

\$149 Billion worth of "Ready to Go Projects" across the U.S. Cities

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Today the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) released the fourth in its series of reports on [infrastructure projects](#) that are "ready to go" in cities across the nation – projects that meet local infrastructure needs and contribute to local economic development goals, that can be funded quickly through existing federal channels and start quickly when funding is received, and that can generate the significant numbers of jobs that are needed to counter the severe economic problems we face today in our metro areas and our nation as a whole.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that, in 779 (2% of all Municipalities; in 2007, Census reported there were 36,011 municipalities) cities of all sizes in all regions of the country, a total of 18,750 local infrastructure projects are "ready to go." These projects represent an infrastructure investment of \$149,758,339,126 that would be capable of producing an estimated 1,604,371 jobs in 2009 and 2010. These are the cumulative totals of projects, required funding, and jobs to be created that have been reported in the four surveys of cities conducted by the Conference of Mayors over the past three months. The populations of the 779 cities submitting projects total 77,946,664.

SECTOR	PROJECTS	FUNDING	JOBS
Community Development Block Grants	4,028	\$26,507,901,425	385,256
Energy Block Grants and Green Jobs	1,378	\$30,604,966,149	151,811
Transit Equipment and Infrastructure	807	\$11,304,982,392	137,770
City Streets/Metro Roads	4,724	\$35,954,375,822	433,574
Airport Technology and Infrastructure	529	\$5,462,483,130	47,061
Amtrak	50	\$1,194,260,000	4,583
Water and Wastewater Infrastructure	4,029	\$23,494,889,132	271,429
School Modernization	1,066	\$7,082,502,544	108,336
Public Housing Modernization	634	\$2,474,602,762	25,160
Public Safety Jobs and Technology	1,505	\$5,677,375,769	39,391
TOTALS	18,750	\$149,758,339,125	1,604,371

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors

Below is a breakdown of the number of projects by State and total funding. GovWin reviewed and analyzed all 18,750 projects and determined roughly 762 projects were Information Technology centric (4% of all projects) :

STATES	PROJECTS	IT Projects	FUNDING
Alabama	318	4	\$3,675,415,952
Alaska	46	14	\$415,682,000
Arizona	743	10	\$5,574,052,875
Arkansas	199	34	\$1,059,150,739
California	1971	66	\$23,194,387,939
Colorado	201	5	\$2,447,922,050
Connecticut	449	18	\$2,650,247,918
Delaware	7	0	\$52,000,000

District of Columbia	8	0	\$91,700,000
Florida	1752	99	\$15,621,854,723
Georgia	266	13	\$2,622,606,849
Hawaii	316	18	\$2,390,826,407
Idaho	348	6	\$884,584,750
Illinois	1031	7	\$3,109,044,659
Indiana	713	23	\$2,598,965,203
Iowa	51	45	\$185,815,080
Kansas	139	3	\$528,306,308
Kentucky	524	19	\$1,519,552,364
Louisiana	433	21	\$3,852,297,626
Maine	72	12	\$219,461,480
Maryland	54	3	\$405,439,000
Massachusetts	266	6	\$1,072,920,450
Michigan	782	22	\$2,761,596,551
Minnesota	335	13	\$983,556,873
Mississippi	552	12	\$2,433,551,120
Missouri	403	16	\$3,760,293,488
Montana	57	0	\$249,272,000
Nebraska	154	13	\$380,458,519
Nevada	163	4	\$1,521,987,323
New Hampshire	0	8	\$0
New Jersey	261	12	\$2,685,299,407
New Mexico	215	7	\$2,937,146,132
New York	289	12	\$1,272,563,215
North Carolina	319	13	\$1,976,159,268
North Dakota	61	27	\$95,217,000
Ohio	847	4	\$4,215,768,587
Oklahoma	223	1	\$1,746,435,944
Oregon	159	12	\$909,352,610
Pennsylvania	352	9	\$4,448,759,122
Puerto Rico	340	8	\$22,093,053,785
Rhode Island	116	18	\$779,277,080
South Carolina	271	1	\$1,462,423,970
South Dakota	30	5	\$471,900,000
Tennessee	103	59	\$338,370,000
Texas	1240	17	\$10,772,423,091
Utah	298	13	\$1,698,190,676
Vermont	61	2	\$145,075,439
Virginia	400	12	\$2,302,209,175
Washington	368	14	\$1,713,748,644
West Virginia	1	0	\$700,000

