



TO: Department Directors

FROM: Greg Canally, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 26th, 2009

SUBJECT: City of Austin's Stimulus Package Program

On February 17th, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), more widely known as the Stimulus Package. At the City Manager's request, this past Tuesday the City Stimulus Strategic Management Team convened to discuss the City of Austin's process moving forward in securing federal funding for appropriate projects. This team's efforts will result in a stimulus program that the City Manager will recommend to City Council.

The team's first tasks are to establish criteria for project selection and to identify which of the nearly 200 separate programs included in the ARRA the City can access. I am requesting the following:

- o Using the ARRA summary provided at Tuesday's meeting, provide a list of the ARRA programs your Department could appropriately access. Each Federal Agency has been instructed to establish a page on their website dedicated to the recovery act (i.e. www.dot.gov/recovery). As needed, use any information they have posted to help in your determination. Include in this list the Federal Agency/Program name.
- o A draft of criteria for project selection. As a reference, attached are the criteria that were established for Transportation projects. These criteria will be used for each individual program, as well as to help establish the City's overall program criteria.

Please have your SPOC (they are copied on this memo) email me, and Heidi Gerbracht, by end of day Monday, March 2nd with this information.

Looking ahead, we will then be working on creating project lists and creating a recommendation for Council. Given that, I'd like you to continue the effort of identifying potential projects that would meet the requirements of the specific funding programs. A follow-up memo will detail the necessary timelines.

ARRA funding will come in a variety of forms – formula driven, competitive grants, and loans. But given that ARRA has been law for less than two weeks, and that the many federal agencies are still crafting their timelines and requirements about these funding processes, we will be working in a very fluid environment. I appreciate in advance your flexibility as we work on Austin's Stimulus Program.

Finally, I ask that you route any inquiries – City Council, media – etc about Austin's Stimulus Program or potential projects, through my office.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to call or email.

Thanks.