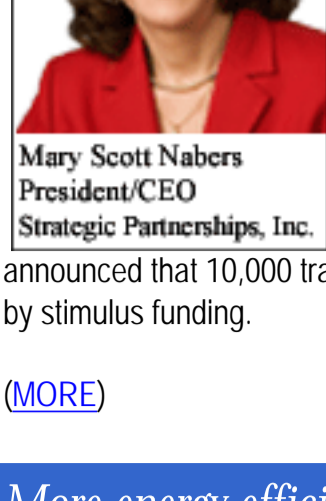


## Lots of funds for transportation work



**Mary Scott Nabers**  
President/CEO  
Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Transportation infrastructure keeps America moving. Big trucks haul goods while public transportation systems deliver workers to their jobs. Moms and dads load kids into automobiles and drive to schools, family gatherings, church and sports events daily. The nation's roads and bridges are in need of repair so stimulus funding earmarked for transportation has been welcomed from coast to coast. America's deteriorating transportation grid is finally getting attention.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced that 10,000 transportation projects throughout the country have been spurred by stimulus funding.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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**Strategic Partnerships, Inc. provides opportunity identification for all 50 states. [Click here for more information.](#)**

## More energy efficiency grants headed to states

### Maine, Florida to benefit from \$40 million, with portion to local governments

Clean energy projects in Florida and Maine will benefit from \$40 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Administered by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, the projects are intended to reduce energy use, lower carbon pollution and create local "green" jobs.

These awards will support energy efficiency projects at the state level and small city and county local conservation projects. At least 60 percent of state awards must be passed down to local cities and counties not eligible for direct awards from EECBG. The funds can be used for energy efficiency and conservation strategy, energy efficiency audits and retrofits, transportation programs, creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements, development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections and installation of renewable energy technologies on municipal buildings.

For information on the awards and what they will be used for, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

## 'Pipeline' newsletter will not publish on Nov. 25

### Will return to regular Wednesday publication date Wednesday, Dec. 2

In observance of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the *State & Local Government Pipeline* newsletter will not publish on Wednesday, Nov. 25. We will resume our regular Wednesday publication dates on Wednesday, Dec. 2. **Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!**

## Stimulus news briefs

### Florida lawmakers could approve SunRail commuter train

There's talk of a special session of the Florida Legislature. And there's talk of legislation that would provide for a \$1.2 billion commuter train called the SunRail. The Florida commuter train would link DeLand in Volusia County with downtown Orlando and Poinciana in Osceola County. If the legislation passes, it will improve Florida's chances of getting additional federal stimulus funds for high-speed rail. Without the legislation, the chances of a high-speed line to connect Orlando with Tampa are slim to none.

### Oklahoma tribes allocated millions for local projects

Housing, water, road, child care and energy conservation projects are on tap for several Oklahoma tribes, thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Approximately \$43 million in ARRA funding has been allocated to the Cherokee Nation. Nearly \$17 million in housing grants will be used for modernization and energy efficiency programs in 500 tribal rental apartments and more than 150 private residences. Infrastructure improvements will be made at low-rent and mutual-use housing facilities while 15 new energy efficient homes will be constructed. Other grants will be used to develop rural water distribution and treatment facilities. Road projects also will be funded.

The Muscogee Creek Nation has been allocated \$15.3 million, with some of its funds to be used for geothermal retrofits and conversions. The Choctaw Nation was awarded \$15.2 million and the Chickasaw Nation was allocated \$13.4 million. Not all tribes have received money yet and some only in smaller amounts. The smaller Tonkawa Tribe was awarded \$1.9 million, which will be used to refurbish more than 125 homes. Other grants will pay for child care, improving energy efficiency at the tribal administration building, establishing a program to combat domestic violence and funding a summer youth program.

### Florida seeks Recovery Act funds for transportation center

Seeking to improve public transportation in Northeast Florida, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) will seek \$63 million in federal stimulus funds to help create the first phase of a regional transportation center to serve Amtrak, Greyhound, bus rapid transit and possibly commuter rail. The project would use the existing Prime Osborn Convention Center as its base. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$180 million. The project would include a four-story facility to house the JTA, the Florida Department of Transportation, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, a sheriff's substation and offices for the Florida Highway Patrol. There would be 200 additional parking spaces and room for retail stores, a public plaza and an enclosed bus rapid transit station. Officials are hoping to secure some of the \$1.5 billion in discretionary transportation funds that are part of the Recovery Act. The project's future phases would include a new Amtrak station, additional retail space and a 2,000-space parking garage.

