

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 7

Michigan Spends \$1.5 Million in Stimulus Money to Improve Casino Sidewalks

- The state of Michigan has announced plans to spend \$1,525,000 in federal stimulus money to streetscape six blocks of a downtown Detroit area surrounding a local casino and its parking garages. Taxpayers, of course, will fund the street decorations, at a cost of \$254,000 per block.
- According to the press release issued by the state, “The city of Detroit, in coordination with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), will streetscape Monroe Street from St. Antoine Street to Randolph Street, and Brush Street from Lafayette Boulevard to Gratiot Avenue, in Greektown. Streetscape elements include decorative and scored sidewalks, new streetlights, bike racks, trash receptacles and trees. This project will improve the visual quality of the area, making it attractive and safer for pedestrians and will complement the current investments that are part of the Greektown Casino development.”
- The streets receiving funds under this project border the Greektown Casino. Interestingly, while the stimulus bill prevented taxpayer funds from being expended on casinos, it clearly does not preclude funds from being spent to improve the streets surrounding casinos.

Pres Release: <http://www.michigan.gov/recovery/0,1607,7-172-52829-212442--,00.html>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip’s website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/WashingtonWatch/>.

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.