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PRESS RELEASE

Iberia Groups Coordinate for Major Grant Application

New Iberia, LA, September, 2009: Iberia Parish Government, the Iberia Industrial Development Foundation, the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce, the Iberia Economic Development Authority and the Iberia Parish Airport Authority have teamed up to coordinate development of an application for a major infrastructure-related grant.

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (US Department of Transportation) is accepting applications for a competitive grant entitled “Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery” or “TIGER Discretionary Grants”. The purpose of the TIGER Grant program is to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery, and invest in transportation infrastructure that will provide long term economic benefits and better intermodal connectivity. The grant application, which would be officially submitted by Iberia Parish Government, with the support of the Iberia Parish Council, would focus requested funding on better highway access and connection and road infrastructure in and around the Acadiana Regional Airport and its industrial park. “Iberia Parish is blessed with many economic assets and this project will go a long way to connecting those assets together,” said Ernest Freyou, Iberia Parish President. Award of this grant funding would also create better connection from the newly completed La Hwy 675 overpass to the Airport. “The Acadiana Regional Airport is an important part of the intermodal network that makes Iberia Parish a perfect place for business,” said Mike Tarantino, President and CEO of the Iberia Industrial Development Foundation, “investing in better infrastructure is a win-win for our region and our nation.”

The grant application is currently being written through the efforts of Janet Faulk of the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce and, upon approval, will be submitted before the filing deadline of September 15, 2009. Projects are expected to be selected by USDOT before February of 2010 and priority will be given to those projects that can be expected to be completed upon award on or before February of 2012.

The Iberia Parish Airport Authority approved an official Resolution of Support for the Grant application at its September Board of Commissioners meeting. “The Airport Authority is in complete support of the goals of the application and what it could mean for better connectivity to our 2,000 acre facility”, said Jason Devillier, Acadiana Regional Airport Director.

For more information please call (337) 367-0834.

For Immediate Release