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Stimulus Checkup

A closer look at 100 projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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Introduction

Good jobs for millions of Americans.

Investments in priorities that create sustainable economic growth for the future.

Those were the promises made to uneasy Americans when Congress approved the $787 billion *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, or economic stimulus bill, in February.

Nine months later, with over $200 billion of stimulus funding already spent,[1] the rolls of the unemployed have grown by millions and, by any measure, more jobs have been lost than created.

Since the stimulus bill was enacted in February, nearly three million Americans have lost their jobs[2] and the percentage of people who are without work has risen to 10 percent.[3] Many who had been looking to the government for help have already lost hope.

As this and the last report, *100 Stimulus Projects: A Second Opinion*,[4] suggest, billions of dollars of stimulus funding have been wasted, mismanaged, or directed towards silly and shortsighted projects. Many projects may not produce the types of jobs that most Americans had hoped for or expected.

Some of the close to seven billion dollars in projects in *Stimulus Checkup* create few jobs; benefit private interests over the public good; or make improvements where they are not necessary. Some send money to companies facing fraud charges. Others take millions of dollars to do work local officials and experts admit are not needed or will not help.

Stimulus money has been, or will be, spent on dinner cruises, golf courses, puppet shows and stimulus road signs. Many Americans will question whether investing $787 billion in these projects are the highest national priorities.

Spending $25,000 for a puppet show may not seem like a big deal in Washington, for most Americans it is a lot of money. Washington, D.C. politicians blithely spend billions of dollars a week, but every dollar wasted is also a dollar borrowed—and a dollar to be paid back with interest in the future.

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[1] Recovery.gov website, "Overview of Funding," http://www.recovery.gov/Pages/home.aspx, accessed December 4, 2009; As of November 27, 2009, $217.6 billion of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* has been paid out. This includes 92.8 billion in "tax benefits," $60.8 billion in "contracts and grants," and $84 billion in "entitlements."
[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, Household Data, Seasonally Adjusted, "A-3. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted," ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/suppl/empsit.cpseea3.txt, accessed December 4, 2009.
[3] Bureau of Labor Statistics, News Release, "THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION – NOVEMBER 2009," December 4, 2009, http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf.
[4] Report can be found on the Website of Senator Tom Coburn, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=59af3ebd-7bf9-4933-8279-8091b533464f.

Why Does It Matter?

Over the past ten years, the national debt more than doubled as Congress went on a spending spree—and yet we still find ourselves in the midst of an economic downturn.

Americans who have lost their job, health insurance, or home, are facing mounting personal debts, but are also faced with the question of who will pay off the staggering national debt that has grown by more than $1.4 trillion over the past year.

The federal government must join American families in prioritizing its spending by making tough decisions. When we downplay wasting money on a $6 million project, it is easy to do it again ten more times. Once $60 million is out the door, it is easy to spend another $60 million and before you know it, billions of dollars we do not have are spent on things we do not need. Sadly, this type of spending is excused in Congress because "it's always been done that way."

The American people have always rejected arguments based on "it's always been done that way," and will continue to do so. Congress needs to make hard choices and eliminate things that are a low priority—even if doing so is unpopular—so we can preserve this country for future generations.

In the previous report, one hundred questionable projects were identified that did not appear to hold out promise for helping the economy grow. The Administration was quick to review these projects and to its credit addressed a number of them. In the months that followed, many more questionable stimulus projects costing millions and even billions of dollars were identified. This follow-up, *Stimulus Checkup*, takes a closer look at 100 more projects that raise questions about how stimulus money has been used so far.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator

John McCain
U.S. Senator

1. "Almost Empty" Mall Awarded Energy Grant ($5 million)

If you build it, they will come. Or, at least that is what Tom Beehan, mayor of Oak Ridge, Tennessee is hoping. He has supported a local experiment to turn a struggling shopping mall into an economic engine by converting it into one of the "greenest" malls in the area.[5] Only, the problem is that the mall has few shoppers and fewer stores.

The Department of Energy has announced an award for up to $5 million[6] to install a geothermal energy system capable of heating an "almost empty" mall in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.[7] The owners of Oak Ridge City Center are hoping the expected reductions in energy usage, and subsequent heating bills, will lure potential new tenants.[8] Just last fall, Oak Ridge city councilwoman Ellen Smith, who despite supporting the project, noted that a new geothermal HVAC system is "not much use at a shopping center unless the center has some commercial tenants." [9]

The Oak Ridge mall has been losing tenants for years, leading some to call it the "incredible shrinking mall."[10] Previous efforts to revitalize the mall were unsuccessful after developers had to return federal funds to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for failing to make any visible progress on a development plan for the mall.[11]

As far back as 1997, the local newspaper, *The Oak Ridger,* reported that, "It is no secret that the mall has been and is in trouble."[12] In recent years, local residents in Oak Ridge have seen the mall property sit quietly as investors failed to improve it. Richard Esposito, publisher of the *Oak Ridger*, noted the shabby state of the mall: "We need additional parking spaces at the Mall like a circus needs more clowns."[13]

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[5] "OR City Center wins $5M DOE grant," *The Oak Ridger*, November 3, 2009, http://www.oakridger.com/news/x558076435/OR-City-Center-wins-5M-DOE-grant.
[6] Website of Department of Energy, Press Release," Department of Energy Awards $338 Million to Accelerate Domestic Geothermal Energy," October 29, 2009, http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8233.htm; full list of projects awarded funds can be found here: http://www.energy.gov/news2009/documents2009/338M_Geothermal_Project_Descriptions.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[7] Fowler, Bob, "Oak Ridge mall project gets $5 million stimulus grant," *Knoxville News Sentinel*, November 4, 2009, http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/nov/04/or-mall-project-gets-grant/.
[8] Fowler, Bob, "Oak Ridge mall project gets $5 million stimulus grant," *Knoxville News Sentinel*, November 4, 2009, http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/nov/04/or-mall-project-gets-grant/.
[9] Ellen Smith for Oak ridge, "Green Energy for the Oak Ridge City Center (mall)," accessed November 4, 2009, http://ellensmith.org/blog/2008/09/01/green-energy-for-the-oak-ridge-city-center-mall/.
[10] Fowler, Bob, "Oak Ridge mall's value, profits fading," *Knoxville News Sentinel*, January 23, 2008, http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/jan/23/or-malls-value-profits-fading/.
[11] Fowler, Bob, "Main Street idea axed, grant returned," *Knoxville News Sentinel*, March 29, 2007.
[12] Editorial, "Our Views: Mall opening welcome news, hopeful sign," *Oak Ridger*, November 6, 1997.
[13] Esposito, Richard B., "White elephants and clowns," *The Oak Ridger*, July 18, 2006.

2. Renovations for Federal Building as Expensive as New Building ($133 million)

Taxpayers in Oregon may be surprised to learn that the largest stimulus project in their state is not a new road or bridge, but a $133 million makeover for the federal building in downtown Portland.[14] The money will go toward "greening" the Edith Green/Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in the hope of making it a model for energy efficient government offices in the Northwest.[15] That said, for $133 million some may wonder why they did not simply tear it down and start over.

It is not yet clear how all of the money will be spent—those decisions will largely be made by a contractor to be hired by the General Services Administration.[16] For now, agency officials expect to construct a type of vegetative skin—made of plants—on the exterior of the building, to help with heating and cooling costs.[17] Vegetative facades on buildings, however, are a little studied field according to some experts.[18]

In 2007, a new federal building was constructed in downtown San Francisco with similar state-of-the-art energy efficiency features for $144 million—nearly the same cost to merely renovate the Portland Federal Building.[19] Both buildings are eighteen stories tall, built with energy efficient technologies, and house federal agency offices. The major difference is that the San Francisco building is much larger, with an additional 100,000 usable square feet in comparison with its counterpart in Portland.[20]

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[14] Website of the General Services Administration, Memo of the GSA Public Buildings Service, "Federal Buildings Fund: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Spending Plan ($ in Thousands)," March 31, 2009 (rev.), http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/pbs/American_Recovery_and_Reinvestment_Act_2009.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[15] Esteve, Harry, "Portland federal building due for big green makeover," *Oregonian*, August 24, 2009, http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2009/08/portland_federal_building_due.html.
[16] FedBizOpps.gov website, Solicitation Number: GS-10P-09-LT-C-0052, accessed December 5, 2009, https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=9b33af19b714461cc45c1a874ff75868&_cview=1.
[17] Esteve, Harry, "Portland federal building due for big green makeover," *Oregonian*, August 24, 2009, http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2009/08/portland_federal_building_due.html.
[18] Ip, Kenneth, Marta Lam and Andrew Miller, "Shading performance of a vertical deciduous climbing plant canopy," *Building and Environment* (Journal), May 22, 2009, abstract found at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2009.05.003.
[19] Website of the General Services Administration, News Release, "New San Francisco Federal Building Leads the Way," #S-6-07, http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/S-6-07NewSanFranciscoFedBldgGSA.doc, accessed December 5, 2009.
[20] San Francisco Federal Building – 605,000 gross square feet, Rocky Mountain Institute, "High Performance Building: Perspective and Practice: San Francisco Federal Building," http://bet.rmi.org/files/case-studies/gsa/US_General_Services_Administration.pdf; Portland Federal Building – 500,000 square feet, FedBizOpps.gov website, https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=9b33af19b714461cc45c1a874ff75868&_cview=1.

3. DTV Advertising Agency Generates Three Jobs ($5.9 million)

An advertising agency that ultimately reported little job creation received a multi-million dollar contract to help the government overcome a poorly managed transition to digital television, only to report three jobs created.

With little more than a month to go before the nation switched over from analog to digital television (DTV), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) awarded a nearly $6 million stimulus contract to the New York advertising firm Young & Rubicam to manage outreach for "hard to reach" populations unready for DTV.[21] Leaving little time to help prepare, the multi-million dollar media relations contract was awarded on May 5, 2009, preceding the DTV switch on June 12, 2009, by only 39 days.[22]

For some time, Americans had been told by both government and television networks that the DTV switch would occur on February 18, 2009, only to see it pushed back to June, just one week before the deadline.[23] Concerns were raised that up to 20 million people were not quite ready for the transition, while large telecommunications firms such as Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Cable saw a delay as an opportunity to generate new "pay-TV" subscribers.[24]

At least one previous attempt to advertise the DTV transition went badly when in October 2008, then-FCC Chairman, Kevin Martin, spent $350,000 to sponsor NASCAR driver David Gilliland, only to see the car crash into a wall with just 15 laps to go.[25] Young and Rubicam surely hoped for a better outcome. As an economic stimulus, some may have their doubts. The advertising agency reported creating only three jobs.[26]

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[21] Recovery.gov, Contracts – Award Summary, "Young & Rubicam Inc.," Award Number CON09000005, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=30424&PopId=16603.
[22] Official Website of the Digital Television Transition, "Frequently Asked Questions," http://www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html#faq5, accessed December 6, 2009.
[23] Public Law 111-4, the DTV Delay Act, was signed into law on February 11, 2009, http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ004.111.pdf.
[24] Dixon, Kim, "Congress approves digital TV delay," *Reuters*, February 5, 2009, http://www.reuters.com/article/industryNews/idUSTRE5136YP20090205.
[25] Schatz, Amy, "FCC's Race Car to Promote Digital DV Hits the Wall," *Wall Street Journal Blog "Washington Wire,"* October 20, 2008, http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/10/20/fccs-race-car-to-promote-digital-tv-hits-the-wall/.
[26] Recovery.gov, Contracts – Award Summary, "Young & Rubicam Inc.," Award Number CON09000005, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=30424&PopId=16603, accessed December 6, 2009.

4. Research to Develop Supersonic Corporate Jets ($4.7 Million)

Lockheed Martin will receive a total of more than $21 million in federal money—with $4.7 million funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to advance research for supersonic jet travel.[27] High ticket costs, fuel-guzzling and the infamous sonic "boom" helped doom commercial supersonic travel in the past; the last Concorde jet flew in 2003.

The benefits of NASA's current research, experts say, will likely go first to business executives, who can afford one of the handful of personal supersonic jets that companies hope to roll out in several years, with a price tags in the tens of millions of dollars.[28] Lockheed itself is assisting a private bid to develop a supersonic corporate jet.[29] "Spend a cold morning in Aspen [Colorado]. Make your afternoon meeting in Paris. And be back in Chicago for dinner," says an online ad for the QSST aircraft,[30] which is expected to be able to fly at speeds approaching 1,200 miles an hour, presumably carrying whomever has $80 million to buy one.[31]

The benefit to most Americans of Lockheed's research is far off, if it even exists: while an impressive feat, commercial supersonic travel is expected to remain prohibitively expensive for decades. "The economics of commercial… supersonic jet transport are just cruelly grim," one expert recently told a reporter.[32]

One of NASA's lead scientists on the project rejects that, however. "We have brilliant people . . . that have come up with solutions that are going to make it economically viable. We're going to fly supersonically over the U.S.," said Louis Povinelli, a senior NASA scientist. "Eventually."[33]

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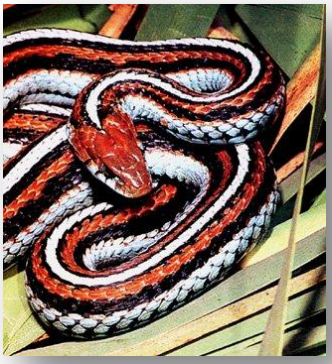
[27] Fedbizopps.gov, "Recovery Act N+2 Supersonic Validations: Advanced Concept Studies for Supersonic Commercial Transport Aircraft Entering Service in the 2018-2020 Period," Award Notice, Dec. 2, 2009, https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=fcb5241d8166be3049d9502bb69ec77a&tab=core&_cview=1, accessed Dec. 3, 2009.
[28] Mangels, John, "Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center aids in the comeback of supersonic flight," The *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Nov. 30, 2009, http://www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/11/clevelands_nasa_glenn_research.html.
[29] Website of Supersonic Aerospace International, "QSST – Frequently Asked Questions," http://www.saiqsst.com/faq.html, accessed Dec. 3, 2009.
[30] Website of Supersonic Aerospace International, "If Dreams Could Fly – 2:00 Video," http://www.saiqsst.com/video2.html, accessed Dec.3, 2009.
[31] Website of Supersonic Aerospace International, "QSST – Frequently Asked Questions," http://www.saiqsst.com/faq.html, accessed Dec. 3, 2009.
[32] Mangels, John, "Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center aids in the comeback of supersonic flight," *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Nov. 30, 2009, http://www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/11/clevelands_nasa_glenn_research.html.
[33] Mangels, John, "Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center aids in the comeback of supersonic flight," *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Nov. 30, 2009, http://www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/11/clevelands_nasa_glenn_research.html.

5.Water Pipeline to a Money-Losing Golf Course ($2.2 million)

A $2.2 million stimulus grant will help pay for new pipes to pump recycled water to the Sharp Park Golf Course in San Francisco, California.[34] Unfortunately, the golf course may not exist for much longer. The City Council is considering closing the public course over concerns for the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake that live in the area.[35]



Both endangered animals are struggling for survival, with the golf course sitting squarely in the middle of their habitat. Environmental advocates are hoping to dismantle the golf course and turn it into park land, while a determined band of golfers are hoping to have the golf course deemed an "historic landmark."[36]

While the golf course was designed by Alister Mackenzie, best known for designing Augusta National, [37] Sharp Park has not followed in Augusta's successful footsteps. The number of rounds played has decreased nearly 48 percent since 2002 and the course now operates at half of its capacity.[38] If the golf course ultimately is closed down, the usefulness of the new pipeline would be significantly reduced.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently received a recommendation from its parks director to keep the golf course open,[39] but then delayed a vote on the matter after public outcry.[40] Adding to the uncertainty of Sharp Park's future is its status as a money-loser for the city; the golf course lost $42,784 in fiscal year 2008-2009.[41] Despite these concerns, the Department of the Interior awarded the North Coast County Water District a $2.2 million grant for the creation of a recycled water pumping station, which will primarily serve the Sharp Park Golf Course.[42]

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[34] Website of the Department of the Interior, Department of the Interior Recovery Investments, "Bureau of Reclamation – Title XVI Projects," http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/bureau-of-reclamation/title-xvi-projects/, accessed December 4, 2009.
[35] King, John, "Fight continues over fate of Sharp Park Course," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 31, 2009, http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/08/31/MNRH19F83Q.DTL.
[36] King, John, "Fight continues over fate of Sharp Park Course," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 31, 2009, http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/08/31/MNRH19F83Q.DTL.
[37] Website of Sharp Park Golf Course, "Home," http://www.sharpparkgc.com/, accessed November 30, 2009.
[38] Website of the Neighbor Parks Council, "San Francisco Recreational Opportunities Study – Summary Report," http://www.sfnpc.org/files/draftyoungerreport815.pdf, accessed December 7, 2009. There were 67,463 rounds played in FY 2002-2003 and 35,000 rounds in FY 2005-2006. Total capacity is 70,000 rounds.
[39] Website of City of San Francisco, Letter from Philip Ginsburg, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Park Director to Mayor Gavin Newsom and David Chiu, President, Board of Supervisors, November 6, 2009, http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/recpark/sharp%20park%20cover%20letter%202.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[40] Freedman, Wayne, "Still no decision on fate of Sharp Park," ABC7.com (San Francisco), November 19, 2009, http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/sports/pro/golf&id=7128800.
[41] City and Council of San Francisco, "Sharp Park Budget Report," April 24, 2009, http://www.thesweetmelissa.com/files/sharp-park-budget-report.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[42] Website of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, "Proposed Sharp Park Recycled Water Project," Spring 2008, http://sfwater.org/Files/FactSheets/SharpPrkv9_bg.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.

6. Police Boat Gets High-Tech Upgrade Even As Force May be Downsized ($190,000)

The tranquil hamlet of Bainbridge Island, Washington, received $190,000 to upgrade a patrol boat for which it has little need—while it considers downsizing its police force.

Several years ago, CNN named Bainbridge Island, outside Seattle, as its number two best place to live in America, noting the island's vacation-like feel, low population (just over 20,000) and low crime rate.[43] After years of decreasing crime, the city turned to the police force as a source of budget cuts in 2009, trimming it to a force of 20.[44] At the same time it was considering cutting police, the Bainbridge Police Department was awarded a $190,000 stimulus grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to upgrade its boat.[45] Funds will be used for technology upgrades advanced enough to allow the boat to "test vapor or surfaces for microscopic traces of explosive material."[46]

This is not the first time the Bainbridge Island police force has received a federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security for advanced technology. In 2007, a $646,000 grant helped Bainbridge Island purchase a Safe Boat, normally reserved for the Coast Guard, to patrol the island.[47] Bainbridge Island officials were at first puzzled, citing little need for such an advanced boat at the small locality, though it ultimately accepted the funds.[48] "There is not another patrol boat like this anywhere in the region," police Chief Mark Duncan said at the time.[49] Noting the unusual nature of the situation, former Bainbridge police chief, Matt Haney, whose force was too small to effectively maintain and operate the boat, "We got a nice boat through a grant. But we don't have the personnel to run it."[50] A 2005 federal grant also provided Bainbridge Island with $637,000 for video surveillance and fencing.[51]

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[43] "Best Places to Live 2005: Bainbridge Island, WA," *CNNmoney.com*, http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2005/snapshots/46186.html.
[44] Baurick, Tristan, "Bainbridge Police Department May Lose Officer in Budget Cuts," *Kitsap Sun*, October 16, 2009, http://m.kitsapsun.com/news/2008/oct/16/bainbridge-police-bracing-to-lose-officer-in/.
[45] Recovery.gov, "Grants – Awards Summary: City of Bainbridge Island," http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=8488&AwardType=Grants accessed December 6, 2009; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin, No. 332, September 23, 2009, http://www.fema.gov/txt/government/grant/bulletins/info332.txt.
[46] Website of the City of Bainbridge Island (Wash), "BIPD Marine Unit, 2009 ARRA Port Security Application, Background Information," http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/documents/fin/fpc_meeting_10_20_09/marine_unit_grant.pdf.
[47] City of Bainbridge Island (Wash.), "Preliminary Monthly Financial Update, through April 30, 2009," http://ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/documents/fin/fin_2009_monthly_reports/monthly_report_with_memo.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[48] "Citizens back grant for new police boat," *Bainbridge Island Review*, October 29, 2005, http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/bir/news/19691019.html.
[49] Pritchett, Rachel, "New Island Police Boat to Make a Fair Debut," *Kitsap Sun*, May 5, 2007, http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2007/may/05/new-island-police-boat-to-make-a-fair-debut/#ixzz0UFbi5ve4.
[50] Bermant, Charlie, "First responders meet Murray to request federal support," *Central Kitsap Reporter*, January 19, 2008, http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/ckr/news/17104886.html.

