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MACOUPIN COUNTY BOARD

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COUNTY SEEKS TO HELP CITIES WITH STIMULUS FUNDS

For Immediate Release
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Carlinville -- The Macoupin County Board recently approved a resolution that would allow funds expected to be received by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to be used on municipal infrastructure improvements related to roads and bridges.

Macoupin County is expected to receive approximately \$600,000 in stimulus funds for road repair. In addition to the County government, two cities in Macoupin County (Carlinville and Staunton) are also scheduled to receive stimulus funds for road repair. Twenty-five other municipalities are not expected to receive any funds because those municipalities with less than 5,000 residents do not qualify.

"The County is pleased that we are set to receive funds through the federal stimulus and the county board feels that communities that were left out of the bill passed by Congress should be allowed to participate. For that reason, we are going to attempt to find municipal projects that can qualify," said County Board Chairman Andy Manar.

Manar, the former Mayor of Bunker Hill, said the county would get a bigger bang for its buck by working with the cities and villages in the County.

"Everyone has infrastructure needs and by communicating those needs, we can try to identify avenues to address some longstanding problems across the County," said Manar

The Macoupin County Highway Department has begun reaching out to municipal government officials to identify projects that may qualify under federal guideline, such as bridge replacement and road repairs, that could be paid for through the County's stimulus funds.

"Several years ago, the County Board made it a goal to work with cities and villages in the County. This action is a continuation of that ongoing effort," said Manar.

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Resolution No. 2009.8

Resolution Directing the County Engineer to Explore Using ARRA Funds Designated to the County to Aid Municipalities

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 will allocate approximately \$600,000 to Macoupin County for surface transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments (cities and villages) under 5,000 in population were not made eligible for ARRA funds; and

WHEREAS, Macoupin County is unique in Downstate Illinois in that it has 27 municipal governments, of which only two (the City of Carlinville and the City of Staunton) will be receiving ARRA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Macoupin County Board recognizes that infrastructure needs are prevalent not just on roads and bridges under the County's jurisdiction but in all cities and villages in Macoupin County; and

WHEREAS, the Macoupin County Board continually seeks to form partnerships with municipal governments knowing that all local governments in rural areas have challenges to address infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, only projects meeting certain criteria are eligible for funds from ARRA; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Macoupin County, Illinois directs the County Engineer to immediately begin working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to explore ways to make a portion of the County's ARRA allotment more available to municipalities within the borders of Macoupin County; and therefore

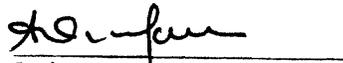
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to all cities and villages in Macoupin County.

SIGNED this 14th day of April, 2009.

Voting Yes: 26

Voting No: 0


Michele Zippay
Clerk
Macoupin County


Andrew Marlar
Chairman of the Board
Macoupin County