

# TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Havasunews.com  
Serving Lake Havasu City & The Lower Colorado River Area

[Print Page](#)

## News

### ADOT eyeing highway projects

By Tony Waggoner

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 10:12 PM MST

The Arizona Department of Transportation has begun the process of identifying ready-to-go highway projects, after receiving \$350 million in stimulus funding last week for areas throughout the state, including those considered economically distressed.

More than 100 shovel-ready highway projects were already identified at a March 3 meeting of the State Board of Transportation.

The board could make a final decision on which projects would move forward at its Friday meeting.

Approximately half of the \$350 million allocated could go to projects in rural Arizona. However none of the projects have yet to be formally funded, ADOT Public Information Officer Michele Beggs said.

Funding for ADOT projects has been divvied up into three regions, with Maricopa County receiving a bulk of the allocation at \$130 million. Pima County is expected to receive approximately \$46 million, while the remaining \$175 million would be divided between Arizona's 13 other counties.

The remaining \$175 million may not go as far as is needed, Beggs noted. As projects are being prioritized this week, Mohave County is sort of falling by the wayside.

Only one Mohave County project is tentatively among the top 10, a construct parallel roadway along southbound Ranch Road. The cost of that project is estimated at \$15 million.

While the co-sponsored landscaping project along State Route 95 in Lake Havasu City is moving forward with both ADOT and the city under different funding, only one Lake Havasu City project is among the 100 tentative projects. That project, estimated at a cost of \$400,000, is for bridge deck rehabilitation for the Lake Havasu TIUP number 1586 near the Interstate 40 and State Route 95 junction.

Lake Havasu City Interim Public Works Director Mark Clark said the city not being a priority for ADOT funds might not necessarily be a bad thing, because it could indicate the city's roads are in decent shape.

"It is an indication they have taken care of the projects in our area," Clark said.

Clark did say he was disappointed the city did not receive any funding for its landscaping project, but city officials are meeting today with officials from the Western Arizona Council of Governments to discuss alternate sources of funding for the project, which runs up and down the State Route 95 corridor in Lake Havasu City.

A majority of the Mohave County projects would be along I-40.

Priority given to the projects selected would be based upon the ability for completion within a three-year timeframe. Beggs said nothing was set in stone, as to what projects could move forward. As officials meet this week to discuss which projects could receive the definite go-ahead Friday, priorities could change, she said.

ADOT has identified economically distressed areas as low per-capita income areas of 80 percent or less of the national average.

The criteria for priority projects also must meet the ADOT definition of economically distressed areas, which includes those areas where the unemployment rate is above the national average for a 24-month period. The average must be at least 1 percent greater than the national average.

ADOT is hoping some of the shovel-ready projects could help to improve the unemployment issue. Beggs said the important part of the stimulus projects that has been overlooked somewhat are the number of jobs each project could

create. ADOT expects stimulus projects could create approximately 17,000 jobs total throughout the state.

You may contact this reporter at [twaggoner@havasunews.com](mailto:twaggoner@havasunews.com).

[RSS](#) [What is RSS?](#)

All original content Copyright © 2009 Todays News Herald and may not be reprinted without permission. Todays News Herald Online is a service of Todays News Herald, Inc. By using the site, you agree to abide and be bound by the site [Terms of Use](#), which prohibit commercial use of any information on the site. Todays News Herald is a publication of River City Newspapers Inc. All Rights Reserved.