## Decision-makers on the move

**Dr. Robert S. Nelsen** has been confirmed as president of The University of Texas - Pan American by The University of Texas System Board of Regents, effective Jan. 1, 2010...Los Altos (CA) School District Superintendent **Tim Justus** will end a 38-year career in education when he retires at the end of the school year from the job he has held for five years as the district's top hand... Lubbock, Texas, Fire Chief **Rhea Cooper** will retire Dec. 18 after more than 31 years with the department...**Katie Steel Danner**, former deputy director of the Department of Economic Development with the Missouri Division of Tourism, has been named director and **Marci Bennett** is the new chair of the Missouri Tourism Commission...Dallas Police Chief **David Kunkle** has announced his retirement...Avon Park, Fla., City Manager **Sarah Adelt** has given her notice of resignation and will begin her new job Dec. 2 as city clerk for the city of Frostproof in Polk County...The St. Paul, Minnesota, school board has narrowed its choice for superintendent of schools to **Valeria Silva**, the district's current chief academic officer, **Deborah Henton**, North Branch superintendent of schools, and **Charles Hopson**, deputy superintendent of the Portland, Ore., school district...If negotiations can be ironed out, Tennessee Commissioner of Education **Tim Webb** will become Cheatham County, Tennessee's, new schools director, effective July 1...With 25 years of experience in the child welfare field, **Susan Hoppe** will take over Dec. 14 as the Indiana Department of Child Services ombudsman...**Ron Loveridge**, mayor of Riverside, California, has been elected president of the National League of Cities...**Peter Bradley**, deputy chief of operations for the Las Cruces, New Mexico, police department has been named interim chief to replace outgoing Chief **Harry Romero**, who is retiring after 35 years with the department...Four new regional directors have been named for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - **Cristal Thomas** in Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), **Marjorie McColl Petty** in Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas), **Judy Baker** in Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) and **Susan M.R. Johnson** in Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington).

## What the states are doing

Some low-cost project funding from Recovery Act funds will help Seminole Electric in **Florida** with its solar project. The Internal Revenue Service awarded the electric company the right to issue up to \$34 million in Clean Renewable Energy bonds to finance what is expected to be a 1.5 megawatt solar energy project. The project would include photovoltaic panels as well as capacity for energy storage.

The Beaumont, **Texas**, Housing Authority has been awarded a \$1.26 million Recovery Act grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funds will be used for repairs and upgrades to a 94-unit public housing property for the elderly and disabled and includes replacing outdated HVAC with energy efficient systems, installing energy efficient hot water heaters, insulated windows and doors, new roofs and new interior and exterior paint.

Stimulus funding will help with a \$46 million project to pave the Vilonia Bypass in Faulkner County, **Arkansas**.

In **Mississippi**, \$8.31 million in recovery funds will help low-income residents weatherize their homes through grants from the Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc. Another \$2.3 million in stimulus funds has been awarded to the Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative Inc. for capital improvements.

The city of Sneads, **Florida**, is getting a second chance at stimulus funding. The town previously applied for funds for its wastewater project but was refused because the project was not shovel-ready. Some Recovery Act money that was not used or returned was available and the city will reapply, this time for \$250,000 of its \$1 million project.

The State Energy Office in **Kansas** will use \$34 million in Recovery Act funds to finance a low-interest loan program in the state for homeowners and small businesses to make energy efficiency improvements.

In Conway, **Arkansas**, stimulus funds will pay for 80 percent of a \$3.34 million Salem Road railroad overpass while the Conway Schools will receive \$7 million to upgrade and improve several older schools, including everything from plumbing improvements to roof work, keyless access and video surveillance.

In Kingston, **Washington**, \$4.6 million has been allocated to remove old fishing gear and gill nets in Puget Sound. In the last 30 years, officials estimate that netting has caused injury or death to 30,000 birds, 110,000 fish and almost 2 million invertebrates. Officials hope to have 90 percent of the netting removed by December 2010.

Two Houston, **Texas**, areas - the Upper Kirby District and Uptown Houston - have both been allocated \$5 million each in stimulus dollars to their Livable Communities Initiatives to help improve infrastructure for pedestrians. The funding is administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The projects include streetscape and lighting improvements, transit stops, shelters, benches, signage, waste receptacles, pavement, sidewalk repairs, widening or new sidewalk construction, curbs, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible ramps at intersections, street corner enhancements, reconstruction of driveway and alley entrances and landscaping and restoration of historical monuments.

