

Three nonhighway projects in area to get funding

Lottery bonds to be used for work picked by panel

[By Peter Wong](#) • Statesman Journal • August 26, 2010

Three projects in the Mid-Valley made the final cut of nonhighway projects to be funded by lottery bonds, the Oregon Transportation Commission decided Wednesday.

The three Mid-Valley projects are among 41 that will share \$96 million. They are:

- New air traffic control tower at Aurora Airport, \$2.695 million.
- Rickreall park-and-ride lot for Salem-Keizer Transit District, \$243,200.
- Bridge repairs at Pudding River and Zollner Creek on the Willamette Valley Railroad, \$640,000.

An additional \$5 million was earmarked for rural airports, where there will be 57 other small projects:

The money was authorized by the 2009 Legislature and follows similar proceeds of \$100 million from lottery-backed bonds in each of the two previous budget cycles.

"From marine to aviation, transit to rail, ConnectOregon has created jobs and improved our economic future," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who proposed all the bond issues. "The entire program, with its focused investment in our nonhighway system, has been a success for all of Oregon."

Fuel taxes and vehicle and driver fees are reserved under the Oregon Constitution for roads and bridges.

The commission, whose five members are appointed by the governor, gave approval at its meeting in Hermiston. It conducted a public hearing last month in Portland.

Officials at the Oregon Department of Transportation said 81 applications totaling \$201.5 million were filed for the available money.