



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT 36-10
Monday, March 1, 2010
Contact: 202-366-4570

USDOT Furloughs to Shut Down Critical Construction Projects *Secretary LaHood Denounces Political Games During Tough Economic Times*

The Department of Transportation will furlough nearly 2,000 employees without pay Monday, temporarily shutting down highway reimbursements to states worth hundreds of millions of dollars, national anti-drunk driving efforts, and multi-million dollar construction projects across the country.

The action comes as a result of Kentucky Sen. Jim Bunning's decision to block key legislation that would have extended several critical priorities for middle class families. That legislation covered tax credits for COBRA health coverage, unemployment insurance for 400,000 people, as well as the short-term extension of the Highway Trust Fund. The Fund supports all surface transportation programs for the nation – highways, bridges, transit and safety inspections, as well as efforts to encourage seat belt use and to fight distracted and impaired driving.

“As American families are struggling in tough economic times, I am keenly disappointed that political games are putting a stop to important construction projects around the country,” said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “This means that construction workers will be sent home from job sites because federal inspectors must be furloughed.”

Because of the shutdown, federal inspectors will be removed from critical construction projects, forcing work to come to a halt on federal lands. Projects span the country, including the \$36 million replacement of the Humpback Bridge on the George Washington Parkway in Virginia, \$15 million in bridge construction and stream rehabilitation in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, and the \$8 million resurfacing of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi. A full list of the FHWA construction projects affected by the furlough is below.

At the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the furloughs will disrupt safety programs that operate in partnership with the states and advocacy groups, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The programs are designed to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities totaling 37,000 a year in areas including distracted driving, child passenger safety and motorcycle safety. Activities affected include national media and enforcement campaigns such as “Click It or Ticket,” and “Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”

Assistance to consumers whose goods are held hostage by rogue moving companies will be unavailable during this period. And work addressing texting while driving for commercial truck and bus drivers, electronic on-board recorders and hours of service will also be suspended.

Employees at the Department of Transportation should report for work Monday morning as they normally would unless given specific alternate instructions. Furloughs will affect employees funded by the Highway Trust Fund at the following agencies: the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

Employees may find more information about the furloughs and when they will be able to return to work at www.dot.gov, as well as Secretary LaHood's blog, Fast Lane, at www.fastlane.dot.gov. Information will also be available at Secretary LaHood's twitter account, www.twitter.com/RayLaHood, and at his facebook page, www.facebook.com/sec.lahood.

Federal Lands Construction Affected By Furlough

| State | Project | Cost |
|---------|---|-------------|
| Alaska | Tongass National Forest road clean up | \$1,100,000 |
| Alaska | Coffman Cove Dock construction | \$885,000 |
| Arizona | Coronado National Monument main park entrance | \$1,500,000 |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Arkansas | East Fly Gap and Gunner Pool Roads landslides restoration | \$923,000 |
| California | Sequoia National Park main entrance | \$15,000,000 |
| California | South Fork Smith River | \$13,800,000 |
| California | Golden Gate National Recreation Area road construction | \$8,700,000 |
| District of Columbia | 9th Street Bridge replacement | \$50,000,000 |
| Georgia | Chickamauga & Chattahoochee National Military Park construction | \$634,000 |
| Idaho | Salmon River Road Nez Perce National Forest construction | \$20,133,000 |
| Idaho | Little Salmon River Bridge Nez Perce National Forest intersection | \$3,800,000 |
| Idaho | Fernan Lakes Idaho Panhandle National Forest | \$14,600,000 |
| Illinois | McCraven Road reconstruction | \$1,100,000 |
| Maryland | Great Falls Park entrance road construction | \$3,100,000 |
| Maryland | Piscataway National Park erosion and slope damage repair | \$89,000 |
| Mississippi | Natchez Trace Parkway resurfacing | \$8,100,000 |
| Mississippi | Natchez Trace Parkway trail construction (Ridgeland County) | 5,600,000 |
| Mississippi | Vicksburg National Military Park road rehabilitation and resurfacing | \$5,000,000 |
| Mississippi | Natchez Trace Parkway trail construction (Madison County) | \$4,700,000 |
| New Mexico | Carlsbad Caverns National Monument roadway rehabilitation | \$9,000,000 |
| North Carolina | Newfound Gap road rehabilitation | \$9,900,000 |
| North Carolina | Blue Ridge Parkway reconstruction and resurfacing | \$6,000,000 |
| North Carolina | Goshen Creek Bridge replacement | \$3,000,000 |
| Ohio | Fitzwater Road bridges replacement | \$4,400,000 |
| Oregon | Beaver Creek Road Ochoco National Forest | \$6,200,000 |
| South Carolina | Ft. Sumter Historic Site entrance road and parking area rehabilitation | \$262,000 |
| Tennessee | Cades Cove Loop Road rehabilitation | \$6,700,000 |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| Tennessee | Shilo National Park tour roads and parking area rehabilitation | \$3,000,000 |
| Tennessee | Catossa Wildlife Management Area bridge replacement | \$1,000,000 |
| Utah | Bear River Access Road | \$13,800,000 |
| Virginia/DC | George Washington Parkway Humpback Bridge replacement | \$36,000,000 |
| Virginia | Blue Ridge Parkway reconstruction and resurfacing | \$12,000,000 |
| Virginia | Petersburg Park tour road relocation | \$1,500,000 |
| Puerto Rico | Vieques National Wildlife Refuge road and bridge reconstruction | \$6,000,000 |
| Puerto Rico | El Yunque National Forest slide repair | \$3,000,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | Christiansted Bypass construction | \$14,000,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | Centerline Road reconstruction | \$9,000,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | St. John roundabout construction | \$7,200,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | Long Bay Road reconstruction | \$5,500,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | University of Virgin Island sidewalk construction | \$988,000 |
| U.S. Virgin Islands | North Shore Road reconstruction | \$448,000 |