

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

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# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the act, allocating \$787 billion dollars to create 3.5 million jobs and stimulate the economy
- \$132 billion was set aside for the transportation sector



# ARRA in MA

- Massachusetts received authority under ARRA to spend \$437.9 million over two years on road and bridge projects
- An additional \$319 million will fund urban and regional transit projects



# Goals of these projects

- Reduce congestion and commute time
- Improve safety
- Increase reliability for public transportation
- Modernize transportation system



# The Projects

- 33 priority projects
- \$3.6 million for a bike path connector
- \$7.5 million in improvements on the Worcester Canal District
- \$10 million toward the MBTA



# Other Projects

- Repair and construction of passenger and freight rail transportation
- Airport infrastructure projects
- Bridge repair



# Highway Projects

- Originate from:
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations priorities
  - Bridge or highway maintenance requirements
  - Federal funding programs
  - Mass Highway District requests





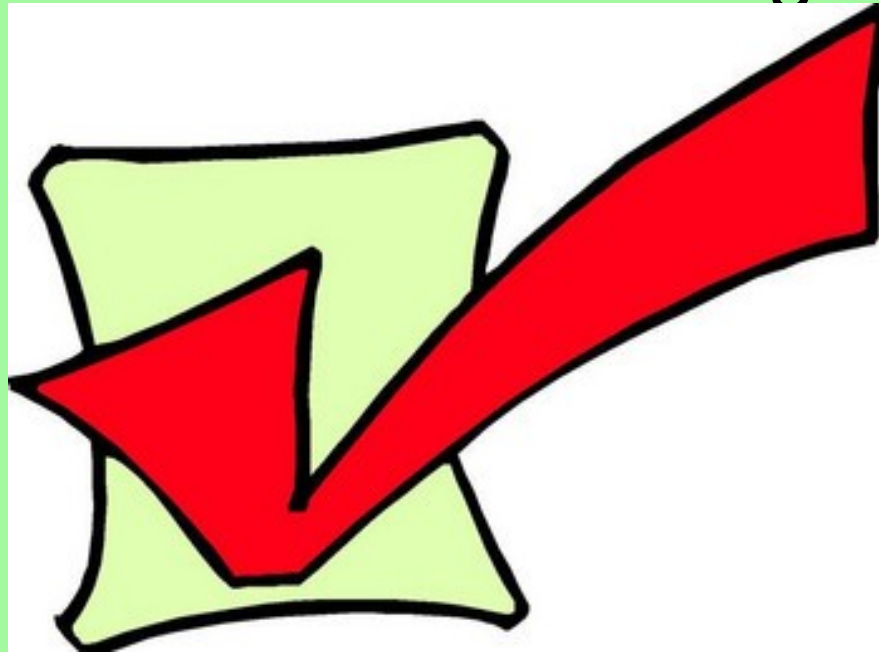
# Project Review

- Project Plans are reviewed to ensure:
  - Environmental regulation compliance
  - Alignment and structural code adherence
  - Utility and right-of-way considerations
  - Budget constraints are followed



# Once a Project is Approved...

- Create a construction contract
- Open invitation for bidders
- Construction contractors may review currently available bids through Comm-PASS



# Allocation of Funds

- \$437.9 million dedicated to highway projects through the federal recovery law
- \$153.2 million will be committed to "shovel-ready" projects

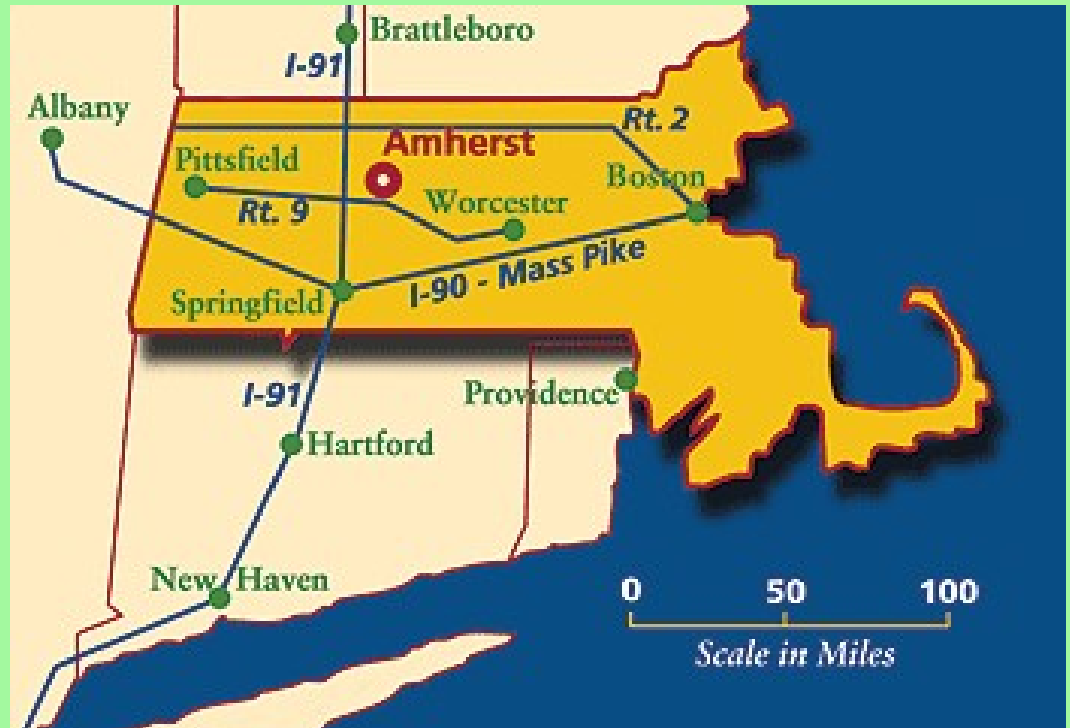


# “Shovel-Ready” Projects

- Infrastructure projects that have advanced to the stage that laborers may immediately be employed to work
- Debate about whether or not such a large amount should be dedicated solely to those projects that are considered “shovel-ready”

