

Infrastructure

[Transportation infrastructure: Obama begins to dole out stimulus funds for shovel-ready transportation infrastructure projects](#) Less than three weeks after signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law, President Barack Obama said yesterday that his administration has released \$26.6 billion in funding dedicated towards infrastructure spending, which he said will help to spur job creation and help the United States economy get back on track.

[President Obama, VP Biden announce transportation infrastructure investment, jobs for Americans](#) President Barack Obama and Vice President Biden Tuesday announced the release of \$28 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to states and local transportation authorities to repair and build highways, roads and bridges.

[Ohio '3-C' train plan on track](#) A passenger rail line connecting Cincinnati to Dayton, Columbus, Cleveland and possibly Toledo is part of the \$7.5 billion state transportation budget that could pass the Ohio House this week.

[Michigan gets \\$847M boost for roadwork](#) Mike Nystrom, spokesman for the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, estimates 20,230 jobs will be created in Michigan. About 25,000 road construction jobs have been lost in the state in the past five years.

Buy American

[Bay City officials aim to buy American-made cars](#) In a 9-0 vote on Monday, Bay City commissioners adopted a resolution stipulating that the city will give first preference to U.S.-made products whenever buying new city vehicles.

["Buy American" Feeling Grows as Automakers Struggle](#) On the heels of the bleak news that U.S. automakers sold 41% fewer cars in February than they did a year ago, Gallup polling offers some reassurance that Detroit brands are still in demand.

[W.Va. labor unions urge consumers to buy American](#) CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Labor union members, retirees and allies rallying at the Capitol offered a prescription for curing the country's economic woe: buy American. Regional United Steelworkers leader Billy Thompson says buying products and creating jobs in the U.S. is the surest way to end the recession.

Economic Stimulus

[Chicago company sued over economic stimulus ads](#) An Illinois advertising company is being sued for allegedly airing deceptive commercials about President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan, the state attorney general's office said Tuesday.

[US Economy Weakened in January, February, Fed Says](#) The U.S. economy "deteriorated further" in almost all corners of the country over the last two months as consumer spending slumped and manufacturing declined, the Federal Reserve said in its regional business survey. Ten of 12 Fed district banks reported "weaker conditions or declines" in their regional economies, and respondents didn't expect a "significant pickup" until late 2009 or early 2010, the Fed said today in its Beige Book release, published two weeks before officials meet in Washington to set monetary policy. Housing "remained in the doldrums in most areas," the Fed said.

Green Investment

[Nevada lawmakers talk about renewable energy](#) Lawmakers in Carson City are still trying to figure out the details of the federal stimulus package and how the money will affect Nevada.

One of the issues still hanging in the balance is money that is expected to go to renewable energy projects.

[Growing excitement, expectations for green jobs corps](#) In his recent speech to Congress, Obama said the U.S. will double its supply of renewable energy in three years. To do so, he's calling on a new class of workers to be trained in environmental fields. Green jobs training programs will get \$500 million from the stimulus.

[Building a greener workforce](#) PENNSYLVANIA is struggling - like many states - to combat the recession, fill a large deficit and put people to work. The federal economic stimulus will certainly help. With this funding, Pennsylvania can invest in infrastructure projects that will create thousands of jobs fixing our aging roads and bridges. The construction projects will also require people to make asphalt, cement, steel and other products used in road, bridge and water system rehab. It's the right plan because it puts Americans to work rebuilding America.

[For Green Energy Investors, a Particularly Tough Ride](#) If there is a lesson to be learned from the precipitous fall in "green" stocks last year, it's this: Combining greed with good intentions can make for a poor investment strategy. Once among the hottest names on Wall Street, makers of solar panels, wind turbines, and other environmentally friendly gear are in for a difficult year. In 2008, almost every stock in the green space fell harder than the rest of the market during an all-around terrible year for equities. While the S&P 500 index declined by more than a third, several popular green indexes fared worse, slumping between 60 percent and 70 percent. Now, as many of those stocks languish near record lows, alternative energy appears to have stalled. Nervous investors are waiting until money begins to flow from the government's \$787 billion stimulus package. Even when the spigot opens, it's not clear that a new commitment to renewable energy will be enough to revive the fortunes of an entire industry.