

100 Stimulus Projects: A Second Opinion

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A Second Opinion on the Stimulus

Earlier this year, Congress was quick to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or stimulus bill that promised to jumpstart the economy and put Americans back to work by spending \$787 billion on “shovel-ready” projects across the country.

There was no question that the nation’s economic condition demanded bold action. Nor is there any question that the massive amount of stimulus spending so far has created some new jobs. Yet, as recent statistics have shown, the jobs that may have been created or saved from the stimulus are not offsetting the millions of jobs that our economy is still hemorrhaging. In my estimation, Congress chose the wrong approach to stimulating the economy by spending money we don’t have on things we don’t need. Real stimulus includes lowering the tax and regulatory burden on hardworking families and businesses, which creates good jobs for the long term.

Unemployment soared to 9.4 percent in May 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), with 14.5 million Americans now out of work. These numbers are staggering, but may actually be too low. BLS also reports that “true unemployment” could be as high as 16.4 percent when adjusted for all workers that would like to work full time but are discouraged from doing so.¹ Behind these statistics are stories of families trying to make ends meet without a steady pay check, and even those who have not lost their jobs are anxious about their own financial situation, as well as the future that they can expect for their children and grandchildren.

It is fair to say that these statistics do not tell the full story of the stimulus. Taxpayers have a lot of questions about how the stimulus is working and they deserve answers.

For example, what kinds of jobs are being created? Are these permanent jobs or seasonal and temporary jobs that will soon be gone when the project is completed? What are the merits of projects being funded with stimulus dollars? Will these projects make real improvements in the lives of taxpayers and communities or are they simply pet projects of politicians and lobbyists that never got off the ground because they are a low priority? Are some stimulus projects actually making matters *worse* for ordinary Americans?

Taxpayers would *not* be shocked to hear that millions of dollars of stimulus money are being wasted, but they might be shocked to learn the answers to these questions. After a review of thousands of projects, it is fair to claim that there are some successes, but there are also places where we need to do better.

Earl Devaney, head of the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency (RAT) Board, estimates that at least \$55 billion of the money may be lost to waste, fraud and abuse.² Unfortunately, we all have come to expect waste and mismanagement when Washington spends money. But this time the expectation must be different. When ordinary Americans are laid off or lose their jobs, they are losing more than just income. They are losing their health insurance, as well as their ability to pay their mortgages, to send their kids to school, or even provide necessities like food and shelter.

This report is an attempt to look beyond the statistics of jobs created or even money wasted. It, instead, provides a closer examination of 100 projects, programs and missteps – worth \$5.5 billion – some even in

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Table A-12. Alternative measure of labor utilization,” June 5, 2009, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t12.htm>.

² King Jr., Neil, “Watchdog Over Stimulus Spending Toes a Delicate Line,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 9, 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123627399401341865.html>.

my own home state of Oklahoma, that are likely to fail the expectation of out of work Americans who were hoping this bill would create good jobs that they are desperately seeking so that they can provide for their families once again.

I plan on issuing additional reports on stimulus projects in the months to come in the hope that by keeping government accountable, we can provide the most value for taxpayers.

Tom Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator

Introduction

By offering 100 examples of questionable stimulus projects, worth \$5.5 billion, this report does not attempt to *prove* that the stimulus is not working. Rather, the intent is to educate taxpayers, policymakers and the media on lessons that can be learned from some of the early missteps and prevent other questionable projects from moving forward.

As Congress debated the stimulus bill in February, there were significant concerns that billions of dollars would be wasted and the bill was rushed to passage without a single member of Congress reading it.

Even Vice President Joe Biden, who was charged with heading up the stimulus implementation, said on June 2, “Some people are being scammed already.”³

Shortly after it passed, the Vice President warned of the challenges facing the government in the short-term when he said, “Six months from now, if the verdict on this effort is that we’ve wasted the money, we built things that were unnecessary or we’ve done things that are legal but make no sense, then folks don’t look for any help from the federal government for a long while.”⁴ All around the country, just such a pattern is starting to develop, making some Americans think twice. A new *Rasmussen* poll released on June 10 shows that 45 percent of taxpayers want to halt all of the remaining unspent stimulus funds, while only 36 percent want to continue.⁵

In Florida, local officials are using \$128 million in stimulus money for a bridge project that has been hotly debated for more than 20 years by locals who see it as unnecessary and a waste of money. Known as the Indian Street Bridge, it would connect the communities of Stuart and Palm City even though an existing bridge connects the two only a quarter of a mile away. Even the bridge’s shovel-ready status has been called into question since construction cannot begin until the needed parcels of land are purchased, which is not expected to happen until 2011.

In Perkins, Oklahoma, residents are literally paying the price for the “free” stimulus dollars provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Perkins is receiving \$1.445 million from a federal stimulus grant for new wastewater treatment plant. As a condition of accepting those funds, the town must comply with a number of federal requirements. These federal restrictions have increased the total cost of the project from \$5.26 million to \$7.2 million, offsetting any financial benefit from the grant. As a result, utility rates for local residents have risen by 60% to pay the costs for accepting the stimulus money. City Manager Pete Seikel said residents don’t understand why their sewer rates have to be increased if the city is getting federal grants to build the new wastewater treatment plant.

In Ypsilanti, Michigan, half a million dollars will go towards renovating a historic freight house that closed its doors in 2004. Supporters of the project envision the new space being used for yoga classes or a coffee shop. This is not exactly what most taxpayers had in mind when they were sold the stimulus.

Supporters of the stimulus said that the key to preventing the misuse of federal money was a strong dose of transparency. If the details of every project were posted online, they said, including where the money

³ Nicolaci da Costa, Pedro, “Biden says some waste inevitable part of stimulus,” *Reuters*, June 2, 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE5516HE20090602>.

⁴ Superville, Darlene, “Obama to states: Spend stimulus wisely or else,” *Associated Press*, March 12, 2009, http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2008820634_apobamastimulus.html.

⁵ “45% Say Cancel Rest of Stimulus Spending,” *Rasmussen Reports*, June 10, 2009, http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/business/economic_stimulus_package/45_say_cancel_rest_of_stimulus_spending

is spent and for what, a natural system of accountability would develop. Unfortunately, this has not happened. It is nearly impossible right now for the average taxpayer to find out where his money is going. It was recently revealed that Recovery.gov, a new website being developed to bring “unprecedented transparency” by tracking the money “down to the penny,” may not even be ready until spring 2010 – a full year after the stimulus was passed. Taxpayers who will be left paying for every wasteful stimulus project deserve a full accounting of where their money is going.

This makes the report being released today all the more important. It highlights 100 projects out of thousands that have received stimulus money but are not poised to stimulate the economy, create lasting jobs, serve taxpayers in the long term, or use taxpayer money in an appropriate way. Some may be reasonable if funded through private investment, or state and local government. Some would even be worthy federal projects. The vast majority of the projects, though, are not appropriate uses of taxpayer money at any time or in any context.

The beginning report consists of the ten most questionable stimulus projects I have encountered until now. Following that are ninety additional projects, for a total of 100, listed in no particular order, but are broken down by region of the country.

This waste is troubling both for its short-term failure to put Americans back to work and for its long-term fiscal impact on the nation. Our current national debt exceeds \$11 trillion and the Congressional Budget Office projects more than \$1 trillion will be added per year to it for the next decade, in large part due to stimulus spending.

As we move forward with the stimulus, it is vital that the public know how and why taxpayer dollars are being spent and the impact of the projects that are being funded.

TOP TEN PROJECTS

1. “Free” Stimulus Money Results in Higher Utility Costs for Residents of Perkins, Oklahoma

In Perkins, Oklahoma, residents are literally paying a price for accepting “free” stimulus dollars.

Perkins' wastewater treatment plant is outdated and the town had planned to build a new one for \$5 million. To help with the cost, the town applied for, and received, \$1.5 million in “free” stimulus money.

“We were shovel ready. The engineering was done. We were ready or getting ready to advertise for bids,” said Perkins City Manager Pete Seikel.⁶

Then came the catch.

The Perkins Journal reported, “The good news: Perkins is receiving money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for its new wastewater treatment plant. The bad news: ARRA funds come with strings that will increase project costs by 25 percent.”



Current wastewater plant in Perkins, Oklahoma.

As a condition of accepting those funds, the town must comply with a number of federal requirements. These federal restrictions have increased the total cost of the project from \$5.26 million to \$7.2 million, offsetting any financial benefit from the grant.⁷

Additionally, the state tied the federal dollars to the Oklahoma Water Resource Board's (OWRB) revolving loan program in a 70 percent loan/30 percent grant arrangement. Perkins will be borrowing \$5.875 million from OWRB and receiving \$1.445 million from a federal stimulus grant.

As a result, utility rates for local residents have risen dramatically to pay the costs for accepting the federal assistance. To pay back the loan and the increased cost of the project, the town raised residents' utility taxes by 60 percent this year.

The City Manager acknowledged that residents don't understand why their sewer rates have to be increased if the city is getting federal grants to build the new wastewater treatment plant.

“I thought the stimulus money, I thought that was going to pay for it. I don't understand why we have to pay for it, too,” said Robert Allensworth of Perkins.

“It is to stimulate the economy, to (get) people back to work, inject some cash into the system,” said Seikel, but even he says, at best, getting the stimulus money for the new wastewater treatment plant will be a wash.⁸

⁶ Smith, Jeffrey, “Stimulus Money For Perkins Put To Reality Check,” *The News On 6*, June 2, 2009, <http://www.newson6.com/global/story.asp?s=10466616>.

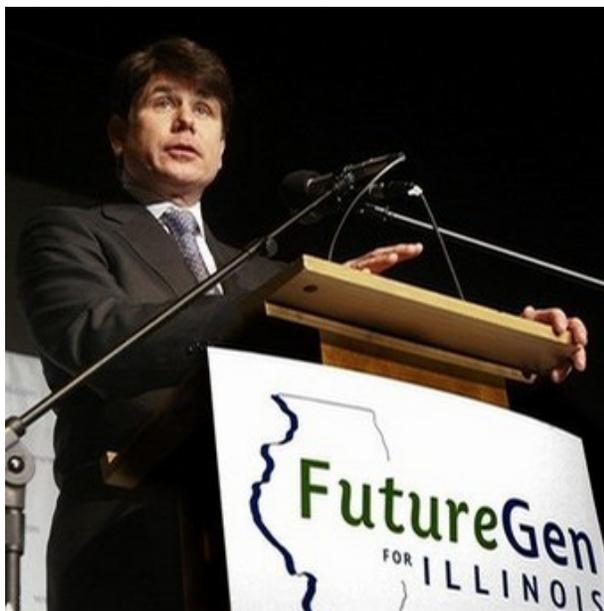
⁷ Charles, Michelle, “Stimulus funds increase cost of wastewater plant,” *Perkins Journal*, May 21, 2009, <http://www.thejournalok.com/atf.php?sid=18734>.

2. FutureGen: The Stimulus Earmark that Wasn't, Becomes the Costliest Pork Project in History

When President Obama announced his economic stimulus plan, he stated unequivocally that no earmarks for pet projects of members of Congress would be funded as part of the program.

The Capitol Hill newspaper *The Politico* wrote “The Obama administration wants it known that it’s serious about keeping earmarks out of the stimulus package. How serious? Administration officials say they won’t include funding in the massive bill for an Illinois energy project that would create hundreds of downstate jobs and that the state’s congressional delegation, including then-Sen. Barack Obama, had lobbied hard for.” Brendan Daly, a spokesman for the Speaker of the House, emphasized that it was Obama’s decision to exclude an earmark for an energy project called FutureGen and that Speaker Nancy Pelosi had ensured it was not in the House version. “It shows that we’re serious about it,” Daly noted.⁹

But even the best intentions of a new President often are not enough to deter the craftiness of



FutureGen received the largest earmark in pork barrel history as a result of clever wordsmithing. Impeached Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, one of the biggest FutureGen supporters, is pictured here speaking at the announcement that Mattoon, Illinois, had been selected for the project.

Washington lobbyists and politicians when hundreds of billions of dollars are being doled out within a 400-page bill rushed to passage so quickly that there was little time for anyone to read it.

“Deep inside the economic stimulus package is a \$1 billion prize that, in five short words, shows the benefits of being in power in Washington,” reported *The Washington Post*. Everyone familiar with the subject knew that there was only one shovel-ready project in the entire country that met the criteria for “fossil energy research and development” listed in the bill: The FutureGen plant in Mattoon, Illinois.¹⁰

And while proponents insisted throughout the debate that the stimulus bill contained no earmarks, these carefully selected five words guaranteed the largest earmark in pork barrel history.

To the surprise of few, on June 12, the Department of Energy announced FutureGen would be receiving \$1.073 billion from the taxpayers, \$1 billion of which will be provided from stimulus funds.¹¹

Earmark opponents can say “I told you so,” but what taxpayers haven’t been told is the real reason why FutureGen supporters had to go to such extraordinary measures to secure its funding.

⁸ Smith, Jeffrey, “Stimulus Money For Perkins Put To Reality Check,” *The News On 6*, June 2, 2009, <http://www.newson6.com/global/story.asp?s=10466616>.

⁹ Martin, Jonathan, “Obama team wants earmarks out of stimulus,” *The Politico*, January 27, 2009, <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0109/18013.html>.

¹⁰ Kindy, Kimberly, “New Life for ‘Clean Coal’ Project; Illinois Plant Was Abandoned by Bush; Now Its Backers Are in Power,” *The Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/05/AR2009030502138.html>.

¹¹ “Secretary Chu Announces Agreement on FutureGen Project in Mattoon, IL; Paves Way for First US Commercial Scale Carbon Capture and Storage Project,” U.S. Department of Energy press release, June 12, 2009, <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7454.htm>.

“New technology makes FutureGen a waste of tax money,”¹² concluded the immediate past Secretary of Energy and scientific experts and other officials concur.