# Route 9 Resurfacing Project

- Several areas throughout Massachusetts
  - Belchertown
  - Ware
  - Framingham
  - Natick



# Resurfacing

- Paving over the current road
- Important because:
  - Decrease travel time
  - Decrease travel costs
  - Decrease wear on vehicles



- "I am pleased to see that the Federal Recovery Funds are in place, and as intended, able to stimulate the job market in Belchertown. This project has always been a priority to the legislature relative to public safety, and I am pleased to be joining my colleagues along with the Governor in making this announcement today."

Representative Thomas M. Petrolati.

- "I am pleased to see stimulus money coming into the district," stated Representative Gobi. "The funds are critical to improving the safety of our roadways for all."

Representative Gobi

# Bicycle Lane Network Expansion

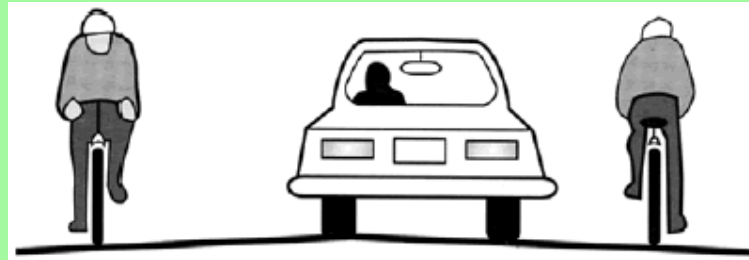




# Bike Effects On Traffic

- Slows cars down
  - Bike lanes on Hartwell avenue in Lexington
- Collisions
- Bikes traveling opposite direction
- Legality of travel

# Wide Curb Lanes

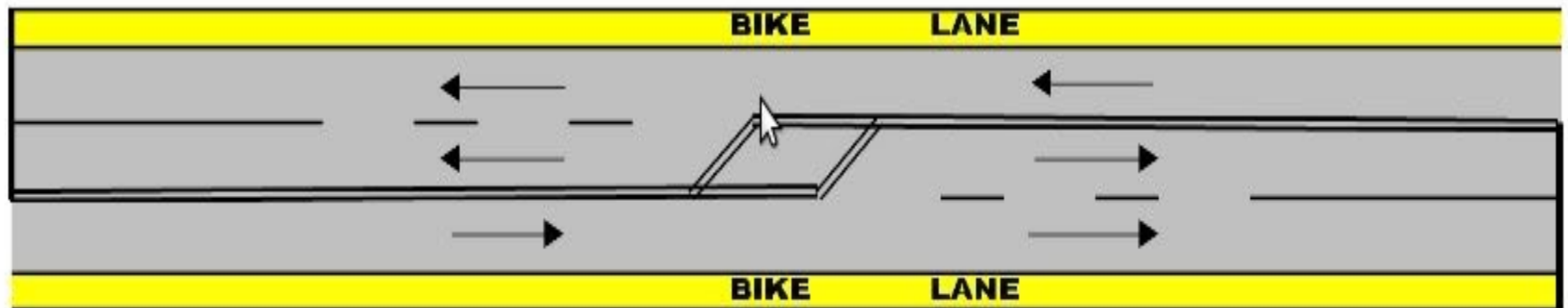



<http://www.tfhrc.gov/safety/pedbike/pubs/05085/chapt14.htm>

# Funding Towards Bike Lanes

- \$3,200,000.00 - 24 jobs
- BU Bridge
  - \$27 million
- S-O Network
  - Price of Anarchy
- Safety

## 3-LANE, 2-WAY MARKING FOR CHANGING DIRECTION OF CENTER LANE



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<http://bubikes.bostonbiker.org/tag/traffic/>

# Blossom Street Commuter Ferry Project

- \$8.4 million in Federal Stimulus Funds
- Commuter ferry from Lynn to Boston
- Improvements at the Blossom Street Ferry Dock



# First Phase

- Funded with \$750,000 of state funds
- Reconstructed the boat ramp
- Improved drainage
- Paved the parking lot
- Tore down the existing building

# Second & Third Phases

- Second Phase involves much more expensive work
  - Dredging
  - Seawall repairs
- Third Phase
  - Construct handicapped-accessible docking facility
  - Buy ferry boat

- “This project will increase commuting options for residents of Lynn, while also helping economic development in the area.”

Lt. Gov. Tim Murray

- “I am pleased that Governor Patrick is putting federal dollars toward this economic development project which will create jobs and enhance transportation options for North Shore residents and visitors. It is this type of project that Congress envisioned when we passed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act earlier this year.”

U.S. Rep. John Tierney



# Conclusion

- Hopefully these projects will improve travel cost on their links
- No evidence found in the planning process on how these projects will have on the traffic networks
- To have the most positive impact in the future, transportation networks should be evaluated based on their link costs and should be optimized for the system and user

# References

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