

# **GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY**

## *Testimony Before the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform*

July 8, 2009

Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Issa, Members of the Committee, it is an honor to join you here today. Mr. Chairman, I am encouraged by the passage of your legislation, the Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act, which provides additional guidance from OMB on calculating and reporting job creation data, and allows states the flexibility of using Recovery dollars for administrative functions that are critical to our ability to maintain accountability.

As I begin, I would also like to thank the hardworking Committee members from the State of Maryland – Congressman Elijah Cummings and Congressman Chris Van Hollen.

For those of us in the states, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been a true lifeline. Were it not for the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we would have been forced to lay off 700 state employees, push children and vulnerable adults off of health care coverage, and forgo investments in public education which have produced record test scores and earned our State's schools a #1, best-in-the-nation ranking from *Education Week* magazine.

This critical legislation is helping us create and save Maryland jobs. It's allowing us to position our State's economy to bounce back from this recession. And in these tough times, it's helping us protect some of our most important priorities, mainly the health of our people and the education of our children.

### **STATESTAT AND ARRA**

In Maryland, we share the President's commitment to investing our Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds with maximum efficiency, maximum openness, and maximum transparency. To guide us in this process, we are using an initiative we call "StateStat."


StateStat was born out of the CitiStat initiative we created in the City of Baltimore, which in turn was born out of the NYPD's ComStat initiative, which helped produce dramatic reductions in crime in New York City. Through CitiStat, we began measuring and mapping every conceivable service, problem, and opportunity, and to drive progress we adopted the tenets of ComStat. They are: timely, accurate information shared by all, rapid deployment of resources, effective tactics and strategies, and relentless follow-up and assessment.

We took CitiStat with us to state government in 2007 and have been using the same tenets in StateStat to guide our efforts in an array of areas, ranging from restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay to restoring fiscal responsibility to state government.

So when we received our Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, we already had a tracking system in place. We use StateStat and our first-in-the-nation iMap to strategically target our Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments, to rapidly deploy these resources, to ensure we're hitting our goals for Minority Business Enterprise, and to guard against the possibility of waste, fraud, or abuse. How? With openness and transparency enabled by the internet, and visible to every citizen.

We routinely and relentlessly meet with key agency officials and collect and analyze benchmark data in order to change tactics and strategies when necessary to achieve our goals, we use GIS technology

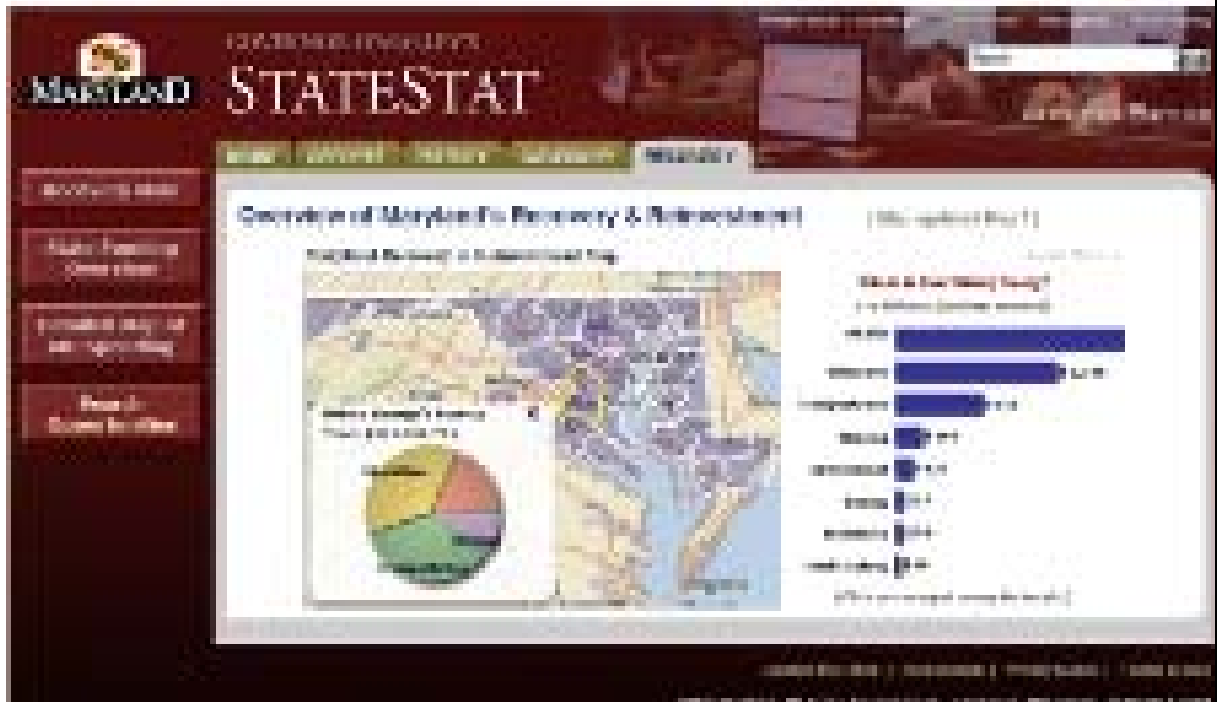
to map and track our progress, connecting these important dollars not only to the programs, but to the towns, counties and neighborhoods where these investments are being put to work for real people. And again, we've made the data available on our website for all to see:

