

Delphi and Princeton Selected as 2012 Stellar Communities

INDIANAPOLIS – Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced today that the state will invest more than \$20 million over the next three years in the state's 2012 Stellar Communities, which are Delphi and Princeton.

Launched in 2011 by Lt. Governor Skillman, Stellar Communities is a collaboration between INDOT, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and the State Revolving Fund to help fund communities' strategic plans.

"With Stellar Communities we are intentional and strategic in the way we deliver grant funding to local governments," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "Collaboration among our state agencies will allow Delphi and Princeton to make a bigger impact in a shorter timeframe."

Funding for the initiatives comes from multiple existing federal funds. State agencies will continue to offer grant programs to local units of government not participating in Stellar Communities. The cities of Delphi and Princeton will also invest an additional \$7 million in local and private funds.

Delphi's plan includes revitalizing the downtown business district, creating paths from the Hoosier Heartland Corridor through downtown to increase tourism to the Wabash and Erie Canal Park and restoring the Delphi Opera House. Officials will also redevelop the historic near-downtown neighborhoods, creating owner-occupied housing.

"Winning the Stellar Communities grant means so much to Delphi and our whole community. When the projects are complete, we will see revitalization of our historic neighborhoods and an invigorated downtown district," Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser said. "It also positions us to capitalize on economic development opportunities created by the Hoosier Heartland Corridor for the entire county and region. We are very excited to partner with the State of Indiana on this very Stellar program and I can't wait."

Princeton officials will develop the downtown area as a community and economic hub by continuing to strengthen ties with companies in the city, including Toyota Manufacturing. Downtown revitalization projects will focus on the courthouse square as well as a new plaza for the community's civic events and senior cottages.

"We are excited to be named a Stellar Community as we were so close last year. We continued to make improvements to our plan throughout the year and our hard work paid off," said Princeton Mayor Bob Hurst. "We are creating a world-class community where businesses want to invest and people want to live."

Lt. Governor Skillman will travel to Delphi and Princeton next week for celebration ceremonies in each community. Details on the community celebrations will be announced at a later date.

Forty communities submitted proposals to the Stellar Communities program. After scoring the plans, the top seven communities were asked to submit more details, and site visits were conducted by staff from each agency.

Delphi and Princeton join Greencastle and North Vernon, which were selected as Stellar Communities for the pilot program in March of 2011. To learn more about Stellar Communities and the pilot programs' projects, visit www.lg.in.gov/ocra.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Tourism Development, and the State Department of Agriculture.

To receive e-mail updates from Lt. Governor Skillman, sign up at <http://www.in.gov/lg/subscribe.htm>

Delphi Fact Sheet

Delphi has proposed quality of life improvements which integrate the cultural and tourism assets of their city to position it as a regional center for community and economic development.

Main Goals

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- Revitalize courthouse square and central business district
- Improve streetscapes that are pedestrian friendly
- Improve facades while preserving historical integrity of buildings
- Partner in the restoration of the Delphi Opera House
- Renew historic downtown buildings with architecturally appropriate facades

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- Create a pedestrian friendly residential neighborhood
- Enhance housing options, including owner occupied housing in the residential corridor connecting downtown to the canal
 - Connect parks and entrances from the Hoosier Heartland Corridor to the Washington Street gateway trail
 - Create railroad quiet zone to ensure safer accessibility to the eight crossing currently used.

Princeton Fact Sheet

Improvements proposed by Princeton will continue to help create an economic hub for the region. The downtown area will be revitalized to attract new business and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Main Goals

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- Bicentennial Plaza
 - Project will provide connectivity with civic events
- Downtown Streetscapes
 - New sidewalks, curbs, landscaping, lighting, signage, and gateways
- Senior Housing Cottages
 - New project giving senior citizens easy access to downtown
- Princeton Theatre
 - The historic theatre will be transformed into a live performing arts venue
- Historic rehabilitation
 - Project will restore the facades of nearly all the buildings on the historic Courthouse Square

- Downtown Loft Housing
- Second and third story lofts will be constructed in the historic Courthouse Square buildings for income qualifying residents

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