

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWALLEN DOWNTOWNS RECEIVING A REVITALIZATION BOOST DUE TO STELLAR FUNDS

EAST ALLEN, IN, March 17, 2021 – Grabill, Leo-Cedarville, and Woodburn are collectively moving forward with downtown streetscape improvement projects as part of the East Allen Rural Revival Regional Development Initiative with the help of \$2M in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the region’s Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Designation. According to Kristi Sturtz, the NewAllen Rural Liaison, “East Allen has prioritized their downtowns as essential for a healthy local economy as well as important to attracting new investment and talent. These communities are making improvements to their downtowns to promote access to and visibility of local businesses, address infrastructure deficits, spur economic development, provide safe pedestrian walkways, and offer a family friendly environment for public events and gatherings.”

In the spring of 2020, the Town of Leo-Cedarville received approval of a \$750,000 CDBG grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a \$1.25M investment along Center Street in between Hosler Road and Walnut Street. Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of May 2021.

In recent weeks, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has also notified the Town of Grabill of the approval of a \$750,000 CDBG grant for a \$932,000 project and the City of Woodburn of the approval of a \$500,000 grant for a \$650,000 project. Grabill’s streetscape project will be located along State Street near The Country Shoppes of Grabill and along Main Street in between State and First Streets. Wilmer Delagrang, Grabill’s Town Council President, expressed his gratitude, saying “We are so thankful for all the hard work that has went into this project and for the funding. We couldn’t have done the project without it.”

Woodburn’s project will be a second phase of streetscape improvements within the last five years. The area will focus along Main Street from Becker Road to Carl Street. Both projects are expected to be under construction by late summer/early fall of 2021 with project completion in the spring/summer of 2022.

“The collaboration on these projects demonstrates what the Regional Stellar initiative was designed to achieve,” said Denny Spinner, Executive Director of OCRA. “The NewAllen Region has been a great partner with OCRA since their designation in 2018 and I’m excited to see how these streetscape improvements will invite new investment in the region.”

Within the communities, improvements include new ADA compliant walkways, decorative paving features, new streetlighting, underground utility improvements, and street furnishings. Detailed site plans and project descriptions can be found on the NewAllen Alliance website, www.newallenalliance.net.

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