<p><b>#1</b></p>	<p>This is our StateStat website.... If we click here on this “recovery” tab we call up a special page dedicated to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We tried to make sure that our site flows from the federal site, breaking the funding in seven categories.</p> <p>If you look here on the left, we have tabs which lead to two GIS maps which are part of our iMap. One is an overview and the other is more detailed.</p> 
<p><b>#2</b></p>	<p>Here on the overview map, we display the overall statewide breakdown of Recovery and Reinvestment funding areas. We also allow citizens to click on their county to retrieve local information.</p>



#3

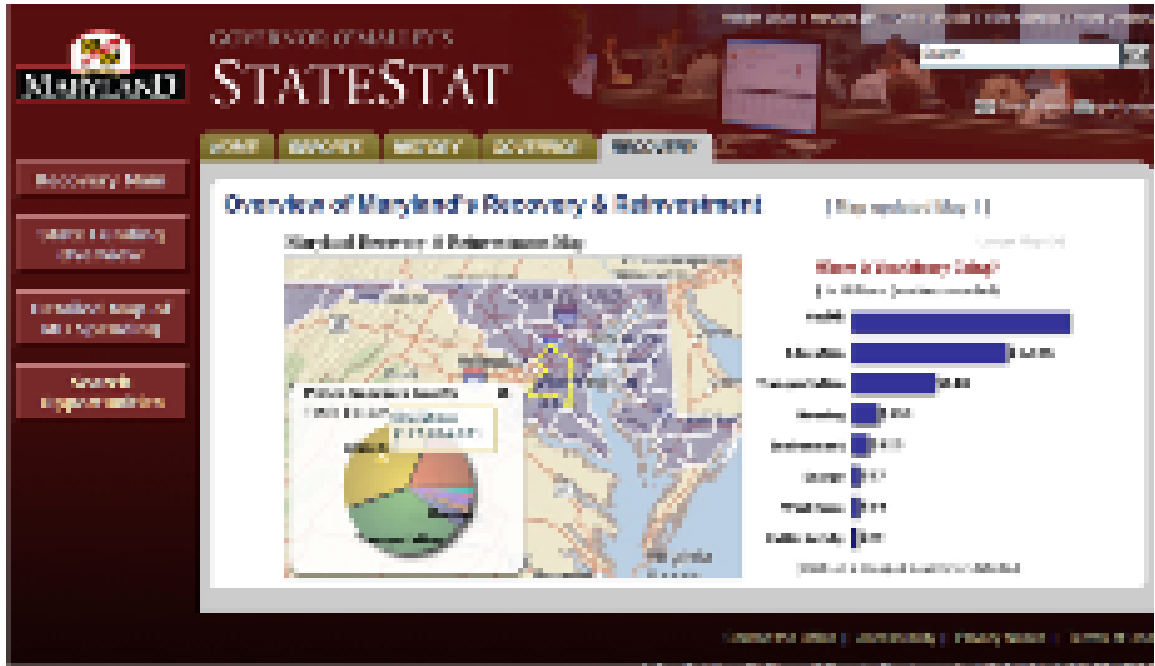
For example, let's click on "Prince George's County." As you can see, the county is receiving \$319.9 million in stimulus funds. And again you see the breakdown by category of education, health, transportation, and so on.