Just last year, then-Secretary Samuel W. Bodman stated that “FutureGen was announced in early 2003 as a \$950 million initiative to create a single coal-based power plant where new technologies, then revolutionary, would be demonstrated. Since then, the project's estimated cost has almost doubled and innovations in technology and changes in the marketplace have created other viable options for demonstrating carbon capture and storage on a commercial scale. ... It became clear the Department of Energy could not, in good conscience, continue to support the program. The likelihood that it would fail, leaving the American people with hundreds of millions of dollars in sunk cost and none of the benefits, is not acceptable.”¹³

Secretary Bodman noted, “As secretary of energy, I must spend taxpayer dollars wisely and make difficult decisions. To confront the energy and environmental challenges before us, we must achieve meaningful results for the American people. That means continually reassessing our national investments. We continually must ask if we are using government resources efficiently to achieve a cleaner, more sustainable, more affordable and more secure energy future. Where we are not, we must make changes. That’s what we are doing with FutureGen,” Bodman said when the Department decided to end the funding for the project that will now receive over \$1 billion from the federal government.¹⁴

A 2007 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) report showed that the FutureGen approach was not the best way to go about such an experimental new technology. According to the MIT report, there are “concerns about this particular project” including a “continuing lack of clarity about the project objectives.” The MIT analysis concluded “It is important that the U.S. government begin thinking about such a portfolio of demonstration projects and not be singularly focused on any one project, such as FutureGen.”¹⁵

The success of FutureGen is a failure for the stimulus program. Instead of directing \$1 billion towards promising new energy technologies that hold the promise of providing cleaner and cheaper energy for the future along with the creation of jobs to support such breakthroughs, these resources will instead be sunk into a project that is expected to be a costly failure.

¹² Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, then-United States Secretary of Energy. “New technology makes FutureGen a waste of tax money,” St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 6, 2008, <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/editorialcommentary/story/FED1EF50F9C186CA862573E70017463B?OpenDocument>.

¹³ Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, then-United States Secretary of Energy. “New technology makes FutureGen a waste of tax money,” St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 6 2008, <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/editorialcommentary/story/FED1EF50F9C186CA862573E70017463B?OpenDocument>.

¹⁴ Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, then-United States Secretary of Energy. “New technology makes FutureGen a waste of tax money,” St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 6 2008, <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/editorialcommentary/story/FED1EF50F9C186CA862573E70017463B?OpenDocument>.

¹⁵ “The Future of Coal,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 14, 2007, http://web.mit.edu/coal/The_Future_of_Coal.pdf.

3. Little-Used “Shovel-Ready” Bridges in Rural Wisconsin Given Priority Over Widely Used Structurally Deficient Bridges

Wisconsin has 1,256 structurally deficient bridges, which more than the number in Florida, Colorado, Arizona and Alaska – combined.¹⁶ Instead of repairing these bridges, \$15.8 million in transportation stimulus money will be used repair 37 rural bridges that hardly anyone uses.

On average, the 37 rural bridges carry little more than 500 vehicles apiece each day, with several that typically see fewer than 100. One bridge along River Road in Iowa County carries no more than 10 cars a day, but will receive nearly \$430,000 for repairs.¹⁷ Puzzled residents are wondering why these bridges will receive the state’s first wave of stimulus money when other more pressing needs are getting nothing.



The answer is that many repair projects for the worst-off bridges cannot begin quickly, and so are not considered “shovel-ready.” Shovel-ready projects were pushed to the front of the line, whether they were high priorities or not, and as a result, the only projects available for immediate repairs in Wisconsin were those that almost nobody uses.

Commenting on the difficulty of operating within the stimulus rules, Beth Cannestra, director of bureau structures for Wisconsin, conceded, “Smaller, lower-volume roadway projects are easier to get out.”¹⁸

One small bridge is receiving \$840,000, though it only carries 260 vehicles a day on average. It primarily provides access to a golf course and Rusty’s Backwater Saloon, which boasts pontoon rentals and a Steak-A-Rooni for just \$5.25.¹⁹ In contrast, the *Journal-Sentinel* found that half of all Milwaukee streets have not been repaved for forty years and 20 percent of them are past their intended lifespan.²⁰

Another small project receiving money – much to the astonishment of town chairman Dave Lucey – is a 40-foot bridge over Blue Mounds Creek that leads to a recreational site and private camping ground. “I was surprised as anyone when I got the call that the bridge was going to be fixed,” Lucey said. “I can tell you that bridge is a low priority for us.”²¹

¹⁶ Website of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, “Deficient Bridges by State and Highway System,” as of December 2008, accessed June 15, 2009, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/BRIDGE/nbi/defbr08.cfm>.

¹⁷ Poston, Ben and Tom Held, “Rural bridges targeted,” (*Milwaukee*) *Journal-Sentinel*, March 29, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42103902.html>.

¹⁸ Poston, Ben and Tom Held, “Rural bridges targeted,” (*Milwaukee*) *Journal-Sentinel*, March 29, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42103902.html>.

¹⁹ Poston, Ben and Tom Held, “Rural bridges targeted,” (*Milwaukee*) *Journal-Sentinel*, March 29, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42103902.html>; Menu of Rusty’s Backwater Saloon, <http://www.rustys.net/graphics/menu1.jpg>.

²⁰ Marley, Patrick, “State approves 49 road, bridge projects funded by stimulus,” (*Milwaukee*) *Journal-Sentinel*, March 17, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/41411607.html>.

²¹ Poston, Ben and Tom Held, “Rural bridges targeted,” (*Milwaukee*) *Journal-Sentinel*, March 29, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42103902.html>.

4. \$800,000 for little-used Johnstown, Pennsylvania airport to repave a back-up runway; the “Airport for Nobody” Has Already Received Tens of Millions in Taxpayer dollars

The John Murtha Airport in Johnstown/Cambria County will receive \$800,000 in economic stimulus funds, despite the fact that virtually no one uses the airport.

According to ABC News the airport will receive money for an, “\$18 million runway made of reinforced concrete that's big enough to land any airplane in North America. The airport also has a \$7 million air traffic control tower, a \$14 million hanger and \$8 million radar.” However, “most of the time, the only thing the airport doesn't have is airplanes.”²²



Departures					
Flight	Schedule	Gate	Destination	Class	Remarks
6938	9:46	B	WASHINGTON - MD		
6935	2:35	B	WASHINGTON - MD		EX. SAT. SUN.
6937	6:32	B	WASHINGTON - MD		EX. SAT.
Arrivals					
Flight	Schedule	Gate	Origin	Class	Remarks
6938	9:27	B	WASHINGTON - MD		EX. SAT. SUN.
6935	2:13	B	WASHINGTON - MD		EX. SAT.
6937	6:32	B	WASHINGTON - MD		
6935	2:08	B	WASHINGTON - MD		SUN. ONLY
6935	2:06	B	WASHINGTON - MD		SUN. ONLY
6937	6:32	B	WASHINGTON - MD		SUN. ONLY

Last year, Rep. John Murtha asked Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to pay to build a backup runway. But with less than 10,000 passengers using the airport or close to 20 passengers per day, it didn't meet the agency criteria for support, so the request was denied.

The stimulus bill had no such rule, so with only 9,733 passengers per year²³, the FAA allocated \$800,000 to Murtha Airport for repaving the backup runway.

There are only three departures and arrivals per day at the Johnstown Airport, all flying in or out of Washington, D.C. The board above displays the schedule at the airport.

Since 1990 this airport has received \$150 million of federal money.²⁴ The airport also receives other annual subsidies. For every flight into the airport, they receive a per passenger subsidy of \$100. However, there “are plenty of empty seats.”²⁵

The airport offers only three commercial flights and gets about 20 passengers per day. In between the arrivals and departures, airport officials admit there are few faces around the facility.²⁶

Local resident, Bill Previte, asked, “Doesn't it seem kind of ridiculous to have a motorized carousel for the baggage claim when 15 people get off the airplane?” he said. “It's obvious: There's not enough population to justify this place.”²⁷

²² Karl, Jonathan, “Welcome to the Airport for Nobody,” ABC News, April 23, 2009, <http://abcnews.go.com/m/screen?id=7412160&pid=80>.

²³ Federal Aviation Administration Website, “Passenger Boarding (Enplanement) & All-Cargo Data,” http://www.faa.gov/airports/airtraffic/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger/media/cy07_primary_np_comm.pdf, accessed June 3, 2009.

²⁴ Leoniq, Carol, “FAA Approves Plan to Give Stimulus Funds to Airport Named After Murtha,” *Washington Post*, May 12, 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/12/AR2009051202679.html>

²⁵ Karl, Jonathan, “Welcome to the Airport for Nobody,” ABC News, April 23, 2009, <http://abcnews.go.com/m/screen?id=7412160&pid=80>.

²⁶ Acosta, Jim, and Rodriguez, Janet, “Remote Murtha airport lands big bucks from Washington,” *CNN*, April 23, 2009, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/04/23/murtha.airport/>.

5. \$3.4 Million for Wildlife “Eco-Passage” in Florida; Project Still May Take Years to Finish

Why did the turtle cross the road? To get to the other side of a stimulus project. The Florida Department of Transportation is planning to spend \$3.4 million in stimulus cash for a wildlife crossing, otherwise known as an “eco-passage.” It will serve as an underground wildlife road-crossing for turtles and other animals that live in Lake Jackson, Florida.²⁸

When a local columnist described this project to a friend, they said that, “FSU (Florida State University) is talking about laying off 200 people and we’re protecting turtles?”²⁹

Over 60 species have become road kill on U.S.-27, the road that the eco-passage would go under. Alligators, otters, snakes and lizards and even beavers have been killed on this stretch of road.³⁰

Turtles seem to get squished more than any other species. The area has the highest road-kill mortality rate for turtles in the world³¹



An eco-passage like the one above will be built under U.S.-27 in Florida.

Local community activists have put up a temporary fence for the critters that reportedly works pretty well. It saves a lot of our four legged friends.

The eco-passage will consist of a series of fences that will direct all the animal traffic to a 13-foot tunnel that will go under U.S.27.³²

But, even though they are getting millions in stimulus funds, the permanent eco-passage is only in the design stage, and is not fully funded. It needs \$6 million and it is unclear how long it will take to get the project built.³³

²⁷ Leonnig, Carol, “Murtha’s Earmarks Keep Airport Aloft,” *Washington Post*, April 19, 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/18/AR2009041802128.html>.

²⁸ The Florida Office of Economic Recovery, “List of State of Florida Transportation Enhancement,” <http://flarecovery.com/resources/documents/fdot-hwys-enhancement-list-4-15-09.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2009.

²⁹ Hohmeister, Mark, “Lake Jackson Ecopassage Advances At A Turtle’s Pace,” *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 10, 2009, <http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/tdo010909.htm>.

³⁰ Hohmeister, Mark, “Lake Jackson Ecopassage Advances At A Turtle’s Pace,” *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 10, 2009, <http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/tdo010909.htm>.

³¹ <http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/>

³² Hohmeister, Mark, “Lake Jackson Ecopassage Advances At A Turtle’s Pace,” *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 10, 2009, <http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/tdo010909.htm>.

6. Nevada Non-Profit Gets Weatherization Contract After Being Fired For Same Work

Getting fired is not typically a strong resume builder, but for the non-profit Community Service Agency (CSA), it landed the organization a \$2 million promotion. Nevada-based CSA was terminated for bungling a federal weatherization program, but will receive nearly \$2 million in federal stimulus funds to resume its program.

State officials gave the Community Service Agency (CSA) a \$1,849,627 contract with federal stimulus funds for Nevada's low income weatherization program.

However, according to an evaluation of Nevada's weatherization assistance programs, the State of Nevada had several problems with CSA, and "after first trying to work with CSA. . . [Nevada's] Housing Division found it necessary to move toward termination of CSA and replacement of its weatherization services."³⁴

Five major problems for CSA were outlined in the investigative report:

1) deficiencies in work completed; 2) management problems; 3) lack of executive interest at CSA in continuing to provide weatherization services; 4) managers assigned to weatherization did not appear fully qualified by experience in the weatherization or housing area; and 5) failure to follow accountability and reporting requirements even though "the Housing Division had provided clear direction."³⁵ None of these failures prevented the state of Nevada from hiring the organization back on to do weatherization work under the stimulus.

The stimulus bill provides \$5 billion to weatherize home for low-income families, well over the \$227.2 million for the weatherization last year. The increase has been described as contractors "winning the lottery."³⁶ For CSA, it certainly has been a lucky day.



Weatherization contractors, such as this one pictured above, will get to work soon on Nevada stimulus projects.

³³ The Florida Office of Economic Recovery, "List of State of Florida Transportation Enhancement,"

<http://flarecovery.com/resources/documents/fdot-hwys-enhancement-list-4-15-09.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2009.

³⁴ Peaceh, H. Gil and Mark Thompson, "State Fiscal Year 2007 Evaluation of the NRS 702: Energy Assistance Program & Weatherization Assistance Program," H. Gil Peach & Associates LLC, December 2008, page 32.

³⁵ Peaceh, H. Gil and Mark Thompson, "State Fiscal Year 2007 Evaluation of the NRS 702: Energy Assistance Program & Weatherization Assistance Program," H. Gil Peach & Associates LLC, December 2008.

³⁶ Feherenbacher, Katie, "Weatherization Stimulus: Lots of It, Fast," *Business Week*, January 30, 2009, http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/jan2009/tc20090129_222846.htm.

7. Non-Existent Oklahoma Lake in Line for Over \$1 Million To Construct a New Guardrail

Built in the 1960's to help improve the water supply of Oklahoma's panhandle, Optima Lake has suffered from one unfortunate problem: it never filled up. In 1997, Alan Riffel, then-City Manager of nearby Woodward, Oklahoma, called the lake, "one of Oklahoma's greatest boondoggles." Twelve years later, Optima Lake is in line to receive \$1.15 million in federal stimulus money to construct a new guardrail for a lake that does not exist.³⁷



Boat dock jutting into the middle of Optima Lake.

According to the Geological Society of America, Optima Lake "loses 100 percent of its inflowing water to evaporation."³⁹ Conditions became so bad that in 2006, University of Texas-Dallas professor of hydrology, Tom Brikowski, argued for letting the lake's water drain underground to save it from evaporation. He said, "you get to the point where you can't afford to lose that much water."⁴⁰ In a small bit of irony, one of the streams feeding into the lake is Dry Creek. One thing is sure, if visitors are clever enough to get past the new guardrail they will not have to worry about falling into the water.

The guardrail is needed for "public safety," says the Army Corps of Engineers, but there is not much of the public around to protect. Because the lake has never filled with water it is all but useless to potential visitors.

