

## ANALYSIS OF FEDERAL BILL

Ohio may get bigger stimulus

Obama's plan might provide \$9.3 billion; Gov. Strickland had asked for \$5 billion

Thursday, January 22, 2009 3:24 AM

By [Joe Hallett](#) and [Mark Niquette](#)

### THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Ohio could get more than \$9 billion under President Barack Obama's economic-stimulus package, according to a preliminary estimate by a research group for governors and state legislatures.

Federal Funds Information for States, a nonpartisan subscription service of the National Governors Association and National Conference of State Legislatures, produced separate spreadsheets showing that the state could expect \$6 billion to help cover its budget deficit and to fund construction projects and \$3.3 billion in Medicaid relief.

Vic Miller, a senior fellow for the service, said the numbers are based on assumptions of how money would be allocated based on a preliminary analysis of large programs in the bill before the House Appropriations Committee.

Yesterday, the committee took up Obama's plan for \$550 billion in government spending, including aid for states, and \$275 billion in targeted tax cuts to help pull the nation out of recession.

With Ohio facing a potential \$7.3 billion deficit in the two-year budget cycle beginning July 1, Gov. Ted Strickland had asked the Obama administration for \$5 billion in stimulus money.

Strickland said yesterday that he had not seen the FFIS estimate that Ohio could get \$9.3 billion under Obama's plan.

"I had not heard of this number, and I haven't heard of that kind of estimate state by state," Strickland said. "That would exceed what I asked for, wouldn't it?"

Strickland, who was in Washington on Tuesday for Obama's inauguration, said information he picked up then indicated that the stimulus package is far from complete.

"I think there are continuing efforts to modify the package in one way or another, so I don't think we can know with any certainty exactly what the total package is going to be," he said.

"I think it will be significant; I don't think it will be sufficient to solve all of our budget problems, nor should it be. But ... based on certainly the House bill, I think it will be very significant in helping us cope with this difficult budget situation."

Last night, the House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to vote on Obama's stimulus plan, said Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, the fifth-ranking member on the committee. She said she had not seen the FFIS estimate but thinks the total money coming to Ohio from the stimulus bill will be higher.

Kaptur said that \$300 billion will be allocated to states based on formulas and \$250 billion in discretionary funds will be sent to states and cities on a competitive basis. Kaptur sent a letter Jan. 8 to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, urging that "special consideration" be given to the nation's poorest cities, which include Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Youngstown.

The stimulus bill's discretionary money will be available to fund a variety of state and local projects, including environmental cleanup, emergency housing for the poor, diesel-emission reduction, improvements to wildlife refuges, biomedical research, community services and more.

"These funds must be applied for, so my message is, 'Wake up, Ohio,' " Kaptur said. "If people in our communities and universities and agencies don't apply for this money, we won't get it. It will go to other states and cities. There's a great urgency for mayors and county commissioners to look at this pool of discretionary funds that must be applied for."

According to the FFIS projection, Ohio could get \$2.9 billion to help stabilize its budget, \$1.1 billion for highway construction, \$484 million in education funding, \$499 million for special education, \$526 million for school construction, \$400 million for water projects and \$67 million for child care.

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# Heritage Ohio Main Street Program Monthly Report

Report only those items *completed* in your project area.  
 Heritage Ohio 846-½ East Main Street Columbus, Ohio 43205

Month and Year	District/Municipality	Program Manager
October 2008	Main Street Kent	Mary Gilbert

## DESIGN

### Completed Façade Renovations *(include any work completed on building storefronts)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Other Completed Building Rehabilitation Projects

*(include completed work other than façade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
Water Street Tavern – 132 South Water Street – Installation of Building Fire Suppression	\$11,000	Private	
Penn Station Subs – 115 North Willow Street – Renovations for new sub shop	\$150,000	Private	
Empire - 135 East Main Street – Renovations for new tenant	N/A	Private	

### Other Completed New Construction

*(include completed new construction other than façade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Buildings Sold *(list any property transfers in your project area)*

Building Name or Address	Amount of Sale	Amount of Previous Sale
None		

### Public Improvements Completed Affecting District *(list only permanent improvements)*

Project Description	Cost of Project	Source of \$
None		

# ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

## New Businesses Opened in District *(FTE = Full Time Employee; PTE = Part Time Employee)*

Name and Address	Type of Business	# FTE	# PTE
Empire – 135 East Main Street	Retail – Organic Personal Products, Organic Chocolate, Henna Tattoos	2	5

