

Seattle Transportation Watch

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NYT: Most transpo stimulus funding goes to rural areas

In case you missed it, The New York Times has this [analysis](#) on how the country's 100 largest metropolitan areas received less than half of the federal stimulus money for transportation projects.

The story says that states allocated more money to projects in rural areas than in urban centers, which hold the most people and drive state economies.

Washington state gets mentioned for stiffing Seattle on stimulus funding (\$75 million for the controversial Mercer Street project and widening of the South Spokane Street viaduct). It includes a graphic on Washington state, which shows that King County received \$64 million, or \$34 per capita, compared to much smaller Kittitas County, which got \$33 million, or \$836 per capita.

About \$26.6 billion was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the \$787 billion American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. States could choose how to invest the money, and last Monday marked the 120-day deadline for states to commit at least 50 percent of their stimulus money.

A [report](#) published last week by Smart Growth America and the Transportation Choices Coalition also criticized Washington state lawmakers, whom it said doled out too much money to rural areas and not enough to urban projects. The main thrust of that report, though, was that states spent too much on building new roads and bridges instead of fixing roads in disrepair and investing in transit.

Posted by [Scott Gutierrez](#) at July 9, 2009 3:38 p.m.

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