



## City of Phoenix

**To:** Mayor and Council  
Executive Team

**Date:** December 31, 2008

**From:** Karen Peters  
Government Relations Director

**Subject:** FEDERAL UPDATE: DECEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 31, 2008

This memorandum provides an update of the past week's federal activities – Congressional action, lobbying and national meetings. Please let me or Tom Remes know if you have any questions or need further information on specific legislation or issues.

### **DECEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 31, 2008**

#### **Presidential Inauguration**

The Presidential Inauguration will take place on January 20, 2009. Please let our office know if you will be back in Washington D.C. during this timeframe or if you need any assistance with planning activities.

#### **Economic Stimulus Update**

Discussions continue at the Congressional staff level about elements of the economic stimulus proposal that Congress will take up next week. Government Relations and the federal lobbying team continue to work with stakeholders and local government groups to ensure that infrastructure funding is allocated directly to the local level.

On December 22, the US Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Regional Councils, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Development Organizations, the National Association of Counties, American Planning Association, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Association and the American Public Works Association sent a joint letter to House and Senate leaders requesting that highway funding in the economic stimulus package be allocated through the Surface Transportation Program (STP), which would provide 62.5% of funding to local areas. It is unclear at this point what the final dollar amount in the bill will be and how Congress and the new Administration will allocate funding. It is clear, however, that there will be no earmarks in the economic stimulus bill. On December 23, Vice President Elect Biden clearly stated that there "will be no earmarks" in the stimulus proposal.

In a conference call with transit officials, Congressman James Oberstar, Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, outlined his \$85 billion infrastructure proposal, which includes: \$12 billion for public transit projects, \$5 billion for rail (Amtrak, high-speed, inter-city passenger, and short line), and \$30.25 billion for highway projects.

Attached with this report is the December 22 edition of the *Local/State Funding Report*, which provides an excellent summary of the latest economic stimulus proposals.

#### Federal Transit Administration Releases FY 2009 Partial Funding

The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, (Pub. L. 110–329), otherwise known as this year’s Continuing Resolution or CR, was signed into law by President Bush on September 30, 2008. The CR provides funding for federal agencies until March 6, 2009 or until Congress passes a final FY 09 appropriations package. On December 18, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released its partial year FY 2009 apportionments. The City of Phoenix FTA apportionments are as follows:

- \$19.6 million--Sec. 5307 and Sec 5340 Urbanized Area Apportionments
- \$1.5 million--Sec 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization Apportionments
- \$37.6 million--PHX Central East Valley Corridor- Light Rail
- \$379,732--New Freedom Allocation

Also listed in the FTA notice are FY 2008 unobligated balances as follows:

- \$217,360--Construction PHX Para Transit Facility
- \$1.086 million--Construction WV Bus Facility
- \$217,360--Construction Regional Heavy Maintenance Facility
- \$245,000—Bus Expansion Phoenix, Avondale, Glendale
- \$490,000- Phoenix Regional Bus Maintenance Facility
- \$735,000—Phoenix/Glendale West Valley Operating Facility

These figures are based on funding through March 6.