

TITLE: Carrboro Transportation Projects Moving Forward with Help from Economic Stimulus Funds

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA includes funding for transportation projects of many different modes, including transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Carrboro Projects

The Town of Carrboro is using ARRA funding for construction of two sidewalks and three bus shelters. One sidewalk is on Ashe St., from Main to Shelton, and the other is on Bim St., from Jones Ferry to Fidelity. Both sidewalks were included as Phase I sidewalk bond projects. The Bim St. sidewalk is currently under construction.

The three bus shelters will be located as follows: one on Main St. in front of Town Hall, one on State Rt. 54 at Abby Lane, and one on State Rt. 54 at Westbrook Drive. The bus shelter designs include accommodations for disabled transit patrons and modifications to the structure to support solar lighting. Furthermore, the bus shelter funding allows the Town to make needed improvements to several other bus stop locations. A Notice to Proceed was issued on May 3, 2010, with a completion date of 45 days from the Notice to Proceed.

Town staff have been working with NCDOT to develop the projects. Funding is provided through the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. DOT. The funding allocations were programmed in the State’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO).

Old Fayetteville Rd. is also seeing improvements with help from the economic stimulus. The project, managed by NCDOT, adds bike lanes, a sidewalk, and transit accommodations between NC 54 and Strowd Ln., near McDougle School. The contract has been let and the project is expected to be completed by September 2010.

TIP #	Project	Description	ARRA funding
U-4726DA	Ashe Street	Sidewalk on one side from W. Main St. to Shelton St.	\$155,200
U-4726DB	Bim Street	Sidewalk on one side from Jones Ferry Rd. to Fidelity St.	\$172,100
EL-5103	Bus shelters	Bus shelters and shelter materials at three locations in Town	\$76,296
U-3100B	Old Fayetteville Rd.	NC 54 to Strowd Ln. Provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit accommodations (managed by NCDOT).	\$1,800,000

* Note: The two sidewalks are being administered as one construction contract. Since the low bid for Bim St. was significantly lower than the engineer’s estimate, the Town received NCDOT

approval to transfer \$28,000 of ARRA grant funding from the Bim St. sidewalk to the bus shelters project in order to cover the cost of needed improvements to some existing shelters.

Chapel Hill Transit Projects

Chapel Hill Transit is receiving stimulus funding for capital improvements, maintenance, and other enhancements. These projects are described in the table below.

TIP #	Project	Description	ARRA funding
TA-4748	Chapel Hill Transit	8 Paratransit Replacement Vans	\$520,000
TA-4726	Chapel Hill Transit	2 Hybrid Replacement Buses	\$1,072,851
TG-4731	Chapel Hill Transit	FY 2009 Preventative Maintenance	\$500,000
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TG-4732	Chapel Hill Transit	1 Service Truck Replacement	\$45,000
TT-5104	Chapel Hill Transit	Computer Technology/Hardware	\$49,867
TG-4731	Chapel Hill Transit	Bus Stop Shelters, Lighting & other Enhancements	\$27,149

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Signal System Upgrade

Another project receiving support from the ARRA is the Chapel Hill-Carrboro traffic signal system upgrade. This major upgrade, which received \$5,250,000 in stimulus funding, will improve signal timing coordination by connecting improved traffic signals via fiber optic communications cable to a centralized computer system with a purpose of optimizing signal timing. The Town of Chapel Hill is responsible for traffic signal operation in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

More Information

To ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the ARRA, President Obama created Recovery.gov. At the state level, Gov. Perdue created the [Office of Economic Recovery and Investment](#). These websites provide more detailed information about stimulus projects nationally and in North Carolina.

For more information about Carrboro’s stimulus projects, contact Ted Barker, Engineering Technician, at 918-7341, or tbarker@townofcarrboro.org; or Jeff Brubaker, Transportation Planner, at 919-918-7329, or jbrubaker@townofcarrboro.org.