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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Hon. Eddie A. Perez, Mayor  
City of Hartford

**FROM:** Janet L. Powell  
James C. Sandberg  
Hon. Nancy L. Johnson

**DATE:** July 13, 2009

**RE:** Federal Legislative Update

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This memorandum is submitted to update you on our ongoing federal legislative efforts on your behalf. We are working closely with the Hartford Congressional delegation and their staff, as well as key Members and staff with the relevant committees which oversee matters of importance to the City. We are also in continuous contact with staff and officials at relevant agencies in the Executive Branch.

Thus far, the major focus for securing federal support for the City has been on the following legislative opportunities:

**AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**

On February 17, 2009, the President signed into law the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), P.L. 111-5, commonly known as the "stimulus bill." After reviewing this legislation to identify potential funding opportunities for the City of Hartford, we have continuously monitored the executive agencies and OMB (Office of Management & Budget) for the issuance of guidance on relevant programs. While much of the funding is flowing to local municipalities through the states under formulas, there are some discretionary competitive grant programs. One such program, is the Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System program. So far, the US Department of Transportation has not released any guidance or project selection criteria for this \$1.5 billion supplemental grant program. The program would provide grants for transportation projects of regional and national significance including highway and transit projects, freight and passenger rail projects, and port infrastructure projects. It appears that the Department will exercise its option to use up to \$200 million of this \$1.5 billion program for credit assistance, leaving \$1.3 billion for grants. Grants under this program will range from \$20 million to \$300 million. The Act directs the Secretary to give priority to projects which will be completed within three years of the date of enactment. The Act directs the Secretary to publish grant criteria within 90 days of enactment. If DOT

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meets this deadline, criteria should be available sometime during the month of May. We will continue to monitor the release of the guidelines for this program, and advise the City immediately.

### APPROPRIATIONS

As you know, most of the FY09 appropriations bills were not completed last year and were, instead, combined into an omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 1105) which was enacted February 23, 2009. We carefully monitored consideration of this bill and were pleased to help preserve funding in this legislation for two City projects, the public safety complex (\$750,000) and the Greater Hartford Integrated Mass Transit Planning study (\$475,000).

With the FY09 appropriations cycle finally completed, we are now focusing on the FY10 appropriations bills. Requests have been submitted through the Congressional delegation for funding for several City projects including Levee cleanup and flood control, the High Street Public Safety Complex, EDA funding for 101 Pearl Street, the Capewell project and the Greater Hartford Mass Transit Study. Markups and floor consideration on the various appropriations bills are scheduled to occur during June and July with conference committee consideration planned for the month of September. The House Appropriations Chairman David Obey of Wisconsin is pushing for completion of the FY10 bills by the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1.

### SAFETEA-LU REAUTHORIZATION

The reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation programs is in high gear in the House with the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T & I) Committee already in the final stages of drafting its bill and in the process of receiving High Priority Project requests from House Members. On the City's behalf, we have submitted the following priority projects to Congressman Larson: (1) technology upgrades for the Traffic Control System, (2) Complete Street improvements, (3) transit oriented development enhancements at Union Station and (4) East Coast Greenway bike and train connections. The House T & I Chairman James Oberstar of Minnesota has an ambitious schedule for the bill and has announced plans for June markups followed by July floor consideration, but it is likely that this timetable will slip given the large amount of must-do legislation currently on the Congressional platter. Also, the Senate has not yet announced a process or a timetable for the submission of high priority projects; however, we are closely monitoring that process and are prepared to submit the City's requests on the Senate side as well.

As the FY10 appropriations and authorizations cycles continue to evolve, we will continue to exert our best efforts to gain federal support for the critical projects which have been identified by the City. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and thank you for the opportunity to serve the City of Hartford.

JLP:wag