

THE COORDINATOR

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SLOCOG Board Funds \$18 M in Projects Throughout The Region

President Obama's \$787 Billion economic stimulus plan, now formally called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), was signed into law on February 18th, 2009. The purpose of this program is to preserve and create jobs; promote economic recovery; assist those most impacted by the recession: increase economic efficiency (by spurring technological advances in science and health); invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure; and stabilize state and local government budgets. Under this program, the State of California received \$2.57 Billion for Surface Transportation and another \$1.07 Billion for Transit. ARRA funds brought \$11.6 Million for streets and roads and \$3.1 Million for transit to the San Luis Obispo region.

In conjunction with the ARRA funds, the SLOCOG Board also programmed Regional State Highway Account (RSHA), Proposition 1B, and Rural Transit Funds (RTF) for an additional \$3.3 M, creating a San Luis Obispo Region Economic Stimulus Program of more than \$18 M.

SLOCOG, City, County, and Transit agencies worked together to submit projects that are significant to the region and that promote the principles of ARRA, downtown livability, and smart growth as and outlined in the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan, Vision 2030. This includes many bicycling, pedestrian, Park & Ride, transit, and streets and roads projects.

John Shoals, SLOCOG Board President says "I am thrilled with the Board's action to approve this significant amount of funding for a variety of projects in our region. It is my hope that this funding will used immediately to help stimulate our local economy." See the Economic Stimulus section on Page 2 for a list of all projects, a breakdown by infrastructure type, and the economic value to the region.

Partners in Planning Succeed!



What do you get when you combine Caltrans, SLOCOG, the City of Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo County staff, mix in some active community involvement, and challenge them to study one five mile segment of highway? A completed Study! This is no planning joke - The 46 East Comprehensive Corridor Study is done!

The final document, which can be found at www.46eastforthefuture.org, is the product of six years of planning collaboration by the staff and management of the four agencies working together to achieve a common objective; to plan the future of Hwy 46 East on the five mile stretch within the Paso Robles city limits.

Along with the number of community participants and stakeholders, staff have worked to combine scenarios and concepts for the corridor that have resulted in a recommendation for improvements at the intersections along Hwy 46 east, with particular emphasize on the Union Road / 46 intersection.

At the April 8, 2009, SLOCOG meeting, after a presentation by the Caltrans project study manager, Larry Newland, the Board endorsed the Study and directed staff to incorporate the concepts into regional planning documents and continue the partnership pursuing a PSR on the Union/46 East area for major improvements. The Paso Robles City Council took similar action and all four agencies have expressed enthusiasm about moving forward to improve the safety and circulation in the study area.

For more information on this project please visit www.46eastforthefuture.org or contact Geiska Velasquez at 805-788-2104.

Approved Projects...

The \$18 Million will be used to supplement funding for the following regionally significant projects. All Addressing multimodal attributes consistent with the Principles of Community 2050.

Non-Motorized (\$3 M)

- Promenade Phase IV B Boardwalk, Pismo Beach
- West Grand Streetscape Phase I, Grover Beach
- Downtown Streetscape Phase III, Atascadero
- Railroad Safety Bike Trail Phase III, San Luis Obispo City
- US101/SR46W Ph1 - Theatre Dr. Realignment with bike lanes, Paso Robles

Highways, Streets, and Roads (\$8.5 M)

- US101/Willow Rd Extension with bike lanes, San Luis Obispo County north of Nipomo
- West Branch St. Rehabilitation & New Bike Lanes, Arroyo Grande
- Santa Rosa Ave. Rehabilitation & New Bike Lanes, Atascadero
- North Main St. Rehabilitation & New Bike Lanes, Morro Bay
- Lopez Drive Road Rehab, San Luis Obispo County
- Cambria Main Street Road Rehabilitation, San Luis Obispo County
- Avila Beach Drive Road Rehabilitation, San Luis Obispo County

Public Transportation (\$5.1)

- Eight (8) replacement vehicles for \$1.528 Million (2 large buses, 4 small buses/vans and 2 trolleys)
- Three (3) different Preventive Maintenance projects for \$620K and
- New Electronic Fareboxes among five (5) different operators for \$912K to enhance efficiencies

Maximizing System Efficiency (\$975k) Funded with Regional State Highway Account (RSHA) funds.

- Las Tablas Park & Ride Lot Expansion, San Luis Obispo County
- Halcyon Park & Ride Lot Expansion, Arroyo Grande
- South County Transit Hub Phase II, Grover Beach
- Signal Efficiencies (LED, Signal Synchronization, etc), All Region

Economic Impacts of Stimulus Funds

A summary of the impacts of the first year investment of these funds has been provided to SLOCOG by The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. This economic assessment analyzes projected employment and the financial impact of these investments.

These calculations show that the first year benefit of the \$11.6 M economic stimulus money in the region will be \$17.5 M, a gain of \$5.9 Million and 151 jobs.