#4

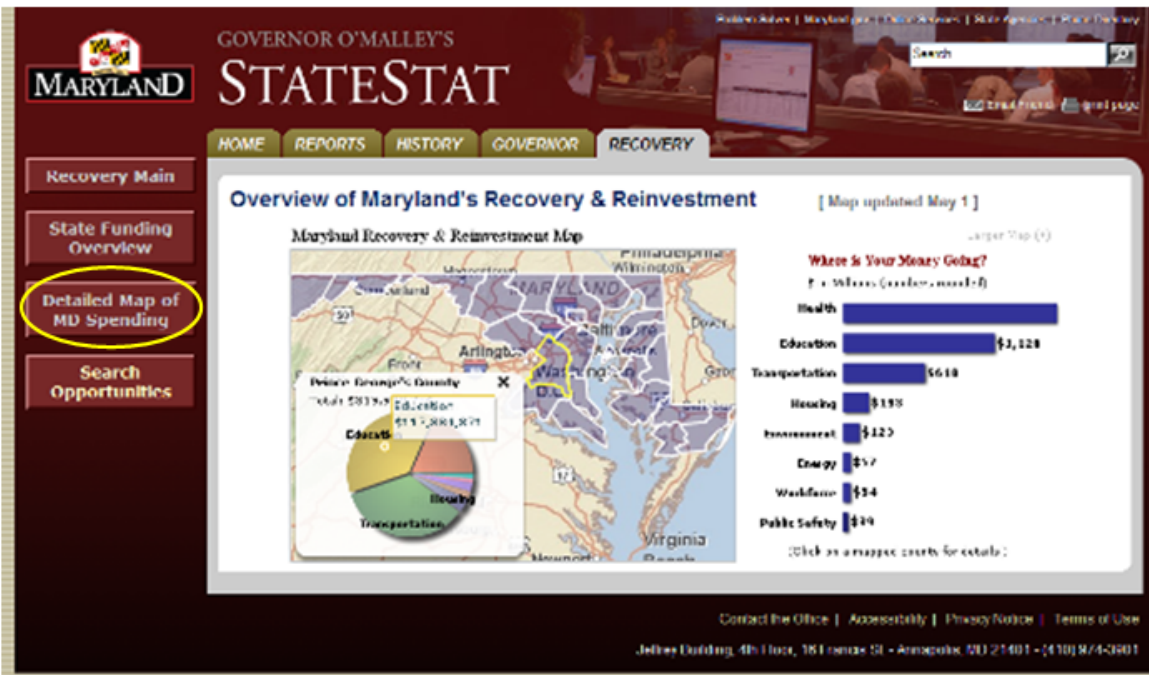
And if we click on the individual slices of the investment pie chart, we learn that of these investments, \$117.9 million are targeted toward protecting educational achievement this year—the largest piece of Prince George’s recovery pie.

As I mentioned, we’re proud in Maryland to have the #1 school system in America. It’s a top priority for us to protect the progress our students and teachers are making in the classroom.

