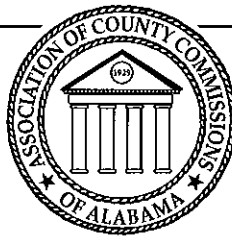


OFFICERS

HON. JOE FAULK
PRESIDENT
ELMORE COUNTY

HON. LARRY WHITE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
ESCAMBIA COUNTY

HON. RICKY BURNEY
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
CLAY COUNTY



SONNY BRASFIELD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE

100 NORTH JACKSON STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
36104
PHONE (334) 263-7594
FAX (334) 263-7678
WWW.ACCA-ONLINE.ORG

ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONS OF ALABAMA

A Nonprofit Corporation

March 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Commission Chairs and Engineers

FROM: Sonny Brasfield *Sonny*

RE: Possible Application for Stimulus Funding

Enclosed is an overview and survey regarding a grant program passed by Congress as part of the so-called Stimulus Package. The Association is interested in determining the level of interest that may exist among counties for making a unified application for funding as outlined in the enclosed information.

If your county is interested in being a part of this application, it is important that your county complete the enclosed survey and return it by the deadline. We realize that in some cases local governments have responded to other similar requests with a "wish list" of projects that it would hope to have funded someday. This grant application can only be for specific projects that are ready for construction. So it is very important that your survey responses only include the projects that meet the guidelines outlined on the enclosed information.

Once the responses have been collected, we will provide you with additional information on the next step. At this point, we need your best information so we can determine whether or not we can submit an application that has a legitimate chance to be funded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Alabama County Bridge Renewal Program

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, an opportunity was created by which local and state entities will be able to apply directly to the United States Secretary of Transportation for a discretionary infrastructure grant program totaling \$1.5 Billion in funding. Preliminary discussions between the ACCA and FHWA's Washington DC office during the recent NACo Legislative Conference along with review of the contents of the ARRA legislation opened the door for the possibility of seeking funding to replace structurally deficient county bridges here in Alabama.

The submission of an application for this program will be a very time-consuming and demanding endeavor. In order to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest and availability of projects for county bridges, we are requesting the IMMEDIATE help of county officials and engineers.

First, all discussions of the application process are subjective because the official application will not be released until mid-May. It is our belief that we will have approximately six months to put together our submission and that the evaluation of applications will take another three months. If this timeframe is correct, any projects in our application must be ready by November of 2009 to be let as early as February of 2010.

It is our understanding through our discussions with FHWA's Washington office that the grant application must be "project specific." This means our submission cannot be for a specific "amount" of money for each county but must include a specific listing of every project that would be funded as part of our proposal. At this time, we hope for our submission to include any county bridges that have a sufficiency rating of 50 or less.

To be perfectly clear, any structurally deficient bridge will be eligible to be submitted under this application process provided they can meet the timeframes for delivery. However, this project is ONLY for bridges and no resurfacing projects will be submitted as part of the competitive grant application program. Please keep in mind this is a competitive grant program. In order to make our application stand out from the many others that will be submitted from around the country, we plan to emphasize those school bus limited structures coupled with including structurally deficient structures to supplement the application.

We have drafted a survey in order to collect accurate data that can be used to gauge the size of the program that we can reasonably submit and to evaluate the seriousness of the interest at the county commission level. The attached survey (which is available in excel format at www.acca-online.org) includes two categories that need to be completed.

The first question focuses on those structurally deficient bridges for which a county has plans in hand and just needs the necessary funding for construction. This category requires little to no updating of key elements in the federal paperwork process to go to contract. Please list all bridges that your county has in this category along with the total construction cost for the bridge

and any associated approach work. Please do not list Engineering and Inspection (E&I) and/ or the ALDOT Administrative Fee in these numbers. These figures will be included once all project information is received from the counties.

Second, we are asking for projects with the ability of quick delivery to construction. These projects must be in a position so that an approved Categorical Exclusion (CAT) and any necessary Right-of-Way (ROW) **can be acquired prior to August 1, 2009**. It is important that you only list projects that can meet this criteria. **Projects that have not been initiated prior to the date of this letter should not be submitted as part of this survey.**

Again, projects that have not already been initiated prior to the date of this letter should not be included in these estimates, and County Commissions should not adopt such resolutions for bridge replacement projects in anticipation of participating in this application process. Only projects well within reach should be listed. Failure to do so could very likely damage the chances of our Association's effort of being competitive in this process. Estimates for this quick delivery category should follow the same guidance listed above for plans in hand projects.

The attached survey is important and time is of the essence to capture this data and accurately depict where counties are in terms of being able to deliver bridge plans. **A deadline for the attached survey to be completed and returned has been set for April 7, 2009.** The surveys should be returned to Benjie Sanders, Crenshaw County Engineer. Mr. Sanders has volunteered to compile all the data and his contact information is listed below. Please email, mail, or fax Mr. Sanders your survey results no later than the end of business on April 7, 2009. Even if you have no projects viable for this program, please respond back to the survey for completeness. Some counties have no bridges ready and some have no bridges eligible, but please report your county's condition by the deadline. Any questions related to the survey form can be directed to Mr. Benjie Sanders, Mr. Henry Hawkins (Chambers County Engineer @ 334-864-4359 or hch@chamberscounty.com) and/ or Mr. Richie Beyer (Elmore County Engineer @ 334-567-1162 or wrbechd@elmore.rr.com).

Send Survey by fax, mail or email to:

Benjie Sanders
Crenshaw County Engineer
PO Box 628
Luverne, AL 36049
cchd@troycable.net
334-335-4529 Fax

Alabama County Bridge Renewal Program

County: _____

Person Completing Form: _____

Plans in Hand Projects

Number of Bridges with Plans in Hand/ Ready for Construction as of March 23, 2009	
Estimated Cost of Plan in Hand Bridge Projects #	

Quick Delivery Projects

Number of Bridges which will have Approved Categorical Exclusion and ROW Acquired by August 1, 2009*	
Estimated Cost of Quick Delivery Bridge Projects #	

Send Survey by Mail, Email or Fax to: Benjie Sanders, Crenshaw County Engineer, P.O. Box 628, Luverne, AL 36049; cchd@troycable.net; 334-335-4529 Fax

* These bridge projects must be able to be let to contract in the month of February 2010

Include only the costs of construction for the bridge and associated approach work. No Engineering and Inspection or Administrative Fee should be used in this figure. This will be added once all data is collected.