Criteria	Year 1 (2009)
Total Investment	\$11.6 Million
Direct Jobs	96
Indirect Jobs	55
Total Jobs	151
Employment multiplier	1.57
Output	\$17.5 Million

Direct jobs are jobs created by demand for construction services used in completing SLOCOG's and Caltrans' projects in San Luis Obispo County.

Indirect jobs are jobs that are generated to provide professional services to construction, such as engineers and other professionals, and jobs that are generated as the result of increased household consumption such as food service workers, retail employees and other household related employment.

SLOCOG will work closely with agency and jurisdiction staff to keep all ARRA projects on schedule for groundbreaking between Summer 2009 and Spring 2010. In addition to tracking the projects on the SLOCOG website, Recovery.gov will provide citizens with the ability to monitor the progress of the entire American Recovery and Reinvestment Program.

Focus on Bike Month 2009 - Chain Reaction

Bike Month is fast approaching. This month-long event is a national and San Luis Obispo County movement to get people on bikes. Whether it's 10 miles or 10 minutes, Bike Month encourages everyone pull out their bikes, wipe off the dust and ride



A team of community members has been working since December 2008 to plan the more than 30 events happening during the month. The kick-off event is on Saturday, May 2nd, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at The Branch Street Deli in Arroyo Grande. The event will include live music, prize drawings, recreational rides and Fat Tire...yummy! Get your group together and cycle all or part of the way as we kick start Bike Month!

Bike-in movies, recreational rides, a cycling wine tour, safety/education trainings, bike art, Bike to School Day's, Safe Routes to School Workshop and a Bike Fashion Show are just some of the events that are planned. For more information,

email or call Kelsie Greer at kgreer@rideshare.org, 781-1385.

Check out the Bike Month Calendar at WWW.rideshare.org/chainreaction.

The Commuter Bike Challenge is here!

The challenge continues! Start the Chain Reaction at your workplace and encourage your coworkers to participate in the Commuter Bike Challenge. This year, we've mixed things up a bit. No longer is the challenge about how far you have traveled, but about the number of people you can get from your organization (or department) to lose the car and hop on a bike. With this in mind, instead of encouraging ad hoc teams to join, we are focusing on the organization whether it be a school, community group or business. The goal is to get as many people pedaling as possible, whether the commute is 10 miles or 10 minutes. Five winning teams will receive a grand prize, but all participants will be entered into a weekly prize drawing.



Are You An Executive?

Be a leader of bicycle commuting at your workplace.

If you are an Executive at your company or hold the highest position in your department we want to hear from you.

Taking the Executive Commute Challenge is simple:

- Join your organization in the Commuter Bike Challenge.
- Join other Executives in the County and ride your bike once during Bike to Work Week May 18th- May 22nd.
- Have your signature printed in a full page add in the Tribune and involvement sent out in press releases.

Join these SLOCOG board members in making San Luis Obispo a great place for bicycling!

- Bruce Gibson, District 2 Supervisor
- Adam Hill, District 3 Supervisor
- Jim Patterson, District 5 Supervisor
- Tony Ferrara, Arroyo Grande Mayor
- Tom O'Malley, Atascadero Council Member
- Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director
- Ronald L De Carli, SLOCOG Executive Director

Make the Grade Make the Coast



Looking for more? Participate in the Make the Grade/Make the Coast ride on May 20th!

- Join Supervisor Bruce Gibson and commute from the coast.
- or
- Join Supervisor Jim Patterson and commute over the grade.

Find out more about this and other Bike Month events at www.rideshare.org



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1150 Osos Street, Suite 202
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
www.slocog.org

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an area-wide planning and programming agency for issues of regional concern. SLOCOG is also the federal-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. Member Agencies and their designated representatives are listed below:

President – John Shoals (Grover Beach)
Vice President – Tom O'Malley (Atascadero)

District 1 Supervisor – Frank Mecham
District 2 Supervisor – Bruce Gibson
District 3 Supervisor – Adam Hill
District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian
District 5 Supervisor – James Patterson
Executive Director – Ronald De Carli

Arroyo Grande – Tony Ferrara, Mayor
Morro Bay – Janice Peters, Mayor
Paso Robles – Fred Strong, Council member
Pismo Beach – Mary Ann Reiss, Mayor
San Luis Obispo – Jan Howell Marx, Council member
Ex-Officio, Richard Krumholz –Director, Caltrans District 5

Down the Road....

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment by contacting SLOCOG offices at 781-4219. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, June 3, 2009. The Board meetings are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter Communications Cable TV)

Economic Recovery Work Program

SLOCOG in consultation with the Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) developed an Economic Recovery Work Plan, as requested by the California Business Transportation and Housing Agency (BT&H). The Economic Recovery Work Program is a first step in preparing to qualify for additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

The goals of this collaboration are two-fold:

- Establish a coordinated approach between the seven cities in the region, the County, SLOCOG, and other stakeholders to create an effective and mutually supported process of securing grant funding available through the ARRA.
- To create a regional economic development strategy to maximize the access to ARRA funds and job generation.

The next steps include collaboration opportunities with local agencies to maximize ARRA funding to the region.

