

Walkertown makes pitch for stimulus money

Other Forsyth towns have also put in their bids

By John Hinton | Journal Reporter

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Walkertown has submitted sidewalk projects totaling \$465,000 to get federal stimulus money. But its request is competing with others from five Forsyth towns and three communities that border the county for the money.

The town council agreed last week to send a letter of support for the projects to the Winston-Salem Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, a group of local and state officials who work on transportation projects in the Winston-Salem area.

The Walkertown projects consist of installing sidewalks on East Friendly, West Friendly and Darrow roads, Ruxton Drive and Morris Street, Town Manager Scott Snow said Monday. The West Friendly Road project includes widening it from 18 feet to 24 feet.

Stan Polanis, the director of transportation in Winston-Salem, said that the MPO got requests last week from Kernersville, Rural Hall, Tobaccoville, Lewisville, Clemmons, King, Midway, Wallburg and Bermuda Run. Those projects total more than \$13 million, but the Transportation Advisory Committee initially has \$2.2 million in federal stimulus money available.

The MPO will meet April 16 to decide which projects it will recommend, Polanis said. If the Transportation Advisory Committee approves the list, then those towns will be notified, and they will submit those projects for bids by contractors.

Mayor "Doc" Davis said in the town's letter to the MPO that it was prepared to comply with the requirements to use the stimulus money.

"The town council believes these projects will create numerous job opportunities in the Walkertown community while developing much needed infrastructure," Davis said in the letter.

However, it is unclear how many jobs that the sidewalk projects would create.

The towns whose projects would get the stimulus money must have those projects under contract by October, Polanis said.

Walkertown will not put its projects up for bids by contractors until it knows whether it will receive federal money for them, Welch said.

The Walkertown projects would provide sidewalks that would connect Town Hall with the Walkertown Community Park on Darrow Road and the Center Stage Shopping Center at N.C. 66 and Main Street.

"They are quality projects," Snow said.

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