



RTAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FEBRUARY 17, 2009

First, on the federal side, the President signed the economic recovery package into law earlier today. It is anticipated that Arizona will receive \$522 Million in highway funding. The distribution of the funding, both the state/local and rural/urban shares, have yet to be determined. It is anticipated that new ADOT Director John Halikowski will shed some light on this topic at Friday's State Transportation Board meeting. I will keep you informed on further developments.

At the state level, preparation of a Fiscal Year 2010 budget continues to be the priority. Special statewide elections to consider a tax increase and/or provide the Legislature with some flexibility regarding voter-protected mandated spending continue to be discussed. Much of the balancing of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget as well as assumptions for Fiscal Year 2010 were based on certain levels of federal assistance. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee will brief members on the impact of the package at a Joint Appropriations Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday. Senate Committees will then start to review the separate elements of the package and their impacts on state and local programs starting next week.

I have attached a summary of bills that would potentially impact transportation infrastructure before the Legislature. An updated list will be distributed weekly. As you can see from the list, no activity has occurred on non-budget related bills in the Senate. The Senate President has remained firm that he is against advancing any bills until the budget has passed. The list also includes legislation that would alter the initiative and referendum processes as a ballot measure continues to be one of the most likely means of increasing transportation revenue in the foreseeable future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.