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Stimulus funded 700 Ontario construction projects

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Ontario's funding of 700 infrastructure stimulus projects completed in 2010 did help construction, but preparing for 2011 work is imperative, says a construction stakeholder.

"Good-quality jobs were created in the construction sector and elsewhere thanks to the stimulus," says Andy Manahan, executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario. "However, we really need to think about 2011 and the funding the province may have remaining, from areas such as the stimulus funding envelopes and Ministry of Transportation funds, and get those tenders out the door very quickly in the new year."

The projects recently heralded by Queen's Park Liberals are part of a record two-year investment of nearly \$28 billion in Ontario's infrastructure, which created over 300,000 jobs. The work included new roads, bridges, community centres, water infrastructure, schools and hospitals. By March 2011, the total infrastructure investment for the province since 2005-06 is expected to total about \$60 billion.

Completed stimulus projects include 69 rinks and arenas, 96 gyms and recreational centres, 41 other sports fields and courts, 79 parks, 12 fire halls, three heritage buildings, 12 libraries, 18 pools, three airports, about 290 road repairs and 14 bridges.

Since 2003, construction is in progress or completed for more than 100 major hospital projects. This includes 18 new hospitals that have been built or are underway. Also, 400 new schools have been built, with 100 more in progress and an additional 17,000 school renewal projects are completed or underway.