



## Positioning Projects for Successful Stimulus Funding



### About Jacobs

At Jacobs, we're challenging today to reinvent tomorrow by solving the world's most critical problems for thriving cities, resilient environments, mission-critical outcomes, operational advancement, scientific discovery and cutting-edge manufacturing, turning abstract ideas into realities that transform the world for good. With \$13 billion in revenue and a talent force of more than 55,000, Jacobs provides a full spectrum of professional services including consulting, technical, scientific and project delivery for the government and private sector.

### Contact

#### Jeff Frantz

Global Solutions Director  
Environmental Planning  
jeff.frantz@jacobs.com  
T +1 773.458.2823

As the world recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong focus will be placed on renewing and revitalizing the economy. Our surface transportation, particularly our highway networks, will be key, both in terms of conveying the goods and services that are part of the recovery as well as being a direct source of economic vitality by putting construction crews to work.

Successful regulatory and societal approval of transportation projects requires a partner with demonstrated expertise in strategic assessment, site and route selection, alternatives evaluation, National Environmental Policy Act analyses and state-level equivalents, community engagement, permitting and design. A partner who can get you from initial concept to construction and operations as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Jacobs' environmental services cover every transportation project phase, from strategic planning to design, construction and operations. Our Environmental Planning & Permitting team has completed environmental assessments and permit applications for thousands of projects worldwide. As an industry leader, we have over 6,000 environmental professionals who deliver every discipline, including air quality (attainment and non-attainment), biology, ecology, cultural/heritage resources, environmental justice/limited English populations, geology and geotechnical, hydrology, land use, noise, socioeconomics, stakeholder engagement, traffic and transportation and visual resources specialties.

Jacobs supports clients in preparing and mobilizing projects for implementation. Whether through traditional state and community funding and priorities or through a federal stimulus bill, we can help you quickly obtain the necessary approvals to develop and construct your transportation projects through the use of emerging technologies and programmatic approaches that stress efficiency while enabling the use of data or analytical tools that haven't been previously applied.

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# Jacobs' Strategic Plan for Expediting Environmental Approvals for Stimulus Projects

Environmental approvals and permits are key to moving projects forward under stimulus funding. We offer solutions and tools to mobilize for implementation.

Solution Category	Tools & Approaches	Value
<p><b>Maximum use of new technologies.</b> Jacobs is leading the development of new technologies that will enable faster data gathering and analysis across broad geographic areas, and during times when traditional fieldwork may not be possible for safety or weather-related reasons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use remote sensing to quickly perform natural resource and other surveys</li> <li>• Portable, aircraft mounted LiDAR speeds survey data collection over large areas</li> <li>• eDNA testing helps identify species presence/absence and critical habitat</li> <li>• Virtual public meetings/hearings and meeting facilitation reaches a wider audience</li> </ul>	<p>New technologies are most effective when applied in a targeted manner. Remote technologies may mitigate the right-of-entry issues to speed project development. Remote sensing and eDNA, in combination with AI applications created by Jacobs allows us to identify resources and replace or augment traditional field surveys. Aircraft mounted LiDAR can create models of terrain and infrastructure features quickly without the time-intensive and costly process of ground surveys.</p> <p>Jacobs' experience conducting virtual public involvement enables project teams to collaborate with key stakeholders. Our virtual public involvement toolkit is scalable from simple "live" online events to virtual public meeting/hearing rooms that can be guided or self-guided.</p>
<p><b>Strategic coordination with regulators.</b> With thousands of US-based transportation focused environmental staff, we have relationships with resource and regulatory agencies and Departments of Transportation in every state and understand their needs and preferences. We combine relationships with our environmental risk management experience to expedite projects through implementation while providing appropriate levels of environmental protections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene agency (regulatory) working groups on a weekly basis to review program of projects rather than individual submittals</li> <li>• Revisit ability to keep work within the existing ROW</li> <li>• Address environmental risks with monitors during construction</li> <li>• Extend permits rather than renew them</li> <li>• Consider advanced mitigation, or mitigation that goes above and beyond to smooth the way for agency coordination</li> </ul>	<p>It is reasonable to assume that any stimulus legislation that may be passed will likely favor those projects that are ready to proceed toward implementation (i.e., shovel ready). Jacobs' experience working closely with regulators has led us to develop a set of approaches that mitigate environmental risk while speeding up the permitting process. These approaches include rethinking alternatives to keep work within the existing ROW and using environmental monitors during construction rather than conducting multi-season surveys to determine species presence/absence. By advancing mitigation on a broad scale for a program of improvements, transportation agencies can demonstrate their role as good stewards, maximize cost efficiency and success of mitigation, and build good will with regulatory agencies. Good will is also fostered by regular coordination; we have used a "working group" approach to achieve environmental approvals on large programs to great effect.</p>
<p><b>Programmatic approach.</b> Jacobs is one of the world's leading program management firms, with experience leading iconic initiatives, including the London Olympics, Rio Olympics and the Houston First Convention Center. Positioning transportation projects to move forward quickly and identifying which ones are either on-the-shelf or already in active development and meet the requirements of a stimulus package requires a strategic approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and evaluate older projects as a program led by a single responsible party who can provide prospective across the group</li> <li>• Undertake surveys, reviews, and other common activities across multiple sites rather than individually</li> <li>• Apply strategic EIA across the entire program</li> <li>• Advance tree clearing and other forms of avoidance/minimization activities programmatically</li> </ul>	<p>Maximizing opportunities under stimulus funding means getting as many projects through the approval process as quickly as possible. Jacobs' experience managing large transportation programs as the owner's representative has enabled us to create a toolset to identify the projects best positioned to take advantage of stimulus funds and prioritize them for approvals. Programmatic approaches to agency coordination - rather than individual submittals - accelerates agency review times, and considers avoidance and minimization measures programmatically (such as a single contract for advance tree clearing at multiple sites), which in turn reduces overhead and administrative delays.</p>