## Businesses Closed/Moved Out of District

Name and Address	Type of Business	FTE lost	PTE lost
None			

## Businesses Expanded in District

Name and Address	Type of Business	New FTE	New PTE
None			

## New Housing Completed in District

Address	# Of Units Created	Completion Cost	Monthly Rent
None			

# PROMOTION

## District Promotions Completed *(please indicate type of promotion {R = retail; SE = special event; I = image})*

Event	Sponsors	Type	Total Cost
Wine & Art Festival	Main Street Kent	SE	broke even
KSU Homecoming Parade Float	Main Street Kent	SE	\$710.00
Family Halloween Party	Main Street Kent/Kent State University Police	SE	\$1200.00
Ghost Walk	Main Street Kent	SE	broke even

# ORGANIZATION

## Training Sessions Attended

Total Number of Trainings Attended	MS Manager (X)	Volunteer (X)

## Volunteer Hours

Donated Hours	
Total Volunteer Hours Donated	980 Total Hours

<b>Total Hours Volunteered to Heritage Ohio</b>	<b>0</b>
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### Fundraising Efforts

<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Source and Amount</b>
None	

### Membership Efforts

<b>Total New Members</b>	<b>Total Membership Amount Collected/Pledged</b>
None	

## Commentary

### Commentary by Committee

<b>Design:</b> The Design Committee continued to work on the design guidelines	<b>Promotion:</b> The promotion committee had a very busy month with an Art & Wine Festival, Homecoming Parade Float (handed out main street flyers and candy to spectators), Family Halloween Event and the Ghost Walk.
<b>Organization:</b> Nothing to report	<b>Economic Restructuring:</b> The Economic Restructuring Committee continued working on plans for downtown development.

### Program Commentary *(list critical issues, challenges, and successes of the past month)*

The Main Street Kent Promotion Committee and volunteers should be commended for their work in October 2008 with many events that helped to bring hundreds of people to the downtown.
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**Suggestions for Heritage Ohio Staff** *(list suggestions on services or training topics; new resources; questions)*

# Heritage Ohio Main Street Program Monthly Report

*Report only those items completed in your project area.*  
 Heritage Ohio 846-½ East Main Street Columbus, Ohio 43205

Month and Year	District/Municipality	Program Manager
November 2008	Main Street Kent	Mary Gilbert

## DESIGN

### Completed Façade Renovations *(include any work completed on building storefronts)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Other Completed Building Rehabilitation Projects

*(include completed work other than façade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
Water Street Tavern – 132 South Water Street – install fire alarm	\$12,000	Private	

### Other Completed New Construction

*(include completed new construction other than facade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Buildings Sold *(list any property transfers in your project area)*

Building Name or Address	Amount of Sale	Amount of Previous Sale
None		

### Public Improvements Completed Affecting District *(list only permanent improvements)*

Project Description	Cost of Project	Source of \$
None		



# ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

## New Businesses Opened in District *(FTE = Full Time Employee; PTE = Part Time Employee)*

Name and Address	Type of Business	# FTE	# PTE
None			

## Businesses Closed/Moved Out of District

Name and Address	Type of Business	FTE lost	PTE lost
None			

## Businesses Expanded in District

Name and Address	Type of Business	New FTE	New PTE
None			

## New Housing Completed in District

Address	# Of Units Created	Completion Cost	Monthly Rent
None			

# PROMOTION

## District Promotions Completed *(please indicate type of promotion {R = retail; SE = special event; I = image})*

Event	Sponsors	Type	Total Cost
None			

# ORGANIZATION

## Training Sessions Attended

Total Number of Trainings Attended	MS Manager (X)	Volunteer (X)
None		

## Volunteer Hours

Donated Hours	
Total Volunteer Hours Donated	38 Hours
Total Hours Volunteered to Heritage Ohio	0

## Fundraising Efforts



Event/Project	Source and Amount
None	

### Membership Efforts

Total New Members	Total Membership Amount Collected/Pledged
None	

## Commentary

### Commentary by Committee

<b>Design:</b> The Design Committee continued their work on the Design Guidelines.	<b>Promotion:</b> The promotion committee did not meet in November.
<b>Organization:</b> The Organization committee did not meet in November.	<b>Economic Restructuring:</b> The Economic Restructuring Committee discussed plans for 2009.