7. Program to Control Home Appliances From a Remote Location ($787,250)

The next time residents of Martha's Vineyard feel their house is too cold, they may be out of luck. Fifty homes on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts will participate in a test program to allow an outside party to control their energy use, "Big Brother" style.

Using a grant for more than $787,000 in "smart grid" funding awarded by the Department of Energy,[52] the initiative will allow participating households to purchase discounted appliances from General Electric (GE) that are capable of communicating with – and being controlled by – an off-site computer system.[53] By hooking up to the off-site computers, electricity managers would be able to turn citizens' appliances on or off during different parts of the day, depending on community energy usage.

Dave McGlinchey, executive director of the Vineyard Energy Project, is excited about the program, saying, "One of the ways we're going to really get at energy use is to have smart appliances, to get in and program behavior in the home."[54] Part of the program will test the reaction of homeowners to having their appliances controlled by others.

"One of the ways we're going to really get at energy use is to have smart appliances, to get in and program behavior in the home."

McGlinchey adds, "Our joint effort with General Electric is built around their range of prototype smart appliances — fridges, water heaters, washing machines and so on — which come with a communications capacity to be controlled or adjusted remotely from a central control point."[55]

Asked how GE came to be involved in the project, he said that the idea originated with GE through an employee that lives on Martha's Vineyard.[56]

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[51] Office of Senator Patty Murray, Press Release, "More than $7.2 million for Access Control, Video Monitoring, Canine Training Facilities, & Bainbridge Island Police," September 15, 2005, http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=245800; http://www.fedspending.org/faads/faads.php?reptype=r&database=faads&record_id=8345620&detail=3&datype=T&sortby=i

[52] Department of Energy, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act page, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability, Awards for the "Smart Grid Investment Grant Program," http://www.energy.gov/recovery/smartgrid_maps/SGIGSelections_Category.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.

[53] Myrick, Steve, "Vineyard Energy Project get $700k stimulus grant," *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, October 29, 2009, http://www.mvtimes.com/marthas-vineyard/news/2009/10/29/vineyard-energy-project.php.

[54] Myrick, Steve, "Vineyard Energy Project get $700k stimulus grant," *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, October 29, 2009, http://www.mvtimes.com/marthas-vineyard/news/2009/10/29/vineyard-energy-project.php.

[55] Seccombe, Mike, "Energy Project Wins Big $800,000 Grant," *Vineyard Gazette*, October 30, 2009, http://www.mvgazette.com/article.php?23412.

[56] Seccombe, Mike, "Energy Project Wins Big $800,000 Grant," *Vineyard Gazette*, October 30, 2009, http://www.mvgazette.com/article.php?23412.

8.18-Mile Tourist Rail Extended ($2 million)

In Nevada, $2 million in stimulus money will help build a replica railroad as a tourist attraction.[57] The project, which is part of a $55 million[58] effort to reconstruct the Virginia & Truckee Railway, is designed to take train enthusiasts and other visitors on a circuitous 18-mile path between Virginia City and Carson City, Nevada.[59]

The railway has a colorful past. It is considered by historians as "the crookedest railroad in the world,"[60] a reference to its Nineteenth Century owner's shady political and business practices rather than to its physical features. Living up to its historical roots, the track currently extends from Gold Hill to just outside Mound House, a rural community that is home to a few legal brothels.[61] Stimulus funds are paying for an extension, which is about 45 percent complete.[62]

Carson City has been trying to revive the historic tracks of the V&T Railroad that were used during the Silver Rush.[63] Some believe the train will generate an influx of tourists that will bring revenue to the city and local business.[64] The project's progress has been limited because of a lack of funding since the 1990's, due mostly from a lack of interest at the local level.[65] In recent years, voters rejected a sales tax hike to help fund the tourist attraction,[66] though local officials have not been quick to reject federal stimulus funding.

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[57] Website of the Nevada Department of Transportation, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 project list," Aug. 15, 2009, http://www.nevadadot.com/projects/Stimulus/pdfs/1511_Projects_10_15_2009.pdf, accessed November 2, 2009.
[58] Website of the Virginia and Truckee Railway, "The Project," http://www.steamtrain.org/userfiles/Herritage.asp, accessed December 5, 2009.
[59] Website of the Virginia and Truckee Railway, "Route map," http://www.steamtrain.org/route_map.asp.
[60] Website of Virginia City, Nevada, "More History of the Crookedest Short Line in America by Roger Colton," http://www.vcnevada.com/history/Vnthist_RC.htm, accessed November 3, 2009.
[61] Staff Report, "V&T bridge in Mound House slated to be done by March," Nevada Appeal, January 24, 2009. http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20090124/NEWS/901249979&parentprofile=search; Goldman, Adam, "Brothels may bear budget burden," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, February 17, 2003, http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Feb-17-Mon-2003/news/20683551.html.
[62] Staff of Senator Tom Coburn interview with Nevada Department of Transportation officials, November 2, 2009.
[63] Website of the Virginia and Truckee Railway, "History," http://www.vtrailway.com/history.php, accessed December 5, 2009.
[64] Website of the Virginia and Truckee Railway, "Benefits," http://www.vtrailway.com/benefits.php, accessed December 5, 2009.
[65] Website of the Virginia and Truckee Railway, "About us," http://www.steamtrain.org/about_us.asp, accessed, December 5, 2009.
[66] Frank, Dave, "V&T, public safety ballot questions rejected by voters," *Nevada Appeal*, November 4, 2008, http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20081104/NEWS/811049920&parentprofile=search.

9. Dinner Cruise Company Gets Terrorism Prevention Money ($943,190)

Few security analysts see the dinner cruise industry as a key vulnerability in our nation's efforts to combat terrorism. But, that did not stop the Department of Homeland Security from awarding nearly $1 million to the privately-held Entertainment Cruises, LLC, to step up its security efforts.[67]

The Chicago-based company has 23 vessels in eight cities, including Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., which according to the company, help to provide "superior dining and entertainment experiences for its guests."[68] One ship, the Spirit of Boston, which received stimulus funds to pay for an alarm and surveillance system,[69] is a three-deck vessel, boasts "chic table settings," two dance floors and the "largest outdoor patio deck on Boston Harbor."[70]

In an interview on the company's blog, Dan Russell, General Manager for Chicago, said that his favorite cruise ship was the Mystic Blue: "It is very laid back atmosphere (which I really need right now), casual, good food. It's like a lounge on the water."[71]

Entertainment Cruises vice president, Gary Frommelt, noted that it was unusual for his company to get terrorism-prevention funding, "We feel that we're really a low threat for a terrorist incident. But the stimulus was a nice perk."[72]

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[67] Department of Homeland Security, Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin, No. 332, September 23, 2009, http://www.fema.gov/txt/government/grant/bulletins/info332.txt.
[68] Website of Entertainment Cruises, LLC, "About Us," http://www.entertainmentcruises.com/about/about, accessed December 6, 2009.
[69] Abelson, Jenn, "For stimulus funds, unlikely destinations," *Boston Globe*, http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/11/19/stimulus_funds_flow_but_not_all_projects_seem_to_aid_economy/?page=2., accessed December 6, 2009.
[70] Website of the Spirit of Boston, "Tour The Spirit of Boston," http://www.spiritofboston.com/bo/tour_ship.jsp, accessed December 6, 2009.
[71] Website of Entertainment Cruises, LLC (Blog), "An interview with Dan Russell, Chicago General Manager (our Chicago boats, day-to-day GM life, and a little bit of football," October 22, 2009, http://www.entertainmentcruises.com/blog/?p=314.
[72] Abelson, Jenn, "For stimulus funds, unlikely destinations," *Boston Globe*, http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/11/19/stimulus_funds_flow_but_not_all_projects_seem_to_aid_economy/?page=2, accessed December 6, 2009.

10. Hanford Nuclear Site Gets Billions for Failed Cleanup Effort ($1.9 billion)

In recent years, taxpayers have spent billions to clean up the Hanford Site in Washington State—a WWII era nuclear facility used to create plutonium. The effort has been plagued by massive cost and schedule problems—and almost no progress. Today, the site is still home to 177 underground tanks filled with 56 million gallons of nuclear waste. Since production ended in the late 1980's, the Department of Energy (DOE) has spent more than $12 billion on efforts to manage and clean up the waste, but has not yet treated a single drop.[73] Now it is receiving $1.961 billion in federal stimulus money for its cleanup efforts.[74]

Approximately 20 percent of the funding will go toward designing a system to move the waste out of the tanks, with the remaining money to be used for demolitions, decontaminating groundwater, and other efforts.[75] The department's strategy for dealing with the underground waste has changed numerous times—the current plan calls for construction of the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant to handle treatment and disposal.

Despite spending billions for two decades, the project has suffered innumerable setbacks, cost overruns and delays. In 2000, estimates put the cost of a new facility at just over $4 billion. By 2006, cost estimates more than tripled to $12.3 billion, largely due to poor management.[76] The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that, to date, "no tank waste at Hanford has been treated for final disposal, and none of the tanks has been permanently closed."[77] According to GAO, the final price tag on the cleanup may surpass $100 billion.[78] Prior to receiving stimulus funds, Washington State filed a lawsuit against DOE, which resulted in the agency pushing back the scheduled target date for completed waste cleanup from 2028 to 2047—nearly a century after some of the waste was created.[79]

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[73] Report of the Government Accountability Office, "Nuclear Waste: Uncertainties and Questions About Costs and Risks Persist With DOE's Tank Waste Cleanup Strategy at Hanford," September 2009, GAO-09-913, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09913.pdf.
[74] Website of the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Department of Ecology – Track Our Progress," October 13, 2009, http://www.ecy.wa.gov/recovery/docs/ARRAprojects_status.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[75] Manzano, Phil, "Nearly $2 billion for Hanford Cleanup," *The Oregonian*, March 31, 2009, http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/03/nearly_2_billion_for_hanford_c.html.
[76] Report of the Government Accountability Office, "Nuclear Waste: Uncertainties and Questions About Costs and Risks Persist With DOE's Tank Waste Cleanup Strategy at Hanford," September 2009, GAO-09-913, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09913.pdf.
[77] Report of the Government Accountability Office, "Nuclear Waste: Uncertainties and Questions About Costs and Risks Persist With DOE's Tank Waste Cleanup Strategy at Hanford," September 2009, GAO-09-913, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09913.pdf.
[78] Report of the Government Accountability Office, "Nuclear Waste: Uncertainties and Questions About Costs and Risks Persist With DOE's Tank Waste Cleanup Strategy at Hanford," September 2009, GAO-09-913, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09913.pdf
[79] Cary, Annette, "State, DOE reach deal on Hanford cleanup," *Tricity Herald*, August 12, 2009, http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/678510.html.

11. All Aboard The Wine Train! ($54 million)

While some major U.S. cities have still not been fully protected from the possibility of catastrophic flooding, engineers are hard at work to relocate the Napa Wine Train to prevent just that. The contractor, Suulutaaq, has received at least $54 million in stimulus funds for the project despite little to no experience with a project of this size.[80] Suulutaaq, an Alaska Native Corporation, won the contract as part of a non-competitive bidding process, sparking local concern. When the project first began, Suulutaaq's work was slower than expected, causing the firm to replace its construction managers. An Army Corps of Engineers official said that in the spring, Suulutaaq was "not performing like we expected," though performance has since improved.[81] Until receiving the Wine Train relocation project contract, the largest contract Suulutaaq had ever managed was $30 million.[82] The Napa Wine Train has proven to be a popular tourist attraction, providing, "a relaxing three hour journey along the thirty six-mile round-trip… through one of the world's most famous wine valleys."[83] One of the most popular meals on the train is the $124 Vista Dome Lunch, where guests enjoy "a complimentary glass of California sparkling wine [that] continues with a four course lunch" of their choice.[84] Sean Pramuk, the former owner of Uva Trattoria Italiana in Napa, had wanted the city to take care of other flood prevention measures before the Wine Train. "We need the Wine Train. It's good. But we're doing something first for the tourists before we're doing it for the people that are here year-round and get flooded."[85] The proposal includes building a flood wall at the Napa Wine Train station, constructing a new railroad bridge and moving the existing train track 33 feet to elevate the track to align with the new bridge.[86] Streets in the area, as well as underground utilities, will need to be raised to match the newly elevated track.[87] The Wine Train project is part of a $99 million stimulus allotment Napa received for flood control.[88]

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[80] Recovery.gov, "Suulutaaq: Contract Award summary," accessed December 5, 2009, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=53936&PopId=77274; Courtney, Kevin, "License Flap on Flood Project," *Napa Valley Register*, August 14, 2009, http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/08/14/news/local/doc4a84e337d2394214594850.txt.

[81] Courtney, Kevin, "License Flap on Flood Project," *Napa Valley Register*, August 14, 2009, http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/08/14/news/local/doc4a84e337d2394214594850.txt.

[82] Courtney, Kevin, "License Flap on Flood Project," *Napa Valley Register*, August 14, 2009, http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/08/14/news/local/doc4a84e337d2394214594850.txt.

[83] Napa Wine Train, "What is the Wine Train," http://winetrain.com/about, accessed November 20, 2009.

[84] Napa Wine Train, "Lunch," http://winetrain.com/lunch, accessed November 20, 2009.

[85] Ritter, John, "City of Napa lures wine-country tourists," *USA Today*, July 31, 2007, http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-07-30-napa_N.htm.

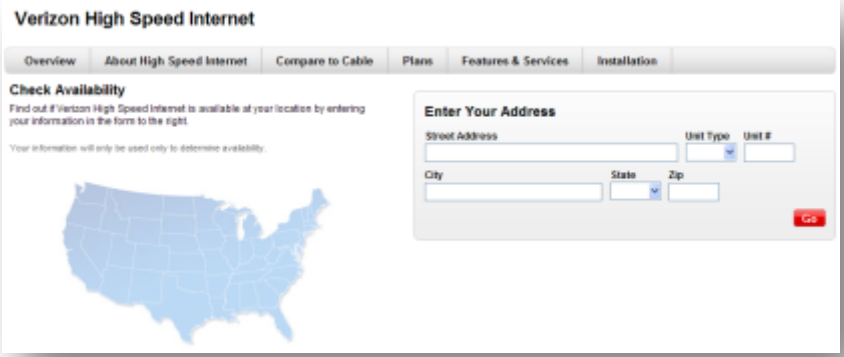
[86] Recovery.gov, "Suulutaaq: Contract Award summary," http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=53936&PopId=77274 accessed December 5, 2009.

[87] Recovery.gov, "Suulutaaq: Contract Award summary," http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=53936&PopId=77274.

[88] Website of the City of Napa, News Release from the Office of Rep. Mike Thompson, "Stimulus Contains over $99 Million for Napa Flood Project," April 28, 2009, http://www.cityofnapa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=907&Itemid=30, accessed December 5, 2009.

12. Broadband Map That May be Obsolete by the Time It's Complete ($350 million)

In just a few short years, taxpayers will be able to log onto a government website and find out if broadband services are available in their neighborhood. Using up to $350 million in stimulus funds, the Department of Commerce (DOC) will build a broadband inventory map, though some experts say it is too expensive and possibly unneeded.[89] The DOC is awarding grants to organizations that will help create a national map of all areas with access to broadband Internet services.[90] While individual telecommunications companies already have such information publicly available on their websites, this website would consolidate the information and provide users with a one-stop shop. The State of North Carolina already produces a statewide broadband map for $275,000 per year, which is a fraction of the amount to be spent by DOC. When asked about whether $350 million was a reasonable amount, Rory Altman at Altman, Vilandrie & Co., a broadband mapping consultant, said the amount was "ridiculous" and that his firm could produce a nationwide map for $3.5 million.[91] Congressional supporters were hopeful that the map would be completed in time to help award more than $7 billion in stimulus funding for broadband.[92] As it turned out, the map was not ready for grants awarded this fall, and is not likely to be completed before the release of the national broadband plan in February 2010.[93] According to DOC, the map is required to be made publicly available by February 17, 2011.[94]



[89] Svensson, Peter and Tessler, Joelle, "$100M-plus broadband map runs into cost questions," *Associated Press*, September 14, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2009-09-14-broadband-plan_N.htm.
[90] Website of the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," http://www.ntia.doc.gov/recovery/index.html, accessed December 5, 2009.
[91] Svensson, Peter and Tessler, Joelle, "$100M-plus broadband map runs into cost questions," *Associated Press*, September 14, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2009-09-14-broadband-plan_N.htm.
[92] Hansell, Saul, "Why Spend $350 Million to Map Broadband?" *Bits, New York Times Technology Blog*, February 11, 2009, http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/11/why-spend-350-million-to-map-broadband/.
[93] Svensson, Peter and Tessler, Joelle, "$100M-plus broadband map runs into cost questions," *Associated Press*, September 14, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2009-09-14-broadband-plan_N.htm.
[94] Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Association, Press Release of the, "NTIA Announces First State Broadband Mapping Grants," October 5, 2009, http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2009/BTOP_MappingAwards_091005.html, accessed December 5, 2009.

13. Grant to Fund Search for Fossils . . . In Argentina ($1.57 million)

Move over Indiana Jones! Penn State University is sending a team of researchers to search for plant fossils in Patagonia, Argentina using a $1.57 million stimulus grant from the National Science Foundation.[95] Patagonia has been a hotbed of fossil research since remains of one of the largest dinosaurs, the Puertasaurus, was found there in 2006.[96] Now, researchers are interested in unearthing fossils for plants that went extinct at the same time as the dinosaurs, hoping to understand the region's biodiversity, as well as "whether an ancient rainforest environment was present in Patagonia."[97]

14. Anti-Capitalist, Socially-Conscious Puppet Shows ($100,000)

Each spring, Minnesota is home to a nationally known Mayday parade put on by In The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOTB), which includes artists that advocate for socially progressive causes such as the elimination of fossil fuels and "free market fundamentalism."[98] The theatre derives its name from a quote popularized by Che Guevara, who in a thinly-veiled reference to the United States said, "I envy you. You North Americans are very lucky. You are fighting the most important fight of all – you live in the heart of the beast."[99] HOTB has received a grant for $25,000 to help preserve one job.[100] Elsewhere, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission used part of a $50,000[101] stimulus grant to host a series of Asian music, dance and puppet shows. The shows included a performance by the Dragon Art Studio, the only professional Beijing rod puppet theater in North America.[102] Puppets also benefited from stimulus funds in Pennsylvania, where the Spiral Q

[95] Website of the National Science Foundation, "Collaborative Research: Ancient Biodiversity Hotspot in Southern South America: Evolution of Speciose Floras in Patagonia from latest Cretaceous to meddle Eocene," August 15, 2009. Two separate awards were made under this research project: 1) Penn State University - $1,081,496, Award Abstract #0919071, http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0919071, accessed December 6, 2009; 2) Cornell University - $491,250, Award Abstract #0918932, http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0918932, accessed December 6, 2009.

[96] Roach, John, "Giant Dinosaur Discovered in Argentina," *National Geographic News*, July 28, 2006, http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/07/060728-giant-dinosaur.html; Smith, Morgan, "Giant Dinosaurs in Argentina," *Slate*, October 17, 2007, http://www.slate.com/id/2176126/.