A \$4.2 million grant is on its way to Pasco County, **Florida**, to get the county's energy efficiency plans under way. An energy audit will be performed and recommendations will be anything from the use of solar panels to a change to energy-efficient light bulbs. Also in Florida, Hillsborough and Pinella counties and the cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg qualified for a combined \$17.5 million for energy efficiency projects.

Schools in Milford, **New Hampshire**, plan to use most of their nearly \$895,000 in stimulus funds for equipment, intervention programs, software and teacher training related to students with disabilities and those who need additional assistance with math and reading.

Nearly \$1.3 million has been awarded to the Charleston County School District by the **South Carolina** Budget and Control Board's State Energy Office. The money will be used to make energy efficiency improvements that include occupancy sensors and improvements to heating and air conditioning units. The state's 85 school districts will share \$20.3 million in grants and loans with state public colleges and universities sharing \$12.2 million and state agencies awarded \$7.4 million.

Local governments in Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla counties in **Florida** have \$90 million in Recovery Act funds to spend. Among the projects are the widening of Capital Circle and the implementation of the city of Tallahassee's Smart Grid utility project.

**For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512.531.3900**

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## Other national news

### Texas public works projects awarded funding

Public works projects in rural areas of Texas will benefit from \$3.6 million in funding from the Texas Department of Rural Affairs' new Rural Sustainability Fund. The projects range from city-wide street improvements to replacing cast-iron water pipe. Project awards vary in size from \$200,000 to \$350,000. This program is the largest CDBG program in the nation and serves approximately 1,015 rural communities, 244 rural counties and benefits more than 483,000 Texans each year. To view the complete list of awards and descriptions of the projects, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

### New Mexico to expand distance learning, telemedicine with grants

Grants totaling \$1 million have been awarded to several New Mexico communities to improve distance learning and telemedicine. High schools and middle schools in Otero, Chaves and Lincoln counties will use their \$500,000 federal grant to connect them with Eastern New Mexico University for distance learning projects. Western New Mexico University will expand distance learning to residents of Grant, Luna, McKinley, Sierra, Socorro, Hidalgo and Catron counties with its \$267,000 award. And regarding telemedicine, Nizhoni Smiles, Inc. in Shiprock has been awarded \$247,000 to connect high schools and chapter houses in New Mexico, Utah and Arizona with dental providers. The funds are through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

### San Diego transit authority could privatize services

North County Transit District in San Diego will decide this week if it should turn over its bus and maintenance operations to a private firm. Officials are considering a seven-year contract to outsource the service. Although the contract would cost the transit district \$178 million, it is expected to realize a \$10 million-per-year savings for the district. The action would come after the district this year alone has cut services, increased fares and laid off employees trying to deal with budget deficits caused in part by decreased state and local funding from declining sales tax revenues.

### California considers security operations center

California is looking at creating a state-of-the-art information security operations center for monitoring cyber-threats and to protect government networks from attack. The proposal would create the California Information Security Operations Center that would seek out attacks on the state's critical information infrastructure. It likely would also include formation of a California Computer Incident Response Team to work with local emergency management officials and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### Pueblo of Santa Clara, Creeks awarded EPA funding

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$166,000 to the Pueblo of Santa Clara in New Mexico and \$65,000 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma for continued support for their water pollution control programs. Surface water sampling on Pueblo lands and Creek Tribal lands will continue to determine if a more thorough watershed management program is needed to develop water quality standards. Data analysis after water sampling will determine if their water quality needs are being met, note any changes in the quality or condition of their water, and understand and define the function and health of water stream ecosystems.

### Oklahoma school districts approve bond elections

New classrooms will be built at seven schools, athletic facilities will be improved at all secondary schools and new buses will be purchased following the recent approval by voters of a \$36.1 million bond issue in Oklahoma City. The bond also includes \$6.6 million to renovate Memorial High School. In Putnam County, Oklahoma, an \$80.6 million bond proposal passed, which will result in approximately 100 construction projects being funded across the northwest Oklahoma City district.

### New nature center studied for Elm Creek Park Reserve

Officials of Elm Creek Park Reserve in Dayton, Minnesota, say a new nature center is being planned for the park. Up to \$8 million is being included in the district's 2010 capital improvements budget to replace the current Eastman Nature Center, which is too small to meet the needs of the largest and most heavily visited park in the Three Rivers Park District.

