



## *Southeast Missouri*

### *Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission*

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**Bulletin No. 706**

**December 5, 2008**

#### **POTENTIAL FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

As you know, the economy has been much in the news lately. Given concerns about recession and unemployment, your staff believes that it is likely that significant federal funding will become available in the next few months. Based on this, we wanted to take this opportunity to suggest that you review your local infrastructure needs for projects that you would like to do.

We believe that projects that can be bid on a very short turnaround – think in terms of 120 days – will have the best chance of being funded. Obvious areas for potential projects are roads, bridges, flood control, water and sewer, and stormwater drainage. We would encourage you to be creative as well. Public building renovations/expansions or new construction are some other possibilities. Sidewalks and hiking/biking trails, and even park development projects, might also be eligible. Don't be afraid to think big. Airports, ports, rail/light rail are all possibilities. Needed medical facilities and improvements to schools might also qualify. It does appear, at this preliminary point, that classic "public works" projects, ideally involving infrastructure improvements/developments, will be the targets for this funding.

It is likely that any maintenance or operational expenses would not be eligible. When you're thinking of projects, remember that the ongoing operation will be a local responsibility.

As always, feel free to contact your staff for any assistance you need.