[97] Website of Penn State University, "Grant to fund exploration of fossil plants in Patagonia," October 28, 2009, http://live.psu.edu/story/42549/rss30, accessed December 6, 2009.

[98] Website of the In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, MayDay Parade 2008, Section 1, http://www.hobt.org/mayday/history/2008/2008section1.html, accessed December 6, 2009.

[99] MacPhee, Josh, and Erik Reuland, *Realizing the Impossible: Art Against Authority*, AK Press, 2007, pg. 193.

[100] Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet And Mask Theatre," http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=6248&PopId=24911, accessed December 6, 2009.

[101] Website of the National Endowment for the Arts, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants," http://www.arts.gov/recovery/grants/ARRA-dg-bystate.php?STATE=WA, accessed December 6, 2009.

[102] Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, News Release, "North America's only professional Beijing rod puppet theater to perform at Peace Arch State Park," August 19, 2009, http://www.parks.wa.gov/newsreleases/09-060%20Beijing%20rod%20puppet%20theater%20performs%20at%20Peace%20Arch.doc, accessed December 6, 2009.

Puppet Theater won a $25,000 grant[103] to help produce socially-conscious puppet shows.[104]

15. Trail to Minnesota Twins Baseball Stadium ($484,572)

A half-million dollar bike path in Minnesota[105] will lead pedestrians and bicyclists to the doorstep of the Minnesota Twins. Local baseball fans are reportedly thrilled, but it has drawn criticism from at least one prominent local former lawmaker who thinks the trail will never be used enough to justify its cost.[106] A former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives called it "the Bermuda Triangle of boondoggles."[107] The trail, known as the Cedar Lake Trail, would begin at the stadium and lead to downtown Minneapolis.[108]

16. Inspector General Questions New Anti-Gunrunning Teams ($10 million)

Using $10 million in stimulus funding, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) plans to set up four new teams to fight Mexican gunrunners, though the Inspector General (IG) at the Department of Justice has questioned whether two of them are needed.[109] Project Gunrunner was established by ATF in order to curtail the flow of illegal guns into Mexico, which it argues promotes the drug trade back into the U.S. Calling the decision to place teams in Roswell and Las Cruces, New Mexico "questionable," the IG said Las Cruces, which is 47 miles from the border, is not "a significant source of trafficked guns." With respect to Roswell, the IG noted that the new office would be 130 miles from the border and that in 2008 only eight of 5,106 Mexican crime guns were traced to the Roswell area.[110]

17. Buffalo Residents Paid to Keep Daily Journal of Malt Liquor and Marijuana Use ($389,357)

Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo will receive nearly $390,000 to study young adults who drink malt liquor and smoke marijuana.[111] Malt liquor

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[103] Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Spiral Q Puppet Theater," http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=13809&PopId=35822, accessed December 6, 2009.
[104] Website of the Spiral Q Puppet Theater, "About Spiral Q," http://www.spiralq.org/aboutHome.html, accessed December 7, 2009.
[105] Website of the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, American Recovery and Reinvestment website, Project description, "Cedar Lake Trail, 3rd Ave N, Connection along 3rd Ave N from 12th St N to 7th St W," http://www.dot.state.mn.us/federalrecovery/lists/ARRAWEBLIST10-29.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[106] Johnson, Brian, "Critics question use of stimulus funds for bike trail in Minnesota," *Finance & Commerce* (Minneapolis, MN), July 25, 2009, http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices-regional-local/12582349-1.html.
[107] Johnson, Brian, "Critics question use of stimulus funds for bike trail in Minnesota," *Finance & Commerce* (Minneapolis, MN), July 25, 2009, http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices-regional-local/12582349-1.html.
[108] Johnson, Brian, "Critics question use of stimulus funds for bike trail in Minnesota," *Finance & Commerce* (Minneapolis, MN), July 25, 2009, http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices-regional-local/12582349-1.html.
[109] U.S. Department of Justice Inspector General Report, "Interim Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner," September 2009, Report No. I-2009-006, http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e0906.pdf; Recovery.gov, "Program Plan: Department of Justice - Firearms Programs – Integrated Violence Reduction Strategy Recovery Plan," http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/agency/reporting/agency_reporting5program.aspx?agency_code=15&progplanid=7601.
[110] U.S. Department of Justice Inspector General Report #I-2009-006, "Interim Review of ATF's Project Gunrunner," September 2009, http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e0906.pdf.
[111] Website of the Department of Health and Human Services, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Award Number 1R01AA016580-01A2, "MALT LIQUOR AND MARIJUANA: FACTORS IN THEIR CONCURRENT VERSUS SEPARATE USE," http://taggs.hhs.gov/ReadinessTool/AwardDetail.cfm?STATE_CODE=36&s_RecipID=0AACAF1FEC010705A4D79E87&s_AwardDetail=1R01AA016580-01A2, accessed December 6, 2009.

consumption is an understudied topic, according to the researchers' application, making it an obvious choice for economic stimulus funding. The study will reportedly pay 100 Buffalo-area residents $45 each to record their daily malt liquor drinking and marijuana smoking usage through an automated phone hotline.[112]

18. Oklahoma River Cruise Boats Get Transportation Funding ($1.8 million)

When Karen Ingraham of Oklahoma stepped off of an Oklahoma River Cruise boat recently, she was torn. She loved the leisure boat cruise, but when asked about it getting stimulus money, remarked, "It's wasteful."[113] The river cruise boat company will get $1.8 million in federal funds for operations and maintenance.[114] Relatively few Oklahomans may benefit from the project—the boats are averaging less than 12 passengers per trip[115] despite being able to hold 35 passengers.[116] Money for the boats comes from Oklahoma's transportation-related stimulus budget, which will also cover repairs for only 130 of the State's 7,000 deficient or obsolete bridges.[117] An application was made at the local level to fund the ferry boats with stimulus money, which was then forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Once FTA approved the application, Oklahoma officials gladly accepted the funds, "We're not the judges of a beauty contest . . . The people who write the checks, the Federal Government, they're the judges of the beauty contest."[118] One FTA employee noted that Congress has the ultimate responsibility: "If it's a transit project and the local government says it's what they need to meet their transportation needs, then the federal government by law, can't withhold funding," said Paul Griffo, agency spokesman.[119] In addition to stimulus money, a federal earmark worth $1.6 million was provided to the river cruises in 2008.[120] Millions of dollars in private funding has also been made available for the Oklahoma River Cruises, raising questions about the need for additional federal funding.[121]

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[112] Breidenbach, Michelle, "Does research into disease, ticks and malt liquor use stimulate the economy?" *Central NY Real-Time News*, July 26, 2009, http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/us_taxpayers_will_pay_162000.html.
[113] Lester, Amy, "Some Call Stimulus for OKC Ferry Boats Wasteful Spending," *NewsOn6.com*, October 29, 2009, http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11411642.
[114] Website of Oklahoma City, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 website for transportation awards, accessed November 30, 2009, http://www.okc.gov/recovery/transportation.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[115] Lester, Amy, "Some Call Stimulus for OKC Ferry Boats Wasteful Spending," *NewsOn6.com*, October 29, 2009, http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11411642.
[116] Website of Oklahoma River Cruises, "Private Cruises," http://www.okrivercruises.com/private-cruises, accessed December 6, 2009.
[117] Matthews, Gan, "Despite Stimulus Funds, Many Bridges Stay in Disrepair," *News9.com*, July 31, 2009, http://www.kwtv.com/Global/story.asp?s=10829812&clienttype=printable, accessed December 6, 2009.
[118] Lester, Amy, "Some Call Stimulus for OKC Ferry Boats Wasteful Spending," *NewsOn6.com*, October 29, 2009, http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11411642.
[119] Lester, Amy, "Some Call Stimulus for OKC Ferry Boats Wasteful Spending," *NewsOn6.com*, October 29, 2009, http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11411642.
[120] Office of Management and Budget, Earmark website, Federal Highway Administration earmark, http://earmarks.omb.gov/2008-earmarks/earmark_461249.html, accessed December 6, 2009.

19. Government Spends Money on Salaries and Overhead ($186 million)

The federal government has grown by at least 25,000 people since the beginning of the year, and agencies have spent more than $186 million on stimulus-related overhead.[122] Most of the new employees are focusing solely on implementing the stimulus, and the government does not expect those to remain as permanent jobs.[123]

20. Repaved Georgia Road . . . Getting Repaved Again ($88,000)

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contractors are using stimulus funds to repave a busy street in Atlanta—part of which was repaved just two years ago. According to the City of Atlanta, a two-block stretch of Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard had been repaved as part of a 2007 sewer project.[124] It's now being paved again as a part of another project that GDOT received $643,528 in federal stimulus money to finish.[125] It is estimated that the duplication added $88,000 to the final bill.[126] Rebecca Serna, a local bicyclist, noted that the existing road is "pretty much the smoothest ride in town right now," adding about the new project, "I don't know if it's necessary, but it's nice."[127]

"I don't know if it's necessary, but it's nice."

21. Little-Used Bridge for Beachgoers Gets a Paint Job ($3.1 million)

The William B. Umstead Bridge in North Carolina served for years as a main artery to the popular beach destination of Cape Hatteras. In 2002, the bridge was made all but obsolete by the construction of the Virginia Dare Memorial Bridge, which now carries the vast majority of traffic over the Croatan Sound.[128] Despite this, $3.5 million in stimulus funds was allotted for the Umstead Bridge project, one of five North Carolina bridges getting a new paint job with stimulus money, making it the most expensive bridge painting project in

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[121] Brus, Brian, "Oklahoma River Cruises offers themed events in second year," *The Journal* Record, April 9, 2008, found at the website of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau, http://okccvb.us/index.php?src=news&submenu=newsletter&srctype=detail&category=Journal%20Record&refno=122.
[122] Kelley, Matt, "Stimulus funds boost number of federal jobs," *USA Today*, Sept. 23, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-09-23-stimfed_N.htm.
[123] Kelley, Matt, "Stimulus funds boost number of federal jobs," *USA Today*, Sept. 23, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-09-23-stimfed_N.htm.
[124] Hart, Ariel and Swartz, Kristi E., "Stimulus funds repave smooth road making it even smoother," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, September 2, 2009, http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/stimulus-funds-repave-smooth-129571.html.
[125] Website of the Atlanta Regional Commission, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Complete List of Projects in the Atlanta MPO Area Selected for Funding," Updated October 16, 2009, http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/Complete_ARRA_Project_List.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[126] Hart, Ariel and Swartz, Kristi E., "Stimulus funds repave smooth road making it even smoother," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, September 2, 2009, http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/stimulus-funds-repave-smooth-129571.html.
[127] Hart, Ariel and Swartz, Kristi E., "Stimulus funds repave smooth road making it even smoother," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, September 2, 2009, http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/stimulus-funds-repave-smooth-129571.html.
[128] Midgett, Randy and Don Barber, "The perfect dare," *Roads and Bridges*, May 2003, Number 41, Volume 5, http://www.roadsbridges.com/The-perfect-dare-article4104.

the state.[129] A contract was recently awarded for $3.1 million to complete the work, meaning the project may not use its full allotment.[130] The Umstead Bridge is now primarily used only by local residents living in the small fishing village of Manteo[131] (pop. 1,052).[132]

22. Federal Building With Uncertain Future Gets Huge Makeover ($117 million)

An Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building that was slated to close as a cost-cutting measure is now getting a massive renovation. In 2008, 90 million tax returns were filed electronically, representing almost 60 percent of all returns and a huge decrease in the use of paper returns.[133] While less paper is good news for the taxpayer and the environment, there is considerably less need for IRS service centers around the nation that handle paper returns. At the end of 2008, the IRS made cost-cutting plans to shut down its operations for its facility in Andover, Massachusetts that managed paper tax forms.[134] Just days prior to the passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, members of Congress intervened,[135] and ultimately succeeded in keeping the center open – at least for an unspecified time. Despite the judgment of the IRS that the facility was no longer needed, the General Services Administration has awarded the Andover building $117 million for a "green building modernization."[136]

23. Studying the Icelandic Arctic Environment in the Viking Age ($94,902)

The University of Massachusetts-Boston received an almost $95,000 stimulus grant to "count pollen grains collected from farms in Iceland and allowed researchers to continue studying the role the arctic environment played in the evolution of civic life during the Viking Age."[137] Researchers will compare the environmental history of successful large

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[129] Website of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, American Recovery and Reinvestment website, "Certification Under Section 1511 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," Updated October 26, 2009, Entry listed under TIP #B-5181, http://www.ncdot.gov/download/recovery/1511_Certification.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.

[130] On July 29, 2009, the North Carolina Department of Transportation issued a Notification of Award to V.H.P. Enterprises, Inc., for a contract (No. C202359) in the amount of $3.069 million to perform this work, http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/ps/contracts/awards/2009/July/Dare.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.

[131] Midgett, Randy and Don Barber, "The perfect dare," *Roads and Bridges*, May 2003, Number 41, Volume 5, http://www.roadsbridges.com/The-perfect-dare-article4104.

[132] Website of the U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, "Manteo town, North Carolina," information based on the 2000 Census, http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&_geoContext=&_street=&_county=manteo&_cityTown=manteo&_state=04000US37&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&show_2003_tab=&redirect=Y, accessed December 4, 2009.

[133] Website of the Internal Revenue Service, News Release, "E-File Opens for 2009 With New Features to Expand Taxpayer Access, Help Speed Returns," January 14, 2009, http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=202537,00.html, accessed December 6, 2009.

[134] U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Performance Budgeting and Strategic Planning, "FY2010 Budget In Brief: Internal Revenue Service," Last updated May 7, 2009, http://www.treasury.gov/offices/management/budget/budgetinbrief/fy2010/BIB-IRS.pdf.

[135] Guilfoil, John M., "IRS asked to delay closing of Andover processing center," *Boston Globe*, February 15, 2009, http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/02/15/irs_asked_to_delay_closing_of_andover_processing_center/.

[136] General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, "Federal Buildings Fund: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Spending Plan ($ in Thousands)," http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/pbs/American_Recovery_and_Reinvestment_Act_2009.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.

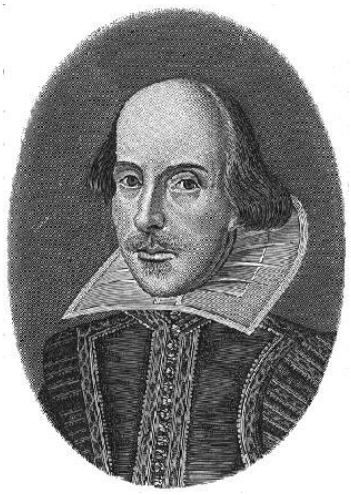
[137] Abelson, Jenn, "For stimulus funds, unlikely destinations," *Boston Globe*, November 19, 2009, http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/11/19/stimulus_funds_flow_but_not_all_projects_seem_to_aid_economy/?page=.

farmsteads against small, poor and sometimes unsuccessful farmsteads to answer basic questions about the intersecting roles of landscape change, farm production, and political economy in the early history of Iceland.[138]

24. Bobber the Water Safety Dog Costumes ($21,116)

Promoting water safety was never much fun until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spent more than $21,000[139] on mascot costumes to help kids understand the importance of wearing life vests. Bobber the Safety Dog costumes, cost approximately $2,000 each, but for that price the manufacturer promises: "Everyone that meets Bobber will find him to be a fun lovable character."[140] On one recent occasion, Bobber the Safety Dog got a chance to teach the fans of Tennessee Tech University men's basketball program about water safety by dancing at center court for several seconds with the school's mascot, Awesome Eagle.[141]

25. Shakespearean Festivals ($225,000)



To be, or not to be – that is the question for these stimulus projects. So it is, thanks to $225,000 in funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Inc., LA Shakespeare Festival, Inc. and the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C.[142] In Idaho, the funds will be used to guarantee an extra show for the 2010 Shakespeare season.[143] Most recently, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater boasted of its production of *Rod Blagojevich Superstar*, which featured an appearance by the

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[138] Website of the National Science Foundation, "Using pollen to assess local environmental variation during the Viking Age in Skagafjordur, Iceland," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0909393, accessed December 7, 2009.
[139] Recovery.gov, Contracts – Award Summary, "Robotronics, Inc.," http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=28412&AwardType=Contracts, accessed December 6, 2009.
[140] Website of Robotronics, Inc. on "Bobber the Safety Dog Costume," http://www.robotronics.com/products-topmenu-26.html?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage-ask.tpl&category_id=6&product_id=492, accessed December 6, 2009.
[141] Website of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District, video of Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Awesome Eagle: http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/dal/rec/media/Bobber_at_1st_timeout.wmv, accessed December 6, 2009.
[142] Website of the National Endowment for the Arts dedicated to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Direct Grants," http://arts.endow.gov/recovery/grants/ARRA-direct-grants.php; Information on the Utah Shakespeare Festival award can be found here: Website of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, Press Release, "Utah Organizations to Receive Stimulus Funds for Employment," September 2, 2009, http://rss.dced.utah.gov/ee/index.php/arts_news/utah_organizations_to_receive_stimulus_funds_for_employment/. All accessed December 6, 2009.
[143] Oland, Dana, "Idaho arts getting a dose of stimulus," *Idaho Statesman*, July 9, 2009, http://www.idahostatesman.com/stimulus/story/828067.html.

disgraced former governor himself for one night this past June.[144]

26. "Clown" Theatrical Production ($25,000)

Describing itself as a "dance-clown-theatre ensemble," the Pig Iron Theatre in Philadelphia is home to a successful and growing production company that recently landed a $25,000 stimulus grant.[145] According to Pig Iron officials, the funding will support a new associate artistic director as well as the costs of seven actors[146] for its latest production of *Welcome to Yuba City*. The show gives the audience the chance to see "cowboys perform a clown ballet on asphalt" and "a stunningly mean group of foulmouthed waitresses."[147] Prior to winning stimulus money, the Pig Iron Company captured public attention for its production of *Isabella*, starring a nude man contemplating his mortality in a morgue.[148]

> ". . . a stunningly mean group of foulmouthed waitresses. "

27. County Agency Mismanages Millions, Gets Millions More ($11.9 million)

Last year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) found significant mismanagement of more than $6.4 million in federal grants by Georgia's Fulton County Department of Housing and Community Development.[149] For example, HUD's inspector general identified $6.4 million in questioned costs as a result of failing to "prepare or maintain proper documentation," "conduct or document project monitoring," or "properly maintain and manage program staff." This year, the department is slated to receive $11.9 million in the stimulus Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds from HUD.[150]

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[144] Jones, Chris, "The real Rod Blagojevich meets 'Rod Blagojevich Superstar,'" *Chicago Tribune Theater Loop (blog)*, June 13, 2009, http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/the_theater_loop/2009/06/the-real-rod-blagojevich-meets-rod-blagojevich-superstar.html.

[145] Website of the National Endowment for the Arts, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Direct Grants," http://arts.endow.gov/recovery/grants/ARRA-direct-grants.php; Website of the Pig Iron Theatre Company, "About Pig Iron," http://www.pigiron.org/about, accessed December 6, 2009.

[146] Recovery.gov, Grants-Award Summary, "Pig Iron Theatre Company," http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=6344&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.

[147] Website for the 2009 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Show Description: "Welcome to Yuba City," http://www.livearts-fringe.org/details.cfm?id=6849, accessed December 6, 2009.

[148] Shapiro, Howard, "Isabella," *Philly.com*, September 1, 2007, http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/arts/fringe_isabella_090107.html.

[149] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General Audit Report # 2008-AT-1006, "Fulton County, Georgia, Lacked Adequate Controls Over Its HOME Program," March 7, 2008, http://www.hud.gov/offices/oig/reports/files/ig0841006.pdf.

