



The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. MAYORS SAY LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ARE READY-TO-GO: WOULD CREATE OVER A MILLION JOBS AND SPUR NATIONAL ECONOMY

Action Urged on MainStreet Economic Recovery

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors today released the third installment of their Ready-to-Go Jobs Report that inventories infrastructure projects from cities around the country that could be started and completed in just two calendar years to create **over a million jobs** with help from federal dollars.

Today, mayors are reporting that in 641 cities of all sizes in all regions of the country, a total of 15,221 local infrastructure projects are "ready to go." These projects represent an infrastructure investment of \$96,638,419,313 that would be capable of producing an estimated 1,221,677 jobs in calendar years 2009 and 2010. These are the cumulative totals of projects, required funding, and jobs to be created that have been reported in the three surveys of cities conducted by the Conference of Mayors.

Mayors believe their plan responds to President-Elect Obama's goal of creating 2.5 million jobs to spur the national economy. A 16-mayor delegation from the Conference of Mayors, chaired by USCM Vice President Greg Nickels of Seattle met in Chicago yesterday with President-Elect Obama and his Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett to discuss the plan.

Mayors also presented their plan last week to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA), House Ways and Means Committee Chair Charlie Rangel (NY), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair James Oberstar (MN), House Appropriations Committee Chair David Obey (WI) and other key committee chairs, along with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV), Senator Charles Schumer (NY) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI).

"This report contains examples of the kinds of projects that, if funded through existing channels, would contribute significantly to the President-elect's stated goals for infrastructure revitalization and job creation," said U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. "However, Mayors recognize that this list must go through a review process through which Congress and the new Administration will identify projects eligible for funding."

As an organization that represents mayors and their cities -- which have their own local process for determining which projects are needed for jobs and economic development -- the United States Conference of Mayors has accepted each city's project submittal. Hence, each Mayor and City is responsible for its justification for putting these projects forward.

The mayors' report combines the cumulative totals of projects, funding and jobs from the two surveys previously released by the Conference (November 14 and December 8) with this week's survey information. Projects were sent to the Conference of Mayors from cities in all regions of the country and fall in ten different sectors:

- Community Development Block Grants
- City Street/Metro Roads
- Transit
- Green Jobs
- School Modernization
- Public Safety Jobs and Technology
- Public Housing Modernization
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- Amtrak

- Airport Technology

Mayors have stressed that investing in MainStreet metropolitan economies, which comprise 90% of our gross domestic product and drive the national economy, is the most direct path to creating jobs and stimulating the business that can begin to reverse the current economic downturn. Mayors say metro infrastructure projects can start quickly because the funding for them can come directly to their cities through existing funding channels such as the Community Development Block Grant, which has been in place since the early 1970s and is considered to be a model for effective delivery of federal funds.

“As each month passes, we are reminded of the rapid deterioration of the long-term job outlook for Americans. Our metropolitan economies desperately need help at the Main Street level, and the mayors’ MainStreet Recovery plan is the answer,” said Tom Cochran, Conference CEO and Executive Director.

The Conference plans to continue to gather information from cities around the country on their ‘ready-to-go’ jobs projects for a final report in early January.

To view the entire report and individual city results, please go to www.usmayors.org