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Governor Pence Joins Local Officials to Break Ground on Heavy-Haul Road

CHARLESTOWN, IND. (October 14, 2015) – Governor Mike Pence today joined Mayors Bob Hall of Charlestown and Mike Moore of Jeffersonville, as well as officials from the River Ridge Commerce Center and the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville to break ground on phase one of the multi-phase transportation corridor project, which when completed, will link the River Ridge Commerce Center and the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville.

State and local partners will provide funding for the completion of the \$30.4 million project to complete the heavy-haul road, ensuring that the region and the state are positioned to maximize opportunities for economic growth surrounding the Ohio River Bridges Project. The first step of this multi-phase project will connect the newly constructed Old Salem Road interchange at Interstate 265 with State Road 62 through the River Ridge Commerce Center.

The project will be funded through a partnership of the River Ridge Commerce Center, the Ports of Indiana, Clark County, the City of Jeffersonville, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency along with other supporting partners.

“Indiana is the Crossroads of America and our business-friendly climate continues to attract economic and employment growth across the state,” said Governor Mike Pence. “As a state, Indiana will continue to invest in infrastructure to support this growth and ensure a bright future for Hoosiers. River Ridge Commerce Center already boasts an estimated \$1.3 billion of overall economic impact to the state, and will invite further large-scale industrial development and investment that will benefit the Southeast region and the state overall.”

“We are breaking ground on a road project that will eventually showcase River Ridge and Southern Indiana through the east-end gateway. This first segment will be extended from the new Interstate 265 interchange through the River Ridge Commerce Center to Highway 62,” said Jerry Acy, executive director of the River Ridge Development Authority. “It is expected that after completion, it will also reduce some of the commercial traffic on Highway 62 by providing an alternate route to the interstate system. This initial segment of the overall transportation corridor project will be augmented later with a second segment connecting the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville to the same I-265 interchange.”

“We applaud the efforts of the Governor’s office, the IEDC, INDOT and our co-stakeholders to pull-out ‘all stops’ to insure the construction of this initial phase of the new transportation corridor begins now to meet a completion target date early next fall,” said Rich Cooper, CEO for the Ports of Indiana. “Our partners at River Ridge Commerce Center have had a tremendous track record of attracting new investments to the region, and we believe there are even better days ahead once the corridor is complete. The possibilities of attracting large scale industrial projects to the Port of Indiana and River Ridge increase tremendously when these two economic engines are connected to the East End Bridge and to each other with a heavy haul road and rail connection. At the end of the day when all phases of this project are complete, it will provide businesses in southern Indiana and the Greater Louisville metropolitan area with transportation cost savings and

a sustainable competitive advantage.”

“The completion of this transportation corridor will be a major asset for companies located in the River Ridge Commerce Center. In addition, the ease of access to the railroad, the interstate and now the port will be an advantage that could catapult our area to the top when corporations are considering the ideal location to locate their businesses and facilities,” stated One Southern Indiana President and CEO Wendy Dant Chesser. “This type of regional collaboration is the trend in regional economic development and our hope is the success of this project will be an incentive for others.”

About Port of Indiana–Jeffersonville

The Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville opened in 1985 and is operated by Ports of Indiana, a statewide port authority operating three ports on the Ohio River and Lake Michigan. Established in 1961, the Ports of Indiana is a self-funded enterprise dedicated to growing Indiana’s economy by developing and maintaining a world-class port system. For more information, visit www.portsofindiana.com

About the River Ridge Commerce Center

River Ridge Commerce Center is the Midwest region’s premier business, industrial and distribution park. Located on 6,000 acres of land, it was originally the site of the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant and deemed to the River Ridge Development Authority in 1998 to spur economic development in the area. It is the home of more than forty companies representing a diverse array of industry categories.

River Ridge Commerce Center is located along Indiana Highway 62 in both Jeffersonville and Charlestown, Ind., just minutes from Louisville, Kentucky. Access to a variety of logistical resources makes it an exceptional location for any company, as it is adjacent to the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville, railways, three major interstates, regional and international airports and the UPS Worldport. Additionally, the completion of a bridge at the East End Crossing in 2016 will connect Southern Indiana to Louisville Metro’s east end and translate into even greater immediate access. For more information about River Ridge Commerce Center, please visit www.riverridgecc.com.

About One Southern Indiana:

One Southern Indiana (1si) was formed in July of 2006 as the economic development organization and chamber of commerce serving Clark and Floyd counties. 1si’s mission is to provide the connections, resources and services that help businesses innovate and thrive in the Southern Indiana / Louisville metro area.

Since its inception, the organization has evolved to include a three-prong approach to serve its members and investors. Business Resources, as the chamber side of the organization, encompasses membership, signature events and programs which support and encourage business growth; Economic Development works to grow the regional economy through the attraction of new commerce and assists with retention and expansion of existing businesses; Advocacy supports businesses at the government level by engaging in the initiatives to preserve, protect and promote a business friendly environment free of obstacles to growth and development of commerce. For more information on One Southern Indiana, visit www.1si.org

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