The Army Corps website paints an unflattering picture: "The water level in the lake has never reached normal pool. Visitors should be aware that the lake's level can be very low. Depending on rainfall and evaporation rates, the lake may offer no water-based recreation and may not be suitable for swimming, fishing, boating or other activities. Visitors should come for the quiet natural setting-with or without water in the lake area."³⁸



Existing guardrail running alongside Optima Lake.

Guymon city manager Ted Graham, whose town is the home of home of Optima Lake, said, "We all feel the county could use a million dollars in a lot better places than the Optima Lake....personally, I don't think it should be done."⁴¹

³⁷ Website of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Civil Works Projects List: Operations and Maintenance*, p. 197, accessed June 3, 2009, <http://www.usace.army.mil/recovery/Documents/FY09%20CW%20Operation%20and%20Maintenance%20ARRA%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.

³⁸ Website of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Optima Lake: Oklahoma," accessed June 5, 2009, http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/recreat/OPSField.CFM?tblOPSField_LakeName=Optima%20Lake.

³⁹ The Geological Society of America, "Droughts and Reservoirs: Finding Storage Space Underground," News Release, September 18, 2006, <http://www.geosociety.org/news/pr/06-39.htm>.

⁴⁰ "Scientists study ways to safeguard water," UPI, September 18, 2006, http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2006/09/18/Scientists-study-ways-to-safeguard-water/UPI-46471158589190/.

⁴¹ Lester, Amy, "Senator: Oklahoma Stimulus Project Wasteful," *NewsOn6* (Oklahoma), June 9, 2009, <http://www.news6.com/global/story.asp?s=10480942>.

8. Taxpayers Taken for a Ride: Nearly \$10 Million to be Spent to Renovate a Century Old Train Station that Hasn't Been Used in 30 Years

Elizabethtown, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, will spend more than \$9.38 million of federal stimulus funds to renovate a 97-year-old train station building that has sat vacant for more than 30 years.⁴²

“I think from far away, it looks fine, but as soon as you get up closer and realize that it's not actually a station, it's kind of depressing,” said train rider Maegan Demko.⁴³

When the renovation is complete, State Transportation of Secretary Allen Biehler provides reassurance that taxpayer money will be well spent. “(The station's) not just going to be a little monument that someone can look at on a museum tour — it's going to be used,” Biehler said.⁴⁴



Abandoned train station planned for massive overhaul with stimulus money.

The station's platform currently serves more than 80,000 passengers a year along Amtrak's Keystone Corridor, meaning taxpayers will subsidize up to \$117 per passenger to pay for the renovation.⁴⁵ A one-way ticket from Elizabethtown to New York City, by contrast, costs just \$45 per passenger.⁴⁶

The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing two grants for the project.

The first grant of \$7.97 million will pay for the renovation of the building, including installation of elevators and raising and extending the boarding platforms.⁴⁷ Officials also hope to include a coffee shop, restaurant, newsstand or market inside the station.⁴⁸

⁴² Yoder, Michael, “Elizabethtown Amtrak project feted,” *Lancaster Newspapers*, April 4, 2009, <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/235910>.

⁴³ Kehm, Amy, “Stimulus Money to Help Elizabethtown Train Station,” (Pennsylvania) *ABC 27 News*, <http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0309/602882.html>.

⁴⁴ Yoder, Michael, “Elizabethtown Amtrak project feted,” *Lancaster Newspapers*, April 4, 2009, <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/235910>.

⁴⁵ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation press release, “Secretary Announces \$9 Million In Stimulus Funds For Elizabethtown Station,” April 2009,

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/SecretaryScrapbook/BB1C8432D6DFE7A28525759200638DF2?opendocument>

⁴⁶ Amtrak website, search for one-way fare from Elizabethtown (ELT) to New York Penn Station (NYP), on June 15, 2009, <http://tickets.amtrak.com/itd/amtrak/FareFinder?tripType=Return&origin=New+York%2C+NY+%28NYP%29&depmonthyear=2009-06&deplay=15&dephourmin=&destination=elt&retmonthyear=2009-06&retday=15&rethourmin=&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&searchBy=schedule&x=19&y=15>.

⁴⁷ Larison, Dennis, “E-town station on fast track to renovation,” *Lancaster Newspapers*, May 31, 2009, <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/238232>.

The second grant, for more than \$1.41 million, will provide additional off-site parking at an as-of-yet-undetermined site.⁴⁹

The \$7.97 million being spent on the renovation is nearly twice the cost of the \$4.8 million that had been estimated for the project before federal stimulus dollars were involved⁵⁰ and more than three times the estimated \$2.5 million cost estimated just four years ago in 2005.⁵¹



An artist's rendition of what the renovated Elizabethtown Amtrak station would look like.

While the refurbished station may provide increased comfort for area Amtrak riders, spending stimulus money intended for transportation improvements on this project probably will not comfort residents who drive on the county's dilapidated roads and bridges.

Pennsylvania has more state-owned bridges in critical need of immediate repair than any other state in the U.S.,⁵² and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell noted that "Lancaster County has 163 structurally deficient bridges, representing 22 percent of the 737 state-maintained bridges in the county. In addition, 172 miles – or about 16 percent – of state highways in the region are in poor condition."⁵³

But as Drew Galloway, a representative from Amtrak, points out "the shovel for the shovel-ready part (of this project) was bought about a decade ago."⁵⁴

⁴⁸ Knapp, Tom, "Plan lurches forward for train station revamp," *Intelligencer Journal*, June 13, 2007.

⁴⁹ Larison, Dennis, "E-town station on fast track to renovation," *Lancaster Newspapers*, May 31, 2009, <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/238232>.

⁵⁰ Knapp, Tom, "Ridership soars at E-town station; Borough reports an additional 10,000 passengers boarded trains in each of the past 3 years," *Intelligencer Journal*, December 5, 2007.

⁵¹ Knapp, Tom, "Pitts hears E-town Amtrak station woes," *Intelligencer Journal*, December 4, 2007.

⁵² "Pa. Bridges Among Nation's Worst," WGAL Channel 8, August 2, 2007, <http://www.wgal.com/news/13805604/detail.html>.

⁵³ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania press release, "GOVERNOR RENDELL URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PLAN," March 21, 2007, <http://www.state.pa.us/papower/cwp/view.asp?A=11&Q=460981>.

⁵⁴ Yoder, Michael, "Elizabethtown Amtrak project feted," *Lancaster Newspapers*, April 4, 2009, <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/235910>.

9. Ten Thousand Dead People Get Stimulus Checks, Social Security Administration Blames a Tough Deadline

Whoever said you can't take your money with you when die clearly never anticipated the stimulus. Millions of Americans on Social Security are receiving \$250 from Uncle Sam, including dead people. The Social Security Administration (SSA) blames a strict mid-June deadline for mailing out 10,000 checks to deceased persons.⁵⁵



"I see stimulus checks . . ."

for her dead father, Romolo Romonini, an American citizen who passed in Italy 34 years ago.⁵⁷ The SSA later discovered that he had never even participated in the Social Security system.⁵⁸

The SSA says that they didn't review all the Social Security records, though it raises questions about how long it must have been since the agency last reviewed its rolls. Santopadre's father died 34 years ago and Hagner's mom died 40 years ago and neither received a Social Security check since the Johnson administration. According to SSA, the problem was that they didn't have a record of death.

James Hagner, of Orchard Beach, Maryland received a stimulus check for his mother who has been dead for four decades. SSA admits to sending out at least \$2.5 million in stimulus cash to other dead people.⁵⁶

A Long Island, New York woman received a \$250 check from the U.S. Treasury, but it wasn't for her. When Antoniette Santopadre got her stimulus check that she was expecting, she quickly realized it was

⁵⁵ "Dead Woman Gets Federal Stimulus Check: Son Wants To Keep Check As Souvenir," WBAL-TV, May 12, 2009, <http://www.wbalv.com/news/19435100/detail.html>.

⁵⁶ "Dead Woman Gets Federal Stimulus Check: Son Wants To Keep Check As Souvenir," WBAL-TV, May 12, 2009, <http://www.wbalv.com/news/19435100/detail.html>.

⁵⁷ "Dead People Being Sent Stimulus Checks," Fox News, May 15, 2009, <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/05/15/dead-people-sent-stimulus-checks/>.

⁵⁸ Pavia, Jim. Memo to Government: Dead People Don't Spend," Investment News, May 24, 2009, <http://www.investmentnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090524/REG/305249992/1008>.

10. Town of Union, New York, Encouraged to Spend Money It Did Not Request For a Homelessness Problem It Does Not Have

The Town of Union, New York, was surprised when it was notified that it would be receiving a \$578,661 stimulus grant to prevent homelessness for several reasons. First, the town never applied for the money and second, it doesn't have any homeless problem.

"Union did not request the money and does not currently have homeless programs in place in the town to administer such funds," said town Supervisor John Bernardo, according to the *Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin*. "'We were surprised,' Bernardo said. 'We've never been a recipient before.' Bernardo said he isn't aware of any homeless issue in the largely suburban town."⁵⁹

The money is coming from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program to pay for homeless prevention and emergency shelter programs.

Adam Glantz, a HUD spokesman, said the homeless funds were distributed based on population, housing needs and some poverty statistics. "We hope and encourage these new grantees to develop creative strategies for the funding," Glantz said of Union's homeless grant.

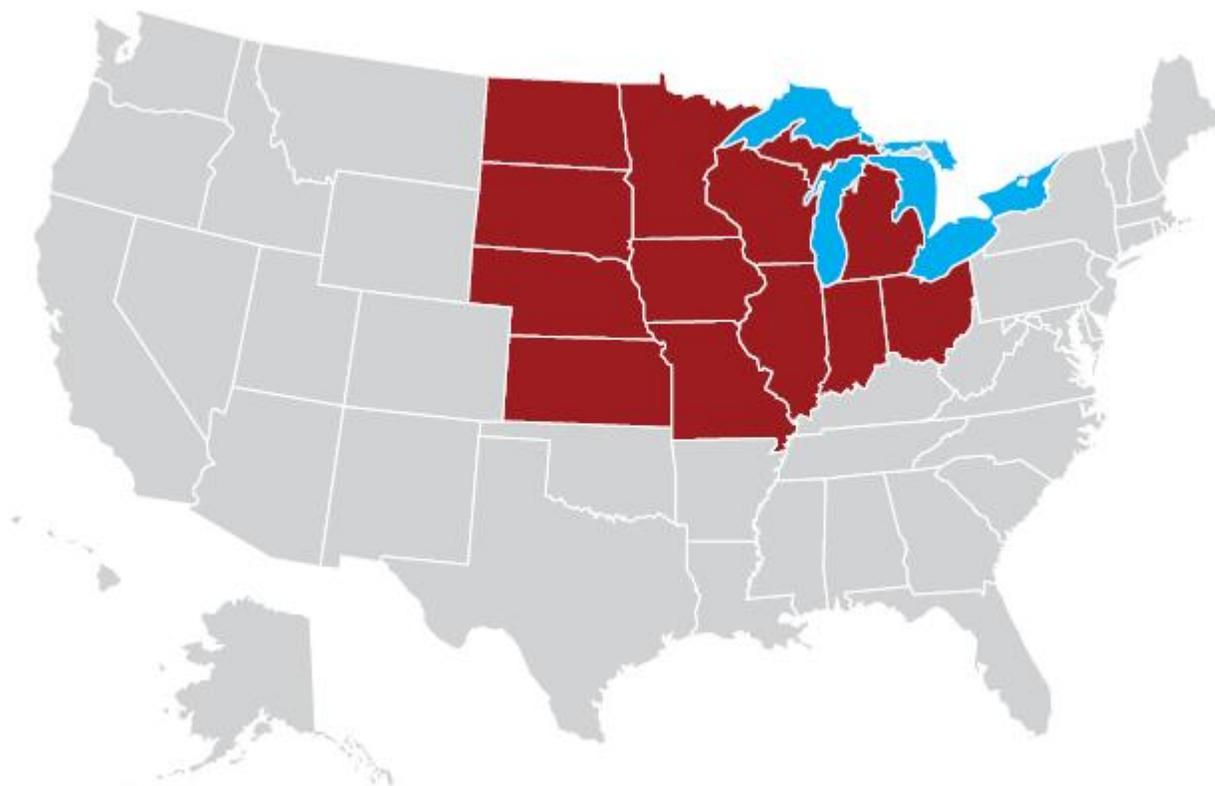
Regardless of how creative local officials get when developing strategies to spend this unrequested money, it does not appear that new jobs will be created as a result because the town has stated its intention to utilize existing employees. In a May 12 report to HUD, Paul A. Nelson, the planning director of Union stated, "to the extent possible, the Town intends to operate the program with a combination of existing employees and" an agency "which is already under contract."⁶⁰ That doesn't sound very creative and the only problem it seems to solve is how to spend money that the town did not ask for and did not need.

⁵⁹ Nancy Dooling, "\$578,661 for Union Homeless Questioned," *Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin*, March 5, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=cf9742de-802a-23ad-4c83-d4b5b82fc924

⁶⁰ Nelson, Paul, "Final HPRP Substantial Amendment Form HUD-40119," Town of Union, New York, May 12, 2009, <http://www.townofunion.com/pdfs/CDBG/FFY%202009/FINAL%2040119%20TOU%20HPRP%205-12-09.pdf>

PROJECTS BY REGION

Midwestern Region



11. **Illinois county to spend \$173,824 weatherization grant on eight pickup trucks.** Having received \$400,000 for a federal weatherization program, Madison County in Illinois will be spending nearly half of it on eight new Ford F-150's. One member of the county board, Bill Meyer, raised concerns about how fast the county is being forced to spend the money, noting that "it looks like this is being crammed down our throat." Fellow council member Bruce Malone responded that they have little choice: "They are saying, 'Get out and spend it.'"⁶¹
12. **South Dakota fish hatchery to spend half of a \$20,000 grant on a freezer for fish sperm.** Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery already has three cryo freezers for storing sperm from pallid sturgeon, but stimulus money has given it the to purchase another one. "The insulation on the side that holds the liquid nitrogen is breaking up," explained Jeff Powell, a project manager with the hatchery. The new refrigerator will be used "to hold sperm samples, hormones and ice packs." The hatchery plans to use the other \$10,000 portion of its grant to replace lighting, which is expected to save the hatchery \$713 per year – meaning it will take only 14 years for the savings to outstrip the cost of the grant.⁶²

⁶¹ Schmidt, Sanford, "Panel calls for spending stimulus funds on weatherization," *The Telegraph*, June 8, 2009, <http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/money-27636-county-federal.html#>.

