

City of Las Vegas, Nevada
*Substantial Amendment to
Third Program Year Action Plan 2008-09*
For the period – June 5, 2009 to September 30, 2012

**American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009**
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT - R (CDBG)**

June 5, 2009

*Prepared and Submitted by the city of Las Vegas, Department of Neighborhood Services
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Las Vegas City Council: Mayor Oscar B. Goodman
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese, Ward 3 • Councilman Steve Wolfson, Ward 2
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, Ward 1 • Councilman Steven D. Ross, Ward 6
Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow, Ward 5 • Councilman David W. Steinman (Interim), Ward 4

City Manager: Elizabeth N. Fretwell

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Community Development Block Grant – R (CDBG)

Executive Summary

Title XII of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-005, approved February 17, 2009) appropriates \$1 billion to carry out the CDBG program under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301, et seq.) (the HCDA) on an expedited basis. These funds will be distributed to grantees that received CDBG funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 in accordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 5306. The grant program under Title XII is commonly referred to as the CDBG Recovery (CDBG-R) program.

Funding available under the Recovery Act has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. In implementing the Recovery Act, Federal agencies are undertaking unprecedented measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of the funds. Concurrently, Federal agencies must ensure that the funds are employed in a prudent manner consistent with applicable program requirements.

The Department desires that CDBG-R grantees carefully evaluate proposed projects for consistency with the overarching goals of the Recovery Act, especially the above-cited purposes. To this extent, HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. While the full range of CDBG activities is available to grantees, the Department strongly suggests that grantees incorporate consideration of the public perception of the intent of the Recovery Act in identifying and selecting projects for CDBG-R funding.. In accordance with the Recovery Act, HUD has imposed a grant period and expenditure deadline of September 30, 2012, to ensure that the use of CDBG-R funds is expedited.

In order to receive the **\$1,376,738** allocation from HUD through the CDBG-R program the city of Las Vegas must submit a Substantial Amendment to its Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Action Plan. The draft Action Plan was made available to the public through advertisement in local newspapers on May 28, 2009 for a 7-day public review and comment period. The draft plan was made available in print form at the Neighborhood Services Department and on the city’s website (www.lasvegasnevada.gov). A public hearing to solicit public comments on the draft plan and approve the draft plan was held at the City Council meeting on June 3, 2009. This Substantial Amendment presents the activities which will be undertaken by the City through an approved contract with HUD.

City of Las Vegas Available Resources

CDBG-R	<u>\$1,376,738</u>
Non-Federal Grant Funds	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,386,738</u>

The City will utilize other federal and non-federal funding sources in addition to CDBG-R funds where applicable.

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Eligible Activities

While grantees have the full range of CDBG eligible activities at their disposal for CDBG-R, Congress clearly intends that CDBG-R funds should primarily be invested in economic development, housing, infrastructure and other public facilities activities that will quickly spur further economic investment, increased energy efficiency, and job creation or retention.

The Recovery Act also makes clear that grantees are to identify projects that can achieve the Recovery Act purposes AND can be quickly implemented. Language at Title XII of Division A of the Recovery Act, which appropriates the CDBG-R funds, states that, "...in selecting projects to be funded, recipients shall give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days from the date the funds are made available to the recipients."

CDBG-R Information by Activity

Proposed CDBG-R Projects

Project name	Budget	Objective	Additional Funding Source
Bike Lanes - Ward 5	\$100,000 CDBG-R; \$10,000 Bike Grant	Painting bike lanes on existing streets throughout Ward 5, adding asphalt width as needed to accommodate the bike lanes,.	Submission of a grant for \$10,000 for additional funding for bike path installation.
Solar Carports – Wards 1, 3, 5	\$1,276,738	Solar Covered Carports will produce electricity immediately upon completion, thereby reducing energy utility costs by implementation of newer technologies. The use of photovoltaic electricity provides an alternative self generating source of power, helping to reduce utility burden costs for needed city wide services.	
Total	\$1,386,738		

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Activity Names and Narratives

Bike Lanes in Ward 5

A) Preserving and creating jobs

Bike Lanes-W-5 will preserve 2 existing construction jobs and prevent staff reductions for existing construction companies and the City of Las Vegas by generating a short-term construction need.

