



NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH CAROLINA'S SOUTHEAST APPROVES 23 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS

Funds Will Leverage \$28 Million in Investment, Boosting Region's Industrial Site and Building Inventory

August 11, 2022 (Elizabethtown, N.C.) North Carolina's Southeast has approved 23 applications from its Product Development Fund. The funds, which will boost the development and enhancement of industrial sites and shell buildings across the Southeast's 18 counties, stem from a \$5 million appropriation last year from the North Carolina General Assembly. Support will cover a wide array of engineering, water and wastewater infrastructure, design work, construction, roadway access and other needs.

"Our region and our organization are moving forward aggressively in applying these funds to meet demand by businesses for industry-ready real estate product," says Jeff Etheridge, chairman of North Carolina's Southeast. "Companies reconsidering supply-chains in the wake of the pandemic and geopolitical concerns are seeking resilient, convenient and reliable destinations for manufacturing, logistics and other mission-critical operations. The Southeast wants to be ready for them. We are very grateful to legislative leaders for their leadership in making this program possible."

State Representative William Brisson called the awards "great news for the rural communities in our district. I am excited about the economic opportunities that these grants will bring to our small towns as we stay current with the growing needs of eastern North Carolina," Brisson said. "Thank you, N.C.'s Southeast."

"This is great news for citizens and businesses in eastern and southeastern North Carolina," said state Representative John Bell. "These funds will help support much needed infrastructure and economic development projects in these communities. I am

grateful for our partnership with North Carolina's Southeast to support economic growth and investment in the region."

"The industrial sites in Southeastern North Carolina are primed for growth," said state Senator Brent Jackson. "Through private and public sector collaboration, the economic development needs of 23 projects, including the Joe Britt Warren Business and Industrial Park in Sampson County and the Duplin Airpark, will be met."

"Enhancing and building up our inventory of viable sites and buildings is one of our highest regional priorities right now, and we're collaborating with our county economic development partners to make sure these funds are applied in the most impactful way possible," explains Steve Yost, President of NC's Southeast.

The \$5 million appropriated from the North Carolina General Assembly will position the Southeast Region competitively as re-shoring and other global trends drive business investment.

"These grants support many exciting projects in our state's southeastern counties and will help this region stay current with its economic development site and building needs," state Senator Bill Rabon said. "I look forward to seeing the positive growth that will follow these investments."

The following projects will receive support from North Carolina's Southeast Product Development Fund:

- **Anson Co – Architectural Services for Spec Building Design** (Anson Economic Development Corporation) – The \$42,000 grant supports a \$47,500 engagement of architecture services to construct a shell building at Wadesboro Industrial Park. Anson Economic Development Corporation is also investing in the project.
- **Anson Co – Extension of Water and Sewer at Anson 74 Rail Park** (Anson Economic Development Corporation) – The \$155,000 grant supports a \$750,000 initiative to extend water and sewer infrastructure to the 130-acre Anson 74 Rail Park. Also investing in the project are the

North Carolina Railroad Company, the private sector, and the Anson Economic Development Partnership.

- **Anson Co – Industrial Site Identification and Validation** (Anson Economic Development Corporation) – The \$65,000 grant supports a \$73,000 initiative to identify and validate available acreage for future potential development as industrial sites. Anson Economic Development Corporation is also an investor in the project.
- **Bladen County – Site Development Projects** (Bladen’s Bloomin’ Agri-Industrial, Inc.) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$327,500 initiative to ready a 14-acre site and a 4-acre site for potential development by companies actively considering the county for new industrial operations. Bladen’s Bloomin’ Agri-Industrial, Inc. is also an investor in the project.
- **Brunswick Co – International Logistics Park of NC** (Brunswick Business & Industry Development) – The \$200,000 grant supports a \$1.24 million initiative to extend road access further in the International Logistics Park. Acme Hobbs, Land, LLC/International Commerce Center, Brunswick County and Columbus County also are investors in the project.
- **Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park Accessibility & Risk Mitigation** (Brunswick Business & Industry Development) – The \$62,000 grant supports a \$2.6 million initiative to support engineering, infrastructure and accessibility improvements at Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park. Brunswick County, Duke Energy and Brunswick BID also are investors in the project.
- **Columbus County – Southeast Regional Park Pad Ready Site** (Columbus County Economic Development Commission) – The \$220,000 grant supports an initiative to provide engineering, geotechnical, site clearing and design work to develop a 17-acres pad-ready site at Southeast Regional Park. Columbus County is also an investor in the project.
- **Columbus County – Industrial Site Identification & Validation** – the \$40,000 grant will fund an industrial site identification and analysis project. Columbus County is also an investor in the project.

