

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Under the guidelines set forth by the law, the Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (LAMTPO) was able to request funding for seven (7) projects within its boundaries. The total funding request for these projects was approximately \$1.3 million.

Of the seven projects identified, three (3) are located within the city limits of the City of Morristown. These projects include the resurfacing of approximately 0.7 miles of city streets and the upgrade of an existing traffic signal. In addition to resurfacing, many other low cost safety improvements will also be constructed including sidewalk and curb repair, improved handicap ramps and the installation of additional on-street parking and streetscape items.

The upgrade of the existing traffic signal will improve intersection safety and traffic operations through the installation of new signal poles, new signal equipment and new pavement markings and is designed to better meet the needs of the traveling public. These improvements will serve to enhance signal visibility, reduce intersection delay and increase the operational capacity of the intersection.

In addition to the projects funded by the ARRA, the City of Morristown is utilizing other federally funded programs for three (3) additional projects through the State of Tennessee Surface Transportation Program (STP). These STP projects include the resurfacing of an additional 0.8 miles of roadway and the upgrade of an existing traffic signal. The resurfacing projects will include additional low cost safety improvements including sidewalk & curb repair, a new drainage system and additional streetscape items. The signal upgrade will include new signal poles, new signal equipment and a new pedestrian actuated signal system for the sight and hearing impaired.

The ARRA and STP projects for the City of Morristown are anticipated to be constructed in the Spring of 2010. Each of the projects is being managed by the local agencies, but the program is administered through the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In order to receive the necessary funding for each of these projects, the City must adhere to the strict guidelines established by the Federal Highway Administration.

Additional information regarding these projects can be obtained by contacting the City of Morristown Engineer's office at (423) 585-4620 located at the City Center, 100 West First North Street, Morristown, TN. For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act please visit <http://www.tnrecovery.gov/> or <http://www.recovery.gov/>.