



For Immediate Release
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Local Leaders Announce Redevelopment Plan: Lakota Group Selected to Lead MacArthur Boulevard Study

Springfield, Illinois -The MacArthur Boulevard Business Association (MBBA) today announced that the Chicago-based Lakota Group has been selected as the consultants to lead the redevelopment planning effort along the Boulevard. The announcement was made at a morning press conference hosted by Ross Isaac Restaurant on MacArthur Boulevard. The project will be managed by the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sponsored by U.S. Congressman John Shimkus (R-Collinsville).

Attending the press conference along with MBBA merchant members and area neighborhood residents were local city and county leaders, elected officials, and Congressman Shimkus. Shimkus said, "Almost thirteen years ago, I was able to secure the first ever federal funding to create the MacArthur Interchange of Interstate 72. The total federal investment has now reached almost \$7 million, and we hope it will soon get its first traffic. Once open, traffic will increase from I-72 to South Grand, and as a result, I felt that it was necessary to seek federal funding on a long term redevelopment plan for the area. I am honored to be here today to kick off this project and look forward to following its progress."

MacArthur Boulevard Business Association President Cory Jobe said, "We cannot thank County Board Member Jen Dillman enough for her forethought and insight in to helping our association attract and receive the grant award from Congressman Shimkus. We look forward to working with Norm Sims and the Planning Commission on this very important redevelopment study needed for our area."

Also behind this effort from day one has been Sangamon County Board member Jen Dillman. Dillman has worked closely with city and county leaders and members of the MBBA. Jen Dillman said' "We are excited to welcome Lakota into the MacArthur Boulevard community over the next 10 months. They will be giving us the blueprint we need to continue our efforts to revitalize the MacArthur Boulevard area. I would like to thank Congressman Shimkus for his help and look forward to working with all those in attendance today on these efforts."

Since its establishment in 1993, The Lakota Group has developed a reputation as an innovative and respected planning and design firm, and has led similar projects throughout Illinois and the Midwest. Lakota will be joined in the project by the Community and Land Use Economic Group (CLUE), based in Arlington, VA, which will hand the economic and market analysis for the project, and Chicago based Gewalt Hamilton Associates, which will handle matters related to traffic engineering and transportation planning.

Formed in 2006, for the anticipation of the new MacArthur Extension to the South, the MBBA today has more than 160 members. In the center of it all, the Boulevard hosts one of the highest traffic counts in the city at nearly 25,000 cars a day. For additional information please go to our website at www.ShopOnMacArthur.com

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