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STATE POSTS FEDERAL STIMULUS ALLOCATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

Residents can now see what part of the \$3.8 billion in stimulus money that has been allocated to Michigan is moving to their community, administration officials announced Monday. Included in that money is the first three transportation projects to see ground broken.

The allocations approved in the first 90 days since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed amount to about half of the \$7 billion the state expects to see over the two years it lasts, said Leslee Fritz, director of the Michigan Economic Recovery Office that oversees the money in the state.

And most of the money, about \$2.7 billion, has already been appropriated by the Legislature, Ms. Fritz said.

"Things are moving quicker than typically happens in government," she said. "And without a lot of notice because things are moving so quickly."

To help residents track the money, any funds that go to local projects, including road and bridge improvements, are posted at www.michigan.gov/recovery. The site includes a [county-by-county](#) breakdown of the allocations.

Ms. Fritz said the county listings would be updated regularly, but she said it was not clear yet exactly how often. "Here in the next month or two it will probably be updated fairly frequently," she said.

The county totals also will not match the \$3.8 billion because not all of that money is making its way directly into the communities. For instance, the \$2.2 billion for Medicaid will allow that much general fund to move back into the rest of the budget. But that money does not move past the state and so will not show on the county totals. Any other money used to balance the state budget also will be absent from the county listings, she said.

The \$1 billion in transportation money is set to fund some 550 projects, of which three have already broken ground. Ms. Fritz said more of those would start shortly as the construction season begins. And all of those projects will show on the county breakdowns.

A better picture of how the money is being spent will develop in July as the first quarterly report on the stimulus program is issued, she said. That report, due July 10, is considered a practice run for the reporting system and she said there would likely be some collection and reporting issues to work out between that and the first official report in October.

Ms. Fritz said the allocation could also increase depending on how much of the discretionary grant money the state is able to attract. For instance, Michigan and other Midwest states are arguing for a substantial portion of the \$8.5 billion dedicated to transit and high-speed rail, she said. She expected five applications would be submitted Monday for the money set aside for advanced battery development.

The stimulus money is also designed to promote job preservation and growth in the states, but Ms. Fritz said beyond the 109,000 jobs the Obama administration has estimated the funds will protect or create in the state over the two years, there is not really a way to tie the funds to changes in the state's unemployment rate.

"We will measure how many people got help and what kind of help," she said. "Addressing human need is a difficult metric."

Still unclear is whether State Police troopers scheduled for layoff will be among those receiving help. Ms. Fritz said the state, and several communities, had applied for federal law enforcement grants, but decisions on those grants had not yet been made and are not expected until late summer or early fall.

And whether Michigan is receiving a fair share of the overall funds might not be known until later in the process, she said. But she said the state so far is ranked eighth in population and eighth in allocations under program.