⁶² Johnson, Nathan, "Stimulus Funds To Light Up Fish Hatchery," (Yanktown) *Press & Dakotan*, June 9, 2009.

13. **Wisconsin nursing home receives \$2.8 million in stimulus money it didn't need or request.** Prior to the stimulus funding, the Knapp Haven nursing home was on track for a loan from the USDA. When stimulus money came available, the funding source was simply shifted to a new source of federal assistance. "It's kind of a joke as far as I'm concerned," said Carmen Newman, Chetek's city clerk-treasurer. "I don't understand how they can say this is stimulus." Chetek Mayor Dianne Knowlton added, "I don't see how the project benefited."⁶³
14. **Iowa state legislators are using money freed up by federal stimulus cash to buy \$11 million in new cars the State does not need.** About four dozen brand new cars owned by the state are already sitting unused in a parking lot near the capitol. According to state representative Christopher Rants, "Some of them have the stickers on them. None of them have license plates. Some of them still have the seats wrapped in plastic."⁶⁴
15. **Road signs costing \$300 each are being placed at construction sites to alert motorists that the project is being paid for by stimulus money.** Signs are popping up all across American. In Illinois alone, the signs are expected to cost \$150,000, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). According to an IDOT spokesman, "It's difficult for us to determine how many signs there will be."⁶⁵
16. **Stimulus grant may cost Dayton, Ohio 1,200 jobs.** NCR Corp., an automated teller machine company based in Dayton, may consolidate all of its operations in Duluth, Georgia, possibly with the help of a \$5.5 million stimulus grant that Ohio legislators claim would help pay for the NCR factory. Ohio state senator, Jon Husted, complained that it was not fair. "The use of stimulus funds means that Ohio taxpayers were forced to pay for NCR's move to Georgia," he said.⁶⁶
17. **The governor of Michigan is using \$500,000 to renovate the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, which may house a "yoga or children's movement class" and a full-time tourist information center.** "We envision in our business plan a full-time tourist information and hospitality center where neighbors, as well as commuters and visitors arriving or departing on the rails, can grab a bite or a cup of coffee," Bonnie Penet, co-chair of the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, said. "At the same time a yoga or children's movement class may be in progress in the great hall, giving way to a catered event in the evening."⁶⁷
18. **Critics question whether the much-hyped 2000th transportation stimulus project is necessary.** Much was made of the 2000th stimulus project, though one local critic did not have much good to say in response, "We've got a lot of things to deal with out here, but traffic isn't

⁶³ Umhoefer, Dave, "Stimulus money for Chetek project is just a funding shift", *Journal Sentinel*, May 30, 2009, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/4655547.html>.

⁶⁴ Henderson, O. Kay, "GOP lawmaker: state should stop buying new cars," *Radio Iowa News*, April 16, 2009, <http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=AB9C379F-5056-B82A-37CE88059F05EE9C>.

⁶⁵ Erickson, Kurt, "Stimulus money paying for signs announcing funded projects," *Bloomington Pantagraph*, May 12, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=41274695-802a-23ad-412f-52b64399c2f9.

⁶⁶ Pierog, Karen and Lisa Lambert, "Ohio worries stimulus grant will help rob it of jobs," *Reuters*, June 4, 2009, <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/afx/2009/06/04/afx6506569.html>.

⁶⁷ Laughren, Christine, "Freighthouse awarded federal stimulus grant," *Ypsilanti Courier*, April 16, 2009, http://www.ypsilanticourier.com/stories/041609/loc_20090416012.shtml.

one of them.” Local officials in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, plan to spend \$43.9 million⁶⁸ to widen several miles of I-94 and rebuild the interchange at south Westnedge Avenue.⁶⁹ The county, which has only had 3 percent growth since 2000, doesn’t seem to need the project.⁷⁰ “Rush hour lasts 10 minutes, maybe 15 on a Friday” said Kalamazoo resident, Yvonne Zipp.⁷¹

19. **Parking lot that no one wants.** In Macomb, Illinois, \$643, 945 was spent on a Prairieview public housing parking lot that no one wants. Many of the residents that the parking lot was supposed to benefit have protested it. Explaining his concern, a local resident said, “The kids love the grass. We’ve got enough pavement here.”⁷²
20. **Ohio state legislators oppose the governor’s plans to use \$57 million for “planning and preliminary studies instead of bricks-and-mortar construction.”** State transportation officials passed over several shovel-ready projects to steer nearly seven percent of the state’s \$774 million to planning and preliminary studies. Among the larger studies are \$20 million to examine a highway project on the eastern corridor of Cincinnati and \$20 million to examine a three-mile “opportunity corridor” that would connect the city of Cleveland’s university district to Interstate 490. An additional \$10 million statewide would go simply toward “project plans/design” for the Ohio Department of Transportation, while \$7 million more would go toward project development for the Ohio passenger rail corridor.⁷³
21. **Minnesota theater wins millions over bigger job producers.** The Minneapolis City Council has chosen to give \$2 million to the Schubert Theater, making it the city’s largest recipient of discretionary funds. The theater will be used for “dance and music events,” and is expected to create 41 full-time jobs. Council Member, Paul Ostrow, the only member to vote against the project, objected that the theater was given higher priority over a solar panel manufacturing facility in a low-income area would create 360 jobs. Noting his displeasure with the Council’s decision, Ostrow said, “this is frankly not a jobs project.”⁷⁴
22. **Illinois will spend \$350,000 to build a four-person bunkhouse at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.**⁷⁵ The median price for a home in Marion, Illinois, the site of the park, is currently \$71,000.⁷⁶

⁶⁸ Russon, Gabrielle, “Cost of I-94 project drops by 35%,” *Kalamazoo Gazette*, June 12, 2009, <http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-34/1244818248163290.xml&coll=7>.

⁶⁹ State of Michigan website, “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funded MDOT Trunkline Projects,” http://www.mi.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT_ARRA_Trunkline_Projects_280623_7.pdf.

⁷⁰ Laurent Belsie, “Obama Speeds By His Stimulus Critics,” *Christian Science Monitor*, April 13, 2009, <http://features.csmonitor.com/economyrebuild/2009/04/13/obama-speeds-past-his-stimulus-critics/>.

⁷¹ Belsie, Laurent, “Obama speeds past his stimulus critics” *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 13, 2009, <http://features.csmonitor.com/economyrebuild/2009/04/13/obama-speeds-past-his-stimulus-critics/>.

⁷² Steelman, Lainie, “Parking under protest at Prairieview,” *Macomb Journal*, June 10, 2009, <http://www.macombjournal.com/news/x2085756847/Parking-under-protest-at-Prairieview>.

⁷³ Wehrman, Jessica, “Republicans oppose Strickland using stimulus dollars for studies,” *Dayton daily News*, April 20, 2009, <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/republicans-oppose-strickland-using-stimulus-dollars-for-studies-87414.html>.

⁷⁴ Brandt, Steve, “Mpls. fixer-upper theater will get stimulus funds,” *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, June 2, 2009, <http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/onstage/46768652.html?elr-KArksD:aDyaEP:kD:aU2EkP7K t:aDyaEP:kD:aUiD3aPc :Yyc:aUU>.

⁷⁵ Crab Orchard refuge gets federal stimulus money.” *The Southern*, April 27, 2009, http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2009/04/27/breaking_news/doc49f5b5b1d94f7615566167.txt.

23. **Police jobs in Columbus, Ohio saved by stimulus could still leave officers getting pink slips.** Earlier this year, President Obama went to Columbus, Ohio to speak about the benefits of the stimulus bill at the graduation of 25 local police recruits. The stimulus was intended to pay for them to work until the end of the year. However, new cuts announced by Columbus Police Department mean that the 25 graduating recruits will likely lose their jobs at the end of the year.⁷⁷
24. **The Fort Wayne, Indiana airport will spend \$1.27 million in stimulus cash for runway signs.** Some signs will be posted along runways and taxiways while others will be painted directly on pavement “to help pilots and ground crews find their way without confusion.”⁷⁸
25. **Akron, Ohio will use up to \$1.5 million to erect a suicide-prevention fence.** The city plans to use more than a million dollars to build a fence to keep people from jumping off the All-American Bridge despite concerns such a project would be wasteful, ineffective, and ugly.⁷⁹
26. **Rather than help welfare recipients obtain jobs and escape poverty, \$1 million will be used to study whether 300 people in Chicago are healthier when living in “green” public housing facilities.** The study will evaluate whether building green housing is healthier for people and will focus on 300 residents at a Chicago public housing facility. Researchers expect to find that residents living in these more energy-efficient facilities will have much lower healthcare costs. This study will create interviewing jobs.⁸⁰
27. **The National Institute of Health gives Indiana University professor \$356,000 to study how kids perceive foreign accents.** The grant was given to the University of Indiana, which has an endowment of more than \$1.5 billion, to “test how children perceive foreign-accented speech compared to native-accented speech.” It will also determine how such accents might influence speech development in children.⁸¹
28. **Detroit Public Schools will reap massive benefits from stimulus despite a \$150 million deficit.** According to *The Intelligencer*, financial management problems became “so tangled the state recently appointed a manager to take the financial reins.” The Detroit Public School System stands to get \$530 million, which \$355 million would have “no strings attached.”⁸²

⁷⁶ Zillow.com, search for “Marion, Illinois,” accessed June 12, 2009, http://www.zillow.com/homes/map/marion-illinois_rb/#/homes/for_sale/map/marion-illinois_rb/37.75301,-88.886657,37.678324,-88.968197_rect/12_zm/.

⁷⁷ “Police Officers Saved By Stimulus May Still Lose Their Jobs,” CNN, May 26, 2009, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/05/26/ohio.stimulus.police.cuts/>.

⁷⁸ Caylor, Bob, “Airport gets \$1.27M from stimulus to install signs,” *The News-Sentinel*, April 9, 2009, <http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090409/BUSINESS/904090316>.

⁷⁹ Cooper, Michael, “Soul-Searching in Akron, Ohio, Over Stimulus Use,” *New York Times*, May 5, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/06/us/06akron.html?_r=1&ref=global-home.

⁸⁰ Sachs, Peter, “UIC gets \$1M grant to study ‘green’ housing,” *Chi-Town Daily News*, May 08, 2009, http://www.chitowndailynews.org/Chicago_news/UIC_gets_1M_grant_to_study_%E2%80%98green%E2%80%99_housing.2651.

⁸¹ Study focuses on how kids perceive accents,” *United Press International*, May 13, 2009, http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2009/05/13/Study-focuses-on-how-kids-perceive-accents/UPI-56061242227066/.

⁸² Christoff, Chris, “Michigan schools set to win big in stimulus,” *Detroit Free Press*, March 10, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=f2418e16-802a-23ad-4dca-5523267e6857.

29. **Michigan will spend \$983, 952 for streetscaping in Ann Arbor.** The city plans to install “decorative sidewalks and crosswalks, planters, landscaping, decorative lighting, trees, trash receptacles, benches and bike loops.”⁸³
30. **“Dead” project in Leelanau County, Michigan gets new life in stimulus aid.** In March, the governor announced that the Solon Township would receive \$1.3 million in grants and loans to help pay for construction of a wastewater treatment plant. Unfortunately, the locals do not want it and have declared the project “dead on arrival.” According to one local newspaper, the stimulus money will now be used “to build a wastewater treatment plant for which there is no plan, and for which local support is questionable at best.” Zoning administrator Tim Cypher summed it up, “The good is that there is, and there will be, more money available to work on these projects. The bad news is that it will be a while before any kind of water or wastewater treatment project is ‘shovel-ready’ in Solon Township.”⁸⁴
31. **Visitor center and a pedestrian bridge Kansas chosen for “aesthetics” over economics.** The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve’s new visitor’s center and a pedestrian and bike project over U.S. Highway 75 were some of the first projects approved for stimulus funds in the state. Failing to cite an economic benefit from the projects, officials noted that they chose “projects that strengthen the cultural, aesthetic or environmental value of our transportation system.”⁸⁵
32. **A National Forest in Missouri will receive \$462,000 to replace toilets.** The Mark Twain National Forest will purchase 22 new concrete toilets to replace existing toilets.⁸⁶
33. **Stimulus funds will be used to demolish a sauna and build showers in the women's locker room at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.** According to the solicitation for bids for the project, the project will cost between \$25,000 and \$100,000.⁸⁷
34. **Federal stimulus cash paying for a fish hatchery and a new visitor center in Missouri.** \$2.9 million will go to a new Mingo National Wildlife Refuge visitor center in Missouri, and an additional \$940,000 will go for solar power at a Fish Hatchery.⁸⁸
35. **\$10 million will be used for school lunch equipment and education technology in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.** “It doesn’t seem hopeful, does it,” said one superintendent. “We’re not seeing it as an opportunity to retain teachers.” According to *The Northwestern*, “Local school administrators have warned that temporary money designed to expand programming would only cause more

⁸³ Shea, Bill, “Area projects get \$16 million in federal transportation funds,” *Crain’s Detroit Business*, April 10, 2009, <http://www.craigslist.com/article/20090410/BRIGHTSIDE/304109991#>.

⁸⁴ “‘Dead’ project gets stimulus aid,” *Leelanau Enterprise*, March 25, 2009, <http://www.leelanaunews.com/drupal/?q=node/6001>.

⁸⁵ “Chase, Osage counties get federal stimulus projects,” *Emporia Gazette*, April 1, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=672542a6-802a-23ad-444a-0ce6b27c1812.

⁸⁶ “RECOVERY - Precast Concrete Toilet Buildings - Mark Twain National Forest,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Solicitation Number: AG-447U-S-09-0021AY, <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=c6106fb75fb99cd10b5cfcccc2e2716&tab-core&cvview=0&cck=1&u=&cck->

⁸⁷ “RECOVERY - Repair Women’s Showers Fitness Center,” U.S. Air Force, Solicitation Number: JFSD200827, <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=23c1a76dfe80dbed7a00db130a58652d&tab-core&cvview=0>.

