



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

To: Office of Management and Budget

March 17, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) greatly increased the transparency and accountability requirements for recipients of ARRA funds and the Federal agencies responsible for the appropriation of the funds. In order to ensure that all statutory and subsequent OMB reporting requirements are met, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed a set of four reports and guidance for the grant recipients to use in reporting the required information to FHWA. FHWA requests approval to use OMB's emergency processing system to meet Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements.

FHWA is required to undertake PRA for the newly created reports (forms) as these contain new data that are not currently collected by any of FHWA's existing programs and are beyond the exception provided in Section 1201(e). FHWA intends to collect information for this program consistent with FHWA and government-wide practices for grant recipients and reporting requirements. One of the forms will be completed with each Section 1511 Certification and will include project, cost, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) information. Two of the forms will be submitted monthly to FHWA. One will contain information on the number of jobs sustained by ARRA projects; the other will contain information on the status of each project. The fourth and final form will be submitted periodically as individual projects, which fall under a larger area wide project, are awarded. FHWA will use the information collected through these forms along with finance and project letting data in existing FHWA data systems to meet the requirements for periodic reports to Congress; quarterly reports to the recovery.gov website; and regular weekly and monthly reports to OMB.

FHWA apportioned the ARRA funds on March 2, 2009, at which time the funds were made available to the States for obligation and expenditure. At this time, FHWA has limited information on the planned and awarded ARRA projects, due to the PRA requirements for these forms. Without a waiver of OMB's normal approving process, FHWA will not be able to meet the expedited OMB reporting requirements as well as the statutory periodic and quarterly requirements.

Sincerely,

Paula Ewen
Director, Office of Information and
Management Services

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