

STATE OF ALASKA

Federal Economic Stimulus Package - Questions & Answers

1. What has Alaska requested in the federal economic stimulus package?

Alaska requested that the federal economic stimulus package use existing formula programs to allocate funding fairly to states. The attached letter dated January 7, 2009, from Governor Palin to Alaska's Congressional Delegation further describes Alaska's request.

Initially, four projects were submitted informally to staff in the Alaska congressional delegation offices in November 2008. The initial submission was made very early in the process when it was unclear what would be included in the legislation. The projects submitted were based on preliminary criteria that projects needed to be "bid-ready" and focused on projects with national significance, including development of the gas line and national security.

The specific projects submitted total \$139.3 million as follows:

Dalton Highway Improvements	\$75.0 million
Parks Highway Improvements	\$34.0 million
Alaska Highway MP 1412-1422	\$ 5.3 million
Central Regional Surface Repairs	\$25.0 million

In her January 7, 2009, letter to the Congressional Delegation, the Governor also suggested consideration of infrastructure improvements to the Kodiak Launch Facility based on national security interests. A brief description of the projects is included at the end of this document.

2. What guidelines has Alaska received and from whom?

Alaska had not received any guidelines other than the statements by President-elect Obama and leadership in Congress from both Houses that there would not be any earmarks in the stimulus bill and that formulas would be used instead. Federal legislation was introduced on January 15, 2009. The administration is reviewing the legislation, will monitor developments and respond accordingly.

3. When is action on the federal economic stimulus package expected?

The latest news reports indicate that leadership in Congress would like to have the economic stimulus bill passed by mid-February, 2009.

4. What process did Alaska use, and who was involved, in determining the requests?

The process Alaska has used and will continue to use is to monitor developments as they occur and provide information accordingly. The Governor, her staff, and agency personnel are involved in reviewing the package and preparing additional comments or requests to the delegation as the federal legislation progresses and what is signed into law by the President.

5. What can communities do to submit projects for the economic stimulus package?

Development of the economic stimulus package continues to evolve at the federal level. Communities and organizations seeking funding for projects should submit their requests directly to Alaska's Congressional Delegation for consideration in the federal appropriation process. However, all indications from the President elect and Congressional leaders suggest there will not be any earmarks in the stimulus legislation.

Attachments

January 7, 2009 Letter to the Alaska Congressional Delegation
January 12, 2009 Press Release

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Brief Project Descriptions

Dalton Highway Improvements - \$75.0 million

Improvements to the Dalton Highway are critical to construction of the natural gas pipeline and resource development on Alaska's North Slope. This project consists of rehabilitation, including widening, resurfacing, culvert replacement and other road enhancements. Grade raises, delineator installation, brush cutting, drainage repairs, repair of damaged bridges, and additional surfacing are also planned. These improvements will better accommodate oversize and overweight loads associated with gas line construction.

Parks Highway Improvements \$34.0 Million

The existing roadway is two lanes with 4-foot shoulders, deteriorated pavement, has no passing lanes, and has underlying structural embankment deficiencies that require seasonal weight restrictions. This project will rehabilitate pavement, widen the shoulders to 8 feet (consistent with Alaska's standard for the National Highway System), reconstruct the problematic structural sections, and construct 7 miles of passing lanes. These improvements will better accommodate oversize, overweight loads and slow moving traffic associated with gas line construction.

Alaska Highway Milepost 1412 to 1422 - \$5.3 million

This project will rehabilitate, improve drainage, re-level and resurface the Alaska Highway between MP 1412 and 1422 (Delta South). Substandard embankment conditions have been identified in this area causing significant pavement failures. This project will improve the Alaska Highway to accommodate increased truck traffic associated with gas line construction.

Central Region Surface Repairs - \$25.0 Million

This project will provide funding for rut and pavement repairs on National Highway System (NHS) routes in Central Region. 67.25% of all the State's vehicle travel occurs in Central Region. Central Region has over 700 lane miles of badly rutted roads that would cost \$350 million in today's dollars to repair. Repairs to these routes will facilitate the movement of people, goods and services associated with gas line construction.

Kodiak Launch Facility - \$35.0 Million

Launch Pad 3 and Rocket Motor Storage Facility Construction

The Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (AADC) Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) is ideally situated to support rapid response launch programs that address increasing demands on the use of space-based capabilities to achieve national objectives. AADC was recently awarded two U.S. Air Force contracts for satellite launches that are demonstrators of the rapid response concept. To gain a sustained rapid response launch capability KLC requires an additional launch pad and rocket motor storage facility. With receipt of funding, construction will begin in the spring of 2009 and be completed and fully operational within 18-24 months.