

Gwinnett County Government NEWS RELEASE

Charles E. Bannister, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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FED STIMULUS MONEY TOTALS \$120 MILLION

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Sept. 1, 2009) – Gwinnett commissioners heard Tuesday that they have received almost \$120 million so far from the \$787 billion federal economic stimulus law, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) that became law last February.

The funds are being distributed through various federal and state agencies. Gwinnett's largest amount to date, totaling \$81.3 million, is going to shovel-ready road improvements including the \$24 million extension of McGinnis Ferry Road across I-85. Bids for that project were opened on July 17 and construction should begin soon.

Board Chairman Charles Bannister said, "County staff began looking for funding opportunities the day the law was passed, and we've obviously been very successful with our many applications. It's clear that our success is a result of staff having solid plans in place and projects that were ready to go. We also appreciate the help of our Congressional delegations in Washington who are very aware and supportive of our needs."

Gwinnett focused on four areas for stimulus funding: modernizing infrastructure, clean energy technology, crime control and prevention, and community stabilization in the wake of record foreclosures.

Of the funds received to date, \$81.3 million came through Georgia DOT, \$21.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$16.7 million from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, \$9 million from the Federal Transit Administration, \$7.3 million from the U.S. Department of Energy, and \$2.4 million through the U.S. Department of Justice. The latest award is \$1.7 million from HUD to prevent homelessness and help homeless residents find new housing; four nonprofit organizations with experience in serving homeless individuals and families are recommended to receive the funds.

Gwinnett submitted successful applications for a wide variety of projects including road-building, weatherization, homelessness programs, a new Senior Services Center, mid-life overhauls of transit buses, a waste-to-energy power generator, recycling of fats, oils and grease, and new public safety systems including online citizen reporting, and improved forensic and crime scene investigation equipment.

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Federal stimulus funds are subject to very thorough audit and reporting requirements and can be tracked at www.recovery.gov for federal projects and www.stimulusaccountability.ga.gov for state projects.

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