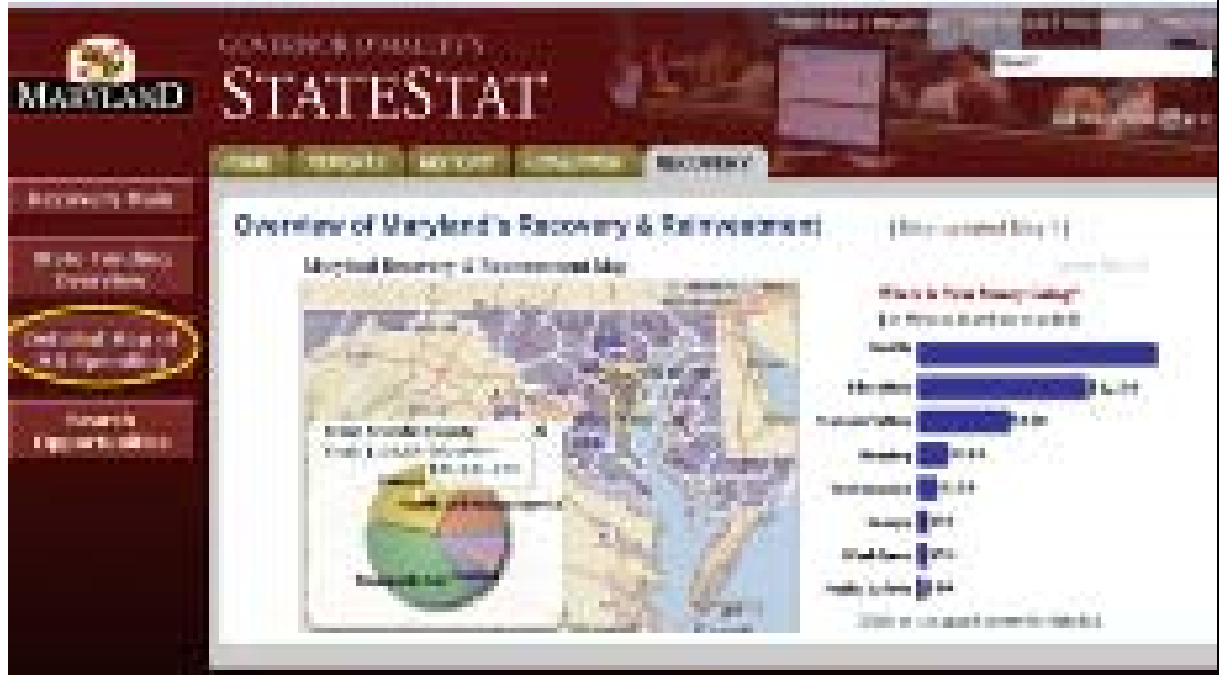


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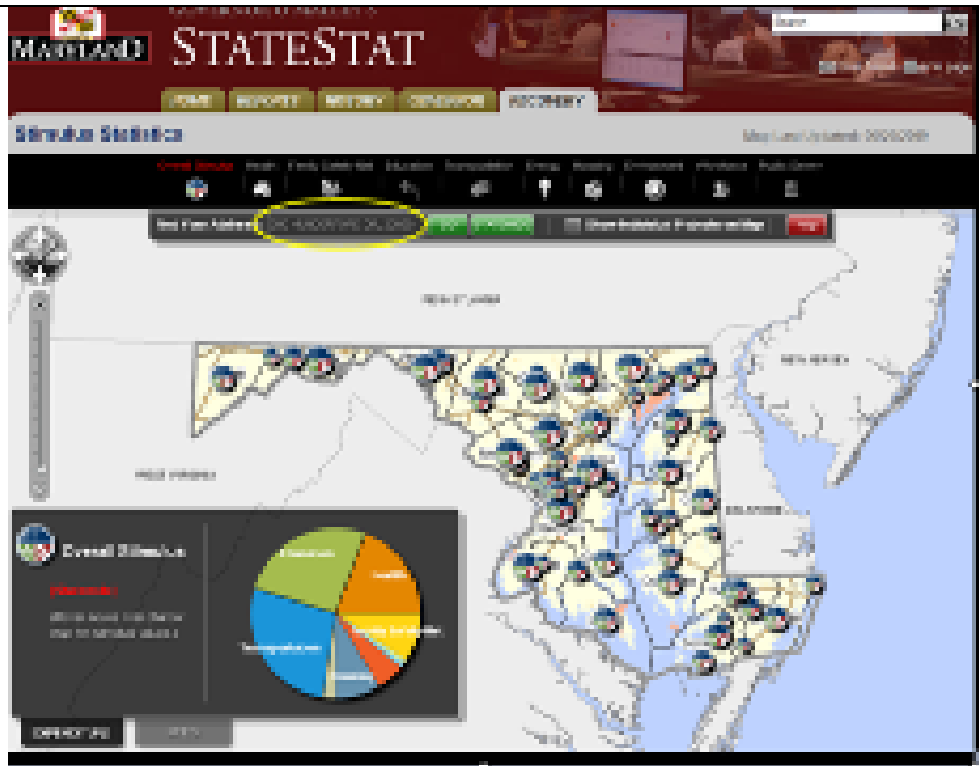
If you want more information on how we’re investing education resources in Prince George’s County we can click on the map to see a breakdown of Title 1, Special Education, State Adequacy and Equity Funding, and other aid.



#6 Now let's move to physical, capital investments. On the left, we can click to access the more detailed map.