[150] Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Fulton, County of," Award Number B-08-UN-13-004, http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=29763&AwardType=Grants; Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Fulton, County of," Award Number S09-UY-13-0100, http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=27296&AwardType=Grants; Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Fulton, County of," Award Number B-09-UY-13-0003, http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=33540&AwardType=Grants; Young, Alison, "Fulton repaying $3.2 million to HUD," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, July 6, 2009, http://www.ajc.com/news/fulton-repaying-84567.html. All accessed December 6, 2009.

28. Free Rides on a Water Taxi to Relieve Downtown Congestion ($1.6 million)

For just a few dollars, anyone can ride around Baltimore's Inner Harbor on the Harbor Connector, a water taxi, to enjoy wonderful views of the city and visit any number of popular attractions. Thanks to the stimulus, riding the water taxi just got a lot less expensive – free.[151] The city was awarded $1.6 million[152] to upgrade docks and purchase two new boats to be used as part of a new program to offer free rides on the water taxi in an effort to relieve road congestion downtown.[153] Roughly 150 people use the system on an average day, according to the most recent statistics provided by the city.[154]

29. Studying the Learning Patterns of Honeybees ($210,000)

$210,000 will help researchers examine how honeybees learn. The University of Hawaii scientists say the study will focus on short-term memory, concept learning, and relational learning.[155]

30. Money for Exit Polling……in Africa ($233,825)

The University of California, San Diego will use $233,825 of federal stimulus money to send four graduate students and one undergraduate student to Africa to investigate "why Africans vote the way they do" in their elections. They will "construct, manage and analyze" an exit poll to open the way to "a deeper understanding of African politics."[156]

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[151] Sernovitz, Daniel J., "Baltimore debuts free water taxi," *Baltimore Business Journal*, May 4, 2009, http://baltimore.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2009/05/04/daily6.html.
[152] Website of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, "Howard, City and MDOT Amendments to 08-12 TIP," http://www.baltometro.org/transportation-planning/howard-city-and-mdot-amendments-to-08-12-tip, accessed December 6, 2009.
[153] Sernovitz, Daniel J., "Stimulus funds to pay for new Baltimore water taxis, pier upgrades," *Baltimore Business* Journal, July 15, 2009, http://baltimore.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2009/07/13/daily22.html.
[154] Letter to Sen. Tom Coburn from Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director for Administration, City of Baltimore, September 22, 2009.
[155] Website of the National Science Foundation, Award Abstract #0845116, "Learning and Cognition in Honeybees," http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0845116, accessed December 6, 2009.
[156]Recovery.gov website, "University of California, San Diego," http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=2798&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 7, 2009.

31. Contemporary Art Sculpture: A Series of Giant Tubes ($13,000)

Thanks to $13,000 in stimulus funding, students at Southside High School in Fort Smith, Arkansas, now pass a large contemporary sculpture designed by a local architect each morning. The sculpture, a quartet of giant blue tubes at askew angles, is intended to be "something distinctive . . . a focal point of interest" to offset the school's "factory-like" appearance, Fort Smith school superintendent Benny Gooden told a local reporter.[157]

32. Surf and Squat Rest Stop in Texas ($13.8 million)

Road warriors travelling along I-10 between Houston and Beaumont, Texas will soon have two new rest stops where they can surf the Internet. The Texas Department of Transportation approved $15,500,000 in stimulus funds to go toward two safety rest areas in Chambers County,[158] though the actual costs may come in closer to $13.8 million.[159] According to Randy Redmond, Beaumont District Engineer, "this is more than a rest area."[160] Planners for the two new rest areas consider them high-tech travel centers. Not only will visitors be able to use restrooms, but they will be able to access the Internet free of charge. Each center will also offer lessons in local Texas history and the surrounding natural habitat through interactive exhibits, an interpretive center, and nature trails. Picnic tables and parking spaces for large trucks and passenger vehicles will also make the center more attractive.[161] Although construction begins in January 2010, the centers will not be completed until mid-2012.[162]

33. Study on "Hookup" Behavior of Female College Coeds ($219,000)

The National Institute of Health (NIH) is using stimulus funds to pay for a year-long $219,000 study to follow female college students for a year to determine whether young women are more likely to "hookup" — the college equivalent of casual sex — after drinking

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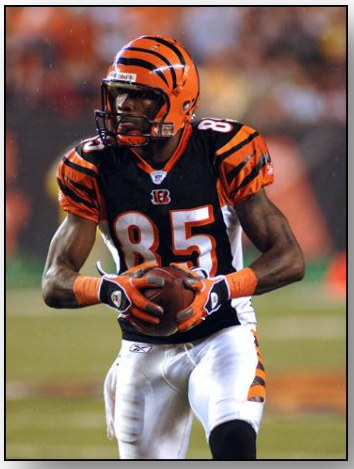
[157] City Wire Staff, "Large art structure part of high school renovation," *The City Wire*, August 5, 2009, http://www.thecitywire.com/?q=node/5468.
[158] Website of the Texas Department of Transportation, "Commission Approved Stimulus Enhancement Projects," http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/img/wfaa/09-03/EnhancementProjects032609.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[159] Website of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): State Selected Highway Program Projects," Updated October 28, 2009, http://www.h-gac.com/taq/stimulus/docs/ARRA%20Project%20List%201%20-%20State%20Selected%2010-28-09.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009; Website of Texas Department of Transportation – Beaumont, "Two Safety Rest Areas Coming to Chambers County," August 11, 2009, http://txdotbeaumont.blogspot.com/2009/08/new-travel-center-to-be-built-in.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[160] Staff Reporter, "2 rest stops coming to I-10 in Chambers County," *The Beaumont Enterprise*, November 12, 2009, http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/2_rest_stops_coming_to_i-10_in_chambers_county.html.
[161] Staff Reporter, "2 rest stops coming to I-10 in Chambers County," *The Beaumont Enterprise*, November 12, 2009, http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/2_rest_stops_coming_to_i-10_in_chambers_county.html.
[162] Staff Reporter, "2 rest stops coming to I-10 in Chambers County," *The Beaumont Enterprise*, November 12, 2009, http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/2_rest_stops_coming_to_i-10_in_chambers_county.html.

alcohol.[163] Researchers will recruit 500 female students prior to their first year of college and contact them monthly over the course of a year to document sexual hookups, noting when there is alcohol involved.[164] It is part of the $7.4 billion the NIH received in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* to support "scientific research."

34. Developing the Next Generation of Football Gloves ($150,000)



NanoGriptech, a company launched this past January and based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been awarded $150,000 by the National Science Foundation to develop technology mimicking the sticky feet of geckos.[165] The company has been in existence for less than a year, but Professor Metin Sitti with Carnegie Mellon University has already collected $450,000 in federal money for his project.[166] While in the long run, Dr. Sitti is most interested in developing applications to help robots climb difficult surfaces, in the short run he is hopeful to use his adhesive materials for "sports gloves specifically designed to provide increased grip to a football surface."[167] NanoGriptech is reported to be partnering with sporting equipment company Under Armour for "sports clothing, gloves and footwear gripping materials applications."[168]

35. Study of Wildflowers in a Ghost Town ($448,995)

A few dilapidated buildings are largely what remains in Gothic, Colorado, a ghost town that is also home to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.[169] Over the next five years, however, Gothic will host a $448,995 National Science Foundation study by Dr. David Inouye on the impact of climate change on the town's wildflowers. In recent years have been reportedly impacted by late season frost that he believes is caused by global warming.[170] According to the *Denver Post*, however, after a visit to the town this past

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[163] National Institute of Health, NIH Project Reporter Database, Title: "Alcohol Use and Health in Young Women," Project Number: 1R21AA018257-01, http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm, accessed December 6, 2009.
[164] National Institute of Health, NIH Project Reporter Database, Title: "Alcohol Use and Health in Young Women," Project Number: 1R21AA018257-01, http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_details.cfm, accessed December 6, 2009.
[165] Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Nanogriptech," Award Number NSF IIP-0930610, June 23, 2009, http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=37934&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.
[166] Stouffer, Rick, "CMU professor's super adhesive inspired by the gecko," *Tribune-Review*, September 12, 2009, http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_642851.html.
[167] Recovery.gov, Grants – Award Summary, "Nanogriptech," Award Number NSF IIP-0930610, June 23, 2009, http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=37934&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.
[168] Website of Innovation Partnership, News Release, "Recent Federal Awardees-As of 6/30/09," July 21, 2009, http://innovationpartnership.net/news/recent-federal-awardees-as-of-63009.
[169] Website of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, "History of the town of Gothic," September 1, 2009, http://www.rmbl.org/home/index.php?module=htmlpages&func=display&pid=5, accessed December 7, 2009.
[170] National Science Foundation, "Award Abstract #0922080," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0922080, accessed, September 15, 2009.

spring, with the "bounty of wildflowers filling the meadows and blooming in the crannies of Colorado's high country, you'd never guess that some of them are in trouble."[171]

36. Jazz Festivals ($400,000)

Jazz is a uniquely American art form; federal subsidies may soon be considered one as well. Ten organizations received $400,000 in grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in support of jazz clubs and festivals.[172] The Monterey Jazz Festival received $50,000, which, as the longest-running jazz festival in the world, is a weekend-long event held every year on the Monterey Fairgrounds. The three-day adult pass costs $110[173] and has featured Wynton Marsalis, among other artists.[174]

37. Another Golf Course Gets Recycled Water ($831,700)

The city of Antioch, California, will be using $831,700 in stimulus grants to build a new recycled water system[175] for use at Lone Tree Golf Course, which is owned by the city.[176] The new system will deliver nearly 179 million gallons of water per year for the golf facilities, though the projected cost savings are unclear.[177]

38. Recovering Crab Pots Lost At Sea ($700,000)

A $700,000 grant will pay for 48 people to help Oregon crabbers recover crab pots they have lost at sea.[178] The two-year project expects to yield 2,000 lost pots a year. Oregon crabbers reportedly lose an estimated 15,000 crab pots a year. The effort will use 10 boats, planes, and a telephone hotline for people to phone in crab pot sightings.[179] If all 4,000 pots are recovered as expected, the grantees will spend an average of $175 per crab pot, though John's Sporting Goods in nearby Everett, Washington sells new crab pots online for as little as $19.95.[180] At

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[171] Martin, Claire, "Future of Colorado wildflowers starting to wilt," *Denver Post*, July 19, 2009, http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_12867495.
[172] Website of the National Endowment for the Arts, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Direct Grants," http://arts.endow.gov/recovery/grants/ARRA-direct-grants.php, accessed December 6, 2009.
[173] Website of the Monterey Jazz Festival, "Press Releases," http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/2009/media/091208.php, accessed December 6, 2009.
[174] Website of the Monterey Jazz Festival, "Welcome to the 52nd Annual Monterey Jazz Festival. Presented By Verizon," http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/2009/artists/index.php, accessed September 14.
[175] Website of the Department of the Interior, Recovery Investments, "Bureau of Reclamation – Title XVI Projects," http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/bureau-of-reclamation/title-xvi-projects/, accessed December 6, 2009.
[176] Costa, Hilary, "Antioch golf course, park to get recycled water," *Contra Costa Times*, October 27, 2009, http://www.contracostatimes.com/environment/ci_13645208.
[177] Costa, Hilary, "Antioch golf course, park to get recycled water," *Contra Costa Times*, October 27, 2009, http://www.contracostatimes.com/environment/ci_13645208.
[178] Website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "NOAA Administrator Announces Stimulus Fund Awards for Habitat Restoration in Oregon," July 10, 2009, http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090710_newport.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[179] Barnard, Jeff, "Grant Aims to Retrieve Fishermens' Lost Crab Pots," *Associated Press*, July 11, 2009, http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=8059904.
[180] Website of John's Sporting Goods (Everett, Washington), "Crab and Shrimp Gear," http://www.johnssportinggoods.com/Crab%20Gear.htm?gclid=CJ2ukKH17Z0CFaM45QodcF09Lg, accessed December 6, 2009.

that price, crabbers could purchase nearly ten times as many crab pots as this program is expected to reclaim.

39. New Hampshire Buys Buses It Doesn't Need ($2 million)

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) provided the New Hampshire Department of Transportation with $2 million in stimulus money to buy four buses[181] that will create few jobs and be used by private companies. While the state will own them, the buses will be used by two commuter service bus companies, Boston Express and C&J Trailways.[182] C&J Trailways will use the new buses to replace two older buses in their fleet, but will make no new hires. The other two buses will be used by Boston Express to add additional bus service. In total, the $2 million investment is expected to create no more than "four or five" jobs for a cost of at least $400,000 per new job.[183] Proponents argue that the buses are a necessary investment because of the rising commuter bus service demand. The recession, however, has actually slowed demand for commuter service in the region. Both companies that are the beneficiaries of the buses are considered to be financially stable.[184]

40. Martini Bar and Brazilian Steak House Remodeling ($100,000)

Nothing goes better with a nice steak than a glass of red wine . . . except for a stimulus check. In late July, the St. Joseph City Council in Missouri voted[185] to allocate $25,000 in forgivable loans to a downtown martini bar and $75,000 to a Brazilian steak house.[186] The Foster Wine and Martini Bar is one of five recipients of $427,886 in Community Development Block Grant funding from the stimulus legislation.[187] $75,000 was also awarded to the ECBG LLC Brazilian steak house.[188] Owners of the martini bar consider it a place that "caters to

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[181] Website of the Federal Transit Administration, ARRA Grants Digest, "NH: $2 Million – New Hampshire Department of Transportation (ARRA Grant), http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_10261.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[182] Website of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, "Transit Capital Projects Approved," Updated July 8, 2009, http://www.nh.gov/dot/recovery/documents/transit_capital_projects_july09.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[183] Editorial, "500K Per Job: Obama Buys NH Buses," *Union Leader*, July 27, 2009, http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?articleId=1eda2371-08d9-4ada-816d-a84fc078947b&headline=%24500k+per+job%3A+Obama+buys+NH+buses.
[184] Editorial, "500K Per Job: Obama Buys NH Buses," *Union Leader*, July 27, 2009, http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?articleId=1eda2371-08d9-4ada-816d-a84fc078947b&headline=%24500k+per+job%3A+Obama+buys+NH+buses.
[185] City of St. Joseph, Missouri, "Official Proceedings of the Council of the City of St. Joseph, Missouri," http://www.stjoemo.info/clerk/min27JUL09.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[186] Thomas, Clinton, "Committee recommends 5 projects for funds," *St. Joseph News-Press & Gazette*, July 17, 2009, http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2009/jul/17/committee-recommends-5-projects-funds/; The Council of the City of St. Joseph formally approved a final contract with Foster's Refreshments, LLC, on November 2, 2009, Office of the City Clerk, "Proceedings of the Council of the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/Clerk/2Nov09Councilmtgminutes.pdf.
[187] Website of the City of St. Joseph, "CDBG-R Activity Sheet," http://www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/planning/CDBG-RActivity.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[188] Website of the City of St. Joseph, Council Agenda, September 21, 2009, https://www.stjoemo.info/clerk/ag21Sept09.pdf.

professionals who want a place to enjoy eclectic music and good conversation…A perfect place for a date."[189] That money will go to a planned expansion and renovation of the bar.[190]

41. Stimulus-Funded Workers with No Work ($3.2 million)

A stimulus-backed employment program in North Carolina spent a part of a $3.2 million grant to find part-time employment for 600 North Carolinian youths.[191] Despite offering about a million dollars in free taxpayer-funded labor, the program was unable to fill 38 of the 600 slots.[192] The main goal of the money was to provide Wake and Johnston county youth aged 16-24 with summer employment. Each of the 562 youths would get paid by federal taxpayers $7.25 per hour for 35 hours a week for seven weeks over the summer of 2009. While more than 100 businesses participated,[193] some of the free labor never found employment.[194]

42. States Spend Big Bucks on Stimulus Highway Signs ($1.3 million)

Some states have chosen to use all of their transportation stimulus money on roads and bridges, forgoing the option to advertise the projects with road signs.[195] Others have chosen to spend a great deal on signs. The state of Ohio could spend $1 million on stimulus signs[196] for road projects with Pennsylvania spending $140,000.[197] The reason: the state wants taxpayers to know "where their stimulus dollars went," said a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Transportation. Estimates are between $2,000 to $3,000 to "supply, install and remove signs" for all 365 Ohio projects.[198] New York spent nearly $100,000 on highway signs until it was shamed into halting its plans to purchase $900,000 more in signs.[199] Colorado has spent at least $55,000 on signs, prompting local politician Mike Coffman to call them "a slap in the face to the American people."[200]

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[189] Website of Foster Wine and Martini Bar, "About Us," http://www.fostersmartinibar.com/, accessed September 17, 2009
[190] "Funding requests for CDBG stimulus money," *St. Joseph News-Press & Gazette*, July 11, 2009, http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2009/jul/11/funding-requests-cdbg-stimulus-money/ .
[191] Calloway, Valonda, "Few Businesses Hire Stimulus Funded Workers," WRAL.com, June 17, 2009, http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/5378408/.
[192] Website of the Capital Area Workforce Development Board, "Capital Area Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes, August 27, 2009," http://www.capitalareawdb.com/August%2009%20WDB%20Minutes.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[193] Website of the Capital Area Workforce Development Board, "Newsroom," http://www.capitalareawdb.com/news.htm.
[194] Calloway, Valonda, "Few Businesses Hire Stimulus Funded Workers," WRAL.com, June 17, 2009, http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/5378408/.
[195] Cooper, Michael, "Some States Forgo Signs on Stimulus," *The New York Times*, October 13, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/14/us/14sign.html.
[196] Horton, John, "Signs marking stimulus projects could cost $1 million," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, September 9, 2009, http://www.allbusiness.com/transportation/road-transportation-trucking-road/12893491-1.html.
[197] Matthews, Jessica D., "State spends about $140,000 on signs for stimulus projects," *The Times-Tribune*, October 16, 2009, http://74.125.93.132/search?q=cache:zCJrC2U8dI0J:www.thetimes-tribune.com/news/business/state_spends_about_140_000_on_signs_for_stimulus_projects+pennsylvania+%24140,000+stimulus+sign&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us.
[198] Horton, John, "Ohio could spend $1 million on signs marking stimulus-funded roadwork," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, September 9, 2009, http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/09/ohio_could_spend_1_million_on.html/.
[199] Lammers, John, "New York drops expensive signs for stimulus projects," *The Post-Standard*, July 17, 2009, http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/new_york_drops_expensive_signs_1.html.
[200] Wyatt, Kristen, "Colorado will keep stimulus highway signs," *Associated Press*, September 27, 2009, http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_13433264.

