**Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program**

**Comments and Responses**

Comment: There is a recommendation to change the match from 20% to 25% so the funds are not used up as fast.

*Response: A 20% match is fairly standard in grant programs; however, additional points would be awarded to an applicant for providing more than a 20% match.*

Comment: Why can private investors not apply for the grant funding?  A private investor could use the funds to develop a site that would benefit a municipality.

*Response: Private investors will not be able to apply for the grant funding as direct recipients at this time.*

Comment: Under the Funding Priorities, could adding employment be a factor along with the other items mentioned?

*Response: Based on comments received, ADECA has determined that adding employment could be a factor under the program; however, the applicant must provide documentation indicating how many jobs would be created through the proposed project within the application.*

Comment:  The wording "navigable channels maintained by the Corps of Engineers" should be inserted under “Ineligible Funding” after “dredging”.

*Response: The reasoning for the current wording is to prevent grant funds from being used to perform routine maintenance or duplicative funding.  If the applicant can provide adequate documentation indicating that the project will not be used for routine maintenance, then the project may be considered.  Documentation would need to include 1) that appropriate maintenance has been conducted over the life of the infrastructure, 2) that the age of the infrastructure is older than the industry standard life expectancy, and 3) how the project will reduce congestion on public highways, increase tonnage at the facility, and/or enhance regional competitiveness.*

Comment: Why is there a short application period?  If there is going to be a grant program, can there not be given time necessary for all to evaluate if there is a project that could apply for the grant.

*Response: The application period is fairly standard in other grant programs.  If ADECA does not receive enough applications to expend all program funds, a second funding cycle may be considered.*