

FOR RELEASE
February 13, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT
Mason Everett
Vice President, Marketing and Communications
269.553.9588
meverett@southwestmichiganfirst.com

Southwest Michigan First Announces Over \$2.1 Million in Grant Funding for Southwest Michigan Commerce Park

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Southwest Michigan Commerce Park will receive over \$2.1 million in grant funding thanks to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP). The 265-acre industrial park is located along East N Avenue in Comstock and Pavilion Townships in Kalamazoo County. Franklin Partners, developers of the site, plan to use the funds for necessary wastewater infrastructure improvements, site preparation, and to further investigate road improvements along East N Avenue. These improvements will bring the premier industrial site another step closer to shovel-ready to attract quality investment and attract new jobs to the region.

"We continue to see strong demand for industrial sites in Southwest Michigan. These improvements will advance a premier industrial site, ultimately helping us grow more high-value companies in the region," said Jonas Peterson, CEO of Southwest Michigan First.

In January, Governor Gretchen Whitmer joined MEDC in [announcing the approval of \\$87.5 million in grant funding](#) through the SSRP to support the state's efforts to compete for and win transformative projects. With over 70 applications submitted and \$420 million in requested funding, Southwest Michigan Commerce Park was one of 18 projects across the state that were selected. This robust inventory of investment-ready sites of all sizes will provide Michigan with increased opportunities for business attraction and expansion projects across the state.

SSRP provides financial incentives to eligible applicants to conduct eligible activities on, or related to, strategic sites and mega-strategic sites in Michigan, for the purpose of creating a statewide inventory of investment-ready sites to attract and promote investment in Michigan. Administered by MEDC on behalf of the Michigan Strategic Fund, the SSRP provides access to grants, loans, and other economic assistance.

About Southwest Michigan Commerce Park

Southwest Michigan Commerce Park is one of the remaining parcels of land zoned for industrial development in the Greater Kalamazoo market. Totalling nearly 265 acres, North Park offers Light Industrial zoning, while South Park is zoned for Manufacturing.

About Franklin Partners

Since 1995, Franklin Partners has focused on quality and innovation, impacting more than 25-million square feet of commercial real estate development. Our experience allows us to be adaptable across investment, development, property management, and new construction by embracing opportunities. Our portfolio spans, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio with a focus on commercial office, industrial, and land development.

About Southwest Michigan First

Southwest Michigan First is an organization of privately funded economic, workforce, and community development advisors who act as the catalyst for economic success in southwest Michigan. Founded in 1999 on the principle that the greatest force for change is a job, the organization works across all industries throughout the seven counties making up the southwest Michigan region.

#