43. Highway "Beautified" by Fish Art

A fish sculpture in Kennewick, Washington, was funded by the stimulus legislation and designated as a transportation enhancement.[201] The fish art can be seen in the median of a busy intersection and is part of $122,000 allocated for the Columbia Park Overlook Project to improve sidewalks and bike paths.[202]

44. Fish Food ($50 million)

The federal government is spending $50 million for aquaculture assistance – or fish food — through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.[203] This includes money to help feed tropical ornamental fish, shellfish, catfish, tilapia, and hybrid striped bass. To be accepted for funding, fish farmers must certify that the fish food makes up 25 percent of their production budget.[204] Fish are not the only water creatures to benefit from this program, though. The money can also go toward feeding alligators and turtles.[205]

45. Museum Dedicated to "Man's Relationship With the Horse" ($1.2 million)

The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, has received $1.2 million in stimulus dollars to restore "The Big Barn," and turn it into a carriage museum and visitor center.[206] In 2008, the Big Barn was slated to receive nearly a million dollars from the federal government for the same restoration,[207] although it was ultimately changed to a stimulus project.[208] Visitors will learn about the "history of surface

[201] Vargas, Lena, "Fish Art and Other Kennewick Stimulus Projects," KEPRTV.com 19, September 8, 2009, http://www.keprtv.com/news/local/57880487.html.
[202] Washington State, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Certification List, "Corrections," September 4, 2009, http://www.recovery.wa.gov/certification/20090904_certification_list_corrections.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[203] Website of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, "Overview: Farm Investments," http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arrapie?navid=PIE_FARM, accessed November 30, 2009.
[204] Federal Register, Volume 74, Number 104, Tuesday, June 2, 2009, Notices, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, "Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) To Announce Funding for the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program, Recovery Act," http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nofa.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[205] "Florida announces aquaculture grant program," *Southeast Farm Press*, June 23, 2009, http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/fish-farming-0623/.
[206] Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, "Kentucky At Work," http://kentuckyatwork.ky.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/infrastructure/Kentucky%20Transportation%20Cabinet%20TI%20September%202009.xls , information is available under Table 2 and was accessed September 18, 2009.
[207] Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, News Release, " Gov. Beshear announces more than $2.2 million in additional community development projects in Lexington," October 2, 2008, http://tea21.ky.gov/2008%20Press%20Releases/100208%20Fayette%20CMAQ%20TE.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[208] Website of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, "TE Project List with Amendments," http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/stip/2006_ammendments/2006%20stip%20te%20project%20listingwith%20amendments.xls, accessed December 6, 2009.

transportation along the designated scenic byways of the Bluegrass." The entrance fee is $15 for adults and $8 for children.[209] The park was sold to the state in 1972 and in 1978 it was opened to the public as the "world's only park dedicated to man's relationship with the horse."[210]

46. Pennsylvania Police Department Purchases Two Horses ($40,000)

The 150-officer Bethlehem Police Department now has two more recruits courtesy of the economic stimulus.[211] The department used more than $40,000 in Department of Justice stimulus grant money to purchase Hamlet and Raven, two 1,500-pound horses.[212] The horses are slated for festival duty and regular patrols in the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania historic district. This is the first time in 63 years that the department has had horses on duty.[213] At a press conference introducing the horses, the mayor of Bethlehem called them the best-looking officers in the city-wide police force.[214] Veteran officer Jeff Mouer decided to put off retirement to partner with Hamlet, saying, "I know this sounds corny, but it was one of my goals when I started in 1985."[215]

47. College Students Visit Costa Rica for Summer Studies ($564,635)

Duke University has received a $564,635 grant from the National Science Foundation to send undergraduates to Costa Rica over the next five summers to study the rainforests.[216] Each year, ten students will participate in an eight-week program at the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. Students will also be given a chance to experience Costa Rica's "ecotourism" opportunities—a brochure likewise boasts, "A short bus ride from there

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[209] Website of the Kentucky Horse Park, "Tickets and Pricing," http://www.kyhorsepark.com/sub.php?pageid=30&sectionid=2, accessed September 18, 2009.
[210] Website of the Kentucky Horse Park, "History-Directors Message," http://www.kyhorsepark.com/sub.php?pageid=31&sectionid=2, accessed September 18, 2009.
[211] Website of the City of Bethlehem, "Police Department," http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/police/, accessed September 17, 2009.
[212] Website of the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem City Council Meeting, Council Minutes, April 21, 2009, http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/city_council/agenda_minutes/archive/2009/Minutes/2009-04-21.htm; Website of the Department of Justice, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, "Fiscal Year 2009 Recovery Act Awards: BJA FY 09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Local Solicitation," http://www.ojp.gov/recovery/pdfs/arraconsolidated.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009; Malone, JD, "Bethlehem welcomes Hamlet and Raven to police force," *Express-Times*, July 14, 2009, http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2009/07/bethlehems_newest_police_offic.html.
[213] Website of the City of Bethlehem, "Police Department," http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/police/, accessed September 17, 2009.
[214] Malone, J.D., "Mounted police unit introduced to Historic Bethlehem," *Express-Times*, July 15, 2009, http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2009/07/mounted_unit_introduced_to_his.html.
[215] Malone, JD, "Mounted police unit introduced to Historic Bethlehem," *Express-Times*, July 15, 2009, http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2009/07/mounted_unit_introduced_to_his.html.
[216] National Science Foundation, "REU Site: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Tropical Biology in Costa Rica," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0851933, accessed October 7, 2009.

takes you to the capital city of San Jose, where you can experience the full variety of 'Tico' culture and cuisine."[217]

48. Pennsylvania Paves Bike Lane on Deteriorating Local Road ($2 million)

Nearly $2 million in federal stimulus is going to pave bicycle lanes in Pike and Wayne Counties of Pennsylvania,[218] even though the roadway it borders is in need of repair.[219] At least one local official has questioned why bike lanes on roads have taken precedent over lanes for automobile traffic. Township Supervisor Rich Krochta said Route 6 is in such need of repair that "maybe the cars will drive along the shoulder," where the bike lane is located.[220] While the bike lanes are taking priority, Krochta said some roads are "becoming downright dangerous."[221]

> "Maybe the cars will drive along the shoulder."

49. California Gets Money to Upgrade Computer System . . . Twice ($60 million)

The State of California has received $59.9 million in federal stimulus funds to modernize its decades-old unemployment benefits system.[222] This is the second time the state has received money for the same modernization program.[223] In 2002, the state had received $66 million in federal funds to upgrade its unemployment insurance system.[224] The initial upgrade was supposed to have been finished last year,[225] but "competing priorities and funding limitations extend the timeline for program."[226] As of January 2009, less than $12 million had been expended.[227] California manages about 12.5 percent of the country's

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[217] Website of Duke University, Organization for Tropical Studies, "Now It's Your Turn: Undergraduate Semester and Summer Programs," 2009-2010 Brochure, http://www.ots.ac.cr/images/downloads/education/undergraduate/semester-abroad/undergrad-brochure-final.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[218] Website of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, "SR 6 Bike/Shoulder imp," http://www.recovery.pa.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=525527&mode=2&projectid=57243, accessed December 6, 2009.
[219] Camuso, Pat, "Citizen Road Complaints Frustrate Supervisors," *Pike County Press*, July 23, 2009, http://pikecountypress.com/wordpress/2009/07/23/citizen-road-complaints-frustrate-supervisors/
[220] Camuso, Pat, "Citizen Road Complaints Frustrate Supervisors," *Pike County Press*, July 23, 2009, http://pikecountypress.com/wordpress/2009/07/23/citizen-road-complaints-frustrate-supervisors/.
[221] Camuso, Pat, "Citizen Road Complaints Frustrate Supervisors," *Pike County Press*, July 23, 2009, http://pikecountypress.com/wordpress/2009/07/23/citizen-road-complaints-frustrate-supervisors/.
[222] California Economic Recovery Portal, "Program: Unemployment Insurance – Special Transfer in FY 2009 for Administration," http://www.recovery.ca.gov/viewProgram.do?programTitle=Unemployment+Insurance+-+Special+Transfer+in+FY+2009+for+Administration&category=Labor&programName=10334, accessed December 4, 2009.
[223] Lin, Judy, "Stimulus Grant for California Jobless System Questioned," *Associated Press*, November 30, 2009, http://www.wtop.com/?nid=111&sid=1826005.
[224] Website of the Employment Development Department, State of California, "Unemployment Insurance Program, Business Plan 2007-2012, www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de4525.pdf, accessed December 4, 2009.
[225] Website of the California State Assembly, "Agenda- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4, on State Administration," April 21, 2009, http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/committee/c22/hearing/april%2021%20public%20-ad.doc, accessed December 4, 2009.
[226] Website of the Employment Development Department, State of California, "Unemployment Insurance Program, Business Plan 2007-2012, www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de4525.pdf, accessed December 4, 2009.
[227] Website of the California State Assembly, "Agenda- Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4, on State Administration," April 21, 2009, http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/committee/c22/hearing/april%2021%20public%20-ad.doc, accessed December 4, 2009.

unemployment claims.[228] According to a report from the state's information technology office, the initial project to improve the unemployment benefits system will not be completed until 2014.[229] California state unemployment levels were 12.5% in October.[230] Dale Jablonski, deputy director of information technology for the California Employment Development Department, described the delays and the situation was "like rebuilding an airplane while it's in the air."[231]

50. Arizona Ants Work While Some Arizonans Remain Unemployed ($950,000)

Although the unemployment rate in Arizona is still in the double digits, at least ants in the state have jobs. Two major universities in the state are receiving a combined $950,000 to examine the division of labor in ant colonies. Arizona State University was awarded $500,000 in stimulus funding by the National Science Foundation, while the University of Arizona will receive $450,000.[232] Among other things, the universities will examine larval development, ant caste systems, and "colony fitness."[233] Arizona State University will focus specifically on the genetic makeup of ants that determine distinctive roles within the ant colony.[234] The University of Arizona will utilize the information to develop "a model [for ants] to determine the optimal strategy for distributing specialists in a variable work environment."[235] Ultimately, 3.46 jobs will be created from this study—two jobs for Arizona State University and 1.46 jobs for the University of Arizona, according to Recovery.gov.[236]

51. Study On Why Young Men Do Not Like Condoms ($221,355)

Indiana University professors received $221,355 in economic stimulus funds to study why young men do not like to wear condoms. The research will "advance our understanding of…the role of cognitive and affective processes and condom application skills in explaining problems with condom use in young, heterosexual adult men," and to create "education

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[228] U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, "Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Data," http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp, accessed December 3, 2009. Divided the unemployment claims on November 14, 2009, in California (701,752) to the national unemployment claims number of 5,613,000.
[229] Lin, Judy, "Stimulus Grant for California Jobless System Questioned," *Associated Press*, November 30, 2009, http://www.wtop.com/?nid=111&sid=1826005, accessed December 4, 2009.
[230] Website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "REGIONAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT -- OCTOBER 2009," November 20, 2009, http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.nr0.htm, accessed December 3, 2009.
[231] Lin, Judy, "Stimulus Grant for California Jobless System Questioned," *Associated Press*, November 30, 2009, http://www.wtop.com/?nid=111&sid=1826005, accessed December 4, 2009.
[232] Roberts, Laurie, "Stimulus-jobs figure deceiving," *The Arizona Republic*, November 21, 2009, http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2009/11/20/20091120roberts1121.html.
[233] National Science Foundation: University of Arizona Grant #0841756 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=3716&AwardType=Grants; National Science Foundation: Arizona State University Grant #0920732 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=44379&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.
[234] National Science Foundation: Arizona State University Grant #0920732 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=44379&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.
[235] National Science Foundation: University of Arizona Grant #0841756 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=3716&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.
[236] National Science Foundation: University of Arizona Grant #0841756 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=3716&AwardType=Grants; National Science Foundation: Arizona State University Grant #0920732 http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/pages/RecipientProjectSummary508.aspx?AwardIdSur=44379&AwardType=Grants, accessed December 6, 2009.

strategies tailored to the needs of individuals who have trouble using condoms effectively."[237]

52. Firm with Tax Fraud, Pollution History Wins Road Contract ($21.8 million)

An Arizona firm won $21.8 million in stimulus-funded roadwork despite a history of tax fraud[238] and environmental violations. Fisher Sand & Gravel Co. won the contract to widen part of Arizona's Interstate 10, even though the company has a history of questionable bookkeeping[239], and recently admitted responsibility for tax fraud.[240] Three former company executives pled guilty in connection to the matter.[241] Three states (including Arizona) and the federal government have fined the firm for dozens of violations of environmental regulations.[242] The company has disputed some of the charges.

53. Agency with Habit of Losing Pricey Equipment Gets Funds for Major IT Upgrade ($85 million)

The Indian Health Service (IHS) received $85 million to buy information technology (IT)[243], despite having a record of wasteful spending and poor oversight.[244] The Government Accountability Office has repeatedly chided IHS for overbuying computers and other technology and then losing it.[245] Since 2004, GAO found, IHS could not account for over $19 million worth of IT equipment; much of it was presumably stolen. "We found that property continues to be lost or stolen at IHS at an alarming rate," GAO said in an updated report this June.[246]

54. Arkansas Teachers to Attend Education Conference ($413,124)

The Bentonville, Arkansas school district will spend $413,124 in stimulus funds for its teachers to attend a conference hosted by a private educational company – late next year.

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[237] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "National Institute of Health Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool," http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm, Searched for Project Number: 1R21HD060447-01 on November 25, 2009.
[238] Website of the Arizona Department of Transportation, "Approved Recovery Act Funded Projects in Arizona," http://www.azdot.gov/Recovery/index.asp, accessed November 30, 2009.
[239] Kolpack, Dave, "Judge says ND company ignored IRS warnings," Associated Press, Nov. 17, 2009, http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iaEN8xYRzY2h8cOKFUrRSERBc9DwD9C1K7B04.
[240] Holstege, Sean, "Bidders: ADOT didn't follow rules in awarding I-10 contract," *Arizona Republic*, July 22, 2009, http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/07/22/20090722stim-adotbid.html.
[241] Holstege, Sean, "Bidders: ADOT didn't follow rules in awarding I-10 contract," *Arizona Republic*, July 22, 2009, http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/07/22/20090722stim-adotbid.html.
[242] Berry, Jahna, "Tempe gravel firm has a history of pollution," *Arizona Republic*, Aug. 19, 2009, http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/08/19/20090819fisher0819.html.
[243] Website for the Indian Health Service, " IHS Releases $500 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Improve Health Care and Boost Economy in Indian Country", May 15, 2009. http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/PressReleases/docs/6_ARRA_release.pdf.
[244] Gabriel, Monica, "Federal Health-Care Agency That Won $85 Million Earmark for IT Program Had 10 Pieces of IT Equipment Per Worker in Its Headquarters," CNSNews.com, June 19, 2009, http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/49591.
[245] Government Accountability Office, "IHS Mismanagement Led to Millions of Dollars in Lost or Stolen Property," June 2008, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08727.pdf; Government Accountability Office, "INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE: Millions of Dollars in Property and Equipment Continue to Be Lost or Stolen," June 2009, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09450.pdf.
[246] Website of the Government Accountability Office, "INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE: Millions of Dollars in Property and Equipment Continue to Be Lost or Stolen," Government Accountability Office, June 2009, accessed, Sept. 28, 2009, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09450.pdf.

According to the district, the program — to be held in August 2010 — will focus on answering the question: "What do we do when students do not learn?"[247]

55. Firm under Criminal Investigation Awarded Construction Contract ($6.4 million)

A firm under criminal investigation, which admitted to safety failures in connection with two deaths, has received more than six million in federal stimulus funds.[248] The firm in question, Bovis Lend Lease LMB, has been under investigation over the past two years and was suspended in June from construction work with the New York Public Schools.[249] Investigators at the Federal Bureau of Investigation are reportedly scrutinizing the firm for accusations it overbilled, bribed union officials and more.[250] Bovis reportedly failed to note the ongoing inquiry when it bid for a school construction project in Brooklyn.[251] Since the June suspension, Bovis Lend Lease has received $4.4 million in stimulus funds from the General Services Administration.[252]

56. Homeland Security Funds Assist Boat Tours of Alcatraz ($50,783)

A ferry service that once contracted for the federal government will receive over $50,000 in stimulus homeland security grants, despite no longer doing any work for the government. Until a few years ago, the Blue and Gold Fleet in San Francisco, California was running a lucrative ferry business to and from Alcatraz Prison, located on an island near the city, for the National Park Service.[253] The contract brought in revenues of $13 million a year for the decade or more that Blue and Gold ran the ferry service, and the company was disappointed when it lost out to Hornblower Yachts when the contract was rebid in 2005.[254] Now, the Blue and Gold Fleet operates as a commercial ferry service around San Francisco, focusing on sightseeing tours in the San Francisco Bay.[255] Under a new port security grant, it will

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[247] Website of Bentonville (Ark.) Public Schools, "ARRA Initiative #2 – SPECIAL EDUCATION – PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT," http://www.bentonville.k12.ar.us/web/leadership/downloads/arra_initiative2.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[248] Recovery.gov, "Where is the Money Going," Search for "Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc.," http://www.recovery.gov/pages/TextViewProjSummary.aspx?data=recipientAwardsList&State=&Agency=47&AwardType=ALL&RenderData=ALL&PageNumber=4, accessed November 29, 2009.
[249] Rashbaum, William K., "Stimulus Funds Go to Company Under Cloud," *New York Times*, September 3, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/nyregion/04stimulus.html?_r=2&hp.
[250] Rashbaum, William K., "Stimulus Funds Go to Company Under Cloud," *New York Times*, September 3, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/nyregion/04stimulus.html?_r=2&hp.
[251] Rashbaum, William K., "Stimulus Funds Go to Company Under Cloud," *New York Times*, September 3, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/nyregion/04stimulus.html?_r=2&hp
[252] Recovery.gov, "Where is the Money Going," http://www.recovery.gov/pages/TextViewProjSummary.aspx?data=recipientAwardsList&State=&Agency=47&AwardType=ALL&RenderData=ALL&PageNumber=4, accessed November 29, 2009
[253] Nolte, Carl, "Hornblower Yachts picked to operate ferries to Alcatraz: Union workers at Blue and Gold dismayed at change," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 28, 2005, http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/09/28/BAGGLEV1UN1.DTL.
[254] *Blue & Gold Fleet v. U.S.,* 492 F.3d 1308 (Fed. Cir. 2007).
[255] Website of the Blue & Gold Fleet, "Escape from the Rock," http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com/Escape/index.cfm, accessed November 30, 2009.

receive $50,783 from the Department of Homeland Security as part of an effort to fund protective measures for targets of possible terrorism.[256]

57. Money for Companies with a History of Environmental or Workplace Safety Penalties ($54 million)

The New England Center for Investigative Reporting at Boston University has uncovered that, "the Massachusetts Highway Division has handed out millions in federal stimulus dollars for roadway construction to companies that have defrauded taxpayers, polluted the environment and have paid tens of thousands of dollars in fines for violating workplace safety laws."[257] "Thirteen of the 21 companies that had been awarded transportation stimulus contracts in Massachusetts as of September 30th have a history of law breaking. Massachusetts Highway Division Administrator Luisa Paiewonsky stated that "nine of those companies did not disclose the violations as required."[258] State Inspector General Gregory Sullivan said companies convicted of defrauding taxpayers … should not be allowed to bid on any state contracts. "If it were up to me, if a company is caught red-handed with their hands in the till, ripping off taxpayers. I wouldn't let them do business again," Sullivan said.[259]

58. "Math and Literacy Coaches" for North Carolina Teachers ($4.4 million)

Wake County (North Carolina) public schools have been embroiled in controversy over plans to increase classroom sizes, which have reached as high as 40 due to long-term budget constraints.[260] Yet Wake school officials are spending more than $4.4 million[261] of stimulus money on professional coaching services, despite calls from the state's governor and other state education leaders to use the money to save teacher jobs.[262] The school board is hiring 64 math and literacy "coaches" for teachers who remain on its payroll, with the goal of teaching the teachers how to teach.[263]

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[256] Website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Fiscal Year 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Transit Security - Grant Program Capital Projects," http://www.fema.gov/txt/government/grant/bulletins/info332.txt, accessed November 30, 2009.
[257] Website of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting at Boston University, Maggie Mulvihill, Joe Bergantino and Sydney Lupkin "Public Works, Hidden Violations," http://necir-bu.org/wp/?page_id=1483.
[258] Mulvihill, Maggie, Joe Bergantino, Sydney Lukin, "Many Awarded U.S. funds without full disclosure," *Boston Globe*, December 3, 2009, http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/12/03/contractors_get_work_despite_violations/?page=1.
[259] Mulvihill, Maggie, Joe Bergantino, Sydney Lukin, "Many Awarded U.S. funds without full disclosure," *Boston Globe*, December 3, 2009, http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/12/03/contractors_get_work_despite_violations/?page=2
[260] Hui, T. Keung, "Wake and state trade blame on packed classes," *Southwest Wake News*, September 8, 2009, http://www.southwestwakenews.com/schools/story/1784.html.
[261] Wake County Public Schools, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Title I (PRC-141) 2009-1010 and 2010 and 2011 Budget," 2009.
[262] Hui, T. Keung, "Wake defends how it's spending stimulus cash," *North Raleigh (N.C.) News*, September 23, 2009, http://www.northraleighnews.com/news/story/1372.html
[263] Budget document of Wake County Public Schools, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Title I (PRC-141) 2009-1010 and 2010 and 2011 Budget," 2009.

