



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The City of Woodburn and Town of Grabill to Hold a Multi-Community Groundbreaking Event for their Indiana Stellar Streetscape Projects

Feb. 15, 2022– On February 17, 2022, a multi-community groundbreaking event will be held in the City of Woodburn and the Town of Grabill to celebrate the commencement of construction of downtown streetscape improvements within each of the communities. Both of these projects are receiving U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grant funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs as part of their partnership with the NewAllen Alliance *East Allen Rural Revival Plan* and the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Designation.

The first groundbreaking will be at 1:00 p.m. in downtown Woodburn at 22121 Main Street. Parking is available at the old American Legion lot with additional parking at the clock tower located at Bull Rapids Road and Main Street, a block east of the project site. Woodburn's project will be the second phase of streetscape improvements within the last five years. The area will focus along Main Street from Becker Road to Carl Street and will include ADA compliant ramps and complete sidewalks with the addition of pavers to add to the sidewalk experience, new lighting to improve visibility and warmth, plant openings along the sidewalks for tree plantings to provide shade and to soften the hardscape experience, and drainage upgrades to prevent flooding and erosion of streets and walkways. This project was designed by JPR Corporation, administered by Sturtz Public Management Group, and is being constructed by API Construction. The project budget is \$724,739 with \$500,000 coming from federal funding and \$224,739 from the City of Woodburn. Mayor Joseph Kelsey has expressed his encouragement for the community to celebrate this milestone, "Come join us as Woodburn's revitalization continues with the groundbreaking of phase 2 of our streetscape enhancement."

The second groundbreaking will be held at 3:00 p.m. and has been moved indoors due anticipated inclement weather. The event will be held at the Common Grounds Coffeehouse, 13756 State Street, Grabill, IN. Parking is available by the coffeehouse behind the Country Shoppes of Grabill and at the First Merchants Bank lot at the corner of 1st and Main Streets. Grabill's project will focus along a two-block segment along Grabill Road/State Street and Main Street to 1st Street which wraps around the corner block of the Country Shoppes of Grabill, and other downtown Grabill businesses including Grabill Hardware, H. Souder and Son's General Store, and First Merchants Bank. The purpose of these improvements is to enhance downtown Grabill with new sidewalks and lighting to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. The project will also include upgrades to the storm sewer and water system to improve utility service and safeguard surface-level improvements. This project was designed by DLZ Engineering, administered by the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, and is being constructed by Fleming Excavating, Inc. The streetscape budget is \$1,295, 731 with \$750,000 coming from federal money and \$545,731 from the Town of Grabill. The Country Shoppes of Grabill is also making façade improvements with its own private funds which include the replacement of the awning that wraps around the building, as well as new windows, doors, and other exterior improvements. Grabill's Town Council President, Wilmer DeLagrange expressed. "I'm excited to get started on this project. We tried to get funding for this project 20 years ago and thanks to the New Allen Alliance, it's finally reality."

Both projects will commence construction when the weather breaks and are expected to be complete by July 2022.

This project is part of NewAllen's East Allen Rural Revival Regional Development Plan, which led to the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Designation in 2018. See www.newallenalliance.net

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