⁸⁸ “Missouri fish and wildlife areas to get \$4.5 million in federal economic stimulus grants,” *Associated Press*, April 29, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=f8e76031-802a-23ad-4bc3-f98a2cad36e0.

harm to future budgets when the funding dissipates and districts can't maintain the new services.”⁸⁹

36. **Missouri plans to spend \$500,000 of federal stimulus money on fish food.** Governor Jay Nixon has earmarked half a million dollars to pay for the feed costs for state fish farmers.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Rodewald, Adam, “Oshkosh schools still waiting to receive stimulus dollars,” *Northwesterner*, April 4, 2009, <http://www.thenorthwestern.com/article/20090404/OSH0101/9040405/1987>.

⁹⁰ “Missouri outlines plan for \$156 million in stimulus funds,” *Associated Press*, April 8, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=cf95ebba-802a-23ad-4497-508be2ba7ef4.

Northeastern Region



37. **Pawtucket, Rhode Island spending \$550,000 on a skateboard park.** According to the *Providence Journal*, the skatepark is being funded in the place of much higher priorities: “In this city burdened with one of Rhode Island’s highest home foreclosure rates and a \$10-million current-year budget deficit, \$550,000 in federal stimulus money is coming to build a skateboarding park and renovate tennis and basketball courts at Jenks Junior High School.” Construction will not begin until September, but Ronald Wunschel, the city’s finance director, believes that the skatepark is, in fact, a top priority for the city. Asked why? “So that young people don’t skate on other public property,” he said.⁹¹
38. **Yale and the University of Connecticut are receiving \$850,000 in stimulus for research “to study how paying attention improves performance of difficult tasks.”** Yale, which had the second-largest endowment in the country in 2007 (\$22.5 billion), is getting funding for research on a project to study how paying attention improves performance of difficult tasks.⁹²
39. **Gloversville, New York is using \$175,000 of stimulus money to pay for a trolley bus to take tourists to festivals and a farmers market.** The trolley is intended to give tourists rides within resort communities, to festivals in the region, and to a local farmers market. According to

⁹¹ Michael P. McKinney, “Pawtucket using stimulus money for skateboard park,” *Providence Journal*, March 17, 2009, http://www.projo.com/news/content/PAWTUCKET_STIMULUS_SKATEPARK_03-17-09_VADM6E0_v119.36af019.html.

⁹² “Yale, UConn Win Stimulus Cash,” *Associated Press*, May 6, 2009, <http://www.courant.com/health/hc-stimulus-research-grant-uconnmay07.0.3795787.story>.

reports, the trolley “will have an old-fashioned style and will be painted in colors similar to those used in the 1930s, but it will have modern features such as air conditioning.”⁹³ City transit director, Al Schutz, is excited about the project. “It’s endless what you can do with this trolley. It will definitely contribute to the ambiance of our city,” he said, adding, “which we need.”⁹⁴

40. **\$3.1 million will turn a canal barge into a floating museum.** In 1921, a 259-foot barge was built to haul agricultural goods on the Erie Canal, but was turned into a museum in 2005 after it was abandoned for more than a decade. The stimulus money will make sure the motorized barge is converted into “a floating museum that would travel the canal.” While it may not have economic value, Clifford Siegried, director of the New York State Museum, says, “It is of such historical significance we could not let it go to the scrap heap.”⁹⁵
41. **Three million dollars will pay for corporate jet runways in Massachusetts despite opposition of local leaders.** Hanscom Field, the site of the project, has received criticism from local representatives who say it is a “waste of money.” State Representative Jay R. Kaufman, from Lexington, one of the towns bordering Hanscom, said using federal stimulus money for this project “reinforces bad corporate behavior, not good corporate behavior.”⁹⁶
42. **Maine to spend over \$1.3 million on “government arts jobs,” including \$30,000 for basket makers, \$20,000 for story telling, and \$12,500 for a music festival.** Old Town-based Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance was one of nine Maine arts organizations to receive stimulus funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.⁹⁷ Maine Arts Commission Director Donna McNeil defended the spending, saying, “I think the government arts jobs are real jobs.” But, according to the *Bangor Daily News*, “The grants are designed to subsidize the preservation of jobs and may not be used for the creation of a new position or for previously unscheduled work.”⁹⁸
43. **New York City will spend \$15 million to rebuild sections of the Coney Island Boardwalk.** “It’s Christmas in April as far as the Boardwalk is concerned,” said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. Borough President Marty Markowitz, who [in April] called for the city to use stimulus money for the project, said the investment could jumpstart more development of the Boardwalk, though it is not clear if the project will accomplish as much as hoped since there is only enough money to rehabilitate 15 of its 42 blocks. Despite the stimulus money, Coney Island activist,

⁹³ Karutis, Kayleigh, “Gloversville to Get Downtown Trolley,” *The Leader Herald*, March 24, 2009, <http://www.leaderherald.com/page/content.detail/id/511030.html>.

⁹⁴ McGuire, Jim, “Gloversville can get trolley bus with federal stimulus money,” *Daily Gazette*, March 24, 2009, http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2009/mar/24/0324_glovetrolley/.

⁹⁵ Williams, Stephen, “Old barge joins historic, scenic rehab plans,” *Daily Gazette*, April 3, 2009, http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2009/apr/03/0403_barge/.

⁹⁶ Michael Levenson, “Hanscom Runway Repairs Opposed,” *Boston Globe*, April 9, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=8ca1ff0f-802a-23ad-4a4b-9192a8d7c05e.

⁹⁷ Bloch, Jessica, “\$1.3 million in arts funding coming to Maine,” *Bangor Daily News*, April 29, 2009, <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/104764.html>.

⁹⁸ Bloch, Jessica, “Maine arts groups to receive stimulus funds,” *Bangor Daily News*, March 24, 2009, <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/102242.html>.

Dianna Carlin, thinks a lot more money is needed if “they want to make this a world-renowned amusement destination.”⁹⁹

44. **A New York laboratory is receiving \$150 million in stimulus cash for “world’s brightest x-ray,” but it won’t be available until 2015.** Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced in March that the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island would receive \$150 million to construct an x-ray 10,000 times brighter than its current equipment allows.¹⁰⁰ According to Secretary Chu, the project will “provide critically needed short-term economic relief,” though it is not clear how quickly the scientific community will see the benefits. The x-ray is not anticipated to be operational until 2015.¹⁰¹
45. **Milford, Massachusetts plans to use \$3.5 million for a three mile bike/walking trail despite its failure to spend \$80 million in federal funds for other pedestrian paths.** Massachusetts has received \$135 million from the federal government for bike paths since 1991, but has not used more than \$80 million that still remains available. Having spent only 37 percent of its share of the funding by Congress for such projects, Massachusetts has a far lower rate than in any other state, according to federal statistics.¹⁰² Milford is spending an additional \$3.5 million in stimulus funds for a three mile trail with groundbreaking on Phase II of this three-part project set for this summer.¹⁰³
46. **Stimulus funds pay for a hybrid car to be used by Vermont student drivers.** Students drivers in Colchester, Vermont could be learning to drive in a Hybrid car courtesy of the stimulus legislation. The city plans on spending \$71,200 to purchase a hybrid car for driver’s education classes as well as a plug-in hybrid car for town employees that would display a sign explaining its fuel-efficient features.¹⁰⁴
47. **Rochester, New York is getting millions to extend an art trail.** The Art Walk 2 extension of the Urban Art Trail will get \$3.8 million.¹⁰⁵ The project calls for, “Artistic designs and medallions [that] would be set into the walk. Other pedestrian elements include a pedestrian-level light system adjacent to the ArtWalk, sculptures consistent with an arts district and litter

⁹⁹ Hays, Elizabeth, “Chunk of stimulus will only fix 15 of 42 blocks of Coney Island Boardwalk,” *Daily News Brooklyn*, April 2, 2009, http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/brooklyn/2009/04/01/2009-04-01_chunk_of_stimulus_will_only_fix_15_of_42.html.

¹⁰⁰ Frank Elman, “Energy chief doles \$1.2 billion in stimulus cash,” *Associated Press*, March 23, 2009, <http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cId=dailyrecord&sParam=30405467.story>.

¹⁰¹ Patrick Whittle, “Brookhaven National lab gets stimulus funding,” *Newsday*, March 24, 2009, <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-postim246081344mar24.0.6830555.story>.

¹⁰² Wirzbicki, Alan, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” *Boston Globe*, April 14, 2009, http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/.

¹⁰³ Ameden, Danielle, “Second Stretch of bike trail to be built in Milford,” *The Milford Daily News*, April 27, 2009, <http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/x289631771/Second-stretch-of-bike-trail-to-be-built-in-Milford>.

¹⁰⁴ Matt Sutkoski, “Grant Could Provide Students With Hybrid,” *Burlington Free Press*, May 29, 2009, <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20090529/NEWS02/905290310/Grant+could+provide+students+with+hybrid>.

¹⁰⁵ “ArtWalk to Get \$3.8 million in Federal Stimulus Funds,” *Associated Press*, April 2, 2009, <http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:xUZpX54EORUJ:www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article%3FAID%3D200990402024+%243.8+million+for+%E2%80%9Curban+art+trail&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>.

containers.”¹⁰⁶ According to the ArtWalk website, “ARTWalk is a permanent urban art trail, connecting the arts centers and public spaces within the Neighborhood of the Arts.”¹⁰⁷

48. **The National Institutes of Health is giving Yale University \$680,100 in stimulus funds to study the effectiveness of diet and exercise at reducing obesity.** The study will focus on the effectiveness of a diet and exercise program at reducing obesity and related illness in mentally ill patients.¹⁰⁸
49. **No. 1 priority for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania’s share of the stimulus cash: A parking garage.** John Callahan, mayor of Bethlehem, has said that the city’s number one priority is a parking garage and that the \$500,000 stimulus grant necessary for the project was “locked up.” He is hoping to drive more traffic to the city’s “quaint shops” that are “housed in Victorian buildings.”¹⁰⁹
50. **Rochester, New York to spend \$1 million grant on “green” upgrades, but will not create new jobs.** The grant will include \$360,000 for “energy efficiency street lights” and \$25,000 on an energy audit” of a building. Commenting on the situation, one local columnist noted, “Unfortunately, the city council, as the last step in the process of fulfilling the promise of new jobs, is poised to spend the money in ways that do not do so.”¹¹⁰
51. **City favors stimulus money over other federal grant to avoid matching requirement.** Officials in Windham, Massachusetts have decided to accept a \$174,000 stimulus grant to enhance the town’s historic train depot despite having already received a federal grant for the same project. The town decided to let the first grant lapse when it discovered that the stimulus money would not require the town to provide matching funds, but that the first grant did.¹¹¹
52. **Altoona, Pennsylvania is getting \$819,000 for a homelessness prevention program despite local reports that the town may not have enough of a homelessness problem to use it.** Mayor of Altoona, Wayne Hippo, says there is “an awful lot of waste . . . It’d be nice to have more local control . . . It’s impossible to have one-size-fits-all.”¹¹²
53. **\$2 million in stimulus cash will be used to monitor scallop reproduction and habitat.** The “Nantucket’s Marine & Coastal Resources Department is pursuing a grant totaling \$2 million

¹⁰⁶ Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester Website, “Rochester’s ArtWalk Receives State Funding,”

<http://www.artsrochester.org/news/wr0003walk.htm>.

¹⁰⁷ Rochester ArtWalk website, “Home Page,” <http://www.rochesterartwalk.org/index.php>, accessed June 1, 2009.

¹⁰⁸ Dethy, Florence, “Briefly: Yale gets nearly \$800,000 in grants,” *Yale Daily News*, April 27, 2009,

<http://www.yaledailynews.com/articles/view/28994>.

¹⁰⁹ Radziewich, Nicole, “Bethlehem eyes adding parking spaces on Main Street,” *The Morning Call*, April 2, 2009,

<http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:7kNixBZraPkJ.xml.mcall.com/broadband/all->

[b1_4park.6840031apr02,0,2382169.story+Callahan+said+the+city+has+all+but+locked+up+another+%24500,000+grant.+The+city+listed+the+parking+garage+as+its+No.+1+priority+on+the+list+for+federal+stimulus+money.&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](http://74.125.47.132/search?q=cache:7kNixBZraPkJ.xml.mcall.com/broadband/all-b1_4park.6840031apr02,0,2382169.story+Callahan+said+the+city+has+all+but+locked+up+another+%24500,000+grant.+The+city+listed+the+parking+garage+as+its+No.+1+priority+on+the+list+for+federal+stimulus+money.&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us).

¹¹⁰ Schmitz, Ray, “Stimulus grant should be used to create jobs,” *Post-Bulletin*, June 4, 2009,

http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=12&a=402544.

¹¹¹ Date, Terry, “Windham to use federal money for depot repairs,” *Eagle Tribune*, June 11, 2009

http://www.eagletribune.com/punewsnh/local_story_162022948.html?keyword=secondarystory.

¹¹² Kibler, William, “Officials question stimulus wisdom,” *Altoona Mirror*, April 5, 2009,

<http://www.altoonamirror.com/page/content.detail/id/517765.html/>.

