

## Nine highway projects funded

Arizona continues on its fast pace to get federally funded projects under construction to improve the state's highway system while putting thousands of people back to work.

On Friday (June 19) in Cottonwood, the state Transportation Board approved contracts for nine more American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects during its regular monthly meeting.

Most of the bids for the nine projects were well under estimates by the Arizona Department of Transportation, producing a cost savings totaling \$2.7 million. The lower-than-expected bids are attributed to the downturn in the economy, prompting higher competition for projects, and to a decrease in construction materials costs.

With the board's action in the third round of awarding ARRA contracts, there are now 24 stimulus-funded projects under contract statewide. Five already have begun construction. So far, all 24 projects under contract have yielded \$56 million savings to ADOT when compared to initial state estimates before bidding. The significant savings allows for investment in additional stimulus work around the state.

The nine ARRA projects that received contracts today are:

- I-17: SR 74 to Anthem Way and Anthem Way to New River Road in Maricopa County (widening and other improvements).
- I-17: Table Mesa traffic interchange to Rock Springs traffic interchange in Maricopa County (safety fence replacement).
- I-10: Rita Road to Houghton Road in Pima County (pavement preservation).
- I-40: Dead River Bridge in Apache County (rehabilitation and reconstruction).
- US 60: Miami city limits to McMillan Wash in Gila County (pavement preservation).
- SR 80: Tombstone streets in Cochise County (pavement preservation).
- SR 86: Santa Cruz River Bridge in Pima County (rehabilitation).
- SR 95: South of Bouse Wash in La Paz County (widening and other improvements).
- US 191: Black Hills Back Country Byway in Greenlee County (widening and other improvements).

ADOT will receive an estimated \$350 million in ARRA funds for highway projects around the state. Here's how the funds will be distributed: Maricopa County will receive \$130 million for five projects, Pima County will receive \$46 million for eight projects, and the 13 other counties in Arizona will receive \$175 million for 28 projects.

For more information about ADOT's ARRA projects, log on to [www.azdot.gov/recovery](http://www.azdot.gov/recovery).