59. OSU Professor to Study Alaska Native Grandparents ($1.1 million)

The National Science Foundation will pay for a professor and two other investigators at Oklahoma State University (OSU) to study grandparent roles in "rural, semi-urban and urban areas" of the state of Alaska.[264] The study, which is being run by Professor Tammy Henderson, will hire two new employees who will be employed for the two year duration of the grant. The $1.1 million study will examine the "larger sociopolitical factors that shape grandparenthood" in Alaska.[265] Her academic team will travel to Alaska several times for the study. Getting to Alaska "is extremely expensive and so I admit there's some [travel]," Henderson said.[266]

60. Town of 838 to Renovate Old Hotel into a Welcome Center ($300,000)

Tourism may not be booming in Crofton, Kentucky (population 838),[267] but the town has received $300,000 in stimulus funds to convert an abandoned downtown hotel into a visitors' center.[268] The welcome center, proposed but unfunded for several years, "will accommodate thousands of visitors" traveling between Nashville, Tennessee, and Evansville, Indiana, according to a 2006 Kentucky State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).[269] It "will provide information about Crofton and other points of interest," including nearby Hopkinsville, Madisonville and Dawson Springs, the city's Website reports. The project also includes "bicycle racks, bicycle safety information, and landscaping."[270] A key tourist attraction in Crofton is Gordon Park, which, according to the city's website, is noted for having "Two large well-lit picnic shelters, including picnic tables, and charcoal grills."[271] Previously, the Crofton Hotel was used as a haunted house for the park, where you could still find "mannequins, a jar of fake eyeballs in blood, a casket and

[264] Website of the National Science Foundation, "Award #0909387: From Their Perspective: Alaskan Grandparents' Roles, Strengths, and Needs," August 28, 2009, http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0909387, accessed December 7, 2009.
[265] Oklahoma State University Graduate College, "Graduate Research Assistant," accessed November 3, 2009, http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/fundingDB/Alaska_Native_Grandparents_Study.pdf.
[266] Loren, Jennifer, "OSU Professor Gets $1.1 Million in Stimulus to Study Alaskan Grandparents," News9.com, September 29, 2009, http://www.news9.com/Global/story.asp?S=11227232.
[267] Americantowns.com, Crofton, KY Community Site," http://www.americantowns.com/ky/crofton, accessed November 26, 2009.
[268] Website of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, "Recovery Act – Transparency and Accountability Information by Project," Sept. 2, 2009, http://transportation.house.gov/Media/file/ARRA/Recovery%20Act%20Funds%20by%20Project%20as%20of%20August%2014%202009.xls, accessed December 6, 2009.
[269] Website of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, "Exhibit A-7 – Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – KYTC," http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/stip/2006_ammendmens/2006 stip te project listingwith amendments.xls, accessed December 6, 2009.
[270] Website of the City of Crofton, "Crofton to Receive $300,000," http://www.croftonky.com/news.html, accessed November 26, 2009.
[271] Website of the City of Crofton, "Gordon Park," http://www.croftonky.com/park.html, accessed November 26, 2009.

headstones for mass murderer Charles Manson."[272]

61. Methamphetamines and the Female Rat Sex Drive . . . ($30,000)

Researchers will spend nearly $30,000 to determine whether methamphetamine gives female rats an overpowering desire to have sex.[273] Human meth users report the drug creates "an insatiable need and urgency for sex," notes the University of Maryland researchers, and female meth users "are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors" than women who use other drugs.[274]

62. . . . Study on Mice and Alcohol ($8,408)

Researchers at Florida Atlantic University received $8,408 to study whether mice become disoriented when they consume alcohol.[275] The researchers note that "spatial navigation. . . is essential for accurate moving about," and that humans who consume alcohol have trouble with "navigation, memory and attention."[276]

63. Locals Plan Bridge Funding, Feds Insist on Paying ($5 million)

A Kansas City, Missouri, bridge will be rebuilt with the help of $5 million in federal stimulus funds[277] – after the city had already agreed to pay for it. The project was reportedly moving forward before the stimulus bill was passed, because city officials had already budgeted to pay for the project with local money.[278] When stimulus funds became available, they submitted a request to fund the bridge with federal money. In

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[272] Reed, Alan, "Century-old western Ky. hotel awaits $300K grant," *Associated Press*, September 12, 2009.
[273] Website of the National Institutes of Health, "NIH RePORTER" Database, http://projectreporter.nih.gov, searched for project # 1F31DA024943-01A1 on December 6, 2009.
[274] Website of the National Institutes of Health, "NIH RePORTER" Database, http://projectreporter.nih.gov, searched for project # 1F31DA024943-01A1 on December 6, 2009.
[275] Website of the National Institutes of Health, "NIH RePORTER" Database, http://projectreporter.nih.gov, searched for project # 3R21AA014407-03S1 in FY 2009 on December 7, 2009.
[276] Website of the National Institutes of Health, "NIH RePORTER" Database, http://projectreporter.nih.gov, searched for project # 3R21AA014407-03S1 in FY 2009 on December 7, 2009.
[277] Website of the Missouri Department of Transportation, "Final List of Projects," http://www.modot.gov/arra/documents/AttachmentA.pdf, accessed November 30, 2009.
[278] Editorial board, "KC makes aggressive bid for federal transit stimulus funds, with flaws," *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star*, August 28, 2009, http://voices.kansascity.com/node/5634.

an August editorial, the *Kansas City Star* newspaper called the funding switch "questionable" and "troubling."[279]

64. Wastewater Treatment Center with "Talking Water Gardens" ($8 million)

Oregon will use $8 million in stimulus loans for a wastewater treatment project featuring a tourist-friendly "Talking Water Gardens."[280] According to news reports, the spectacle would "funnel effluent from the city's wastewater treatment plant into wetlands…where it would be naturally cleansed and cooled down" before flowing into the Willamette River.[281] In order to spend the money as fast as possible, the city of Albany will issue a non-competitive contract for work on the project.[282] According to the city's planning document, "the waterfall component is expected to have an important acoustical impact that is the driver for the name 'Talking Water Gardens.'"[283] Local residents will also be facing an increase in sewer rates to pay for the new water treatment system.[284]

65. Obsolete Bridge Converted to Bike Path ($5.6 million)

$5.6 million in stimulus funds are slated to convert a bridge connecting Nebraska and South Dakota into a walking and biking trail.[285] South Dakota will provide $1.8 million,[286] and Nebraska has allocated $3.8 million.[287] The bridge, considered "the signature landmark" of Yankton, South Dakota, dates back to the early 1920's.[288] It was rendered obsolete by the opening of the parallel Discovery Bridge, which opened on October 11, 2009.[289] Yankton, a city

[279] Editorial board, "KC makes aggressive bid for federal transit stimulus
2009, http://voices.kansascity.com/node/5634.
[280] Website of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Letter of Award for a loan of $4 million to the City of Millersburg from Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, for a joint wetlands project with Albany, August 27, 2009, http://www.deq.state.or.us/recovery/docs/Millersburg.pdf; Letter of Award for a loan of $4 million to the City of Albany from Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, for a joint wetlands project with Millersburg, August 27, 2009, http://www.deq.state.or.us/recovery/docs/Albany.pdf.
[281] Weinstein, Nathalie, "Albany, Millersburg team up for park project," *Daily Journal of Commerce Oregon*, August 26, 2009, accessed October 2, 2009, http://djcoregon.com/news/2009/08/26/albany-millersburg-team-up-for-park-project/
[282] Staff Reporter, "Albany seeks contractor for 'Talking Gardens," *Democrat-Herald*, September 14, 2009, http://www.democratherald.com/news/local/article_e5e3e1b2-a15c-11de-9f39-001cc4c03286.html.
[283] Website of the City of Albany, "Talking Water Gardens at Simpson Park – Predesign report, http://www.cityofalbany.net/finance/bids/fulldocs/WWTP-08-2_Wetlands_Treatment_Project/3-Predesign%20Report%20-%20Talking%20Water%20Gardens%20Mar09%20WWTP-08-02.pdf, accessed November 30, 2009.
[284] Staff Reporter, "Albany seeks contractor for 'Talking Gardens," *Democrat-Herald*, September 14, 2009, http://www.democratherald.com/news/local/article_e5e3e1b2-a15c-11de-9f39-001cc4c03286.html..
[285] Johnson, Nathan, "Bridge Concerns Aired," Yankton (S.D.) *Press & Dakotan*, Sept. 15, 2009, accessed Oct. 2, 2009, http://www.yankton.net/articles/2009/09/15/community/doc4aaf1d2839ba1410386446.txt
[286] Website of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, "SDDOT Project Development and Planning," Project Location listed as: "US81 - Over the Missouri River @Yankton." http://www.sddot.com/pe/projdev/docs/EconStimulus.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[287] Recovery.Nebraska.gov, "Highway Infrastructure Investment," http://www.dor.state.ne.us/ARRA/docs/reports/11-09/11-9-09%20Updated%20Projects%20List.pdf, searched for Meridian on November 29, 2009.
[288] Website of the National Park Service, "Meridian Bridge," http://www.nps.gov/mnrr/historyculture/meridianbridge.htm, accessed Oct. 2, 2009.
[289] Website of the National Park Service, "Meridian Bridge," http://www.nps.gov/mnrr/historyculture/meridianbridge.htm, accessed Oct. 2, 2009.

of about 21,644 people,[290] is perhaps best known as the birthplace of former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, who graduated from Yankton High School in 1958.[291]

66. Youth Summer Jobs Program Fails to Put Kids to Work ($1.2 billion)

> "A half disaster . . . too little, too late and too poorly constructed . . ."

Young job seekers aged 14 to 24 years old were eligible this summer to participate in a stimulus-funded federal job training program—but nearly one in four participants reportedly could not find work, and those who did often encountered problems getting paid.[292] Nearly 80,000 youths of the program's 297,169 participants were never able to get a job after being beaten out by adults for jobs traditionally reserved for teens. According to Laura Chick, the California stimulus watchdog, "There are so many passthroughs before this program actually turns into money that helps the population it's intended to help that it's almost criminal. If the local board isn't watching what they're doing, even less money is getting to where it's supposed to go, especially if it is being siphoned off to pay for administrative expenses." [293] One critic called the program "a half-disaster… too little, too late and too poorly constructed to have any lasting effect" on the youth its creators aspired to help.[294] House and Senate appropriators had originally estimated that the $1.2 billion youth summer jobs program could create up to "one million summer jobs for youth."[295]

67. Colorado Climbing Gym Gets Renewable Energy Grant for Solar Panels ($157,800)

Boulder, Colorado, is home to more than 91,000 residents[296] and sits on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, making it the envy of rock climbers everywhere. If that wasn't enough, Boulder is also home to several indoor rock climbing gyms. But thanks in part to a federal renewable energy grant of $157,800[297], one indoor climbing facility stands out:

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[290] Website of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, "Yankton Data," http://www.yanktonedc.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=74, accessed November 29, 2009.
[291] Website of Yankton, S.D., "History of Yankton," accessed Oct. 2, 2009, http://www.yanktonsd.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144&Itemid=131
[292] Burke, Garance, "STIMULUS WATCH: Teens lack jobs despite job effort," *Associated Press*, September 23, 2009, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2009927089_apusstimulusteenjobs.html?syndication=rss.
[293] Burke, Garance, "STIMULUS WATCH: Teens lack jobs despite job effort," *Associated Press*, September 23, 2009, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2009927089_apusstimulusteenjobs.html?syndication=rss.
[294] Burke, Garance, "STIMULUS WATCH: Teens lack jobs despite job effort," *Associated Press*, September 23, 2009, http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2009927089_apusstimulusteenjobs.html?syndication=rss.
[295] Website of House and Senate Appropriations Committee, "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," February 12, 2009, http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/PressSummary02-12-09.pdf.
[296] Website of U.S. Census Bureau, "Boulder (city) QuickFacts from the U.S. Census Bureau," http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/08/0807850.html, accessed Nov. 30, 2009.
[297] Website of U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Treasury, Energy Announce $500 Million in Recovery Act Awards for Clean Energy Projects," September 1, 2009, http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/tg271.htm, accessed Nov. 30, 2009.

Movement Climbing and Fitness.[298] The gym received a Department of Energy grant to subsidize up to 30 percent of the cost of a "solar-electric and thermal-hot-water system."[299]

68. Colorado Dragon Boat Festival ($10,000)

What could be more fun than piling into a dragon-shaped boat and racing down the river? Knowing that your fun is being underwritten by taxpayers. Such was the case this year for attendees at the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, which received $10,000 to host its annual affair.[300] The fact that the festival needed stimulus funding was surprising, since attendees represent the region's higher income levels.[301]

69. Low-Priority Airports Get Money from FAA ($272 million)

At least $272 million in grants were awarded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to airports that were rated as a low priority, calling into question why the awards were made. Typically, the FAA assigns all airports a numerical score to help make determinations about funding priorities. Although the scores, ranging from 1 on the low end to 100 on the high end, are not the only variable, they are a helpful guide. Airports that receive less than a 41 are considered low-priority, though for stimulus funding more stringent factors were put into place requiring airports to achieve a score of at least 62. Despite this, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on airports that scored lower than 62, such as Pocatello Regional Airport in Idaho (31) and MBS International Airport in Michigan (38).[302]

70. Storytelling Festival in Utah ($15,000)

Everyone loves a good scary story, and some will even pay to hear one. Some even prefer to have others pay for their stories, such as at the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival in Utah, which was funded by a $15,000 stimulus grant.[303] Hosted at Mt. Timpanogos Park, the festival is held annually to exhibit great storytelling and attracts visitors from throughout

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[298] Jaffe, Mark, "Boulder gym gets $157,800," *Denver Post*, September 2, 2009, http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_13249074.
[299] Jaffe, Mark, "Boulder gym gets $157,800," *Denver Post*, September 2, 2009, http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_13249074.
[300] Colorado Council on the Arts, "Colorado Jobs In the Arts Receive $568,040 in Amercian Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds," http://www.coloarts.org/news/releases/pressrelease_9-10-09ARRA.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[301] Website of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, "Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Sponsors," http://www.cdbf.org/sponsors.htm, accessed December 6, 2009.
[302] Conkey, Christopher, "FAA Stimulus Recipients Got Low Priority Ratings," *Wall Street Journal*, October 7, 2009, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125488410700569995.html.
[303] Website for the Alliance for the Varied Arts, "AVA Recieves Stimulus Grant," http://www.avaarts.org/news.html, accessed November 30, 2009.

Utah. Festival founder, Karen Ashton, gauges success not by job growth, but by growth in storytelling. She believes, "If just one family leaves the festival and begins to share stories with each other, it will be worth it."[304]

71. Beautification of Hollywood's Sunset Strip ($1.1 million)

More than a million dollars[305] will be spent on sprucing up Sunset Strip, one of the most famous, photographed avenues in the country. The Strip – known for its neon lights, billboards and frequent celebrity sightings – is undergoing an $8 million makeover, despite the West Hollywood council's determination that it is "basically in good structural condition."[306] With an emphasis on enhancing "the pedestrian experience," the City of West Hollywood plans to organize its existing trees into "tree districts" as well as relocate street lights and fire hydrants.[307]

72. Half of Stimulus Contracts Not Competitively Bid

Almost half of the contracts that were initially awarded under the stimulus act, about $7.8 billion of $16 billion, were not subject to full and open competition or were not for a fixed price.[308] Contracts that are not subject to competition often lead to inflated prices, poor quality products and schedule delays. According to an early stimulus implementation memo, Office of Management Budget Director Peter Orzag said that competitively awarded contracts should be the first choice, "To the maximum extent practicable."[309] The listing of non-competitive contracts is published on Recovery.gov.[310]

73. Hollywood Entertainment Museum ($20,000)

A museum dedicated to promoting Hollywood has received stimulus funding to pay a portion of its general staffing costs. Featuring behind-the-camera tours of the original sets

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[304] Website of Timpanos Storytelling Festival, "History," http://www.timpfest.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=50, accessed Nov. 30, 2009.
[305] Website of the California Department of Transportation, "Transportation Project List," http://www.dot.ca.gov/Recovery/documents/committedrecoveryactprojectssept2009.pdf, accessed November 30, 2009.
[306] Website of the City of West Hollywood, "Sunset Strip Beautification Factsheet," http://www.weho.org/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/6483/, accessed November 30, 2009.
[307] Website of the City of West Hollywood, "Sunset Strip Beautification Factsheet," http://www.weho.org/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/6483/, accessed November 30, 2009.
[308] Newell, Elizabeth, "Half of stimulus contract spending falls into risky categories," *Government Executive*, October 20, 2009, http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1009/102009e1.htm.
[309] Website of Office of Management and Budget, "Initial Implementing Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/asset.aspx?AssetId=703, last accessed October 28, 2009.
[310] Recovery.gov, "Non-Competitive Non-Fixed-Price Contract Awards," http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/NonCompetitiveNonFixedContracts.aspx?RenderData=ALL, last accessed December 6, 2009.

from the hit TV show "Cheers," "Star Trek," and "X-Files," the Hollywood Entertainment Museum opened-its doors on October 5, 1996 and later closed in 2006.[311] The Museum is planning to reopen in a new Los Angeles location, greatly expanding its size and community presence. Students enrolled in programs at the Museum can visit movie studios and even make public service announcements, such as one that students made about the negative effects of eating junk food.[312] The museum offers edgy clothing items for sale. Its baby bibs are billed as helpful to keeping your baby girl stylish "as she wears her hip bib expressing her femininity."[313] Among the bib options are ones with the slogans "Diva," "Betty Poop," "hot babe," and "Aphrodite."[314] The museum will be receiving a $20,000 stimulus grant for a program manager.[315]

74. Controversial Helicopter Program Gets Stimulus Boost ($20,000)

Since 2007, Brunswick County, North Carolina has shared a helicopter with three other police jurisdictions, chipping in $20,000 a year for flight hours and maintenance. Recently, the county found itself embroiled in controversy when it became the recipient of a "free" surplus military helicopter and opted out of the time-sharing arrangement.[316] Brunswick Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Phil Norris raised concerns that, since accepting the free helicopter, the county had already spent $30,000 even before annual operations and maintenance costs – $10,000 more than the annual cost to share one.[317] Norris has argued that the county does not need a helicopter at all, and should have at least remained part of the inter-county partnership rather than acquiring its own aircraft. Now, a $19,464 federal grant will help pay for the annual storage costs as well as "portable wheels" for the helicopter.[318] The grant was accepted by the county commissioners — over

[311] Website of the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, "History of the Hollywood Entertainment Museum," http://www.hollywoodmuseum.com/history.html, accessed November 29, 2009.
[312] Website of the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, "Services & Programs," http://www.hollywoodmuseum.com/services.html, accessed November 29, 2009.
[313] Website of the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, "Baby Girl Bib Collection, http://www.hollywoodmuseumstore.com/products.cfm?fullID=8DB9D859-A40B-E1DC-DFFA80DD99CA0FEC&ID=5, accessed November 29, 2009.
[314] Website of the Hollywood Entertainment Museum "Produce Categories: Baby," http://www.hollywoodmuseumstore.com/products.cfm?ID=5, accessed November 29, 2009.
[315] Website of L.A. County Arts Commission, Press Release, "FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS TO PRESERVE JOBS IN THE ARTS IN LOS ANGELES AWARDED TO 16 ARTS ORGANIZATIONS," October 5, 2009, http://www.lacountyarts.org/UserFiles/File/publications-and-announcements/ARRA%20Press%20Release%20FINAL.pdf.
[316] Sebens, Shelby, "Brunswick commissioner regrets helicopter acquisition," *Star News Online*, September 30, 2009, http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20090930/articles/909309954?Title=Brunswick-commissioner-regrets-helicopter-acquisition.
[317] Sebens, Shelby, "Brunswick commissioner regrets helicopter acquisition," (Wilmington, North Carolina) *Star News Online*, September 30, 2009, http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20090930/articles/909309954?Title=Brunswick-commissioner-regrets-helicopter-acquisition.
[318] Website of Brunswick County, North Carolina, "Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes Oct. 19, 2009," http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/Portals/0/bcfiles/admin_minutes_101909.pdf, accessed Novembers 30, 2009.