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions –

Estimated Part Time Positions –

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions –

Estimated Part Time Positions – 2 construction jobs will be retained

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession

Those hardest hit by the recession have limited resources and have to seek alternative modes of travel. This project will make alternative modes of travel more accessible to those individuals.

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency – N/A

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project will create permanent bike lanes along over four miles of existing roadway. This will create a safer transportation corridor and promote alternative modes of transportation. The project will cover the following streets: Washington from Rancho Drive to Bruce Avenue (3 miles); Vegas Drive/Owens from Rancho Drive to Martin Luther King Blvd. (1 mile).

E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services – N/A

F) Fostering energy independence

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project promotes alternative modes of transportation and creates safe path for bicycle users, which promotes less motor vehicles use, equating to a possible decrease in automobile emissions.

Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project promotes alternative modes of transportation and creates a safe path for bicycle users, which fosters the use of less fossil fuels and thereby helps conserve energy.

Responsible Organization:

Jorge Cervantes, Director

Public Works Department

City of Las Vegas

400 Stewart Avenue, 4th Floor City Hall

Las Vegas, NV 89101

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Solar Carports – Wards 1, 3, 5

A) Preserving and creating jobs

Solar Covered Carports will provide needed construction jobs for the local community as well as high technology manufacturing jobs for purchased photovoltaic and other electrical equipment. Factory orders for American made products used at the site will help to stabilize and promote employment for the American workforce.

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Full time equivalents (FTE) one job year = $\$1,326,738/\$92,136$ = approximately 14 full time jobs

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – N/A

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession

The proposed Solar Carport Cover sites are located in a high risk low income areas where most residents have been hit hard by the recession and loss of jobs in the construction industry as a whole. The proposed project will assist in providing local residents with new construction job opportunities and high technical green energy job training that can be beneficial for future job opportunities.

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency

Solar Covered Carports will produce electricity immediately upon completion, thereby reducing energy utility costs by implementation of newer technologies. The use of photovoltaic electricity provides an alternative self generating source of power, helping to reduce utility burden costs for needed city wide services. The selected sites are : Natural History Museum, 900 Las Vegas Blvd - 64 covered spaces, 101KW saved; Stupak Community Center, 231 Boston Avenue - 34 covered spaces, 54KW saved; Fire Station #10, 1501 S. Martin Luther King Blvd - 24 covered spaces, 38KW saved.

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits

Solar photovoltaic power is a clean renewable source of energy, helping both the environment by reducing carbon emissions and foreign oil dependency through a reduction coal and oil electricity generation. On site renewable energy offsets demands placed on the grid infrastructure to further mitigate costly brownout peak demand periods.

E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services

Self generation of electricity through solar technology minimizes services currently provided by the local utility company.

F) Fostering energy independence

Renewable solar photovoltaic electricity will assist to reduce dependence of foreign sources of fuel oil used for building heating and lighting that currently account for 68 percent of electricity consumed in the United States. The natural desert environment and extensive number of sun light days of Las Vegas, Nevada optimizes energy production through the use solar technology.

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Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

Energy Conservation – Actual electricity production and associated cost savings of the photovoltaic panels will be posted on an internet web site and within each building, along with signage, demonstrating to the public, financial benefits of energy conservation. Shaded paved areas reduce heat islands adjacent to buildings thereby lowering temperatures and air conditioning cooling costs that account for \$40 billion dollars or one sixth, of all the electricity produced each year.

Smart Growth – Solar photovoltaic covered carports provide a dual use of desired shaded areas for public/occupant vehicles and paved areas from excessive heat and generate electricity for facility lighting and conditioning.

Green Building Technologies – Solar covered photovoltaic carport covers provide needed shade over paved urban parking areas reducing heat island effects, absorbing sunlight, reducing glare, and lowering ambient temperatures. Microclimates are preserved that help to maintain native plant and wildlife habitat. Purchase of American made photovoltaic products will provide additional capital to green technology companies necessary for further research and development.

Reduction in Pollution Emissions- Solar carport covers that contribute to reduce heat islands in urban areas by lowering ambient temperatures reduce associated building air conditioning costs that contribute to greenhouse gas and pollution generation.

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