, 50 percent of all transportation projects within a state would have to be under contract (not just obligated) within 90 days of the bill’s passage.

On February 9, the Senate took its first action on a jobs bill. The bill consists mainly of tax provisions and an extension of the surface transportation program (which expires at the end of the month.)

The Senate has apparently decided to consider a series of jobs bills rather than a single version like HR 2847. Once the Senate passes a bill, it will be up to a conference committee to reconcile the very divergent approaches taken by the House and Senate.

Timing for any final bill, or bills, remains unknown, but given the likely very short timelines for action, agencies should prepare project requests now, and be ready to move very quickly once opportunities are announced.

LCOG staff will continue to keep the membership informed as events unfold.