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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 2009

TO: MTA Board of Directors

FROM: Barbara Thornton, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM I: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) – STATUS REPORT

Recommended Action: Receive written and oral update regarding ARRA and the MTA work in progress.

Background:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. Since that time MTA staff in conjunction with Tom Robinson of CBG Communications has been monitoring activity regarding the Act in the areas focused on Broadband.

On July 1, 2009 the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and solicitation of applications was issued jointly by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). This document describes the availability of funds and the application requirements for the broadband initiatives contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), and the RUS Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP).¹ Funded at \$4.7 billion, BTOP provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. Through this support, BTOP will also advance the Recovery Act's objectives to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity.

This NOFA is the first of three to be issued for Broadband Economic Stimulus funding. A summary fact sheet regarding the NOFA is attached. Applications associated with this NOFA will be accepted between July 14 and August 14, 2009. Staff and Tom Robinson are reviewing the detailed NOFA and will provide further details to the Board for MTA's July 8th meeting.

¹ Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115 (2009). This Fact Sheet summarizes elements of the NOFA related to BTOP only. See the NTIA/RUS NOFA for all requirements at www.broadbandusa.gov.