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NATIONAL RECOVERY ACT BRINGS LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS TO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GLENDALE

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Historic downtown Glendale will get a mini facelift thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which will fund an alleyway/pedestrian improvement in front of some of the downtown’s oldest businesses positioned just east of 58th and Glendale avenues.

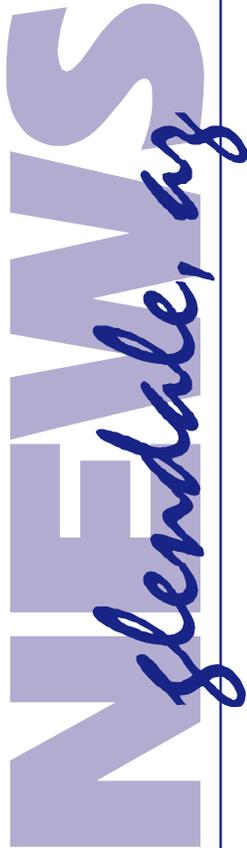
This alley pedestrian and landscaping beautification project will include new brick pavers, landscaping, enhanced pedestrian lighting and benches.

The improvements will create access and exposure for the businesses along the alley, and an upgraded access to other busy destinations such as the Glendale Civic Center and Glendale City Hall.

In addition, during Glendale’s downtown festivals, attendees will benefit by using the walkway to visit businesses or go between festival events.

Construction is scheduled to begin in Feb. 2010 with a completion scheduled for the end of April 2010. The public is invited to an open house at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4 to learn more about the project. The meeting will take place at the Glendale City Hall Council Chambers, room B-3.

“Glendale will benefit tremendously using ARRA funds on transportation projects such as this beautification project,” said Jamsheed Mehta, Glendale Transportation Director. “The ARRA Act is helping us save money and providing us the opportunity to continue improvements that are important for the community.”



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Examples of some ARRA projects now underway include the improvements being made at the Loop 101 and Union Hills Drive interchange and the pedestrian-bicycle bridge over Loop 101. Both of these projects had previously been funded with Glendale Onboard (GO!) Transportation funds as the local match. However, ARRA funds have made it possible to use 100 percent federal monies for these projects, allowing the city to re-direct local transportation funds to other projects in these times of revenue shortfalls.

Glendale has also been approved for ARRA funding that will help lower ongoing maintenance expenses. Street pavement overlays will enhance the life of the pavement on two arterial streets; Litchfield Road and Glendale Avenue. Plus, ARRA monies will be used for long-term pavement markings on 25 miles of arterial streets, and to improve the existing signal system with new equipment. This stimulus money lessens the burden on local funds that are needed to maintain older equipment and emergency repairs.

For more information, visit www.glendaleaz.com/recovery.

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