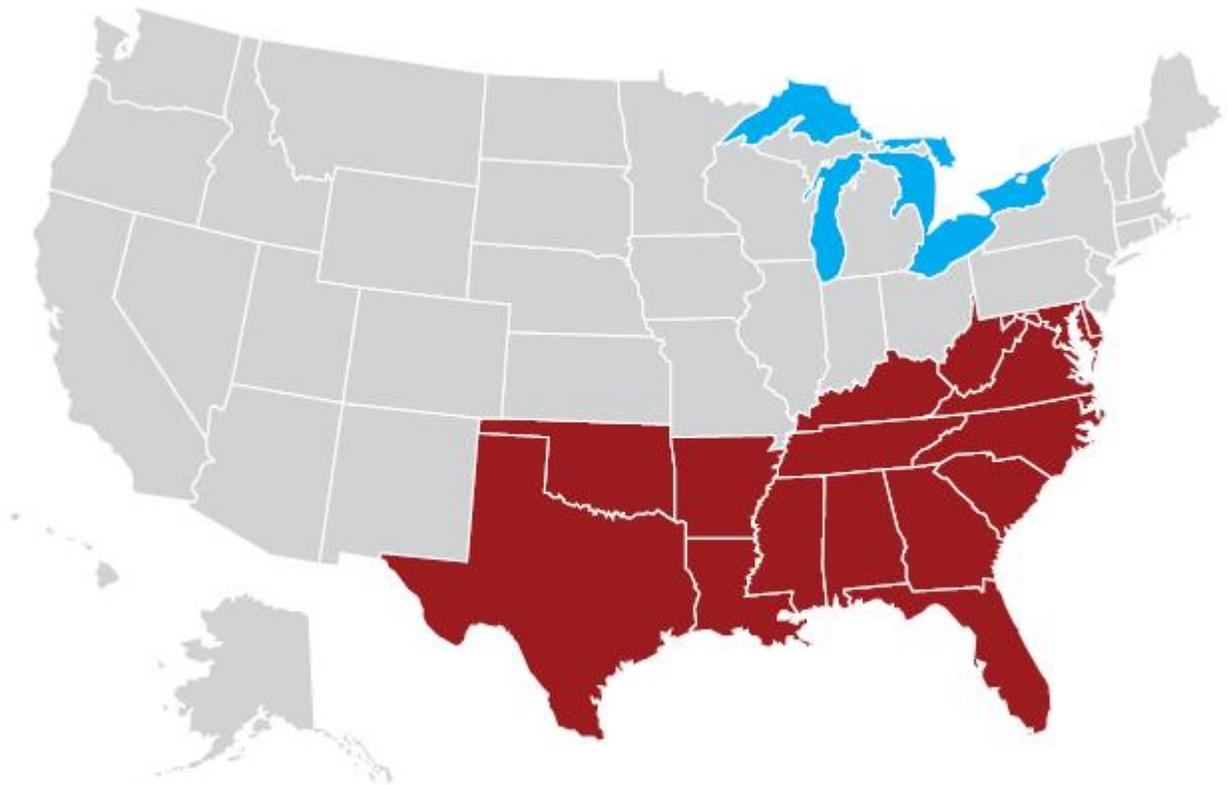
over two years from the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration” to study, “scallop spat bags, propagation and habitat monitoring in Madaket Harbor.”¹¹³

54. Nantucket, Massachusetts will spend \$5.6 million in stimulus cash to resurface 6.4 miles of road and bike path, or roughly \$875,000 a mile. The funding comes from the \$437.9 million that the federal government has authorized Massachusetts to spend on highway projects as part of the stimulus bill.¹¹⁴

¹¹³ Brace, Peter B., “Town applies for \$2 million grant for eelgrass, scallop restoration,” *Nantucket Independent*, April 8, 2009, http://www.nantucketindependent.com/news/2009/0408/other_news/018.html.

¹¹⁴ Shemkus, Sarah, “Nantucket road project now open for bids,” *Cape Cod Times*, April 8, 2009, <http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090408/BIZ/904080312/-1/NEWS>.

Southern Region



55. **The Tennessee Department of Transportation plans to use money to create the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum.** Executive Director Cate Hamilton said the \$200,000 was a surprise, but that it would help the museum be able to open with a complete set of exhibits. “Definitely this would help us tell our story here in Dickson Tennessee,” said Hamilton.¹¹⁵
56. **Despite a history of mismanaging federal funds, D.C. Metro will receive hundreds of millions to close its budget deficit.** The agency will receive \$200 million in stimulus funds despite having a poor track record of handling federal funds and tracking its inventory. According to a recent report of the inspector general for the D.C. Metro, it “found sloppy accounting, a lack of internal controls and poor oversight.”¹¹⁶
57. **\$77.5 million will be used to extend the consistently over-budget D.C. subway to Dulles Airport in Virginia.** The project to extend the Washington, D.C. Metrorail system 23 miles to connect downtown with Dulles International Airport will receive \$77.5 million in stimulus

¹¹⁵ Arnold, Sky, “Transportation Projects Funded by Stimulus Money,” Arnold, *Fox 17 News* (Nashville), http://www.wztv.com/newsroom/top_stories/wztv_vid_5579.shtml.

¹¹⁶ Sun, Lena H., “Metro reports cite accounting and security gaps,” *Washington Post*, March 23, 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/21/AR2009032102088.html>.

money.¹¹⁷ Taxpayers recently agreed to pay an additional nearly \$1 billion toward the project, despite its rising costs and schedule delays. Phase 1 of the project, which will provide 11 miles of track, was originally expected to cost \$1.5 billion, but has since soared to \$2.6 billion and is not expected to be ready until 2013.¹¹⁸

58. **Wheeling, West Virginia will use almost \$400,000 to renovate a downtown music hall.**

This comes on the heels of already spending \$715,000 to purchase nearby buildings that remain empty. Local officials are hoping “his additional project will “create a domino effect” to finally produce results. City councilman Vernon Seals is hoping for the best: “You’re not going to see the retail like you have in the past. But we could be surprised,” he said.¹¹⁹

59. **Delaware has received a \$7.5 million federal stimulus grant to pay for a boardwalk revival.**

The federal government has allotted \$7.5 million in stimulus recovery funds, which Rehoboth Beach plans to use for boardwalk reconstruction, including a new pavilion. Storms have damaged parts of the boardwalk, but, said Mayor Sam Cooper, “it’s gonna be like a rock for the most part now.”¹²⁰ Unfortunately, beachgoers should not get their hopes up – the project will “not be finished in time for this summer.”¹²¹

60. **Memphis, Tennessee will spend \$1.5 million to redevelop fairgrounds and \$250,000 to rehabilitate a dilapidated laundromat.** The city plans to use \$1.5 million in Community Development Block Grant Recovery funds to demolish Libertyland amusement park and replace it with soccer and baseball fields surrounding a 170-acre property. It also plans to spend \$250,000 on rebuilding a “dilapidated laundromat.”¹²²

61. **Texas Department of Transportation plans to spend \$181 million on a new road opposed by local environmentalists.** Grand Parkway outside of Houston has caused controversy among local residents upset that a new road would devastate Katy Prairie, the last vestige of a large undeveloped green space. The highway will commence the construction of a fourth ring-road around Houston and encourage the urban sprawl opposed by the Obama Administration by enabling the construction of a new development called Bridgeland. On a trip to Florida taken earlier this year, President Obama remarked, “The days where we’re just building sprawl forever, those days are over.”¹²³

¹¹⁷ Cella, Matthew, “Dulles rail project gets stimulus check,” *Washington Times*, May 8, 2009,

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/may/08/dulles-rail-project-gets-stimulus-check/>.

¹¹⁸ Alec MacGillis, “Dulles Rail Project Faces Cuts as Costs Swell,” *Washington Post*, March 23, 2006,

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/22/AR2006032202397.html>; Emerling, Gary and Sands,

“\$900M dulles rail deal back on track,” *Washington Times*, March 10, 2009,

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/10/900-million-dulles-rail-deal-back-on-track/>.

¹¹⁹ Hicks, Ian, “Council Hopes Capitol Will Provide Spark,” *The Intelligencer Wheeling News-Register*, June 5, 2009, <http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/524736.html>.

¹²⁰ Smith, Kristin, “\$7.5M federal grant to pay for boardwalk revival,” *delmarvanow.com*, April 23, 2009,

http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=e88d9c6e-802a-23ad-4768-888ac5d76677&Issue_id=&CFID=11318314&CFTOKEN=48496743.

¹²¹ Kramer, Cassandra, “DelDOT to Use Stimulus Money to Finish Rehoboth Boardwalk,” *WBOC 16*, June 6, 2009,

<http://www.wboc.com/Global/story.asp?S=10424558>.

¹²² Andy Meek, “City Seeks Grant to Raze Libertyland,” *Memphis Daily News*, May 29, 2009

<http://www.memphisdailynews.com/editorial/Article.aspx?id=42755>.

¹²³ Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Ideals Conflict on the Texas Prairie,” *New York Times*, March 22, 2009,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/23/us/23sprawl.html?pagewanted=1&r=2>.

62. **Despite promises that citizens would be able to track “every dime” of the \$787 billion stimulus bill, the federal website devoted to posting the spending details may not be complete until next spring.** During debate over the stimulus, the administration promised that a new website, Recovery.gov would provide “unprecedented transparency” to how stimulus funding was used. Unfortunately, it was recently revealed that the site may not be fully operational until spring 2010 – a full year after the stimulus bill was passed.¹²⁴
63. **Delaware will spend \$400,000 to construct a berth for a historic ship to attract tourists.** According to the Delaware Recovery website, it is hoped the project will “bring about a sense of community pride.”¹²⁵
64. **Stimulus to pay for housing used by Soyono the Sumatran tiger and Luke the Lion at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.** Despite federal law that prohibits spending federal funds on local Zoos, money will go to the National Zoo. The Smithsonian, which runs the Zoo, is spending \$11.4 of its \$25 million in stimulus funds on the National Zoo and its Zoo research center in Virginia.¹²⁶
65. **Washington, North Carolina is using stimulus funds to pay for “project-funding manager” whose job it is to secure even more stimulus funds.** The City hopes to pay the new “project-funding manager” to identify available Stimulus money using a \$40,234 grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program which, in turn, received funding through the stimulus bill.¹²⁷
66. **Summerfield, North Carolina gets stimulus money for a parking lot.** The town of Summerfield may get \$300,000 in federal stimulus funds to build a parking lot, despite the project already being in the town’s regular budget. “The way I looked at it is it didn’t really matter how you felt about the stimulus package, which is a reality,” says Town Manager Michael Brandt. “I thought we might as well seek some benefit. . . If I don’t go for it, somebody else will.” Mayor Mark Brown concluded, “I think the stimulus money becoming available to aid the Summerfield Rail Trail parking problem is fabulous and unexpected.”¹²⁸
67. **The Florida Department of Transportation plans to spend \$128 million on the proposed Indian Street Bridge, though it does not yet have all the property it needs.** The proposed funding of \$128 million will be used to build a bridge a quarter of a mile away from an existing bridge, but it is unclear whether it is “shovel-ready.” According to CNN, “the state has yet to buy all the property it needs for the right-of-way leading to the bridge,” and “challenges from the

¹²⁴ Kelley, Matt, “Details thin on stimulus contracts,” *USA Today*, May 6, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2009-05-06-stimulus_N.htm.

¹²⁵ Delaware Department of Transportation Recovery project website, <http://deldot.gov/information/projects/recovery/pages/overfalls/index.shtml>.

¹²⁶ Grabell, Michael, “In the Stimulus Bill, One Zoo Stands Above All Others,” *ProPublica*, May 4, 2009, <http://www.propublica.org/ion/stimulus/item/in-the-stimulus-bill-one-zoo-stands-above-all-others-504>.

¹²⁷ Sauls, Elizabeth, “Milking the Stimulus: After all, somebody’s got to,” *Beaufort Observer*, May 09, 2009, http://www.beaufortobserver.net/Articles-c-2009-05-09-234535.112112_Milking_the_Stimulus.html.

¹²⁸ Smith, Sandra, “Town gets stimulus money for parking lot,” *Guilford County Northwest Observer*, April 3, 2009, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=81223bea-802a-23ad-4b8e-aa8075a1452b&Issue_id=

current owners of those parcels could delay construction.” The Florida Department of Transportation has yet to purchase 33 of 63 properties needed to build the project.¹²⁹

68. **USDA Inspector General (IG) raises concerns about a \$2.5 billion program for rural broadband Internet service.** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), tasked with doling out \$2.5 billion for rural broadband efforts, has a checkered history of mismanagement and incompetence, according to a recent IG report. Since 2005, 90 percent of the loans approved by RUS have gone to communities that already have broadband access.¹³⁰
69. **Miami, Florida will use \$2.1 million in stimulus funds to move and relocate an aging Greyhound bus terminal.** The move is meant to facilitate connections between transit buses, commuter rail, intercity rail, and airport shuttles.¹³¹
70. **Lexington, Kentucky plans to spend \$4.7 million on a trail connecting downtown with a horse farm.** In March, the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization voted to spend \$4.7 million on the seven-mile Legacy Trail to connect downtown with a horse farm. Stimulus funds will not finish the trail, but the mayor of Lexington has said it will be important to pursue additional sources of money to finish the trail in time for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010.¹³²
71. **Steam rooms in the fitness center of Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas will undergo repairs funded by federal stimulus funds.** According to the solicitation for bids on the project, the total cost is expected to be up to \$100,000.¹³³
72. **The federal government will provide \$300 million in stimulus funds to 61 housing agencies that have been repeatedly faulted by auditors for mishandling government.** Problems have ranged from “poor bookkeeping to money that was spent improperly.”¹³⁴
73. **Large federal contractors who have paid big fines for violating environmental, safety, and discrimination rules are receiving stimulus funds.** One such company, CACI International, came under fire in 2004 after its interrogators contracted out to the U.S. Army were caught abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib. An Army investigation found that CACI International had inadequate screening process and had employees with insufficient training. Despite this history, the company has won three stimulus contracts worth \$1.5 million to provide contracting

¹²⁹ Boudreau, Abbie and Jessi Joseph, “Stimulus-funded Florida Bridge draws criticism,” CNN, May 4, 2009, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/05/04/florida.bridge.stimulus/>.

¹³⁰ Grabell, Michael, “Rural Broadband Stimulus Program Slammed in Gov’t Report,” *ProPublica*, April 14, 2009, <http://www.propublica.org/ion/stimulus/item/rural-broadband-stimulus-program-slammed-in-govt-report-414/>.

¹³¹ “Vice President Biden, U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood, Miami Mayor Diaz Announce Availability of \$8.4 Billion in Public Transportation Investments,” U.S. Department of Transportation, March 5, 2009, <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot2609.htm>.

¹³² “Newberry Announces \$23 Million In Stimulus Funding For Area.” *LEX18 – NBC*, March 30, 2009, <http://www.lex18.com/Global/story.asp?S=10076131&nav=EQlp>.

¹³³ “RECOVERY-Repair Fitness Center Steam Rooms,” U.S. Air Force, Solicitation Number: F2R3C19037A001, <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=964d87bf562c629704e38b5ff06104a1&ctab=core&cvview=1>.

