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# **Construction Begins on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects**

## ***Traffic Signal Improvement Projects First With Shovels in Ground***

**DOVER** – Governor Jack Markell joined Delaware Department of Transportation Secretary Carolann Wicks and U.S. Senator Tom Carper mark the start of the first Delaware projects to be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

DelDOT has moved quickly to get people working by starting on several traffic signal improvements throughout the state. Overall, the various traffic signal improvement projects are valued at \$1.5 million. These projects will improve traffic flow, vehicle safety, pedestrian safety, and the reliability of the system. Each intersection project has a different scope of work, variously involving new signal installations, reconstruction of aging infrastructure, pedestrian signal enhancements, upgrade of curb ramps to current ADA standards, modification of left-turn phasing, and lengthening of left-turn lanes.

In addition, DelDOT is gearing up for more ARRA construction projects to begin within the next month. Specifically, three projects are underway, including signal projects in all three counties, 10 projects have been put out to bid, and more are scheduled.

Said Governor Jack Markell, “The only way we are going to solve the historic challenges facing Delaware in the long term is by growing the economy. These projects will help get our economy and our neighbors moving again, and will create hundreds of much-needed jobs to help get Delawareans back to work.”

DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks said, “We worked hard to get to this point, looking at numerous projects, making sure they met a variety of rules and regulations. The traffic improvement projects were among the easiest to start and will provide economic stimulus while enhancing the safety of our transportation system. President Obama signed the ARRA on February 17, and we were able to produce before the end of April.”

Delaware’s U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Ted Kaufman said the transportation projects will meet a variety of transportation needs while creating and sustaining jobs. Both Senators voted for the ARRA, knowing it would help Delaware in everything from schools to healthcare to transportation infrastructure. The Senators said the transportation projects identified are creating and sustaining jobs, and that Delaware Governor Jack Markell and Secretary Carolann Wicks are to be commended for finding projects that support a wide range of transportation needs including road construction, congestion relief, economic development, public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The Delaware projects approved for ARRA funding range from big-ticket items such as high-speed E-ZPass lanes to safety projects such as traffic signal projects. The Traffic Signal Improvement Project consists of nine locations

throughout the state, with two locations currently under construction. Highway safety improvements are underway at the intersection of Kirkwood Highway and Albertson Boulevard in New Castle County. In Sussex County, the intersection of SR 1 and West Way Drive will focus on pedestrian safety, to include current pedestrian signal upgrades to new countdown signals. In addition to these locations, the following are scheduled for New Castle County: U.S. 13 & Boulden Boulevard; U.S. 13 & Memorial Drive; U.S. 202 & Righter Parkway; and Mill Creek Road & McKennans Church Road. In Kent County: U.S. 13 & Lepore Road; U.S. 13 & SR 42; and the Frederica Fire Signal.

The projects to be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes \$121.9 million for highways, bridges, pedestrian, bicycle and other projects, and \$19 million for transit-related projects. Fifty percent of the funding for highway projects must be ready to advertise in 120 days (June 29, 2009) and 50 percent within one year (February 2010). Fifty percent of the funding for transit projects must be ready to advertise in 180 days (August 2009) and 50 percent within one year (February 2010).

The ARRA projects range from big-ticket items, such as the additional highway-speed E-ZPass lanes at the I-95 Toll Plaza and more than \$25 million worth of paving and rehabilitation work statewide, to safety projects such as traffic signal projects, guardrail replacement and bridge maintenance. Funding is being targeted not just for traditional road projects, but also for transit projects such as the first phase of a new Dover Transit Center, upgraded park-and-ride facilities and new rail cars and buses. The project list also includes money for raising South Market Street in Wilmington out of the flood plain and funding to refurbish the Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk, both designed to enhance economic opportunities in those areas.

Details on all the proposed projects can be found on DelDOT's Web site at [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov), under the "Recovery Projects" tab. Governor Markell is committed to keeping the public as up to date as possible regarding project progress, how funding is being spent, the number of jobs generated and the contractors who win the bids. The DelDOT Web site, [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov), and the state Web site, [www.recovery.delaware.gov](http://www.recovery.delaware.gov) will continue to be the focal point for this and more information.

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