



## ARRA Projects Notice to Proceed Directive

Two of the primary purposes of the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" are as follows:

"To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery."

"To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits".

The intent of the Act is to expend the funds made available in the "Act" to achieve these purposes "as quickly as possible consistent with prudent management".

After review of the 2009 ARRA projects, FHWA determined that one of the issues needing general improvement is the delay in starting these projects. In other words, the length of time taken to issue the Notice to Proceed after execution of the contract was too long. Wisconsin was one of the worst in the nation for starting projects in a timely manner. The intent of the ARRA funding is to use that funding as quickly as possible to stimulate the economy and to create jobs.

In an effort to accomplish these goals and improve on past performance, the Department will issue the Notice to Proceed to contractors as soon as possible following the execution of the contract subject to any specific provisions/restrictions included in the contract. A Special Provision will be inserted into all ARRA contracts indicating the Department's intent to start projects as quickly as possible.

For all ARRA contracts, the following procedure will be utilized for establishing the start date.

The Supervisor/Project Manager shall contact the contractor immediately following the execution of the contract to discuss the schedule for starting the contract work. Issues to discuss and consider in the decision-making process may include:

- o time of year, weather
- o municipal/local requirements
- o type of work in the contract
- o environmental issues
- o traffic issues

This discussion will result in a decision by the department for starting the work consistent with meeting the goals of the Act.

Some general guidelines and time frames are as follows:

- o **January let and February let projects should strive to start work by late April or early May depending on weather and/or contract constraints.**
- o **March let and April let projects should strive to start work as quickly as possible after execution depending on contract constraints.**