The current building is small and lacks sufficient space for classrooms and staff offices. It also needs both roof repairs and new windows. Officials say the current center functions at maximum capacity most of the year. A new building, they say, would be a "green" building as well.

### Gulf Breeze plans \$5 million parking garage to anchor new building

A new \$5 million, city-owned parking garage is in the works for the city of Gulf Breeze, Florida, after council members approved issuing a Request for Proposals for the design of the facility. It is considered the first step toward development of a multi-million, high-tech, 80,000-square-foot, four-story office building to be privately owned. The parking garage is considered the city's commitment to the project. The development is expected to provide additional expansion room for businesses so they will not have to leave the community to get the additional space they need.

### Great Park construction project approved in California

A 200-acre, \$65 million Great Park construction plan at the former El Toro airbase has been approved by Irvine, California, officials. This is the third major Great Park contract. The other two have been for the master design and schematic design. Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

### Sacramento studying sports, entertainment arena for city

The Sacramento, California, mayor is asking for input on a proposed new sports and entertainment arena in the city. He is asking citizens for feedback on a timeline for the project, how it will be paid for, who will be the developer and where it will be built. Their input will be evaluated and a 90-day evaluation of the best proposals will follow. A task force will likely be appointed this week to study the proposals.

### New Mexico Supercomputer gets \$41 million grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of New Mexico a \$41 million grant for the state's supercomputer. The money will fund the New Mexico Computing Applications Center, which oversees the state's supercomputer, for five years. The supercomputer models how climate change will affect mountain water systems in New Mexico.

### Colorado grant to assist small, medium businesses

To support the export of clean technologies and services by Colorado companies to China and Mexico, the state has received a \$363,135 federal grant. The Colorado International Trade Office will get the matching funds over the next three years. The grant will support a program that works with small and medium-sized Colorado companies.

**For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact Reagan Weil or Richard Hartmann at 512.531.3900**

## Calendar of events

### Webinar for local governments planned today for state, local officials

A U.S. Department of Energy webinar is slated for today, Wednesday, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. (Eastern) regarding how state policies affect the development of markets for renewable energy technologies. The seminar is planned especially for state and local officials. Joyce McLaren, senior energy analyst with the DOE National Renewable Energy Lab, will offer state rankings for several renewable energy installations, based on population, gross state product and resource availability. "State of the States 2009: Renewable Energy Development and the Role of Policy" is a free seminar, but attendees must register in advance to obtain a URL for the presentation and a call-in phone number. For more information click [HERE](#).

### Becoming America's model green community

An overview of how Greensburg, Kansas, became "America's model green community" following a devastating tornado will be the subject of a U.S. Department of Energy webinar on Monday, Nov. 23. The event is set from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (Eastern). City and government leaders will discuss how decisions were made to rebuild with the largest concentration of LEED certified buildings in the world. The webinar is geared to federal agencies, state energy offices, renewable energy and energy efficiency associations, architects, residential and commercial builders, planning firms, and homeowners. The presenters will include the Greensburg mayor, the president of a local industry, the GISD Superintendent and the executive director of Greensburg GreenTown. This webinar is free of charge, but those attending must register in advance to obtain a URL for the presentation and call-in phone number. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### Conference on Global Preparedness set in December

The Third Annual Conference on Global Preparedness is set for Dec. 8-10 at the Melbourne Hilton Riato Place in Melbourne, Fla. The event is hosted by the Florida Institute of Technology's Global Center for Preparedness. This year's event will feature speakers: Kay Goss, associate director of FEMA from 1994-2001 and now director of emergency management and crisis communications for SRA International; Yuki Karakawa from the International Association of Emergency Managers; Terry Gillette, president of Raytheon-St. Lou Kratz, vice president and managing director, Logistics and Sustainment, Lockheed Martin Corp.; and representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Florida National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. Major topics will include emergency response and interoperability, the economy and preparedness, cyber-security and information assurance, human factors and secure technology. Presentations will show how these areas are interconnected to identify today's challenges. To register, contact Conference Administration at (321) 674-8342 or email [cgpinfo@fit.edu](mailto:cgpinfo@fit.edu). For more information, click [HERE](#).

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## All 50 states have own recovery Web sites

All 50 of the states and the District of Columbia now have their own "recovery" sites where citizens can track where ARRA dollars are being spent in their respective states. The states are charged with ensuring accountability and transparency in how the funds are spent and their Web sites show the projects being funded and the amount of ARRA funds allocated. For links to each of the state and District of Columbia recovery Web sites, [HERE](#).

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