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Title: **Stimulus package – Transportation investments**

Author: *Anna Vize, Product Manager, Avalon Risk Management, Inc.*

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17. The \$787 billion economic stimulus package includes \$64 billion for transportation infrastructure and is expected to support more than 1.8 million jobs, according to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates the following amounts for specific transportation initiatives:

- Highway and bridge construction – \$27.5 billion
- Passenger rail capacity and high-speed rail projects – \$9.3 billion
- Public transportation infrastructure – \$8.4 billion
- State and local government competitive grants for transportation projects – \$1.5 billion
- Grants for airports to increase capacity or enhance security – \$1.3 billion
- Construction at border-crossings and screening equipment for Customs – \$520 million
- Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grants, which provide carriers with assistance for purchasing hybrid trucks or funding diesel emission retrofits – \$300 million

While the stimulus package provides a large amount of money for transportation projects, more money will be needed for highway construction and repairs. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) conducted a survey revealing state Departments of Transportation have more than 5,000 projects ready to be contracted within the next 180 days. The projects from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are estimated to cost \$64 billion.

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For more information, please contact your local Avalon office or Anna Vize, Product Manager at (847) 700-8154 or at [avize@avalonrisk.com](mailto:avize@avalonrisk.com). A list of our eleven North American offices can be found at [www.avalonrisk.com](http://www.avalonrisk.com).

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