- **Craven County Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvement Program** (Craven 100 Alliance) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$1.63 million initiative to build road access and water/wastewater infrastructure at the Craven County Industrial Park. Other investors include Duke Energy, the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority, and the Craven 100 Alliance.
- **Cumberland Co – Project Redball Express** (Fayetteville Cumberland Economic Development Corporation). The \$262,000 grant supports a \$1.2 million initiative to improve road accessibility and conduct site enhancements at Sand Hill Road industrial site. Golden LEAF also is an investor in the project.
- **Duplin County – Airpark** (Foundation for Duplin County Industrial and Business Development) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$753,000 initiative to improve road accessibility to the 119-acre Duplin AirPark, a new industrial park. The Golden LEAF Foundation and Duplin County are also investors in the project.
- **Hoke County Regional Industrial Park Sewer Project** (Raeford/Hoke Economic Development Commission) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$350,000 analysis to extend sewer infrastructure to the Hoke County Regional Industrial Park. Hoke County also is an investor in the project.
- **Lenoir County Pad Ready Site Hwy 70 West Industrial Park** (NC Global TransPark Economic Development Region) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$3.28 million initiative to help prepare a 5.3 acres site for a new shell building at the Highway 70 West Industrial Park. The Golden LEAF, Lenoir County and the NC Electric Membership Corporation also are investing in the project.
- **Montgomery – ACWR HQ – Candor** (Montgomery County) – The \$262,000 grant will support a \$1.6 million initiative to conduct engineering, design, and site prep work to develop a rail-served industrial site. The NC Railroad Company and Aberdeen Carolina Western Railroad are also investors in the project.

- **Moore County – Iron Horse Industrial Park Access Road** (Moore County Partners in Progress) – The \$241,300 grant supports an \$891,300 initiative to provide road accessibility in the 128-acre Iron Horse Industrial Park. Moore County Partners in Progress, the NC Department of Transportation and the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority also are investors in the project.
- **Moore County – Southern Pines Corporate Park Due Diligence** (Moore County Partners in Progress) – The \$20,700 grant will support a \$23,000 initiative to conduct site planning and analysis at Southern Pines Corporate Park.
- **New Hanover – ILM Business Park Phase 2 Waterline Extension** (Wilmington Business Development) – The \$262,000 grant will support a \$5.25 million initiative to extend water and wastewater utilities to ILM Business Park Phase 2. The NC Department of Transportation and Wilmington International Airport also are investors in the project.
- **Project Frontier** (Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$1.52 million initiative to conduct engineering and design work, site clearing and grading, storm water systems and road construction needed to expand and enhance Jacksonville Business Park. Other investors include Golden LEAF, NC Electric Membership Corporation, Jones Onslow EMC, and the NC Industrial Development Fund.
- **Pender Commerce Park W&S – Brownfield** (Wilmington Business Development) – The \$262,000 grant will support a \$492,400 initiative to extend water and sewer service to sites in a Pender Commerce Park. Pender County also is an investor in the project
- **Robeson County – ComTech Site Development** (Robeson County Economic Development). The \$262,000 grant will support a \$977,000 initiative to develop a 16-acre pad-ready site at Carolina Commerce and Technology Park (ComTech). Robeson County, the Town of Pembroke, Golden LEAF and the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority also are investors in the project.

- **Sampson County – Joe Britt Warren Business and Industry Park** (Sampson County Economic Development Commission) – The \$262,000 grant will support a \$2.43 million initiative for assessment and master planning of a 210-acre site in Newton Grove. Sampson County and the NC Department of Information Technology also are investors in the project.
- **Scotland County Shell Building** (Scotland County Economic Development Corporation) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$3.1 million 50,000 square feet shell industrial building. Other investors include the U.S. Economic Development Administration, First Bank and Scotland County.
- **Wayne Co – Shell Pad and Building ParkEast** (NC Global TransPark Economic Development Region) – The \$262,000 grant supports a \$4.22 million initiative to conduct due diligence and site planning for a five-acre site at ParkEast Industrial Park to support a 50,000 square feet shell building. Wayne County and the NC Electric Membership Corporation also are investing in the project.

A public-private regional economic development organization based in Elizabethtown, N.C., **North Carolina's Southeast** provides economic development leadership in southeastern North Carolina through innovative marketing and collaborative regional initiatives that will support the creation of new jobs, generate capital investment and secure new business locations." Member counties include Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Hoke, Lenoir, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne. For additional information, visit www.ncse.org

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