

Iowa To Spend Billions On Roads, Bridges

Stimulus Money Part Of Transportation Plan

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DES MOINES, Iowa -- The I-JOBS program

and the

Iowa

Department

of

Transportation

have plans

to spend

billions on

roads and

bridges

across the state.



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It won't only mean safer, smoother roads. It could also mean hundreds of jobs for out-of-work Iowans.

The Iowa DOT has a five-year year plan totaling \$2.1 billion.

There are projects slated across the state. In Polk County, the largest project is planned for Interstate 35 in West Des Moines from the West mix-master to Highway 5.

The \$69 million project calls for adding lanes and replacing pavement and bridges.

Another project would improve the Highway 65-Interstate 80 interchange in Altoona.

Funding for these projects will come from the state budget, plus \$400 million is coming from the federal stimulus package.

"The goal is to improve Iowa's transportation system so Iowans can utilize it," said Jon Ranney with the Iowa DOT.

The project is not a done deal yet. The Transportation Commission has to vote on it at their June 9th meeting.

In addition to these projects, I-Jobs is pumping \$115 million into transportation projects. That money is being spent on bridges, airports and railroads.

A spokesman for Governor Culver said it's a win-win.

"To not only fix our roads, fix our bridges, bring more mass transit to the state, but also create jobs and get the economy turned around," said Phil Roeder.

The Governor will sign the I-Jobs legislation into law Thursday.



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