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Indiana Finance Authority announces first “Shovel Ready” sites through pilot program

INDIANAPOLIS (June 26, 2006) — The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) today announced the certification of the first round of Shovel Ready sites through a new pilot program geared toward improving the marketability of individual communities in the site selection process.

“In business, time is money. More and more companies are looking for sites where they can have a shovel in the ground as quickly as possible,” said Indiana Finance Authority Director Ryan Kitchell. “Governor Daniels wanted a program that would help give Indiana an advantage when it comes to competing with other states for new investments and new jobs. This program will cut permitting time by up to 30 percent.”

The program plays a vital role in state economic development by helping companies identify sites that can be rapidly developed. To be Shovel Ready certified, a site has undergone an environmental process and qualifies for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies to allow quick investment and expansion plans.

The Shovel Ready Program lowers the cost of site development, improves efficiency of state permitting and enhances the marketability of the site. Because site information is available before development, potential risks of investing and improving new land are reduced for businesses.

“This is another vital tool in our economic development toolbox that will help give Indiana the edge when attracting new and promising investment to the state,” said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Michael S. Maurer. “Timing is key in any business decision and this program is essential for creating the most business friendly environment in Indiana we possibly can.”

Passed in the 2005 legislative session as part of Governor Daniels' jobs agenda, Shovel Ready sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam), which is composed of

representatives from the Indiana Finance Authority, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor’s Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security.

A maximum \$10,000 matching grant is available for eligible expenses to certified sites. Certified sites will be highlighted on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation’s Site Selection Database, which is an online resource that allows site selection consultants and businesses to research available commercial and industrial properties.

Eligible applicants include the city, town or county in which the proposed site is located or the local economic development organization.

The first sites receiving Shovel Ready certification are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Fort Wayne , IN	Silverado Park	Allen County Board of Commissioners	Mark Royse
Boone County	Anson Phase II North Industrial	Boone County Commissioners	Huck Lewis
Columbus , IN	Information Technology Park	Columbus Economic Development Board	Brooke Tuttle
Greencastle , IN	Enterprise Park II	Greencastle/Putnam County Development Center, Inc.	Bill Dory
Greensburg , IN	Greensburg / Decatur County Rail & Business Park	Greensburg / Decatur County Economic Development Corp.	Vicki Kellerman
Miami County	Grissom Aeroplex Industrial Park	Miami County Economic Development Corp.	Jim Tidd

To learn more about the Shovel Ready Program, visit the Indiana Finance Authority website at www.in.gov/ifa/business/srp.html or contact Brad Moore at (317) 233-6796 or Pam Fisher at (317) 232-8893.

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