objections that the helicopter was costly and unneeded — for "fear of losing the federal grant funds."[319]

75. Contracts Awarded to Firms Suspended for Suspected Fraud ($30 million)

Six Defense Department contractors all owned by the same individuals received nearly $30 million in stimulus contracts while under investigation for criminal fraud.[320] In late September, all six firms were suspended by the Air Force from doing any more business with the government, but got to keep the contracts already underway. By law, federal officials can cancel those contracts. They chose not to, instead remaining in a contractual relationship with the controversial firms. Typically, federal agencies must award a percentage of contracts to small businesses in order to keep them competitive with larger business. Under normal circumstances, agencies aspire to award 23 percent of all contracts to small businesses.[321] Some large firms have evaded these rules to make themselves appear small, in order to fraudulently receive special contracting opportunities — as these firms have allegedly done. In defending the decision of the department, a spokesmen adopted an ends-justify-the-means approach saying that there were no plans to rescind the contracts because the "work has been satisfactory."[322]

76. Amtrak Loses $32 Per Passenger, Rewarded with Windfall ($1.3 billion)

In 2008, Amtrak lost money on more than 93 percent of its routes, requiring an average subsidy of $32 per passenger from the federal government to stay in business.[323] Even well-travelled corridors, such as the Northeast Regional from Washington, D.C. to New York and Boston—with 7.5 million passengers—lost close to $5 a passenger.[324] Others, such as the Sunset Limited from Los Angeles to New Orleans was more anemic and had only 72,000 passengers, suffering a $462 loss for every rider.[325] Despite these significant losses, Congress awarded Amtrak with $1.3 billion in subsidies for infrastructure and security upgrades without requiring the rail company to operate in a fiscally sound manner as a condition of receipt.[326]

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[319] McGrath, Gareth, "Brunswick County board OKs $20,000 for sheriff's helicopter," *Star News Online*, October 19, 2009, http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20091019/ARTICLES/910199931.
[320] Grabell, Michael, "Defense firms in probe received $30M in stimulus money," *USA Today*, October 26, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-10-25-stimulus-contracts_N.htm.
[321] 15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1); Website of Small Business Administration, "Goaling Program," http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/goals/SBGR_2006_STATUTORY_GOALS.html, accessed December 8, 2009.
[322] Grabell, Michael, "Defense firms in probe received $30M in stimulus money," *USA Today*, October 26, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-10-25-stimulus-contracts_N.htm.
[323] Website of Subsidy Scope (a project of Pew Charitable Trusts), "Analysis Shows Amtrak Lost $32 Per Passenger in 2008," October 27, 2009, http://subsidyscope.com/projects/transportation/amtrak/.
[324] Website of Subsidy Scope (a project of Pew Charitable Trusts), "Analysis Shows Amtrak Lost $32 Per Passenger in 2008," October 27, 2009, http://subsidyscope.com/projects/transportation/amtrak/.
[325] Website of Subsidy Scope (a project of Pew Charitable Trusts), "Analysis Shows Amtrak Lost $32 Per Passenger in 2008," October 27, 2009, http://subsidyscope.com/projects/transportation/amtrak/.
[326] Recovery.gov, "Program Plan Department of Transportation - Capital Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Recovery Act Recovery Plan

77. Fire Station without Firefighters ($2 million)

The good news for Truckee Meadows in Nevada is that its application was one of 100 approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) out of 6,000 for a $2 million grant to construct a new fire station.[327] The bad news is that they cannot afford to have any firefighters work there.[328] Budgetary concerns have frustrated Washoe County commissioners as they have struggled to find money to pay for a new fire crew. Local residents rejected a 2008 proposal to raise taxes and issue bonds for the new station, which will now be paid for by federal taxpayers.[329] As the search for funds continue, Fire Chief Michael Greene has been going back to FEMA in hopes of wrangling a larger grant, though he has yet to meet with success.

78. Low Priority Waste Water Projects Getting Stimulus Funds ($47.8 million)

The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* included $3.8 billion for water and waste disposal business loans and grants.[330] The Rural Utilities Service at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds community sewers, storm water and solid waste disposal systems for cities of less than 10,000 people.[331] According to an initial assessment by the USDA Inspector General, about $47.8 million of the funds have gone to low-priority projects.[332] The Inspector General based its priority rating on whether the median income of the area served by the project is below the poverty line and if the infrastructure replacement is an emergency.[333]

79. Money for Lighthouse Repairs on Uninhabited Island (Nearly $1.5 million)

Located on a barrier island accessible only by water, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is an area that has been empty for decades.[334] However, the Department of the Interior will spend nearly $1.5 million in federal stimulus funds to fix the lighthouse and other facilities on the Refuge. The project will restore the lighthouse, living quarters and an oil shed.[335]

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http://www.recovery.gov/transparency/agency/reporting/agency_reporting5program.aspx?agency_code=69&progplanid=7633#perf, accessed November 25, 2009.

[327] Website of Washoe County, NV, "Washoe County Notified of Two Million Dollar Award in Federal Stimulus Funds for Fire Services," accessed November 30, 2009, http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/mgrsoff/mediaroom/pressreleases.php~alias=index&year2=2009&month2=9&article=5430#a5430.

[328] Voyles, Susan, "Grant to pay for fire station; who will pay for crew?" *Reno Gazette Journal*, October 23, 2009.

[329] Voyles, Susan, "Grant to pay for fire station; who will pay for crew?" *Reno Gazette Journal*, October 23, 2009.

[330] Website of the Housing Assistance Council, "Economic Stimulus FY 09," http://www.ruralhome.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=170:economic-stimulus-fy09&catid=45:announcements, accessed November 29, 2009.

[331] Website of USDA Inspector General, IG Report Number: 09601-1-At, "Controls Over Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants," June 18, 2009, http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/09601-1-AT.pdf, accessed December 8, 2009.

[332] Website of USDA Inspector General, Report Number: 09601-1-At, "Controls Over Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants," June 18, 2009, http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/09601-1-AT.pdf, accessed December 8, 2009.

[333] Website of USDA Inspector General, IG Report Number: 09601-1-At, "Controls Over Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants," June 18, 2009, http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/09601-1-AT.pdf, accessed December 8, 2009.

[334] Abelson, Jenn, "For stimulus funds, unlikely destinations," Boston Globe, November 19, 2009, http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/11/19/stimulus_funds_flow_but_not_all_projects_seem_to_aid_economy/?page=2.

[335] Website of U.S. Department of Interior, "Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge," http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/monomoy-national-wildlife-refuge/, accessed December 7, 2009.

80. College with Teachers "Unqualified to Teach in Their Fields" Receive Millions ($31.3 million)

Corinthian Colleges, Inc., a for-profit, post-secondary education company has received more than $31.3 million in stimulus funds.[336] Meanwhile, the school is under scrutiny for allegedly illegal recruitment strategies and hiring staff at campuses that "were either unqualified to teach in their . . . fields, or simply uninterested in teaching."[337] After students complained in Texas about the quality of the classes, they were told that "they would have to take the class over, at the students' expense."[338] The increase in stimulus funds is derived from the stimulus increase in Pell Grants, which 70 percent of Corinthian students receive.[339] In the last four years, Corinthian Colleges has had 83 lawsuits filed against them.[340]

81. Brooklyn Slumlord Gets Share of Stimulus Funds ($270,000)

New York City slumlords are receiving stimulus cash without having to clean up their act, despite owning properties that are riddled with housing code violations.[341] Millions have gone to buildings in which residents have complained about broken elevators, lead and even vermin. One of the properties receiving $270,602[342] in funds is a 138-unit building in Brooklyn that had "374 violations, including mold, water leaks, missing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, broken floors, mice and lead-based paint."[343] The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* provided $2 billion to property owners receiving Section 8 housing

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[336] USA Spending.gov, "Recovery Act Assistance to Recipient(s) "Corinthian Schools Inc"(FY 2009)," http://www.usaspending.gov/, search for "Corinthian Colleges INC," accessed October, 29, 2009.
[337] Kahn, Robert, "Corinthian Colleges Only Want The Money, 13 Students Say in Texas Complaint, August 28, 2009, http://www.courthousenews.com/2009/08/28/Corinthian_Colleges_Only_Want_The_Money_13_Students_Say_in_Texas_Complaint.htm.
[338] Kahn, Robert, "Corinthian Colleges Only Want The Money, 13 Students Say in Texas Complaint," *Courthouse News Service*, August 28, 2009, http://www.courthousenews.com/2009/08/28/Corinthian_Colleges_Only_Want_The_Money_13_Students_Say_in_Texas_Complaint.htm.
[339] Smith, Matt, "Stimulus Wreckage: Despite having been accused of deceptive business practices by the attorney general, former students, and ex-employees, Corinthian Colleges are getting millions in federal stimulus dollars," *SF Weekly*, September 30, 2009, http://www.sfweekly.com/2009-09-30/news/stimulus-wreckage/.
[340] Kahn, Robert, "Corinthian Colleges Only Want The Money, 13 Students Say in Texas Complaint," *Courthouse News* Service, August 28, 2009, http://www.courthousenews.com/2009/08/28/Corinthian_Colleges_Only_Want_The_Money_13_Students_Say_in_Texas_Complaint.htm.
[341] Moore, Tina, "Slumlords get share of $81M stimulus, despite code violations on buildings," *New York Daily News*, August 17, 2009, http://www.nydailynews.com/real_estate/2009/08/16/2009-08-16_slumlords_get_to_share_stimulus_pot_worth_81m_they_own_some_of_citys_most_hazard.html.
[342] Website of the United States Department of Agriculture, "USDA and HUD ARRA Projects Map Data, http://www.usda.gov/recovery/map/arra_map_data.jsp?sortBy=county&page=120, accessed on November 25, 2009 (Project 5951).
[343] Moore, Tina, "Slumlords get share of $81M stimulus, despite code violations on buildings," *New York Daily News*, August 17, 2009, http://www.nydailynews.com/real_estate/2009/08/16/2009-08-16_slumlords_get_to_share_stimulus_pot_worth_81m_they_own_some_of_citys_most_hazard.html.

subsidies,[344] although no new protections were put into place to ensure that only good landlords would receive funding.[345]

82. Protecting against Carpet Beetles ($187,632)

Carpet beetles are nibbling away at the insect collection at Michigan State University, but a $187,632 stimulus grant is expected to combat these pesky creatures. [346] Presently, the insect collection holds over a million specimens. According to MSU, the collection consists of "extensive national and international holdings, including significant specimens of the butterflies and moths, wasps and beetles."[347] The carpet beetles are eating 10-20 specimens a year.[348] The grant money will go toward replacing some current specimen cabinets with new, sealed-metal cabinets. Michigan State University scientists are expected to apply for a regular grant from the National Science Foundation in a few years to replace the remaining equipment.[349]

83. Indiana Sending Half of Weatherization Funds to Politically Active Builders Group ($66 million)

About half the $132 million[350] in state weatherization funds is going to a politically-connected lobby that has virtually no experience weatherizing houses.[351] The state is spending its weatherization funds through a new start-up program run by the Indiana Builders Association rather than through existing programs.[352] Department of Energy weatherization funding for the state of Indiana was a little over $6.5 million in 2008.[353] The stimulus expands weatherization spending by about 20 times the size of its previous entire annual program.

84. Pedestrian Bridge Few Will Use ($80,000)

Local school officials in Lincoln County, West Virginia are confused about how $80,000[354]

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[344] Website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Program Plan: Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance," http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/PLANS/Section%208%20Project-Based%20Rental%20Assistance.pdf, accessed November 25, 2009.
[345] Moore, Tina, "Slumlords get share of $81M stimulus, despite code violations on buildings," *New York Daily News*, August 17, 2009, http://www.nydailynews.com/real_estate/2009/08/16/2009-08-16_slumlords_get_to_share_stimulus_pot_worth_81m_they_own_some_of_citys_most_hazard.html.
[346] Website of National Science Foundation, "Physical renovation and electronic expansion of the A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection at Michigan State University," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0844133, last accessed November 1, 2009.
[347] Website of National Science Foundation, "Physical renovation and electronic expansion of the A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection at Michigan State University," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0844133, accessed November 1, 2009.
[348] Prater, Kathryn, "Fed grant a boon to bug collection," *Lansing State-Journal*, "October 9, 2009.
[349] Prater, Kathryn, "Fed grant a boon to bug collection," *Lansing State-Journal*, "October 9, 2009,
[350] Website of the State of Indiana, "Summary of Section 1512 Reporting," http://www.in.gov/gov/files/Press/ARRA_10302009.pdf, accessed November 25, 2009.
[351] Turner, Angela Mapes, "Weatherization cash comes with twists," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, September 24, 2009, http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090924/LOCAL/309249996
[352] Turner, Angela Mapes, "Weatherization cash comes with twists," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, September 24, 2009, http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090924/LOCAL/309249996.
[353] Website of Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center, "Indiana Weatherization Overview," http://www.waptac.org/sp.asp?id=1932, accessed November 25, 2009.
[354] Office of Governor Joe Manchin III, News Release: "Governor Manchin Announces More Than $6 Million in ARRA Grants," October 15, 2009, http://www.wvgov.org/sec.aspx?id=32&articleid=1868, accessed December 6, 2009.

was designated for a pedestrian bridge that some insist is duplicative of another project.[355] The bridge, which would allow students to cross over a road, is intended as a safety measure to keep kids out of the way of oncoming cars. School board president Carol Smith does not see how the bridge will help: "It doesn't get any students out of the road; it doesn't provide a better connection to anything; so what is it for?"[356] With some local residents calling the project a "local bridge to nowhere," other questions have surfaced about how the project will be funded. The $100,000 project requires a 20 percent local match, but the Lincoln County Commission insists that it did not know about the project and does not plan to provide any support. "I'm not willing to give a penny to it," said Charles McMann, commission president. "Whoever dreamed this up didn't give it much thought," Smith said, adding, "It doesn't accomplish anything except build a bridge beside one that is already there."[357]

85. Town Doesn't Know What to Do With Money ($25,000)

Officials in Sykesville, Maryland, have found themselves in the unusual position of receiving a $25,000 grant from the Department of Energy,[358] but according to Town Manager Matt Candland, "We haven't determined what we'll do with it." The grant is for energy efficiency measures, but there is no timeframe attached to the use of the money. Mr. Candland sought to put any concerns of taxpayers to rest, noting, "Obviously, we're going to try to make those dollars go as far as possible."[359]

86. Dance Troupe to Weatherize Homes in Washington, D.C. ($935,000)

The African Heritage Dancers and Drummers, founded in the 1960s, have long been a respected dance and cultural institution in Washington, D.C., performing in such prestigious venues as the Kennedy Center.[360] But in these tough economic times, they are also available to weatherize your house. The famed dance troupe has received a $935,000 federal weatherization grant to perform weatherization services in low-income communities throughout Washington, D.C.[361] The group plans to weatherize 112 homes at a cost of $6,500 per home, which will include replacing heating systems, hot water heaters, windows,

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[355] Gregory, Ron, "$80,000 in Stimulus funds for footbridge," *The Lincoln Journal Inc.*, http://www.lincolnjournalinc.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=4116&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2186&hn=lincolnjournalinc&he=.com

[356] Gregory, Ron, "$80,000 in Stimulus funds for footbridge," *The Lincoln Journal Inc.*, http://www.lincolnjournalinc.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=4116&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2186&hn=lincolnjournalinc&he=.com.

[357] Gregory, Ron, "$80,000 in Stimulus funds for footbridge," *The Lincoln Journal Inc.*, http://www.lincolnjournalinc.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=4116&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2186&hn=lincolnjournalinc&he=.com.

[358] Website of the Maryland Energy Administration, "Maryland Awards Additional $9.5 Million to EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities." September 14, 2009, http://www.energy.state.md.us/documents/EECBG091409final.pdf, accessed Nov. 30, 2009.

[359] Jiggetts, Jennifer, "Sykesville gets stimulus money," *Carroll County Times*, November 4, 2009, http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/articles/2009/11/04/news/local_news/7_sykesville_stimulus.txt.

[360] Website of the Kennedy Center, "African Heritage Dancers and Drummers," http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/artist_detail.cfm?artist_id=AFRIDANCDR#, accessed December 6, 2009.

[361] Information provided to the Office of Sen. Tom Coburn by the District of Columbia Department of the Environment on November 16, 2009.

doors and weather stripping.[362] A D.C. government official has said the dance troupe is like any other organization receiving a portion of the $8 million weatherization money: "These companies have been fully vetted, and they are qualified to perform weatherization work," said Keith Anderson, with the District's Department of the Environment, which oversees the program.[363]

87. SBA Loan Program Expects 60 Percent Default Rate ($255 million)

During negotiations over the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, a little-noticed program was included in the bill at the last moment that may cost taxpayers dearly. Known as the American Recovery Capital (ARC) program, and costing $255 million, it was designed to help struggling small businesses obtain government-guaranteed loans to pay off other existing loans.[364] Supporters saw that many small businesses had fallen behind on loan payments during the economic downturn, and believed that additional loans to pay down their debt would be helpful. The program design made it fiscally risky; a guarantee that taxpayers would pick up 100 percent of the tab if any ARC loans made by banks were to default. "Logic tells you this is a bad idea," noted Barry Bosworth, an economist with the Brookings Institution.[365] When the government promises in advance to pay for the losses on a private bank loan, it decreases the incentive for a bank to make prudent loans. As it turns out, Mr. Bosworth was more correct than he knew. The Small Business Administration now estimates that loans under this program will default at a rate of 60 percent.[366] Even if defaults from the stimulus funds only occur half as much as estimated, the program could cost taxpayers over $100 million dollars.