### Program Commentary *(list critical issues, challenges, and successes of the past month)*

After a very busy October, the month of November was a pretty quiet month with most committees taking a break. The Board of Directors continued to work on the initial phases of the Capital Campaign.
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### Suggestions for Heritage Ohio Staff *(list suggestions on services or training topics; new resources; questions)*

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# Heritage Ohio Main Street Program Monthly Report

Report only those items *completed* in your project area.  
 Heritage Ohio 846-½ East Main Street Columbus, Ohio 43205

Month and Year	District/Municipality	Program Manager
December 2008	Main Street Kent	Mary Gilbert

## DESIGN

### Completed Façade Renovations *(include any work completed on building storefronts)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Other Completed Building Rehabilitation Projects

*(include completed work other than façade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
Kent Free Library – interior alterations for café inside the library	N/A	Public	

### Other Completed New Construction

*(include completed new construction other than facade, on buildings)*

Building Name or Address	Amount Invested	Source of Funds	Tax Credit
None			

### Buildings Sold *(list any property transfers in your project area)*

Building Name or Address	Amount of Sale	Amount of Previous Sale
None		

### Public Improvements Completed Affecting District *(list only permanent improvements)*

Project Description	Cost of Project	Source of \$
None		

# ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

## New Businesses Opened in District *(FTE = Full Time Employee; PTE = Part Time Employee)*

Name and Address	Type of Business	# FTE	# PTE
None			

## Businesses Closed/Moved Out of District

Name and Address	Type of Business	FTE lost	PTE lost
None			

## Businesses Expanded in District

Name and Address	Type of Business	New FTE	New PTE
None			

## New Housing Completed in District

Address	# Of Units Created	Completion Cost	Monthly Rent
None			

# PROMOTION

## District Promotions Completed *(please indicate type of promotion {R = retail; SE = special event; I = image})*

Event	Sponsors	Type	Total Cost
Christmas Shopping Event	Main Street Kent/ Kent Stage	R	\$1000

# ORGANIZATION

## Training Sessions Attended

Total Number of Trainings Attended	MS Manager (X)	Volunteer (X)
None		

## Volunteer Hours

Donated Hours	
Total Volunteer Hours Donated	88 Total Hours
Total Hours Volunteered to Heritage Ohio	0

## Fundraising Efforts

Event/Project	Source and Amount
None	

## Membership Efforts

Total New Members	Total Membership Amount Collected/Pledged
None	

## Commentary

### Commentary by Committee

<p><b>Design:</b> The Design Committee continued to work on the design guidelines</p>	<p><b>Promotion:</b> The Promotion Committee implemented a downtown shopping promotion with advertising on radio and newspaper. Shoppers who purchased something downtown could stop at the Stage to watch free movies/cartoons and volunteers would wrap their gifts.</p>
<p><b>Organization:</b> The Public Relations Sub-Committee met to discuss better communication with the public about Main Street Kent and better communication between the committees.</p>	<p><b>Economic Restructuring:</b> The Economic Restructuring Committee created a new web-based marketing subcommittee to assist local businesses with internet marketing. The ED Committee, in partnership with the Kent Regional Business Alliance also created an entrepreneur program outline to apply for Heritage Ohio grant funds.</p>

### Program Commentary *(list critical issues, challenges, and successes of the past month)*

<p>The Board of Directors continued the initial work for the Capital Campaign with the prioritization of projects. The Capital Campaign is set to start in early 2009.</p>
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### Suggestions for Heritage Ohio Staff *(list suggestions on services or training topics; new resources; questions)*

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[www.kentbiz.com](http://www.kentbiz.com)

138 East Main Street, Kent, OH 44240  
(330) 673-9855 FAX (330) 673-9860

January 5, 2009

David Ruller, City Manager  
City of Kent  
215 East Summit Street  
Kent, OH 44240

Re: Central Portage County Visitors & Convention Bureau

Dear Mr. Ruller:

The purpose of this letter is to share some updated information about the activities of the Visitors Bureau during 2008. First, our financial audit for 2007 was recently completed, and a copy is enclosed for your records. Please call me with any questions regarding the information presented therein. I will note that the audit identified no irregularities requiring attention.

