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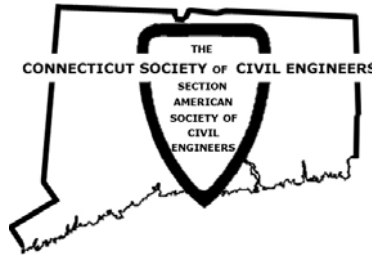
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CSCE POSITION – INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS INVESTMENT (January 21, 2009)

In response to the current economic recession, President Barack Obama and the United States Congress have proposed a plan to provide a federal economic stimulus package which invests in our nation's crumbling infrastructure as a means of combating unemployment and fostering economic growth. This economic stimulus bill is expected to be passed by Congress and signed into law soon after the presidential inauguration on January 20th. Recent reports from Congress indicate a potential stimulus package approaching \$800 Billion. President Obama has been promoting this recovery plan as more than a public-works project, stating that "It's a plan that recognizes both the paradox and the promise of this moment, the fact that there are millions of Americans trying to find work even as, all around the country, there is so much work to be done." Governor Rell has directed state agencies to develop a list of projects which could be funded by the federal stimulus package. Other organizations, such as the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities have also created their own lists of projects.

The Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) strongly supports the aggressive stimulus plan proposed by President Obama to combat unemployment and improve the national economy through infrastructure investment. Investing in our national infrastructure needs (roads, bridges, transit, rail, airports, energy, water and sewer, etc.) will create and sustain jobs, and will begin addressing the need to rebuild and improve our deteriorating infrastructure. CSCE cautions our government leaders that a short-term federal economic stimulus packaged involving infrastructure must supplement, and not replace, long-term solutions such as regular appropriations and scheduled reauthorizations that will ultimately restore America's world-class infrastructure. In addition, the federal stimulus bill should provide 100% federal funding for projects to the states, eliminating the typical partial state matching fund requirements associated with these projects. However, the Connecticut Legislature should be prepared to appropriate partial matching funds in the event that the federal stimulus package does not include 100% federal reimbursement.

CSCE emphasizes that this is a historic opportunity for Connecticut to address its critical infrastructure needs. CSCE recommends that our Connecticut government officials take the following actions in support of the proposed federal economic stimulus package.

- Connecticut should be aggressive in requesting federal support for its infrastructure needs. These projects should be identified, ready for implementation, and should have full documentation in place to support the need for the project's inclusion in the federal package.
- Connecticut must ensure that procurement and administrative resources do not limit the size of the infrastructure investment. Infrastructure projects must be contracted and initiated in a timely manner to ensure their inclusion under the federal stimulus bill. With so many infrastructure needs in Connecticut, the State's inability to procure projects in a timely manner cannot be allowed to limit the size of the federal

investment slated for Connecticut.

- Connecticut should not let the lack of a current “final design” be an excuse for not making a project funding request under the federal stimulus package. Final design can be implemented on an accelerated schedule using both traditional or alternative delivery methods (such as design-build with Legislative approval). The State of Connecticut should lobby to Congress and the President for inclusion of design phase work (including permit approvals) in the federal stimulus bill as a means of ensuring sustained increases in employment in both the engineering and contracting community for the long-term. Failure to include design work in the stimulus package risks creating a significant reduction in future infrastructure construction once the initial burst of stimulus projects have been built.

CSCE stresses that all projects supported by an economic stimulus investment should meet the following fundamental criteria promoted by ASCE:

- Projects must create and sustain employment increases;
- Investments must provide long-term benefits to the public (such as congestion relief);
- Long-term maintenance and upkeep needs of all infrastructure projects – existing and new – must be taken into account; and
- To ensure accountability and transparency an auditing program must be established to review the program and measure desired outcomes.

As the investments are made, proper attention must be paid to the prioritization and selection of these projects to ensure that the criteria are met. The following principles should guide selection decisions:

- The project should deliver measurable improvements in public health, safety and quality of life;
- The project should provide substantial, broad-based economic benefit;
- The project should be designed and built in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, and proper consideration must be given to life-cycle costs; and
- The project should have a significant environmental benefit such as area restoration, improve air quality through reduced congestion and better watershed management through eliminating vulnerabilities in a system.

ASCE, founded in 1852, is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization representing more than 139,000 civil engineers worldwide and 1,560 in Connecticut. Our members are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering and work in private practice, government, industry and academia. ASCE is a 501(c) (3) non-profit educational and professional society. CSCE is a 100% volunteer organization.

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