STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MET
"SHOVEL-READY" PROVISIONS UNDER THE AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT
Columbus, Ohio, June 10, 2013

The inspector general issued a report of investigation today finding the Ohio Department of
Transportation succeeded in meeting the "shovel-ready" provisions of the American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The inspector general's investigation was initiated to comply with a 2009 law passed by the Ohio General
Assembly requiring the inspector general to review the use of funds received under ARRA. The
investigation found the Ohio Department of Transportation received over $1 billion in ARRA funds for
transportation "infrastructure investment," and met the federally mandated goal of using at least half of the
money for activities that could be started in less than 6 months.

However, the inspector general drew attention to the department's cost estimates for projects which are
made in advance of receipt of bids by contractors. An analysis of 47 road projects revealed the winning
bid was on average 10% lower than the department's estimate and 6% lower than the runner-up bid. The
department made an estimate for the cost of one project at an amount 28% higher than the actual
winning bid.

Inspector General Randall Meyer asked for better accuracy. "Inflated estimates leave the state open to
the risk of change-order abuse and a loss of project cost-control."

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2012-CA00067 is now available at:
http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2013Investigations.aspx

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