



## **RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY COUNCIL STIMULUS PACKAGE ISSUE PAPER**

---

Due to the current economic downturn, the drastic decline in public revenues and increasing construction costs, local governments in rural Arizona are unable to develop and maintain adequate infrastructure for current and future needs. Infrastructure challenges in rural Arizona typically fall into two separate categories. Many older communities with stagnant or declining populations lack adequate resources to modernize or replace deteriorating infrastructure. Other newer communities lack the resources, particularly in the current economic downturn, to develop new infrastructure to address the needs of populations that have or continue to experience rapid growth.

Historically, one of the challenges associated with local governments receiving federal money for local projects is the associated regulatory requirements needed to use the federal funding. For local transportation projects, agencies are required to follow the ADOT project development process in the development and design phases. The typical project will take 18 to 24 months to proceed from the submittal of a design concept report to a bid advertisement. The environmental determination can greatly impact the project schedule. Typical environmental determinations take 10 to 12 months from initial submittal to environmental clearance. All projects must also receive utility and right-of-way clearances. Sponsors are usually required to submit 30%, 60%, 95% and final plans for ADOT review. Local projects are then bid and administered by ADOT. Without an easing of the rules or an allowance for the increased time required for a project to become eligible for federal funding, the inclusion of many rural local projects in a federal stimulus package will be problematic. If allowances for the increased time requirements are not included, the best likely alternative for these local governments is an emphasis on state projects in rural areas.

The following are illustrative of the current infrastructure needs that can be found throughout rural Arizona. While the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council focuses on transportation development, we recognize the many infrastructure needs unassociated with transportation such as wastewater treatment and project examples are included. Airport and transit needs are also vital to rural Arizonans and information concerning those needs is being provided by other organizations.

### ***APACHE COUNTY***

- \$1.5 Million for the resurfacing of CR 3140 (Vernon-Pinetop Rd) and CR 3145.

### ***CITY OF BISBEE***

- \$10.2 Million for citywide street repairs that are currently unfunded.

### ***BULLHEAD CITY***

- \$7 Million for wastewater improvements to transition parts of City from septic to sewer including the removal of a potentially hazardous lift station along the Colorado River. The project is ready to start and could be completed within 9 months.
- \$8 Million for Neighborhood Street Improvement Plan. This project would rebuild or repair streets throughout the City that have been delayed due to a lack of funding. The project could start in four weeks and could be completed within 6 months.
- \$7 Million for improvements to Romar, Gold Rush and Arcadia Streets to address safety needs and alleviate congestion on Hwy. 95.

***COCHISE COUNTY***

- \$40 Million to construct 55 miles of reconstruction and overlay projects as part of the County's Highway and Floodplain Work Plan that has been delayed because of revenue shortfalls and increased construction costs. The project would involve improvements along six roads including some that move freight from the ports of entry to the highways and interstates.

***COCONINO COUNTY***

- \$5 Million for resurfacing of Lake Mary Road.

***GILA COUNTY***

- \$6 Million for resurfacing Forest Highway 12 (Young/Heber Highway).  
- \$25 Million for the construction of the Tonto Creek Bridge.

***CITY OF MARICOPA***

- \$9 Million for ten street projects unfunded and ready for construction including widening, signalization, and intersection improvements projects, and the paving of a dirt road.

***TOWN OF MIAMI***

- \$4.1 Million for street resurfacing that has been delayed due to a lack of funding.  
- \$12.9 Million to replace a sewer collection system that was built in the 1920's and more than 30 years past its life expectancy.  
- \$9.4 Million to construct a wastewater treatment plant to replace a current pond system and add system capacity.

***NAVAJO COUNTY***

- \$1.2 Million for Chevelon Creek Bridge rehabilitation.

***PINAL COUNTY***

- \$55 Million to construct 20 transportation projects ranging from capacity to reconstruction projects that are currently unfunded and have potential start times ranging from immediately to 6 months.

***CITY OF SHOW LOW***

- \$2 Million for Penrod Road resurfacing and shoulder improvements.

***CITY OF SIERRA VISTA***

\$3.2 Million for the reconstruction and widening of a 1.4 mile segment of Charleston Road.

***CITY OF YUMA***

- \$21.7 Million for U.S. 95 overpass widening over I.8 for congestion relief that can be ready for construction in 90 days.  
- \$14 Million for AZ Hwy. 280 overpass and highway widening. Project involves 1.2 mile stretch of road that is the main access for Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma.  
- \$20 Million for construction of a bypass and truck route requested by the Marine Corps for security that would also enhance the development of an adjacent industrial area.

For further information, please contact Kevin Adam at (480) 577-7209 or kadam@rtac.net