



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2007

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Shelburn receives grant to assess brownfield site

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Brownfields Program has awarded \$11,000 to the Town of Shelburn to perform an environmental assessment of a former grain elevator site – the Town’s number one redevelopment priority. The site is at the south end of Town between Thomas and Railroad streets.

“This site has been an eyesore for a long time, and it needs a lot of maintenance. Cleaning it up will definitely make our community more attractive,” said Town Council President James Ward.

The grant will cover the cost of performing an environmental assessment on the site, which is needed before the redevelopment process can begin. The site was formerly a grain elevator and contained switch tracks off of the main railroad tracks, which were previously (and could still be) used to switch out railroad cars.

“There are few places you can find switch tracks off of the main trunk of track like that. We hope in the future it can attract a business and create jobs for our community,” said Mr. Ward. “The Brownfields Program is a tremendous program in that it provides help for communities who want to renovate properties like this and make them safer for their citizens.”

A brownfield is a property where redevelopment can be complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination. The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to help communities identify and mitigate these environmental barriers, which could impede the economic growth of the community.

“By tapping into State money that’s available, we will be able to help our cities and towns save the hard-earned money of local citizens through these grants,” stated Rep. Bruce Borders. “The environmental study required for the cleanup of this elevator property is downright expensive. I’m glad we’re able to lasso some State dollars to help get this mess cleaned up.”

Political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 to perform environmental assessment activities, including Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and asbestos and lead paint surveys. Awardees must meet an investment criterion within two years of a grant award; otherwise they must repay the grant. Investment can include, but is not limited to remediation, demolition, construction or site preparation.

“Cleaning up distressed properties in our cities and towns leads to new development, which brings in new businesses, and ultimately creates jobs for Hoosiers – Governor Daniels’ number one goal,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana. “Encouraging revitalization is an important aspect of Governor Mitch Daniels’ plan for a stronger Indiana economy,” said Kitchell.

The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and offers financial, legal, technical, and educational assistance to entities involved with brownfields redevelopment. The Indiana Finance Authority was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

Communities can obtain more information on grant eligibility from the Indiana Brownfields Program at www.brownfields.in.gov or contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688 or swestrick@ifa.in.gov.

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