

Florida Department of Transportation
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009
Ron Russo, Inspector General

ARRA - short for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was passed by Congress with the hope that it would save and create more than 3.5 million jobs over the next two years. As part of the \$150 billion investment in new infrastructure, it is the largest increase in funding of our nation's roads, bridges and mass transit systems since the creation of the national highway system in the 1950s. Along with the funds came the requirement for unprecedented levels of reporting at all levels of government.



The OIG has been working closely with the department to ensure that adequate controls are in place to safeguard the use of any federal dollars and we have taken the lead in the reporting process for the department. The OIG Rapid Review Advisory and Consulting Team comprised of senior auditors, information technology experts and other OIG members is working tirelessly to ensure the ARRA-related department programs possess adequate internal controls. The team is also examining the accuracy of various data reported to the federal government and keeping the department aware of any change in reporting requirements.

We continue to partner with various federal and state agencies charged with oversight of the federal stimulus dollars, in an effort to avoid duplication and still provide the oversight expected and deserved by the citizens of Florida.

Another phase of our ARRA efforts is fraud awareness and prevention. In June, the USDOT Office of Inspector General and our office conducted a series of fraud awareness seminars throughout the state.

This mandatory training was developed for the purpose of informing department personnel of potential fraud indicators, scams, schemes to defraud and ways to report such activities. In addition, we have developed several fraud awareness publications and a video to educate and inform employees, contractors and the public.

Over the next three years, the OIG, in conjunction with our state and federal partners, will review all ARRA-funded transportation projects to fulfill the transparency and accountability provisions included in the ARRA legislation and will make this information available to department staff.