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First local "recovery act" funded freeway project set to begin

by **Nicole McGregor** - Aug. 5, 2009 04:03 AM
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Arizona gets 350 million dollars to help with roads and bridge construction as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act swings into place with the first local project this friday.

There are 41 ARRA projects in the state, 8 in Pima County, 28 in other counties and 5 right here in Maricopa County. 12 Recovery Act projects around the state are now under construction. One Recovery Act project is already completed: SR 69 re-paving between Cordes Junction and Mayer. The first in Maricopa County starts Friday. Driven I-17 lately? Then the widening south of Carefree Highway is evident. It is not funded by ARRA but the next I-17 project will be. The extra general purpose lane (funded by ARRA) in each direction north of Carefree highway is part of the plan. Crews will re-pave over rumble strips in order to re-stripe the freeway for construction starting Friday at 10pm.

How does payment of ARRA projects work? 350 million isn't handed to the state. Instead, Laura Douglas with ADOT tells 12 News it's paid out on a reimbursement system that is consistent with all of their other federally funded projects. It is a constant cash flow. The contractor does the work, then bills ADOT. ADOT pays and then bills the Federal Highway Administration.

Recently, there has been more discussion about the plan for the 202 extension near Chandler, or the so called "South Mountain Freeway," that project, if and when it happens, does not fall under these funds. What does? The 4 other local projects are an extension of the I-10 west valley construction, two U-S 60 west valley projects, and a Loop 101 Beardsley Road traffic interchange.

For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act go to www.azdot.gov/recovery/

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