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***EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor***

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## **GOVERNOR RENDELL ANNOUNCES START OF \$10 MILLION INVESTMENT IN BEAVER COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ROCHESTER** -- Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced the start of the \$10 million investment to rehabilitate and preserve the Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge – the first project started in the region with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA, funding.

“We are here today because the federal Recovery Act is helping us restore our aging infrastructure and – just as importantly – putting Pennsylvanians to work,” Governor Rendell said. “This project simply would not have happened if stimulus funds were not available. As a bonus, 30 to 40 people will be working because of this bridge project.

“Right now, Beaver County needs this economic stimulus to get people to work and to rebuild its infrastructure in order to attract new residents and businesses. Stories like this one are playing out across the state as more than \$1 billion in federal transportation stimulus funds is supplementing the \$1.8 billion in work Pennsylvania had already planned for this year.

“The combined investment totals close to \$3 billion; by far the most highway and bridge work ever produced in a single year in Pennsylvania. And \$643 million of that is being invested right here in southwestern Pennsylvania,” the Governor said.

The Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge, spanning the Beaver River between Beaver and Rochester, carries approximately 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. The repair project includes preservation activities, full painting, expansion dam and rocker bearing replacements and steel and concrete repairs. Five bridge/ramp structures are part of the project, including three that are rated structurally deficient. The deficiency ratings will be removed when the project is completed in late 2010.

Pennsylvania companies led by Mascaro Contracting of Pittsburgh are rebuilding the bridge, including subcontractors Avalotis of Verona, Allegheny County; Strongstown B & K of Strongstown, Indiana County; and Callahan Paving Products of Horsham, Montgomery County.

The Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge is one of seven projects in PennDOT's three-county District 11 region being funded by ARRA. Statewide, Pennsylvania is receiving more than \$1 billion for highway and bridge projects from the ARRA.

Governor Rendell is committed to ensuring that the public is able to monitor and provide feedback on how federal recovery dollars are being invested in Pennsylvania by providing news, up-to-date information and regular reports online at [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).

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*The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his newsletter, visit: [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us).*