



The Daily Courier

Yavapai County's News and Information Center Since 1882

CYMPO mulls uses for \$1.28M in federal stimulus money

By Cindy Barks

The Daily Courier

Saturday, March 21, 2009

PRESCOTT - Once again this week, local officials were dealing with an allocation from the federal stimulus package that came in less than expected.

When they last discussed allocations of the stimulus money, members of the [Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) learned that just \$6.6 million out of \$175 million in rural Arizona highway money would be going to a state highway project in Yavapai County - a pavement preservation project on Interstate 17 near Big Bug.

But at that time in early March, CYMPO still was holding out hope for a share of an additional \$35 million, which local officials expected to see divided among the 13 rural counties.

CYMPO Administrator Jodi Rooney reported to the executive board Wednesday, however, that the area would receive just \$1.28 million of that "sub-allocation" money from the \$787 billion federal stimulus package.

After the meeting, she explained that CYMPO officials originally expected that about \$35 million of the remaining \$156 million earmarked for local road-improvement projects would go to Arizona's 13 rural counties.

Ultimately, however, only about \$17 million of the \$156 million went to the rural counties, with the bulk of the money (\$141 million) going to Maricopa and Pima counties. That left CYMPO board members somewhat puzzled about what to do with its \$1,283,485 share.

Earlier this year, the board prioritized 11 projects for possible stimulus money, including the \$25-million project that would widen Fain Road to four lanes, and the \$21.6-million construction of the Side Road/Highway 89A interchange.

Because Fain Road was CYMPO's No. 1 priority, members considered putting the \$1.28 million toward that project.

But facing strict deadlines for when they must dedicate the money for road projects, CYMPO board members noted that the area would have to come up with the remainder of the \$25 million price tag.

That led to discussion of yet another possible source of road-improvement money from the federal stimulus package.

"Are there other sources of funding (for Fain Road)?" CYMPO Chairman Mike Flannery asked.

CYMPO board member Bill Feldmeier, a member of the State Transportation Board, responded: "I think there could be."

After the meeting, officials explained that another round of federal stimulus money might become available soon for large road projects costing \$20 million or more.

The Fain Road widening possibly could be eligible for a share of \$300 million more that likely will be available to Arizona in a second round of allocations, officials said.

Michelle Conkle, ADOT Transportation Planning director, told CYMPO that more information would be available on the \$300 million within the next several days.

That prompted the CYMPO board to delay a decision on allocating its \$1.28 million share of the earlier round of stimulus money until learning more about the fate of the \$300 million.

CYMPO likely will call a special meeting soon to make a decision on how to allocate its stimulus allocation.

Related Links

Content © 2009 Daily Courier/dCourier.com
Software © 1998-2009 **1up! Software**, All Rights Reserved