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Federal Recovery Act could quicken road paving, development of trails in San Jose

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Federal stimulus money is trickling into San Jose, and several road repaving projects are set to start in neighborhoods in late August.

San Jose officials launched a Web site in June that listed 31 projects they hope will be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which federal lawmakers enacted in February. Among the "shovel ready" projects is a plan to repave miles of arterial roads in the city.

Federal money is being distributed by the state of California, and \$12.7 million was recently authorized to fund the repaving of 11 roads, including parts of Willow Street in Willow Glen, Taylor Street in the Rose Garden area and Foxworthy Avenue in Cambrian. Work is expected to start on Aug. 31 and finish in June 2010.

A second state authorization of \$2.4 million is expected to pay for road construction in San Jose from April 2010 to October 2010.

"The first project is looking at about 16 miles, which is just a small fraction of the total roadways in the city," said Rene Cordero, project delivery manager for the San Jose Department of

Transportation. "It will definitely help, but it's still far short of where we need to be in terms of funding." Roughly \$30 million is needed annually to maintain San Jose's roads.

The city expects to receive at least \$50 million total from the Recovery act, including \$11.9 million for workforce development programs. The federal grant money will help the city reduce what's currently a \$283 million maintenance backlog. Several million dollars is also expected for projects involving energy, housing and public safety.

The federal funding could also benefit some neighborhood trails.

Willow Glen and Rose Garden area residents could see development of the Guadalupe River Trail from Woz Way to West Virginia Street. Paving and retaining walls would be included in the project, and it is intended to improve access for walkers and bicycle commuters to the Guadalupe River Park and downtown.

Roughly 1,000 people use the Guadalupe trail daily, according to city documents.

Another project on the Willow Glen Spur Trail would connect a bikeway from the Los Gatos Creek Trail to the highway. City officials say the \$2 million project is a critical connection in San Jose's trail system and would create 16 jobs.

The Interstate 880 and 280 interchange is a regional project that city leaders also hope to fund with federal dollars; its price tag is roughly \$100 million.

Other projects on San Jose's list include more energy-saving LED streetlights, citywide tree planting, hybrid VTA buses, broadband Internet at the future South San Jose police substation and

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money for the current renovation at Mineta San Jose International Airport.

For more information on federal stimulus money in San Jose, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/recoveryact .

Taylor Street from The Alameda to Stockton Avenue;

Willow Street from Lelong to Lincoln Avenue;

Foxworthy Avenue from Union to Leigh Avenue;

Almaden Road from W. Alma Avenue to Almaden Expressway; and
Branham Lane from Almaden Expressway to Pearl Avenue.

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