¹³⁴ Heath, Brad, “Housing agencies faulted in audits to get \$300M of stimulus,” *USA Today*, April 8, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-04-07-Stimulus-Housing_N.htm.

specialists to the Forest Service. The consultants will help the agency evaluate projects so that it can spend stimulus money quickly.¹³⁵

74. **Dallas, Texas will receive stimulus funds to build a downtown park over a freeway.** Dallas-planned Woodall Rodgers Deck Park, which will cover part of Woodall Rodgers Freeway, will receive \$16.7 million from stimulus funds earmarked for transportation projects.¹³⁶ Under the original agreement with the City of Dallas, the park's builders would pay for the entire \$92.7 million venture with private funds.¹³⁷ That has changed now that stimulus funds have come available. Current plans for the project include: "jogging trails, a dog park, a children's playground, a restaurant, a performance pavilion, a water sculpture, an area for games and much more."¹³⁸
75. **Bathrooms a major feature of \$11.3 million renovation at Somerville Lake, Texas.** Funds will be used to fix up bathrooms built in the 1960's, prompting site manager Ernest Eberle to proclaim, "It's Christmas." The Corps had previously received money to build a bathroom, but not to raze the old one, which is still standing. Eberle noted that the situation would soon change, "At Rocky Creek (Park) restroom No. 3, we got some funding and we were able to replace it. But we ran out of money and couldn't tear the old one down. Now we'll be able to do that."¹³⁹
76. **Virginia will spend \$340,000 on a rural bridge that carries only 20 cars a day.** The Rock Creek Road bridge leads to a gravel road with seven houses. Two residents of Rock Creek Road said they had not realized the bridge was in disrepair and were not sure that was the best use of the stimulus funds. VDOT officials say their top priority in choosing projects was how quickly they could get started.¹⁴⁰
77. **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will spend \$1.7 million to grow oysters.** The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources hopes to restore 15 acres of oyster reefs with a \$1.7 million federal stimulus grant.¹⁴¹
78. **Stimulus program paying \$2.5 million for beach enhancement studies.** Despite recent concerns about beach restoration projects from the Obama Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers is spending \$2.5 million to study new projects instead of building them.¹⁴²

¹³⁵ Grabell, Michael and David Epstein, "Stimulus money going to scofflaw companies," *Salon.com*, May 21, 2009, http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2009/05/21/stimulus_bill_contractors/.

¹³⁶ Levinthal, Dave, "Woodall Rodgers Deck Park in Dallas will get \$16.7 million in stimulus funds," *Dallas News*, March 27, 2009, http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-woodall_27met.ART.State.Edition1.4ad1cc7.html.

¹³⁷ Garrison, Trey, "Woodall Rodgers Park Explained," *DMagazine*, October 18, 2007,

http://www.dmagazine.com/Home/2007/10/15/Woodall_Rodgers_Park_Explained.aspx?redirected=1.

¹³⁸ "Woodall Rodgers Park project in Dallas receives federal stimulus funds," *Pegasus News Wire*, March 26, 2009,

<http://www.pegasusnews.com/news/2009/mar/26/woodall-rodgers-park-project-recvies-federal-stim/>.

¹³⁹ Hahn, Arthur, "Stimulus funding flowing into lake--Somerville receives millions for projects," *Brenham Banner-Press*, May 30, 2009, <http://www.brenhambanner.com/articles/2009/05/30/news/news01.txt>.

¹⁴⁰ Haberkom, Jennifer, "Rural bridges first in line for stimulus funds," *Washington Times*, May 10, 2009,

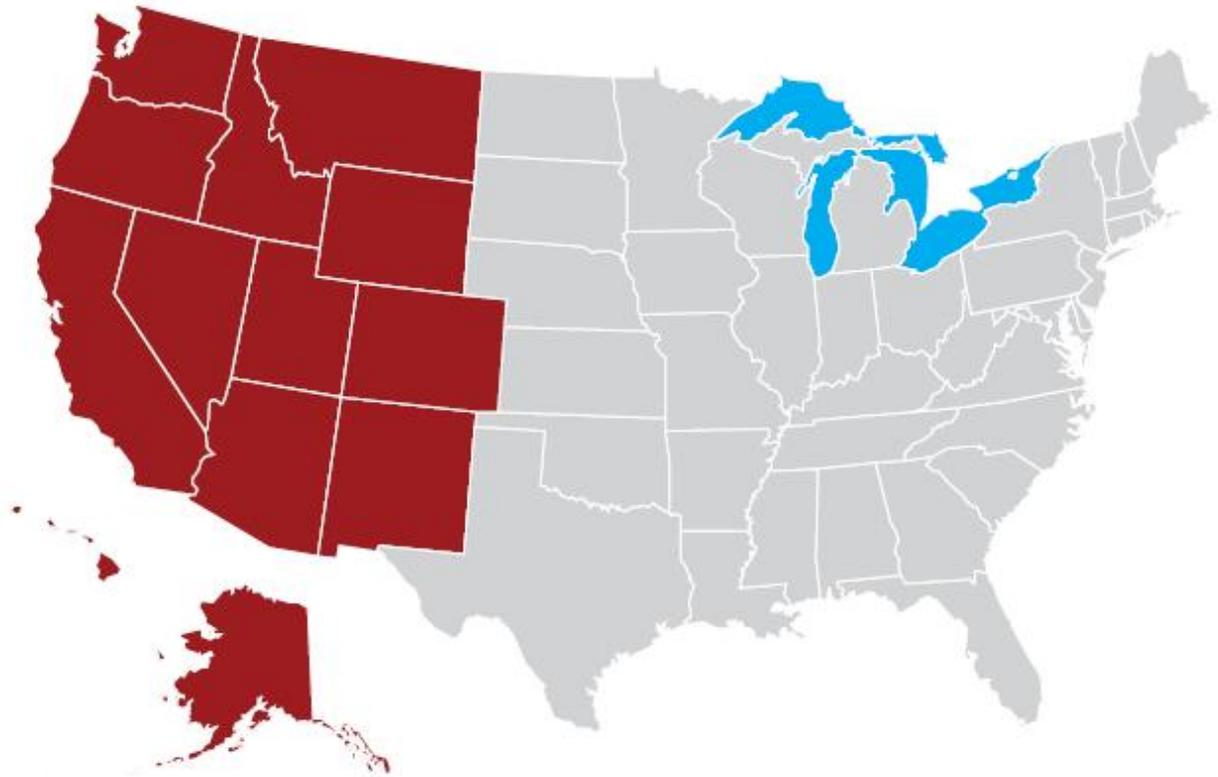
<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/may/10/rural-bridges-first-in-line-for-stimulus-funds/>.

¹⁴¹ "Officials Hope to Restore Oyster Habitat," *Associated Press*, April 19, 2009,

http://www.wspa.com/spa/news/local/article/officials_hope_to_restore_oyster_habitat/16724/.

¹⁴² Wood, Anthony R, and Urgo, Jacqueline L., "Budget cuts take bite from beach-fill projects," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 30, 2009, http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_region/20090430_Budget_cuts_take_bite_from_beach-fill_projects.html.

Western Region



79. **Washington State University (Vancouver) is receiving \$148, 438 to analyze “the use of marijuana in conjunction with medications like morphine.”** According to local reports, “this is the first ARRA funding received by WSU. The project is uniquely qualified to receive these funds because of its potential to stimulate the economy and create or retain jobs within the community.”¹⁴³
80. **“Microsoft Bridge” in Seattle will receive \$11 million in stimulus funds.** Despite having nearly \$20 billion in cash reserves, Microsoft will be the prime beneficiary of \$11 million for construction of a bridge to connect the two campuses of its headquarters.¹⁴⁴ Separated by a highway, the Microsoft headquarters outside of Seattle in Redmond, Washington will now be linked by an unusual diagonally shaped bridge, once construction is completed. According to CNN, Redmond Mayor John Marchione “applied for federal stimulus money after costs jumped

¹⁴³ “Marijuana study receives federal stimulus money,” *WSU Today*, June 1, 2009, <http://www.wsutoday.wsu.edu/pages/Publications.asp?Action=Detail&PublicationID=14657&PageID=21>.

¹⁴⁴ Lai, Eric, “A bridge to Microsoft HQ: Critics slam \$11 million federal stimulus for overpass,” *Computerworld*, March 31, 2009, <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130833>.

on the project from \$25 million to \$36 million,” leaving the taxpayer to pick up the entire cost overrun.¹⁴⁵

81. **California is not encouraging school districts to re-hire laid-off teachers.** Following the layoff of a large number of special education instructors, the California Department of Education is not encouraging school districts to create or save new jobs by bringing them back on staff. Heather Carlson, with the Department of Education, noted the reason being “the day after the money runs out, districts once again would have to find a new way to pay those employees.”¹⁴⁶
82. **Oregon will spend \$4.2 million to raise railroad track 18 inches.** In Scappoose, Oregon (pop. 6,200), drivers are tired of taking a detour to get past railroad tracks that are not level with the main road. To fix the situation, \$4.2 million in stimulus money will raise the railroad tracks by 18 inches so that the road and tracks are level. According to city manager Jon Hanken, the stimulus money was needed because “local voters had rejected a bond issue to pay for the project.”¹⁴⁷
83. **Portland, Oregon will spend \$1 million in stimulus funds for bike lockers.** City officials plan to upgrade 100 bike lockers and build a parking garage that will house 250 bicycles.¹⁴⁸ One local columnist questioned the need for the lockers, noting that Oregon had the fifth highest unemployment rate in January at 9.9 percent. Raising the question, “is this proper use of federal stimulus money?” he answered, “of course not!”¹⁴⁹
84. **Stimulus cash is causing friction between a Colorado county sheriff and commissioner.** At a recent local meeting to discuss how the county would use stimulus money, two officials disagreed about how to use it. \$213,716 stimulus grant for a new crime-response vehicle was seen as wasteful because the county already has similar equipment. “I just question the need for this in light of (the Colorado Bureau of Investigation’s) criminal vehicle,” the commissioner said.¹⁵⁰
85. **A Wyoming town will build a new government building that local officials do not see helping the economy in the short-term.** Instead of leasing existing space downtown to help revitalize that area. “We’re either green and growing or ripe and rotting,” said a local official. The city council authorized an application for a \$7 million loan to build a new water department administration and engineering building. “Long term I see it; short term, I don’t,” said council member Patrick Collins about the facility for Board of Public Utilities engineers and administrators. “We have an opportunity with these empty buildings to lease space downtown,” Collins said.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁵ Patrick Oppmann, “Critics slam Microsoft bridge as waste of stimulus money,” *CNN.com*, March 31, 2009, <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/03/31/bridge.microsoft/>.

¹⁴⁶ Phillips, Roger, “Stimulus no cure-all for schools,” *Recordnet.com*, April 3, 2009, http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090403/A_NEWS04/904030322.

¹⁴⁷ Cauchon, Dennis, “Stimulus dollars put to work,” *USA Today*, April 1, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-03-31-stimulus-sidebar_N.htm?csp=34.

¹⁴⁸ “\$1M Of Stimulus Will Go To Bike Parking,” *KPTV*, March 10, 2009, <http://www.kptv.com/traffic/18889128/detail.html>.

¹⁴⁹ Norton, Larry, “TriMet bike lockers,” *OregonLive, Old Town blog*, March 12, 2009, http://blog.oregonlive.com/oldtown/2009/03/trimet_bike_lockers.html.

¹⁵⁰ Standish, Lee Roy, “Stimulus funds cause friction,” *The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, April 27, 2009, http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2009/04/27/042809_3a_Commission.html?imw=Y.

¹⁵¹ McCarthy, Bill, “City Council OKs applying for \$7 million BOPU building loan,” *Wyoming Tribune Eagle*, April, 2009, http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2009/04/14/news/19local_04-14-09.txt.

86. **The U.S. Department of the Interior will spend \$280 million on wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, \$630,000 on a bridge at the National Bison Range, and \$249,000 for solar panels at Ennis Fish Hatchery.** Refuges and hatcheries in Montana will receive about \$3 million of the Interior Department's stimulus spending.¹⁵²
87. **Colorado counties reject stimulus money, but change minds and use to buy an industrial dishwasher.** The four counties that at first rejected the money for senior citizen meals were hesitant to accept funds for a program they would not later continue. "It didn't seem like a wise decision to take it, so we turned it down," said Jo Downey, director of the council. "We couldn't see buying food that we'd waste." But they changed their minds when state officials informed them that they did not have to use the money for meals, but could purchase "a new industrial-size dishwasher and mixer, plus 10 GPS systems"¹⁵³
88. **Tualatin, Oregon plans to spend \$2.5 million on a "train-horn-free" zone.** The city plans to provide \$700,000¹⁵⁴ and the local transit agency plans to provide \$939,000 in stimulus money towards creating a train-horn-free zone.¹⁵⁵ The money will be for Tualatin to help with noise issues but is not likely to be finished for two years.¹⁵⁶
89. **San Diego International Airport will get \$5 million to install "energy-efficient" runway guidance lights.**¹⁵⁷ Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called the new signs a "critical investment" that will get the "U.S. economy going again."¹⁵⁸
90. **A Utah sheriff's office is plans to purchase a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.** Davis County Sheriff's in Utah will be adding a brand new Harley-Davidson to their vehicle fleet courtesy of the stimulus bill. The purchase is part of a Edward Byrnes Memorial Justice Assistance Grant being shared with nearly a dozen other police agencies in the county. The department will receive almost \$25,000, most of which will be used to purchase the Harley Davidson.¹⁵⁹
91. **The Phoenix Police Department is expecting to receive \$5.4 million in stimulus cash for new equipment that will not result in job creation.** According to local reports, the funds will "likely include more technology upgrades, such as electronic-citation devices, rather than adding new boots on the ground." Phoenix Executive Assistant Police Chief Tom Lannon said the use

¹⁵² Deines, Kahrin, "Refuges, hatcheries, to get \$3 million," *Great Falls Tribune*, April 27, 2009, <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20090427/NEWS01/904270313>.

¹⁵³ "4 Colo. Counties change minds, take stimulus money," *Associated Press*, June 4, 2009, <http://cbs4denver.com/coloradowire/22.0.html?type=local&state=CO&category=n&filename=CO--Stimulus-SeniorMe.xml>.

¹⁵⁴ Schmidt, Brad, "Tualatin May Have to Wait Two Years for MAX Quiet Zone," *Oregonian*, March 4, 2009, <http://brooklyn-neighborhood.org/2009/03/04/tualatin-finds-cheaper-way-to-keep-wes-trains-quiet-safe/>.