Wisconsin	358	2	\$1,234,364,261
Wyoming	85	0	\$150,636,500

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors & GovWin

It is important to understand that the MainStreet Economic Recovery plan calls for funds to flow quickly and directly to cities through 10 federal funding streams that are already in existence; many of these have demonstrated their effectiveness over many years. The 10 infrastructure investments the US Conference of Mayors are recommending are:

- Community Development Block Grants – CDBG would be used to create jobs through: the construction of public facilities and improvements, water and sewer facilities, streets, and neighborhood centers; the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes; activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; and assistance to profitmotivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.
- Energy Block Grants and Green Jobs – The new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program would be used by cities, counties, and states to create thousands of energy efficiency and renewable energy production projects. These projects could include energy retrofits of public and private buildings in local areas, installation of solar panels or wind turbines for the production of electricity on local buildings, deployment of new energy distribution technologies (such as distributed generation or district heating and cooling systems) that significantly increase energy efficiency, and development of systems to capture and generate power from methane at landfills.
- Transit Equipment and Infrastructure – Transit funding would be used to purchase buses, street cars, rail cars, and other rolling stock and equipment needed to create additional capacity; help stabilize fare increases; and improve reliability. It would also be used to restore and maintain facilities and infrastructure in a state of good repair through projects that could, for example, expand station capacity, improve rail tracks, and provide customer information screens.
- City Streets/Metro Roads – Highway funding must be distributed through the Surface Transportation Program (STP); this ensures that it will provide maximum flexibility to cities, counties, and states to undertake bridge, bus and rail, and road projects in metropolitan areas.
- Airport Technology and Infrastructure – Projects funded through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) would include runway and taxi rehabilitations, extensions, and widening; obstruction removal; apron construction, expansion and rehabilitation; rescue and firefighting equipment and facilities; airside service or public access roads; and noise mitigation and abatement (Part 150) associated with aircraft operations, including voluntary home buyout, which would fuel the local housing market, and residential and business insulation programs.
- Amtrak – Amtrak would use infrastructure funding to make necessary upgrades to tracks, bridges and tunnels, electric traction, interlockings, signals and communications, and stations on the Amtrak system. In addition, Amtrak could refurbish rail cars that are currently in storage and return them to service.
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure – Local governments contribute 98 percent of the total investment in wastewater and 95 percent of the investment in water infrastructure. Water and wastewater infrastructure grants would be used to assist with rehabilitating aging water and sewer infrastructure, complying with sewer overflow issues, and promoting source water protection and availability.
- School Modernization – Federal school modernization funds would be used to repair and modernize school buildings in both large- and small-city school districts, improve their energy efficiency, and equip them with first-class technology.
- Public Housing Modernization – Public Housing Capital Funds would be used for repair and construction projects, including safety repairs.
- Public Safety Jobs and Technology – Providing COPS hiring grants to local police departments would allow them to put additional police officers on the streets and in the schools as school resource officers. Additional Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding could be used to hire personnel, support those personnel, and purchase equipment and new technologies which make law enforcement personnel more effective in their jobs.

The [National Association of Counties](#) released a similar survey on December 15, 2008. While the survey was not as indepth as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and did not include project specific details, the data was still very interesting. A snap-shot survey of 104 counties from 30 states reported that 2,805 infrastructure projects totaling an estimated \$24.1 billion are "ready-to-go," which would create jobs and stimulate the national and local economies if funded by a new federal economic stimulus package currently under consideration by

Congress. The responding counties represent more than 51.5 million U.S. residents or about 17 percent of the population. Projects in the survey include airports, housing, roads, highways, bridges, clean water, sewer, sidewalks, public transit systems, communications technology, county government buildings and schools. Key survey responses showed:

- 868 road and highways projects totaling \$10.3 billion
- 218 bridge projects totaling \$393 million
- 68 public transit system projects totaling \$308 million
- 73 airport construction projects totaling \$432 million
- 187 water system projects totaling \$1.2 billion
- 124 sewage treatment plant projects totaling \$1.4 billion
- 258 school construction projects totaling \$4.3 billion
- 366 county building projects totaling \$3.3 billion
- 34 hospital and health clinic projects totaling \$285 million

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