#7 Here's the detailed map. If you look toward the top of the screen, we give citizens the option of putting their own address and zip code in Maryland. For the sake of this demonstration, let's put in the address of Rockville's Volunteer Fire Company: 380 HUNGERFORD DR, 20850

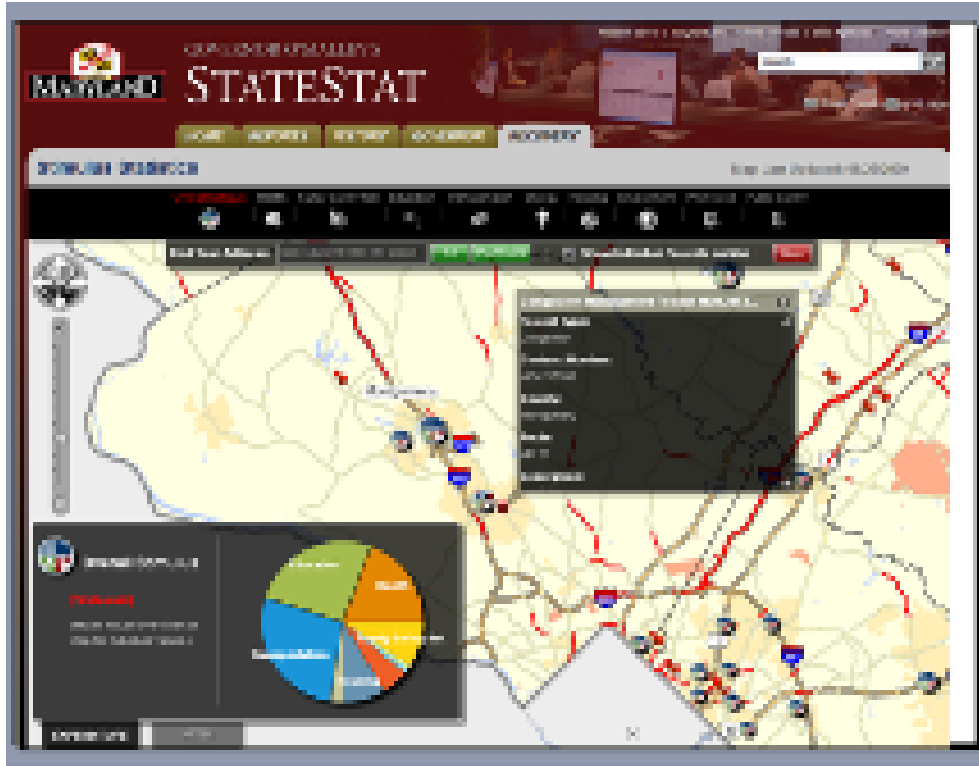


#8 By clicking the “Show Individual Projects on Map” button you can see every Recovery and Reinvestment Act related project in proximity to your address.



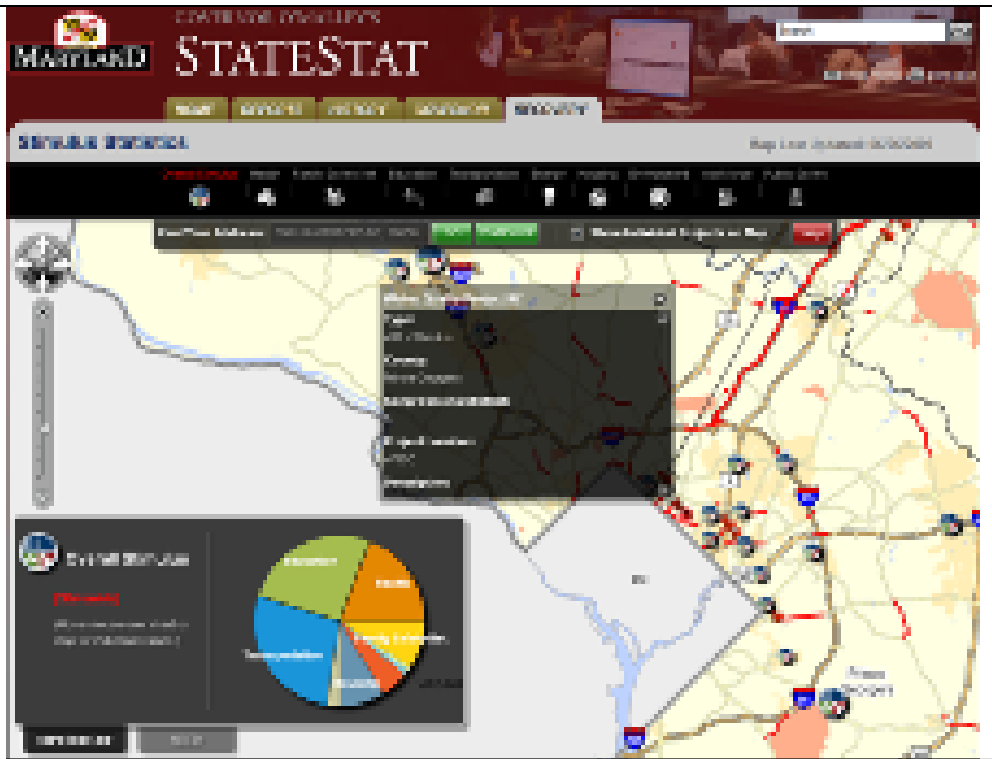
#9

Let's click on this highway project. According to the map it's a \$1.7 project on MD 28. We are expecting bids on July 16 and aim to have a contractor begin work in September.



