

# STIMULUS REPORT

News, resources and trends in how federal dollars are flowing

## Trail system gets boost from funds

### STIMULUS LISTINGS

**THE LATEST STIMULUS-FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE CHARLOTTE REGION INCLUDE:**

#### Request for proposals

**Project name:** TAS recovery  
**Project type:** Advance notice  
**Bid number:** DEEE0001653  
**Publication date:** Nov. 9  
**Market sector:** State/municipal  
**Agency:** Catawba Indian Nation, Rock Hill, S.C.  
**Value:** \$173,900

#### Project award

**Project name:** Highway and bridge construction  
**Contract number:** C202460  
**Federal aid number:** STM-085-2(70)59  
**Vendor:** Mountain Creek Contractors, Inc  
**Award amount:** \$1,495,044  
**Publication date:** Nov. 12  
**Sector:** State/municipal  
**Agency:** N.C. Department of Transportation  
**County:** Cabarrus

Source: Recovery.org from Onvia. Learn more about the economic recovery effort in the Charlotte region at [www.charlottebusinessjournal.com](http://www.charlottebusinessjournal.com). Find more government projects at [www.onvia.com/ACBJ](http://www.onvia.com/ACBJ) or call 1-866-797-5986.

### GO ONLINE FOR FULL LISTINGS

For a complete rundown on the Stimulus Listings for the Charlotte region, go to [www.charlottebusinessjournal.com](http://www.charlottebusinessjournal.com), search for the word "stimulus," then click on the first headline on the search-results page.

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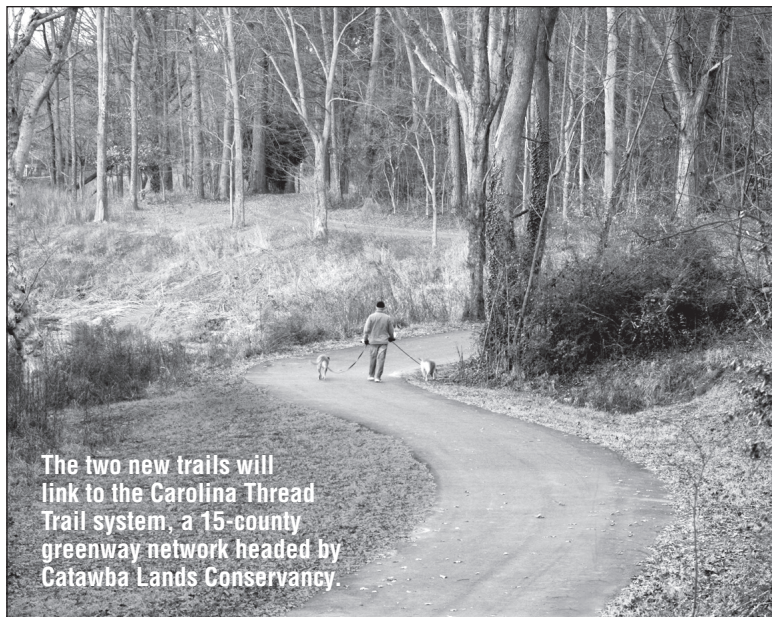
It will be just a little easier to get from here to there walking or biking next year in Mecklenburg County, thanks to two stimulus grants.

Mecklenburg County has received a total of \$2.35 million in Federal Highway Administration funds to build the Toby Creek Greenway and the West Branch Rocky River Greenway. Both are in north Mecklenburg.

The work, including site preparation and trail construction, is now going out to bid. Work is expected to begin on both projects within the next 45 days.

Residents should be walking on the 3.1 miles of trails by next fall, says Julie Clark, director of the county's greenway planning and development division. "It's a great way to provide an alternative mode of transportation for folks."

Mecklenburg county commission Chair Jennifer Roberts says the walking trail system allows easy access to schools, recreation and nature. "It's through these connections of people and places that our trail network



The two new trails will link to the Carolina Thread Trail system, a 15-county greenway network headed by Catawba Lands Conservancy.

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For a list of breaking news stories, contract awards and other online resources, go to [charlottebusinessjournal.com](http://charlottebusinessjournal.com).

serves an important role in our transportation infrastructure."

The two trails will eventually link to the Carolina Thread Trail system, a 15-county greenway network headed by Catawba Lands Conservancy. The Toby Creek trail will connect with the Mallard Creek Greenway at North Tryon Street and add two miles to the existing seven-mile system that includes the Clark's Creek Greenway. It will also link to the planned Charlotte Area

Transit System's extension of the Blue Line commuter rail line through north Mecklenburg.

It's almost entirely on the UNC Charlotte campus. The trail will connect students, faculty and staff to shops and neighborhoods in the University City area. The Rocky River trail combines with the Southeast Greenway to link Davidson Elementary School with Davidson College for walking or biking.

Both projects were originally

scheduled for funding by a 2004 parks and recreation bond issue. The county's "debt diet" cut the size of the bond issue, eliminating funding for the trails.

### Charlotte firms have landed \$66 million in road contracts

A *Business Journal of the Triad* analysis of the contracts awarded by N.C. Department of Transportation shows Charlotte-area firms with a large share of stimulus road work channeled through the DOT.

Firms here have won about \$66.7 million as of October, while Triangle-area firms were awarded \$14.5 million.

Triad firms have been awarded almost \$49 million in stimulus-related road construction contracts.

However, two N.C. firms, Barnhill Contracting Co. of Tarboro and S.T. Wooten Corp of Wilson, both east of the Triangle, have won more than \$100 million combined.

The state can control what projects are done and where, but it is legally obligated to give the contracts themselves to the low bidder.

Stimulus-funded road construction has been one of the most visible and sizable efforts to come out of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The state was allotted \$737 million for highway and bridge projects.

The Business Journal of the Triad

## Stimulus a bright spot for construction outlook

**KENT HOOVER**  
WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Projects funded by the economic-stimulus bill will provide the only bright spot for the construction industry next year, according to Associated Builders and Contractors.

The trade group predicts nonresidential construction employment will fall 5% or more in 2010 from this year's level. The good news is that's only half this year's rate of decline.

The industry has "been impacted by a combination of financing constraints, massive job loss and a lack of confidence in local economies across the nation due to falling tax revenues," says Anirban Basu, the organization's chief economist.

However, the stimulus bill has provided work for construction companies involved in water and sewer projects as well as road resurfacing. And "those segments are positioned to be among the big winners in

2010," Basu says.

Also, "public buildings — particularly courthouses and federal facilities in need of modernization — will receive a sizable increase next year due to stimulus funds reaching the market," Basu says.

### Industrial energy-efficiency projects receive \$155 million

The Department of Energy awarded \$155 million in economic-stimulus funds for 41 projects to improve energy efficiency at industrial facilities.

The industrial sector accounts for more than 30% of the nation's energy use and is responsible for 30% of the nation's carbon emissions.

Most of the projects will support efforts by local universities and agencies to help industrial facilities conduct assessments on how they can become more energy-efficient.

The biggest share of the money, however,

will go to nine projects that will generate heat and power needed for industrial processes on-site.

The \$150 million awarded for those projects will be matched by \$634 million in private funding. The projects will save an estimated 14 trillion BTUs of energy per year.

### More than \$20 billion obligated for stimulus highway projects

The Federal Highway Administration has obligated more than \$20 billion of the \$26.6 billion in economic-stimulus funds appropriated for highway and bridge projects.

Nearly 8,500 highway projects have been approved, the agency says, and nearly 5,000 are under way.

"Even though winter is right around the corner, highway and bridge projects are still getting under way, creating thousands of jobs and saving thousands more," says Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.