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# NEWS RELEASE

**Feb. 17, 2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDOT Awards Historic Millwork District \$5.6 Million**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced today that Dubuque’s Historic Millwork District Revitalization was awarded \$5.6 million through the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants Program, a lead program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The grant application was submitted by the City of Dubuque with support from partners including: Dubuque County, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA), East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dubuque Main Street (DMS), the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, the Historic Millwork District property owners, and IBM.

“This is a tremendous boost for our community and we are extremely grateful to the USDOT and Secretary LaHood. We also recognize Senator Harkin for his advocacy with Secretary LaHood and the White House on behalf of the Dubuque proposal. We are also very grateful to Senator Grassley and Congressman Braley for their support,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “This grant is an endorsement of our efforts in the Historic Millwork District and it will enable us to move forward with this project that is critical to the continued revitalization of our downtown. This project is a great example of the interconnectedness of transportation, housing, and jobs, a priority of the USDOT and the Obama administration.”

The Historic Millwork District was the focus of a “Livable Communities Tour” visit to Dubuque by LaHood, US EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and US HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in September 2009.

The funds will be used for the implementation of the Historic Millwork District Multimodal Improvements, part of a comprehensive, integrated regional sustainable transportation strategy, which will serve as a model for U.S. communities with populations under 200,000. This funding will allow for the redesign of streets in the district to support convenient and safe transportation for all roadway users -- car, transit, pedestrian and bicyclists.

Dubuque's Historic Millwork District Master Plan is a critical component of the region's sustainable economic development strategy, which encourages more people to live and work in or near the center city. The plan calls for the redevelopment of 1 million square feet of historic millwork/warehouse space into a mixed-use development of more than 700 housing units and 300,000 square feet of retail/commercial space. An estimated 1,000 residents will live in the Historic Millwork District at full build-out and the district's revitalization plan will create 900 new jobs and enhance the local tax base by \$77 million dollars. The TIGER grant will help leverage \$145 million in private investment in the Historic Millwork District. For additional information on plans for the Historic Millwork District, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/millworkdistrict](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/millworkdistrict).

The City of Dubuque and its partners plan to conduct a "Complete Streets" pilot project in the Historic Millwork District in downtown Dubuque. The Complete Streets concept involves the design of streets in a fashion that facilitates use by a broad range of users, including drivers, public transportation vehicles and riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, older people, children, and people with disabilities. The project includes the reconstruction the street network in the Millwork District and the street connections to the central business district, Port of Dubuque, and the Washington Neighborhood. More specifically, funds will be used to reconstruct the following streets within the district: Washington Street, Jackson Street, Elm Street, 8th Street, 9th Street, and 10th Street. Design and environmental approvals are currently being finalized for the streetscape, and street and utility improvement aspects of the project. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring on the utility reconstruction portion of the project and be completed by the end of the year. The overall project will be completed in 2011.

It is estimated that 60 percent of the new residents within the Historic Millwork District will work downtown. Redesigning streets for alternative modes of transportation will allow residents to take advantage of their proximity to work and choose walking, biking or mass transit as options. Reducing automobile dependence in the area will decrease vehicle miles traveled and the associated energy use and air emissions. The Complete Streets design will also create a more vibrant area encouraging more businesses to locate in the downtown area.

The USDOT's TIGER Discretionary Grants Program is a \$1.5 billion appropriation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Dubuque's grant application was one of 1,380 submitted and one of just 50 (3 percent) to receive funding.

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To download a brochure on the Historic Millwork District Project, visit

<http://www.cityofdubuque.org/HMDbrochure>

To download a map of the Historic Millwork District visit,

<http://www.cityofdubuque.org/HMDmap>