#10

We are also mapping Water Quality and Drinking Water Upgrade projects. Here you can see this WSSC project in Prince George's County.



**#11**

And we can also click on “weatherization data” to see how many units each county expects to weatherize.

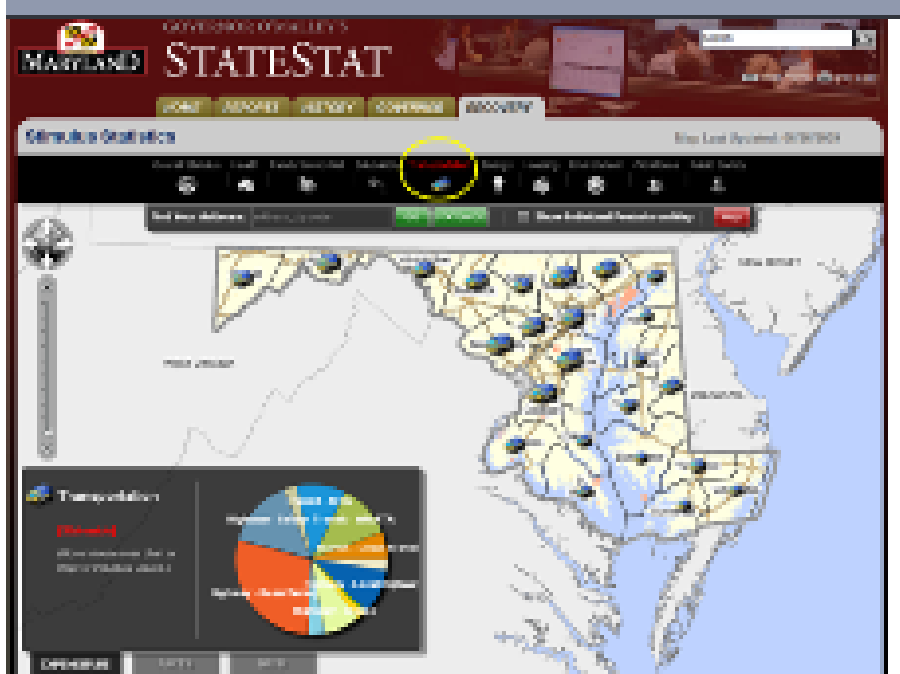
Prior to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we were weatherizing 400 houses per year. With the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we’ve set a goal of 3,000 houses in 18 months. The website allows citizens to track our progress in their own county and statewide.

Through StateStat, we are looking at the same data to ensure that we’re meeting our goals – and to hold the relevant agencies accountable for changing course if necessary.



**#12**

StateStat updates the map on a weekly basis to reflect the fast pace of the implementation of our transportation projects. Let's click on "Transportation." For each county, we have a level of specificity available that allows any citizen to easily view things such as who has been contracted for specific transportation projects, the bid and award date for these projects, and Minority Business Enterprise participation.



#13

As I mentioned, for every awarded contract we are tracking Minority Business enterprise participation, which is a top priority for our administration. Once the contracted is awarded we are able to show the level of minority business participation.

Congressman Cummings has been a national leader in his efforts on Minority Business Enterprise and a terrific partner in these endeavors.



## CONCLUSION

So these are just a few examples from the information we've made available for all to see on the Recovery Website: broadly sharing information instead of hoarding it, providing for a maximum degree of openness and transparency, giving our public the tools they need to monitor the progress of their own government.

To those who are rightfully concerned about the integrity of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments, we agree with the words of the great Louis Brandeis who said that "*sunlight is ... the best of disinfectants.*" While there may not be a magic elixir, by measuring performance, promoting openness and transparency, and using tools like mapping and the internet, we believe that our efforts can go a long way toward guarding against waste, fraud, and abuse – and perhaps more importantly, strengthening the connections between citizens, their government, and the results that all of us want to see from the Recovery and Investment Act.

Thank you once again.