



REGIONAL GROWTH PARTNERSHIP  
*Building a High-Performance Economy*

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RGP Efforts Result in \$750,000 Grant To Redevelop Jefferson Avenue Historic Block**

TOLEDO, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Development has awarded a \$750,000 Industrial Site Improvement Fund grant to the Lucas County Improvement Corporation (LCIC) for the redevelopment of the Jefferson Avenue Historic Block in downtown Toledo.

The Regional Growth Partnership (RGP), with support from the LCIC, led the writing and assembly of the successful proposal, which was awarded at the full request.

The grant, with matching private money, will provide for acquisition of the Greyhound Bus Terminal at 807 Jefferson Ave., which is expected to be relocated to the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. Local developer David Ball, STS Property and Facility Management Inc., put forth a financial commitment to redevelop the terminal into a 10,000 square-foot office facility. Plans also include the redevelopment of the adjacent Pythian Castle upon receipt of the state grant.

“The Regional Growth Partnership has an outstanding track record of grant awards with the Ohio Department of Development, and we were very glad to lend our capability for this successful effort,” said Steve Weathers, president and CEO of the RGP.

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Long cited as a public safety and policy imperative, the redevelopment of the Jefferson Avenue Historic Block is the culmination of more than two decades of attempts to revitalize the site.

“Cooperation with our regional partners made all the difference in securing this grant proposal,” said Larry Davenport, chairman of the RGP board of directors. “This successful proposal demonstrates how the RGP, LCIC, Port Authority and the private sector can work together as partners to accomplish challenging projects that cannot be approached in a fragmented fashion.”

The site acquisition and redevelopment of the bus terminal and Pythian Castle have an estimated cost of more than \$4 million, and these efforts are intended to complement nearby development projects already underway, including the Lucas County Multipurpose Arena. Pythian Castle has special significance as a National Register of Historic Places site and one of Toledo’s most significant architectural assets, built in 1890 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style for the Knights of Pythia fraternal organization.

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

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