

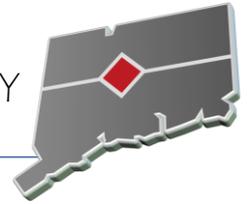
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Serving Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington

225 North Main Street, Suite 304
Bristol, CT 06010-4993

Internet: <http://ccrpa.org>
Fax/TDD: (860) 589-6950

Tel: (860) 589-7820
or (860) 224-9888



MEMORANDUM

TO: TIC Members
FROM: Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Deputy Director
FOR AGENDA: June 25, 2009
DATE: June 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Designation for Unobligated Amounts in the 2009 STP-Urban Program

As discussed previously, the 2009 STP-urban program has been underprogrammed, and the Committee's initial priority for these funds was to carry them over to 2010, which is currently showing an overprogramming.

The CCRPA has been notified by DOT that the amount which the program is underprogrammed by (approximately \$1 million) will not be available for carryover due to ceiling issues (see the attached e-mail).

The DOT has urged the CCRPA to try to obligate the funds to the Route 72 Extension project as an option to utilize the funds instead of the money leaving the region entirely and reverting to the state, due to a lack of other projects to obligate the funds toward.

One option may be to try to retain as much 2009 money as possible for 2010 projects and obligate the remainder to a project or projects underway that need additional funds. Also, the question of whether or not the 2009 money can be directed toward ARRA funds has not been answered yet either.

Based on the need to direct DOT as to the Region's decision for designating these funds, it is our:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the TIC approve a designation for underprogrammed 2009 STP-urban funds.

Discussion: As the attached e-mail from DOT explains, efforts were made to identify either projects underway or those about to emerge from scoping to direct the funds toward. Inquiry into this practice of DOT not allowing carryover in some instances was addressed by Tom Maziarz of CRCOG in the following explanation:

"We have occasionally been able to carryover unused balances from prior years, but the amounts have been relatively small. We have always operated under the assumption that large carryovers would not be feasible.

DOT allows STP Urban programs 100% of their ceiling in the actual appropriation year – even though they might have only a 90% ceiling for all federal programs combined. To carryover a large amount would require that they extend you over 100% of your normal ceiling. This cuts into their ability to finance their own programs."

Attachment: E-mail from Jennifer Trio, DOT

From: Trio, Jennifer N
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 4:54 PM
To: Wright, Grayson A
Cc: Godcher, Raymond G; Hustus, Patricia A.; Meyers, Darren E; Marrero, Mario; Sbalcio, Sebastian J.
Subject: CCRPA's STPH Program

Hi Grayson,

Pat and I have reviewed CCRPA's STPH program. The region's STPH apportionment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 is approximately \$2.5 million. In addition, the Department agreed, in an e-mail dated 10/9/08, to provide the region access to approximately \$650,000 in carryover, left unexpended from FFY 2008, provided these funds were programmed and obligated in FFY 2009. This brings CCRPA's total STPH target for FFY 2009 to approximately \$3.1 million.

The region currently has only \$1,917,200 programmed for FFY 2009. I have coordinated with both the Department's Project Development Unit and Consultant Design - Local Roads Unit to see if any projects programmed to receive future STPH funds could be advanced for an obligation of funds this FFY, but there are no viable candidates.

Funding within the Department is going to be extremely tight in the coming years, with several large ongoing and new construction initiatives taking the majority of the Federal funds and obligation limitation (ceiling). As such, the Department plans to utilize all of the State's share of available ceiling toward State initiatives starting in FFY 2010 and cannot commit to providing CCRPA future access to any STPH funds left unexpended this FFY due to the ceiling issue. Therefore, it is in the region's best interest to fully program and utilize their STPH funds currently available prior to the close of FFY 2009.

In order for the region to fully utilize their STPH funds available in FFY 2009, we would like to request that the region provide \$1 million in STPH funds toward the construction phase of Project No. 17-137 (relocation of Route 72 from the end of the existing expressway to Route 229 in Bristol). This project is a regionally significant project, has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$51 million, has been partially funded with approximately \$24 million in NHS funds to date, and is currently in construction.

Could you please contact Ken Shooshan-Stoller to discuss our proposal of the region providing \$1 million in STPH funds toward Project No. 17-137 this FFY and let me know the outcome of your discussion? If CCRPA is in agreement with the proposal, we will request a STIP action to include \$1 million in STPH funds toward Project No. 17-137.

Thank you for your help, Grayson.

Jen

Jennifer N. Trio, P.E.
CT Department of Transportation
Capital Services - Programming & Scheduling
Phone: (860) 594-2974
E-mail: jennifer.trio@ct.gov