88. Removing Lead Paint from a Pedestrian Bridge ($3.5 million)

A historic bridge in Salem, Oregon is about to get a paint job and some security cameras with a $3.5 million stimulus grant from the Department of Transportation.[367] Through the years, the bridge has been painted with lead-based materials, which local officials would now like to remove. The Union Street Railroad Bridge, built in the early 20th Century, has been closed to trains for decades and has recently been converted to a pedestrian thoroughfare over the Willamette River. Attempting to underscore the importance of the

[362] Information provided to the Office of Sen. Tom Coburn by the District of Colu
November 16, 2009.
[363] "Dance Troupe and Other Non-Profits Boosted by Weatherization Program," http://wamu.org/news/09/10/26.php.
[364] Website of Small Business Administration, "SBA ARC Loan Program," http://www.sba.gov/recovery/arcloanprogram/index.html, accessed November 30, 2009.
[365] Kindy, Kimberly, "SBA bailouts draw little notice," *Washington Post*, November 6, 2009, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/05/AR2009110505178.html.
[366] Kindy, Kimberly, "SBA bailouts draw little notice," *Washington Post*, November 6, 2009, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/05/AR2009110505178.html.
[367] Website of the State of Oregon, "ARRA Funded Projects Approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission - Update 9/3/2009," http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/recovery/ARRA_List_for_Web_090309.pdf; Website of the City of Salem, background information on "Union Street Railroad Pedestrian & Bicycle Bridge," http://www.cityofsalem.net/unionbridge, accessed December 6, 2009.

bridge to local economic growth, Todd Klocke with the City of Salem, told a reporter, "There have been talks about half marathons or other events using the bridge, we have also heard about a couple that want to get married on the bridge in the spring."[368]

89. School District Splurges on *iPod Touches* (75,129)

The Paragould, Arkansas, School District is getting a makeover thanks to the stimulus. The school board voted to spend the District's Title I stimulus dollars, which total about $404,000 on instructional items, such as computers, software, and iPods. Paragould's Woodrow Wilson Elementary School is using $75,129 in stimulus dollars to outfit an *iPod Touch* lab.[369] Eli Williams, a student, noted, "It's awesome, I've asked for one for Christmas, it's just crazy how much stuff you can do on these things."[370]

90. Global Warming Field Trip to Copenhagen for 11 Students ($49,818)

Eleven students and four teachers from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks will be in attendance at the United Nations Convention of Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark using a nearly $50,000 stimulus grant to get there.[371] While in Copenhagen, "the students will meet with students and faculty from the Department of Eskimology at the University of Copenhagen, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, the Indigenous People's Secretariat of the Arctic Council, and the Greenland Home Rule Government."[372] In the end, the lesson learned by the students will be a mixed one: a trip from Alaska to Copenhagen, Denmark for all 15 passengers will result in the emission of 53,940 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air travel alone.[373] In Fairbanks, that is the same amount of carbon emissions produced to heat and light approximately two single family homes for an entire year.[374]

91. Audit Finds Abuse of Tax Credit Program ($504 million)

A report from the Treasury Department's Inspector General has found wide spread abuse and errors in the $8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers. As of the end of September, the IRS has found 159 potential crime schemes related to the credit program and has begun more than 112,000 reviews of potential civil violations. While many of these problems could be clerical errors, the report did find examples of individuals taking the credit who already

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[368] Much, Justin, "Union Street bridge to close until mid-May," *Statesman Journal*, November 4, 2009.
[369] Website of the Paragould (AR) School District, Minutes of the Paragould School District Board meeting of June 18, 2009, http://paragould.k12.ar.us/boardmin/061809.pdf, accessed Nov. 30, 2009.
[370] Boles, Keith. "iPods in the Classroom," KAIT 8, Jonesboro, Arkansas, November 9, 2009, http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11472561.
[371] Website of the National Science Foundation, Award Abstract #0950427, "A Workshop on Climate Change as an Indigenous Issue," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0950427&version=noscript, accessed December 6, 2009
[372] Website of the National Science Foundation, Award Abstract #0950427, "A Workshop on Climate Change as an Indigenous Issue," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0950427&version=noscript, accessed December 6, 2009
[373] According to Travel Analytics, "Airline Carbon Emissions Calculator," based on a trip originating in Anchorage, Alaska and stops in Seattle, Washington; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Copenhagen, Denmark. Added the per person emissions from each leg of a one-way trip, then doubled for a round-trip, added the total together for 15 passengers: Anchorage to Seattle (393 lbs.), Seattle to Amsterdam (1,296 lbs.), Amsterdam to Copenhagen (136 lbs.), http://carbon.trx.com/Home.asp.
[374] Website of Terra Pass, "Carbon Footprint Calculator," based on looking at average carbon emissions for a home in Fairbanks, Alaska, http://terrapassaviation.com/carbon-footprint-calculator/#residential, accessed December 6, 2009.

owned a home or had not yet bought one. Almost $504 million in claims were made by 73,799 taxpayers, where there was evidence of previous home ownership, which is not allowed. Even the young took advantage of the program. There were more than 582 people under 18 taking the credit, with the youngest being 4 years old.[375] The home tax credit was a key element of the stimulus bill. It allows first time home buyers to take an $8,000 tax credit on their 2008 or 2009 tax returns.

92. Ohio Town to Turn Railroad Crossings into "Quiet Zone" ($800,000)

North Ridgeville, Ohio is hoping federal stimulus money will finally help it get what really wants: a little peace and quiet. Train warning whistles at four city road crossings have been mostly to blame for excessive noise, prompting local officials to request that the crossings become federally funded "quiet zones."[376] Before that can happen, though, the city will be using $800,000 in stimulus funding for safety upgrades that are necessary to qualify as a federal "quiet zone," and thus for federal funding.[377] Action on this project has been delayed despite receiving additional funding in the form of a congressional earmark for $762,000, primarily because local leaders did not see it as a priority.[378] Commenting on the project recently, Mayor David Gillock said he was happy to take the money, but "it was a long way from the top priority."[379]

93. Pennsylvania Winery Uses Stimulus Funds to Help Pay for Building Already under Construction ($25,000)

Crossing Vineyard in Bucks County, Pennsylvania is the recipient of a $25,000 stimulus grant to help build a 3,000 square foot energy-efficient building.[380] The Crossroads winery is located on a 200-year-old estate, close to where George Washington crossed the Delaware River in 1776.[381] The new building will feature a geothermal energy system, energy efficient lighting with timers and sensors, and the ability to build solar panels on the

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[375] Website of Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Report # 2009-41-144, "The Internal Revenue Service Faces Significant Challenges in Verifying Eligibility for First-Time Homebuyer Credit, Sept 29, 2009, http://www.treas.gov/tigta/auditreports/2009reports/200941144fr.pdf.

[376] Fogarty, Steve, "Stimulus grant funds a quieter North Ridgeville," *The Chronicle Telegram*, May 22, 2009, http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2009/05/22/stimulus-grant-funds-a-quieter-north-ridgeville/.

[377] Website of the Ohio Department of Transportation, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Ohio's Transportation Stimulus Projects," http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Communications/Federal%20Stimulus%20Projects/D03-15-LOR-RRGradeCrossingSafetyUpgradesNorthRidgeville.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.

[378] Website of the Office of Management and Budget, earmark for "Upgrade grade crossing safety devices in Elyria and North Ridgeville," http://earmarks.omb.gov/authorization_earmarks/earmark_187211.html, accessed December 6, 2009.

[379] Fogarty, Steve, "Stimulus grant funds a quieter North Ridgeville," *The Chronicle Telegram*, May 22, 2009, http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2009/05/22/stimulus-grant-funds-a-quieter-north-ridgeville/.

[380] Andrien, Patricia, Crossing Vineyards adds green building shows what small business can do," Philadelphia Environmental News Examiner, November 16, 2009, http://www.examiner.com/x-10171-Philadelphia-Environmental-News-Examiner~y2009m11d16-Crossing-Vineyards-adds-green-building--shows-what-small-business-can-do.

[381] Website of Crossing Vineyards, "About Us," http://www.crossingvineyards.com/vineyard/index.html, accessed December 6, 2009.

building.[382] Crossing had already broken ground on the new building in December of 2008, several months before the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* passed.[383] Without stimulus funds, the owners had already started to turn the vineyard into a green facility. In 2007, the owners installed solar power at the winery. That year they also started composting the fruit pulp waste at the winery. [384] Their goal is to be totally "off the grid" in next few years.[385]

94. Abandoned "Eyesore" Train Station to Get Green Renovation ($1.8 million)

An abandoned New York train station is getting a multi-million dollar upgrade to help locals learn how to be green. Not everyone thought the station was an obvious first choice.

"Looking at a building like that, most cities would bulldoze it in 20 minutes," says Rick Fedrizzi with the Green Building Council in reference to the abandoned train depot.[386] But Syracuse, NY is not most cities. It plans to use a $1.8 million stimulus grant to turn what many locals have deemed an "eyesore" into a green car fueling station.[387] Locals know the building as "the old train station with the white statues," although after it is renovated it will become home to a center for green technology training as well as seven "charging stations" for cars.[388]

95. Despite Delays and Overruns, Space Telescope Gets Boost ($65 million)

The James Webb Space Telescope, named for a former NASA administrator, will eventually replace the Hubble telescope, and it is getting a major boost from $65 million in stimulus funding for its prime contractor, Northrop Grumman.[389] As of the end of fiscal year 2009, a

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[382] Andrien, Patricia, Crossing Vineyards adds green building shows what small business can do," Philadelphia Environmental News Examiner, November 16, 2009, http://www.examiner.com/x-10171-Philadelphia-Environmental-News-Examiner~y2009m11d16-Crossing-Vineyards-adds-green-building--shows-what-small-business-can-do.
[383] Website of Crossing Vineyards, "A New Addition," http://www.crossingvineyards.com/vineyard/index.html, accessed December 7, 2009.
[384] Website of Crossing Vineyards, "The Vineyard," http://www.crossingvineyards.com/vineyard/go-green.html, accessed December 6, 2009.
[385] Andrien, Patricia, Crossing Vineyards adds green building shows what small business can do," Philadelphia Environmental News Examiner, November 16, 2009, http://www.examiner.com/x-10171-Philadelphia-Environmental-News-Examiner~y2009m11d16-Crossing-Vineyards-adds-green-building--shows-what-small-business-can-do.
[386] "$1.8M grant to give new life to old Syracuse train depot," 9WSYR.com (Syracuse), September 14, 2009, http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/1-8M-grant-to-give-new-life-to-old-Syracuse-train/QRB5tCPKakmRELVWsIfoAA.cspx.
[387] Website of State of New York, Office of Governor David Paterson, News Release, "Governor Paterson Announces $28 Million in Federal Funds for Alternative Fuel Transportation Projects," August 31, 2009, http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/press_0831091_print.html; "$1.8M grant to give new life to old Syracuse train depot," 9WSYR.com (Syracuse), September 14, 2009, http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/1-8M-grant-to-give-new-life-to-old-Syracuse-train/QRB5tCPKakmRELVWsIfoAA.cspx.
[388] "$1.8M grant to give new life to old Syracuse train depot," 9WSYR.com (Syracuse), September 14, 2009, http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/1-8M-grant-to-give-new-life-to-old-Syracuse-train/QRB5tCPKakmRELVWsIfoAA.cspx.
[389] Recovery.gov, Contracts-Award Summary, "NORTHROP GRUMMAN SPACE & MISSION SYSTEMS CORP," Award Number NAS5-02200, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=40299&PopId=13072, accessed December 6, 2009.

contract from NASA to Northrop Grumman for $45 million was the eighth largest stimulus contract made by any federal agency.[390] A series of reports by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), though, have been critical of the project's cost overruns and schedule delays. A July 2006 report noted that schedule delays pushed launch of the telescope back two years from 2011 to 2013,[391] and is now scheduled for launch in 2014.[392] GAO also recently projected in October 2009 that Northrop Grumman's costs will exceed original expectations by nearly half of a billion dollars.[393]

96. Museum Receives Geothermal Grant after Hosting Stimulus Signing Ceremony ($2.6 million)

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science received a $2.61 million grant for a geothermal stimulus grant to demonstrate "the use of municipal waste water" as a medium for a new heating and cooling system.[394] The grant was part of $18 million the state of Colorado received in geothermal project funding.[395] As of its most recent IRS filing, the Museum had $90 million in the bank.[396] In their 2008 Annual report, the museum described 2008 as "another solid year of financial performance."[397] In mid-February, the museum hosted President Obama's signing ceremony for the $787 billion *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.[398]

[390] Recovery.gov, A spreadsheet with information on all contracts awarded through the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2009 can be found at http://download.recovery.gov/recipient/2009_Q4/All_ContractsFY09Q4.xls.zip, excel line item 6162.
[391] Government Accountability Office, "NASA's James Webb Space Telescope: Knowledge-Based Acquisition Approach Key to Addressing Program Challenges," July 2006, Report Number GAO-06-634, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06634.pdf.
[392] Website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, webpage for the James Webb Space Telescope, accessed December 1, 2009, http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/index.html.
[393] Government Accountability Office, "Information Technology: Agencies Need to Improve the Implementation and Use of Earned Value Techniques to Help Manage Major System Acquisitions," October 2009, Report Number GAO-10-2, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d102.pdf.
[394] Website of U.S. Department of Energy, "Geothermal Project Descriptions," http://www.energy.gov/news2009/documents2009/338M_Geothermal_Project_Descriptions.pdf, accessed November 30, 2009.
[395] Proctor Cathy, "Colorado gets $18M through stimulus for geothermal projects," *Denver Business Journal*, October 29, 2009, http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2009/10/26/daily53.html.
[396] Guidstar.org, "Denver Museum of Nature and Science Form 990: Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax," http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2007/841/035/2007-841035262-0455f640-9.pdf (requires password), accessed December 6, 2009.
[397] Website of Denver Museum of Nature and Science, "Annual report," http://www.dmns.org/NR/rdonlyres/333CFD57-B836-4755-A84E-8340F4A3E24F/2958/AR2008.pdf, accessed December 6, 2009.
[398] Sybrandy Hendrik, "Obama to Science Stimulus Bill at Denver Museum of Nature & Science," KDVR.com, February 15, 2009, http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-obama-return-021509,0,265405.story.

97. Money to Airport Authority Cited for Having Problems Managing Federal Money ($9.6 million)

The Carson City Airport Authority, which has received more than $13 million in federal funds over the last four years, is about to receive another $9.6 million[399] in stimulus money, even though an independent auditor cited the Authority earlier this year for how it manages its federal grants. The Carson City airport serves no commercial traffic[400] and is only 30 miles away from a much larger airport in Reno that has regular commercial traffic. Neal Weaver, a former board member of the Airport Authority, resigned his position in 2008 while calling for an independent investigation of how the board oversaw the authority, which he charged with conflicts of interest.[401] He told a *Reno Gazette-Journal* reporter that the board "gets to play with tens of millions of dollars without oversight."[402] Weaver questioned the necessity of directing stimulus funding to the airport. "The funding from the Airport Improvement Program was adequate to maintain and rebuild the runway," adding that, "we had an airport before this and will continue to have an airport, it has done nothing to add to the community."[403]

98. Bureaucratic Bungling Slows Homeless Prevention Grants in Nevada ($4.1 million)

Despite 13 percent unemployment,[404] and thousands of households losing heat, rental and utilities support has been delayed for millions due to local bureaucratic squabbling and infighting.[405] For six months, officials in Las Vegas boasted about a $4.1 million plan[406] to allow local non-profit organizations the opportunity to help residents with heat and utility bills as well as other services.[407] The groups would use the money to help residents fight homelessness, with the remaining money to be used for a computer system linking all of the organizations together.[408] Now, because of bureaucratic squabbles and debate on who needs the help, the money will be delayed until at least after the holidays. Local county

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[399] Website of City of Carson, NV, "City of Carson Agenda Report 5-26-2009," http://www.carson-city.nv.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=18796," accessed November 30, 2009.
[400] Website of Federal Aviation Administration, "Calendar Year 2008 Enplanements," http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger/media/cy08_all_enplanements.pdf,. Searched the document on November 30, 2009 for Carson. According to this FAA document, this airport had 68 enplanements in 2008.
[401] Narayanswamy, Anupama, Stimulus grantees cited for poor oversight of federal funds, Real Time Investigations – Sunlight Foundation, November 24, 2009, http://realtime.sunlightprojects.org/2009/11/24/stimulus-grantees-cited-for-poor-oversight-of-federal-funds/.
[402] Staff, "Airport Authority has been mired in conflict for years," *Reno Gazette-Journal*, September 5, 2008.
[403] Narayanswamy, Anupama, Stimulus grantees cited for poor oversight of federal funds, Real Time Investigations – Sunlight Foundation, November 24, 2009, http://realtime.sunlightprojects.org/2009/11/24/stimulus-grantees-cited-for-poor-oversight-of-federal-funds/.
[404] Chereb, Sandra, "Nevada Unemployment Dips to 13 percent in October," *Associated Press*, November, 20, 2009 http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13832311.
[405] Pratt, Timothy, "Squabbles hold up help for Las Vegas' homeless," *Las Vegas Sun*, November 30, 2009, http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/nov/30/squabbles-hold-help/
[406] Website of Clark County, "Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Public Hearing," September 4, 2009, http://agenda.co.clark.nv.us/sirepub/cache/2/0qtbln55u5enc355i0mwho55/17312412072009113046707.PDF, accessed December 1, 2009.
[407] Pratt, Timothy, "County, cities pitch homeless plan for stimulus money," *Las Vegas Sun*, May 27, 2009, http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/may/27/county-cities-pitch-homeless-plan/.
[408] Pratt, Timothy, "Squabbles hold up help for Las Vegas' homeless," *Las Vegas Sun*, November 30, 2009, http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/nov/30/squabbles-hold-help/.

commissioner Chris Giunchigliani described the situation as "bureaucracy at its worst, to some extent."[409]

99. Learning to Cooperate by Observing Birds ($90,000)

All we need to know, we learned in kindergarten – but a good dose of stimulus money can be a helpful reminder. The University of Oklahoma received a $90,000 grant[410] to conduct an "experimental analysis of simple cooperation," with the aim of improving "our understanding of cooperation in general."[411] Through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009, the National Science Foundation is funding a study on the Behavioral Dynamics of Biparental Negotiation.[412] The study will have researchers observing birds caring for their offspring and documenting the roles of both the male and female parent in this endeavor. Results from the study will be used to help explain human behavior as to why "individuals each contribute to a shared task," and why "[individuals] do not invest less than they do, especially if that would encourage the partner to invest more."[413]

100. Climate-Controlled Water Taxis Get New Home ($750,000)

"Where else can you ride in a water taxi to the mall?" is a refrain heard to describe the amenities of the Woodlands area, the shopping and golfing area north of Houston, Texas.[414] Described as a "fun way to get ground,"[415] the six Woodlands Water taxis (each are climate controlled and named after a river in Texas)[416] are getting a new home courtesy of federal stimulus funds.[417] The Bravos Transit District is receiving $750,000 for a facility to maintain the

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[409] Pratt, Timothy, "Squabbles hold up help for Las Vegas' homeless," *Las Vegas Sun*, November 30, 2009, http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/nov/30/squabbles-hold-help/.
[410] Website of the University of Oklahoma - Office of Public Affairs, "University of Oklahoma Achieves $10 million in Stimulus Grants for Thirty-three Research Projects on Norman Campus,"November 11, 2009, http://www.ou.edu/publicaffairs/archives/OUstimulusforresearch.html, accessed December 2, 2009.
[411] National Science Foundation, "Award Abstract #0843673 - Behavioral Dynamics of Biparental Negotiation," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0843673, accessed December 2, 2009.
[412]National Science Foundation, "Award Abstract #0843673 - Behavioral Dynamics of Biparental Negotiation," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0843673, accessed December 2, 2009.
[413] National Science Foundation, "Award Abstract #0843673 - Behavioral Dynamics of Biparental Negotiation," http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0843673, accessed December 2, 2009..
[414] Lawless, Jill, "The Woodlands," *Texas Highways: The Travel Magazine of Texas*, May 2008, http://www.texashighways.com/index.php/component/content/article/112-spotlight-archive/2026-the-woodlands, accessed December 4, 2009.
[415] Website of the Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau, "Waterway Taxi," http://www.thewoodlandscvb.com/_waterway_taxi.asp, accessed December 4, 2009.
[416] Lawless, Jill, "The Woodlands," *Texas Highways: The Travel Magazine of Texas*, May 2008, http://www.texashighways.com/index.php/component/content/article/112-spotlight-archive/2026-the-woodlands, accessed December 4, 2009.
[417] Recovery.gov, "Brazos Transit District," Award Number TX-96-X036, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=47933&PopId=64312, accessed December 4, 2009.

water taxis.[418] Last year, the District lost $240,000 on operating the water taxis.[419] About 100 people use the water taxis on a daily basis.[420]

[418] Recovery.gov, "Brazos Transit District," Award Number TX-96-X036, http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/Pages/RecipientProjectSummary.aspx?AwardIDSUR=47933&PopId=64312, accessed December 4, 2009.
[419] The Goodman Corporation, "Town Center Waterway Corridor Water Taxi Operation, May 5, 2009, http://montgomerytx.countymonitor.com/files/2009/06/township_water_taxi.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009.
[420] The Goodman Corporation, "Town Center Waterway Corridor Water Taxi Operation, May 5, 2009, http://montgomerytx.countymonitor.com/files/2009/06/township_water_taxi.pdf, accessed December 5, 2009. Using the $180,000 estimate in fare revenue, then dividing by the fare ($5) and the number of days in operation (362 – Isn't in operation for three holidays), we estimate that an estimate average of 100 people using the water taxis on a daily basis.