



**Funding for Projects
in the Bloomington – Normal Urbanized Area
pursuant to the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

**Report to the Technical and Policy Committees
March 13, 2009**

Approved by the Transportation Policy Committee, March 13, 2009

Technical Committee Working Group

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Gene Brown	City Engineer, Town of Normal
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The Technical Committee Working Group has evaluated project proposals recommended for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), as announced by the Illinois Department of Transportation on February 25, 2009. The allocated funds are intended for use in street and highway projects eligible for Federal surface transportation under existing guidelines, and that can be ready for implementation by March 3, 2010. Street and highway projects in the urban area have been allocated a total of \$3,869,449 in ARRA funds.

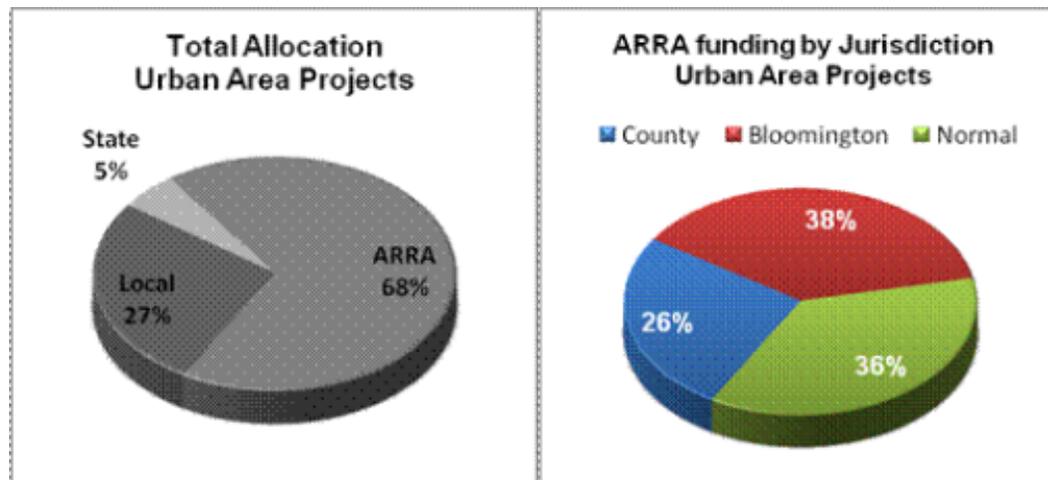
Six projects were selected for priority implementation using ARRA funding, as shown in the table below.

Jurisdiction	Location/Description	Total Cost	Local Funds	State Funds	ARRA Funds
C	Towanda I-55 interchange Improvements to interchange overpass. [TIP Project C-07-04]	\$2,310,000	\$1,014,000	\$296,000	\$1,000,000
N	Virginia Avenue Sugar Creek bridge reconstruction. [TIP Project N-02-1581]	\$1,200,000	\$186,285	\$0	\$1,013,715
N	Virginia Avenue Road improvements between Main and Franklin, in association with bridge reconstruction. [TIP Project N-02-1736]	\$475,000	\$73,738	\$0	\$401,262
B	Lincoln Street Cold milling and resurfacing from Center Street to Hershey Road.	\$1,065,000	\$165,328	\$0	\$899,672
B	Ireland Grove Road Cold milling and resurfacing from Veterans' Parkway to the east end of Little Kickapoo Creek bridge.	\$420,000	\$65,200	\$0	\$354,800
B	Intersection of College Avenue and Hershey Road Installation of traffic signals.	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
C=McLean County N=Town of Normal B=City of Bloomington		\$5,670,000	\$1,504,551	\$296,000	\$3,869,449