Second, I have enclosed with this letter two copies of a "bullet point" summary of events, activities and advertising sponsored by the Visitors Bureau during 2008. As the Bureau is funded by a portion of the bed tax collected in Brimfield and Kent, I thought it would be helpful to share this information about the things we do to attract business to our communities, and thought it might be of interest to City Council as well. In particular, the Bureau is one of the sponsors for a number of Brimfield, Kent and Portage County events, including the Kent Heritage Festival. We print and distribute thousands of Brimfield-Kent Visitors Guides. We arrange for radio, television and print media advertising that is both event-specific, as well as targeted at attracting visitors to our area in general. We maintain the local cable television Public Access Bulletin Board.

As we go into 2009, we continue to explore new and expanded ways to attract visitors to the Brimfield and Kent area. To this end, your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hoover". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bill Hoover, Executive Director  
Kent Area Chamber of Commerce

## Central Portage County- 2008 Year in Review

- Operated full time Information Center – Mailings of Guides & Planners
- Publications- Visitors Guide (8,000), Special Event/Wedding Planner, [www.centralportage.com](http://www.centralportage.com).
- Reprint of the Special Event Guide completed in 2008
- Fall '08 on STO & Winter '09 on FSN Television ads on KSU Sports Show
- Radio on WNIR – Brimfest, Light Up Brimfield, Kent Festival of Lights
- Advertisements in Printed Publications:
  - Record Courier- numerous
  - Akron Beacon Journal
  - Daily Kent Stater: Sports, Homecoming, Holiday, Freshman Orientation, other special editions.
  - Ohio Camper
  - Ohio Wine Producers
  - Portage County Chambers of Commerce Membership Guide
  - Travel Host
  - Discover Ohio- Coop with Streetsboro VCB
  - Ohio Magazine Travel Planner
  - KSU Football Program
  - Numerous Event Programs
- WKDD Wedding Planner Web Site
- Ohio Travel Pavilion- 7 Motor Coach Shows & Expos
- Brimfield new residents with Police Department - Visitors Guides
- KSU MAC Center Sign Redesigned & Replaced
- Changed Logo Colors for Greater Noticability
- Maintained Time Warner Cable Channel 15
- Donated \$8,000 for Brimfield Parks Ball Field
- Distributed Expo/Show items (Tape Measure & Glass Cleaner) logo items
- Participated in Freshman Orientation weekend, black squirrel festival on campus and downtown Kent (hot dogs/music)

### Local Sponsorships:

- Brimfest- Major Sponsor (\$4,000)
- Kent Heritage Festival (\$1,000)
- Sports4Ohio Consortium (\$2,500)
- Horse Show (\$500)
- United Way Fun Run (\$250)

CENTRAL PORTAGE COUNTY VISITORS  
AND CONVENTION BUREAU, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007





ESCOTT &  
COMPANY

*Certified Public Accountants*

MEMBERS  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
OHIO SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

RICHARD J. TINKER, CPA  
AL STEFANOV, CPA

JAMES A. TINKER, CPA

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Trustees  
Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Inc.  
Kent, Ohio

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position – modified cash basis of Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Inc. (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2007, and the related statements of activities – modified cash basis, functional expenses – modified cash basis and cash flows – modified cash basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note A, these financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Central Portage County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Inc. as of December 31, 2007, and the results of its activities and cash flows for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.

*Escott & Company LLC*

Kent, Ohio

November 5, 2008

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Fax (330) 527-2551

CENTRAL PORTAGE COUNTY VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU, INC.  
 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>REVENUE &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Bed Tax Collected – Note C	\$ 66,408	\$ 66,408
Interest Income	36	36
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	<u>(132)</u>	<u>(132)</u>
Total Revenue & Other Support	<u>66,312</u>	<u>66,312</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES	46,421	46,421
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	<u>15,019</u>	<u>15,019</u>
Total Expenses	<u>61,440</u>	<u>61,440</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	4,872	4,872
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>3,355</u>	<u>3,355</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 8,227</u>	<u>\$ 8,227</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Auditor's Report