

SECTION 208-AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009- PROJECT SELECTION PROCEDURES, RULES AND CRITERIA:

In accordance with provisions of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*, priority for selection of projects shall be given to transportation improvements that are located in economically distressed areas. Accordingly, with regard to selection of projects proposed to be financed through funds made available through the Metropolitan Planning Organization from *ARRA*, priority shall be given *in order* of the *highest to the lowest unemployment figures* for each metropolitan area county: Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties. Unemployment figures shall be obtained from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) as of January, 2009.

All projects shall be drawn from the study area of the *2030 Jackson Urbanized Area Transportation Plan*. Any project that is eligible for financing through Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds shall be eligible for financing through *ARRA* funds. All proposed projects *except bridge replacement projects* shall be located on a roadway that is functionally classified as a principal arterial, minor arterial or collector facility. Proposed bridge replacement projects may be located on any public roadway.

Based upon such unemployment data by County, *ARRA* funds shall be made available on an unemployment priority basis to local governments inside said study area for such transportation improvements as may be determined by representatives of such governments within each County. These representatives of local governments within each County shall develop a list of projects to be submitted to the Intermodal Technical Committee by a deadline agreed upon by that Committee. The list of projects shall include cost estimates for each project, including the amount of *ARRA* Federal funds requested. The total amount of funds requested by each County should not exceed the unemployment priority-based funding to be made available to each County. Upon review of the lists of projects submitted by local governments for eligibility, the Intermodal Technical Committee shall recommend to the Metropolitan Planning Organization a list of projects to be selected to proceed with project development.

In accordance with a policy stated by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), all proposed transportation improvements selected by the MPO to proceed with project development shall be authorized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to advertise for bids (that is, "obligated") within six months following the FHWA receipt of an apportionment notice regarding *ARRA* funds to be made available through the MPO. Since FHWA received an apportionment notice on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, all projects financed through said *ARRA* funds shall be obligated by September 3, 2009. *ARRA* funds for projects not obligated by September 3, 2009, shall be returned to the MPO for re-distribution as determined by the MPO. The final date for obligation of all *ARRA* funds is March 3, 2010 (one year after the Federal apportionment notice was received by the FHWA).

ARRA funds made available through the MPO cannot be used in lieu of an Federal transportation funds that have previously been committed to projects, including "earmark" and STP funds. However, said *ARRA* funds can be used in addition to previously committed funds.