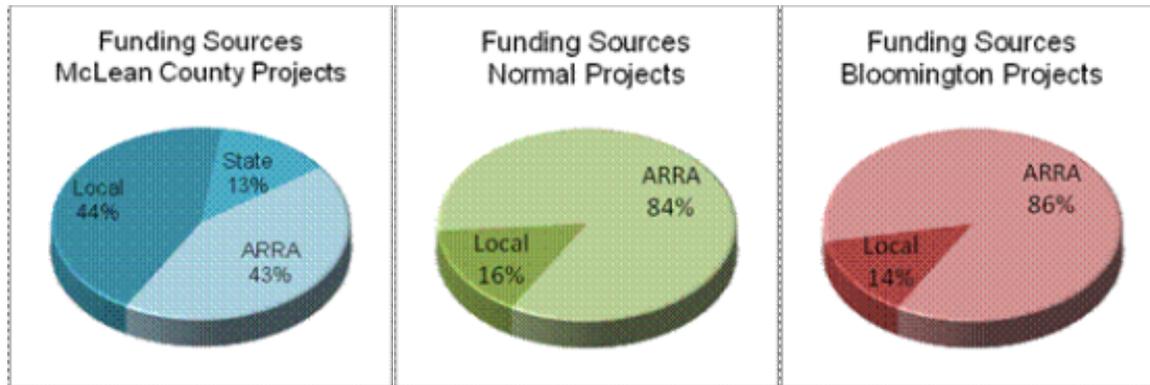
Meetings of the Transportation Technical and Policy Committees will be held on April 3, 2009, to review and take action regarding amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the ARRA allocations. Questions or comments about the proposed projects may be directed to [Jennifer Sicks](#), Transportation Planner for the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

In reviewing potential projects, the working group considered criteria identified by the Federal highway Administration as key to project selection for ARRA funding. These include a priority for projects that are expected to be completed by February 2012, emphasis on projects that can be started and completed expeditiously, and a focus on projects that maximize job creation and provide economic benefit to the community. Specifically, the group evaluated project readiness, fiscal feasibility, and the community benefit of proposed projects. Further, each jurisdiction has focused on projects which address its priorities.

The total cost of the priority projects is anticipated to be \$5,670,000. In addition to ARRA funds, all but one project will also receive local funding support. The County's interchange improvement project is also expected to receive state funding. The charts on the following page illustrate the percentage share of funding by source for all urban area projects, and the share of ARRA funding allocated to each jurisdiction's projects.



Although the ARRA funding does not require that local matching funds be provided, the selected local projects will employ local funds to facilitate implementation. The percentage shares of local, state and ARRA funding for the projects proposed by each local government are shown in the charts below.



The working group also identified a City of Bloomington project for the extension of Constitution Trail from Croxton Street to Hamilton Road as a secondary priority project in the event that a priority project cannot be implemented. The total cost of the Constitution Trail project is estimated at \$1,200,000. Specific funding allocations for the project will be made should the project be implemented using ARRA funds.

The working group considered a number of potential projects that were determined not to be feasible for reasons of cost and the time required for implementation. Among these was the planned Route 66 Bikeway, specifically portions of the trail between Bloomington and Funk's Grove, and between Normal and Towanda. Given that it may not be possible to complete implementation of these portions of the project within the time frame specified by the Federal Highway Administration, the working group concluded that the Route 66 trail sections were not appropriate choices as priority projects. The group also noted that the Route 66 project may receive funding through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) competitive grant process planned by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The next phase of ITEP will combine state funds and an ARRA allocation to the state for enhancements such as bicycle and pedestrian trails, and is expected to be announced shortly. A previously submitted application for

funds to complete the Bloomington-McLean trail section will be considered for ITEP funding. Work on the section of the trail between Normal and Towanda is unlikely to begin until a state project to resurface Old Route 66 is completed.

Bloomington – Normal Public Transit System

In addition to the funds allocated to the urbanized area for streets and highways, ARRA transit funding currently estimated at \$2,496,653 will be available to the Bloomington – Normal Public Transit System. B-NPTS intends to use the ARRA funding in the construction of the first phase of its new garage, maintenance and administrative facility on the west side of Normal. Work on the project is expected to begin this summer.

Illinois Department of Transportation projects in Bloomington – Normal urban area

As discussed in the Transportation Technical and Policy Committee meetings held on March 6, 2009, and reflected in the [amendment to the FY 2009 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program](#) approved by the Policy Committee on that day, ARRA funding will also be used for three state projects to be implemented by IDOT in and surrounding the Bloomington – Normal urbanized area. These projects will utilize approximately \$13 million in ARRA funds.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has advised that final submissions of projects selected for ARRA funding are due by May 1, 2009. The Technical and Policy Committees will meet as needed to finalize and approve the submission of projects, and to evaluate any additional funding that may be available for local use.