

## ARRA/Economic Stimulus

### **ALABAMA ARRA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PHASE 1**

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#### **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ALDOT)**

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5) provided approximately \$20 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding under 49 U.S.C. § 5311 to the Alabama Department of Transportation, Bureau of Multimodal Transportation, Transit Section for distribution. In accordance with the Act's implementing regulations, 50 percent of the funds apportioned to the state had to be obligated within 180 days after notice of apportionment. ALDOT, therefore, was required to submit a program of projects in sufficient time to meet FTA processing requirements in order to beat a September 1, 2009 obligation deadline. Because of this relatively short turnaround and staff constraints within the Transit Section, the Alabama DOT requested RLS' assistance in distributing ARRA funding to Alabama's Section 5311 operators.

RLS provided assistance to ALDOT in the organizing, administering, and carrying out of a special grant application round for existing Section 5311 recipients. RLS served as an extension to the ALDOT staff, assisting the Department in all aspects of soliciting grant applications, processing applications, making recommendations for funding consistent with policies articulated in the State Management Plan, and developing recommendations for the State's program of projects.

In addition, RLS provided one-on-one technical assistance with individual Alabama project representatives, clarifying any application issues and taking detailed notes on the project's capital requests, justifications, programming priorities. RLS also worked with project representatives to ensure that requested capital items met eligibility requirements. RLS then worked to generate a program of projects for submission to FTA and continued to assist ALDOT with project oversight, financial management, and required FTA reporting for all ARRA projects.

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