¹⁵⁵ <http://trimet.org/pdfs/news/stimulusprojects.pdf>. Accessed May 28, 2009.

¹⁵⁶ Schmidt, Brad, "Tualatin May Have to Wait Two Years for MAX Quiet Zone," *Oregonian*, March 4, 2009, <http://brooklyn-neighborhood.org/2009/03/04/tualatin-finds-cheaper-way-to-keep-wes-trains-quiet-safe/>

¹⁵⁷ "Lindbergh runways awarded \$5 million," *SignOnSanDiego.com (Union-Tribune)*, March 28, 2009, <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/28/1m28airport234819-lindbergh-runways-awarded-5-mill/>.

¹⁵⁸ "2 Local Airports To Receive Stimulus Funding," *10News.com (San Diego)*, March 27, 2009, <http://www.10news.com/newsarchive/19030804/detail.html>.

¹⁵⁹ Saxton, Bryon, "Sheriff's Office Gets New Wheels," *Standard-Examiner (Utah)*, April 29, 2009, <http://www.standard.net/live/news/171081>.

of the funds will be challenging due to the rules for these law-enforcement grants changing nearly daily.¹⁶⁰

92. **U.S.-Canada border crossings that average less than 2 passenger cars per day and 2-3 trucks a month get millions from stimulus funds. U.S.-Mexico border crossings with 20,000 vehicle crossings per day get nothing.** A border post located in Montana sees an average of less than two passenger cars per day and only two to three trucks a month, according to the Bureau of Transportation statistics. Despite the lack of activity, it will receive \$15 million in “stimulus” funds for upgrades. Five of the tiny border crossings in Montana will get \$77 million in total.¹⁶¹
93. **Washington State will spend over \$18 million in stimulus cash to grow and hatch fish.** This represents over 15% of the \$120 million the state’s funding from the Bureau of Reclamation received for water infrastructure projects.¹⁶²
94. **Montana’s state-run liquor warehouse will receive \$2.2 million in stimulus cash to install skylights.** The project is part of the \$27.7 million the state has been awarded for energy programs.¹⁶³
95. **Eugene, Oregon will spend \$2.25 million stimulus dollars to construct a 1,000 foot long bike path, and an additional \$180,000 will be spent on “pedestrian facilities, traffic calming and bicycle-related components.** The project was approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission for \$2.25 million “to construct a 1000-foot-long elevated pedestrian-bicycle path over the Delta Ponds and Delta Highway.”¹⁶⁴
96. **A California skate park will get a \$620,000 “facelift.”** Plans to refurbish the skate park in Long Beach, California, had stalled for months as local funds put towards higher priority park projects. With \$620,000 in federal stimulus funding available to upgrade the skate park, the city council decided to move forward. Daniel Johnson, a skater, said, “If most of us weren’t skating right now, we’d be doing some bad stuff.”¹⁶⁵
97. **The Bureau of Land Management is using stimulus funds to study the impact wind farms have on the sage grouse population in Oregon.** The proposal would be to “hire people to tag

¹⁶⁰ Ferraresi, Michael, “City safety agencies work to meet stimulus deadlines,” *Arizona Republic*, April 8, 2009, <http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2009/04/08/20090408stim-phxsafety0408.html>.

¹⁶¹ Karl, Jonathan, “GMA’ Investigation: Stimulus Waste or Future Investment? Some Enraged as Montana Outpost With Little Cross-Border Traffic Gets \$15M in Federal Stimulus Money,” *ABC News*, May 15, 2009, <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=7594607&page=1>.

¹⁶² “Yakima Valley water projects get \$40M stimulus boost,” *Tri-City Herald*, April 17, 2009, <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/546888.html>.

¹⁶³ Weaver, Christopher, “Stimulus for Liquor Makes You Snicker,” *ProPublica*, March 11, 2009, <http://www.propublica.org/ion/stimulus/item/stimulus-for-liquor-makes-you-snicker-0311/>.

¹⁶⁴ “Construction jobs coming to Eugene via stimulus funding,” *Daily Journal of Commerce*, April 2, 2009, <http://www.djcoregon.com/articleDetail.htm/2009/04/02/Construction-jobs-coming-to-Eugene-via-stimulus-funding>.

¹⁶⁵ Cuaron, Brian, “Long Beach’s 14th Street Skate Park headed for a facelift,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, May 30, 2009, http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_12487331.

sage grouse in areas where wind farms are proposed and track the birds' movements to figure out where turbines could be located."¹⁶⁶

98. **Durango, Colorado to spend \$215,000 for a bike path to keep kids from walking to school on the street.** Construction is scheduled to begin in August on a new bicycle and pedestrian path on County Road 501 after the project received more than \$215,000 in federal stimulus funds. Town Planner Joe Crain said, "It definitely will be a very good thing because of the high school. I see a lot of students walking on the roadway."¹⁶⁷
99. **\$200,000 for restroom and showers at Black Butte Lake, California.** The money is for new restrooms and showers in the group area. According the Corps of Engineers stimulus project list, the new restrooms "will greatly improve the public recreational experience."¹⁶⁸
100. **Big Stimulus windfall for tiny town.** A town of 82 residents where the people are outnumbered "several times over by mule deer and antelope" in California is getting a \$3 million stimulus for build a new water facility. At about \$36,000 per person, the Town of Tennant is one of 74 water districts of California set to share \$150 for drinking water projects.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁶ "Wind farms' impact on sage grouse part of stimulus study," *The Spokesman-Review*, June 1, 2009,

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/jun/01/wind-farms-impact-on-sage-grouse-part-of-stimulus/?print-friendly>.

¹⁶⁷ Buford, Katie, "Federal funds to help pay for path: Bayfield to build route for residents", *The Durango Herald*, April 23, 2009, http://durangoherald.com/sections/News/2009/04/23/Federal_funds_to_help_pay_for_path/.

¹⁶⁸ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Civil Works Expenditure Plan – Operations and Maintenance," http://www.taxpayer.net/user_uploads/file/Stimulus/Corps/Corps_Stimulus_Projects_OperataionandMaintenance.pdf.

¹⁶⁹ Sabalow, Ryan, "Big stimulus grants go to tiny north state water districts," *Record-Searchlight*, June 9, 2009, <http://www.redding.com/news/2009/jun/09/big-stimulus-grants-go-to-tiny-north-state-water/>.

APPENDIX – QUICK REFERENCE OF PROJECTS

State	Grant	Purpose
Top Ten Projects		
Oklahoma	\$1.5 million	New water treatment plant that raises utility costs of residents.
Illinois	\$1 billion	Most costly earmark in history despite promise of no earmarks.
Wisconsin	\$15.8 million	Non-essential repairs for 37 rural bridges rarely used.
California	\$10 million	Eminent domain kicking families out of homes to meet stimulus deadlines.
Florida	\$3.4 million	Wildlife “eco-passage” that will take years to finish.
Nevada	\$2 million	Weatherization contract going to company already fired for poor weatherization work.
Oklahoma	Over \$1 million	New guardrail along bone-dry Optima Lake.
Pennsylvania	\$9.38 million	Renovate old train station not used in 30 years.
D.C.	\$2.5 million	Social security stimulus checks sent to 250 dead people.
New York	\$578,661	Homeless funds go to town that doesn’t want the money since it has no homelessness.
Midwestern Region		
Illinois	\$173,824	Weatherizing 8 pick-up trucks.
South Dakota	\$20,000	Freezing fish sperm.
Wisconsin	\$2.8 million	Unrequested nursing home assistance.
Iowa	\$11 million	Unnecessary new cars for State

		government
Illinois	\$150,000 est.	Road signs marking stimulus projects
Georgia	\$5.5 million	Grant used to entice company to move from Iowa, taking 1,200 jobs away from state.
Michigan	\$500,000	Renovate historic building to house yoga or children's movement class and a new visitor center.
Michigan	\$43.9 million	Unnecessarily widen and rebuild road.
Illinois	\$643, 945	New parking lot not wanted by local residents.
Ohio	\$57 million	Planning and preliminary studies of highway projects.
Minnesota	\$2 million	For theater used for dance and music events.
Illinois	\$350,000	4-person bunker at wildlife refuge.
Ohio	n/a	Police jobs saved by stimulus funds could still be lost at end of year.
Indiana	\$1.27 million	New airport runway signs.
Ohio	\$1.5 million	Suicide prevention fence for a bridge.
Illinois	\$1 million	To study if people are healthier in “green” government subsidized housing projects.
Indiana	\$356,000	To study how kids perceive accents.
Michigan	\$530 million	Mostly “no-strings” funding for school district despite record of poor financial management.
Michigan	\$983,952	For decorative sidewalks and crosswalks and streetlights, planters, and

		landscaping.
Michigan	\$1.3 million	New wastewater plant declared “dead on arrival” by local citizens.
Kansas	n/a	Visitor center and pedestrian bridge chosen not for economic but for cultural/aesthetic value.
Missouri	\$462,000	New toilets at Mark Twain National Forest.
North Dakota	Up to \$100,000	To demolish a sauna and build new showers in women’s locker room.
Missouri	\$2.9 million	Visitor center at wildlife refuge.
Missouri	\$940,000	Solar power at a fish hatchery.
Wisconsin	\$10 million	School lunch equipment and education technology but no teaching jobs.
Missouri	\$500,000	Fish food for fish farmers.
Northeastern Region		
Rhode Island	\$550,000	Skateboard Park.
Pennsylvania	\$800,000	Backup runway for airport with only 3 flights a day.
Connecticut	\$850,000	For studies including “how paying attention improves performance of difficult tasks.”
New York	\$175,000	Trolley to take tourists to festivals and markets.
New York	\$3.1 million	Transform canal barge into floating museum.
Massachusetts	\$3 million	Corporate jet runways that are opposed by local residents.
Maine	\$1.3 million	For “government art jobs” including basket makers.

New York	\$15 million	Partially rebuild portions of Coney Island Boardwalk.
New York	\$150 million	To build the world’s brightest x-ray.
Massachusetts	\$3.5 million	3 mile bike trail despite having \$80 million of existing, unused federal funds for bike trails.
Vermont	\$71,200	Hybrid cars for driver education classes.
New York	\$3.8 million	Extend an urban art trail.
Connecticut	\$680,000	To study the effect of diet and exercise on obesity.
Pennsylvania	\$500,000	Parking garage.
New York	\$1 million	“Green upgrades” but no new jobs.
Massachusetts	\$174,000	Duplicates funding to renovate a historic building that is already being funded by separate federal program.
Pennsylvania	\$819,000	Homeless prevention despite the lack of homeless.
Massachusetts	\$2 million	Monitor scallop reproduction and habitat.
Massachusetts	\$5.6 million	Repave bike path.
Southern Region		
Tennessee	\$200,000	To help create railroad hotel museum.
D.C.	\$2.5 million	Beach enhancement studies by Army corps of Engineers.
D.C.	\$200 million	For the D.C. metro despite history of waste and abuse of federal funds.
D.C.	\$77.5 million	To Connect D.C. metro to Dulles Airport despite history of waste and abuse of federal funds.

West Virginia	\$400,000	Renovate downtown music hall despite lack of interest in developing the surrounding area.
Delaware	\$7.5 million	Renovate a boardwalk and build new pavilion.
Tennessee	\$1.5 million	To redevelop old amusement park.
Tennessee	\$250,000	Rehabilitate a dilapidated laundromat.
Texas	\$181 million	Expand Grand Parkway that is opposed by local residents and environmentalists.
South Carolina	\$1.7 million	Grow oysters.
D.C.	n/a	Despite promises of transparency, White House won't have website ready until next spring.
Delaware	\$400,000	To construct berth for historic ship.
D.C.	\$11.4 million	Housing for zoo animals despite prohibition on funds being used for local zoos.
North Carolina	\$40,234	Salary of new staff position whose job it is to lobby for more stimulus funds.
North Carolina	\$300,000	Parking lot already part of town's existing budget.
Florida	\$128 million	Build a duplicative bridge.
D.C.	\$2.5 billion	USDA program to bring internet to rural areas despite long history of misusing funds.
Florida	\$2.1 million	To relocate an aging Greyhound bus terminal.
Kentucky	\$4.7 million	Build a trail connecting downtown to a horse farm.
Texas	Up to \$100,000	Steam room for a fitness center.
D.C.	\$300 million	Federal funding for 61 housing agencies with history of

		misusing funds.
D.C.	\$1.5 million	Contractor with history of abusing detainees in Iraq used by Forest Service to evaluate projects.
Texas	\$16.7 million	Downtown park to cover a freeway.
Texas	\$11.3 million	Bathroom repair.
Virginia	\$340,000	Repair rural bridge despite no need for repair and only carries 20 cars a day.
Western Region		
Washington	\$148,438	To study the use of marijuana in conjunction with other medication.
Washington	\$11 million	Create a bridge that connects two Microsoft campuses.
California	n/a	State encouraging school districts to not rehire teachers with stimulus funds.
Oregon	\$4.2 million	To raise railroad tracks 18 inches despite local residents rejecting plan.
Colorado	\$213,716	New vehicle for sheriff despite already having access to an existing vehicle.
Wyoming	\$7 million	Town to lease new office space instead of using existing empty office space.
Wyoming	\$280 million	For wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries for such things as solar panels.
Colorado	n/a	Four counties reject stimulus money, but then change minds to buy an industrial dishwasher.
Oregon	\$2.5 million	To create a "train-horn free" zone in town.
California	\$5 million	To install energy efficient light bulbs

		for airport runway.
Utah	\$25,000	Harley Davidson motorcycle for sheriff.
Arizona	\$5.4 million	New police equipment but no new jobs.
Montana	\$15 million	Upgrades for rarely used border crossing into Canada.
Washington	\$18 million	To grow and hatch fish.
Montana	\$2.2 million	Skylights for a liquor warehouse.
Oregon	\$2.25 million	To construct a 1,000 foot bike path and pedestrian facilities.

California	\$620,000	A "facelift" for skate park.
Oregon	n/a	Federal program using stimulus funds to study impact of wind farms on sage grouse population.
Colorado	\$215,000	Bike path for kids to get to school.
California	\$200,000	Restroom and showers at Lake park.
California	\$3 million	New water facility for town of 82 residents.