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News

HAT to receive infrastructure, improvement funds ADOT, council members must OK project ideas

By Tony Waggoner

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One Lake Havasu City department could already be slated for stimulus funds.

Havasu Area Transit was notified by the Arizona Department of Transportation it is due to receive 100 percent of the funding for new infrastructure and improvements. On Tuesday, it will begin the process of securing those funds to begin construction on two separate projects with the City Council's go-ahead.

HAT has been allotted \$830,000 of funding from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act for the purchase of a modular building for transit operations, and a large bus lift system for the HAT fleet maintenance department.

HAT manager Gary Parsons said the solar-powered, almost completely green, modular building will house the transit department and should be built just outside the public works building, where the water tanks used to sit. Parsons said the building should cost approximately \$750,000 in stimulus funds.

Once HAT receives approval for the new building, an application, signed by City Manager Richard Kaffenberger, will be submitted to ADOT. If ADOT approves the project, Parsons said HAT could begin the bidding process. While there are no modular building contractors in Lake Havasu City, the company that accepts the bid could hire local construction workers.

According to Parsons, the modular building is to be around 4,700 square feet in size. HAT has not made any decisions on the design yet, though. Parsons said they likely would provide contractors with a layout of how many rooms are needed, and the design would go from there.

Parsons said the building would likely take around 90 days to complete. If there are no interruptions, he expects the new offices could be open by late summer.

The remaining \$80,000 will go to a maintenance lift downtown at the main HAT transfer station.

The money utilized for the infrastructure and improvements would come entirely from the ARRA, as directed by ADOT. No money would be used at the city's expense.

Both projects have been on the board for quite some time but were placed on hold before the allocation of stimulus funds. Parsons said many cities throughout Arizona are asking for stimulus funding for new transportation fleet. Since HAT replaced most of its fleet in the past few years, it was able to move forward with other projects that would have otherwise been several years down the line.

Arizona was awarded \$522 million from the ARRA statewide. Approximately \$350 million of the money allotted will go to roads, highways and transportation projects, with a majority going to Maricopa County at \$130 million. Smaller counties split \$175 million across the state.

More than 100 projects were submitted by ADOT for stimulus funding. The State Transportation Board met March 13 to allocate funding to the different counties in Arizona.

The City Council regular meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday inside the council chambers at the police facility. It is open to the public.

This item is number 19 on the council agenda.

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