



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCPHERSON MAIN STREET AWARDED RECOVERY GRANT

TOPEKA, KANSAS – McPherson Main Street has been awarded a Union Pacific Kansas Main Street Recovery grant by the National Main Street Center and the Kansas Main Street Program. McPherson Main Street is one of eight Kansas Main Street communities to receive the grant, which provides funds to downtowns impacted by COVID-19 to implement ideas for marketing or promotion to help reopen the commercial district safely. This program is made possible by Union Pacific.

“We are proud to partner with Union Pacific and the Kansas Main Street Program to support these outstanding Main Street organizations during this difficult time,” said NMSC’s President and CEO Patrice Frey. “Implementing the programs proposed by these grant recipients will be vital to helping small businesses and local economies weather the storm of COVID-19.”

Independence Main Street, McPherson Main Street Inc., Russell Main Street, Inc., and Seneca Downtown Impact Inc. will receive \$3,000 each to support downtown marketing and promotional initiatives, as well as technical support from the National Main Street Center’s Field Services team and complimentary Main Street America membership. El Dorado Main Street, Inc., Leavenworth Main Street Program, Inc., Downtown Overland Park Partnership, and Downtown Parsons will receive \$3,000 to support their commercial district marketing efforts.

“Receiving this grant is a tremendous gift to our community as well as a welcome reminder that companies like Union Pacific are out there “Building America” city by city,” said Ann Engel, Executive Director of McPherson Main Street. “We appreciate this great opportunity to help our local businesses begin the recovery process.”

“We are thrilled to provide support to these Main Streets to help ensure Kansas downtowns and commercial districts remain vibrant in the months and years to come,” said Ben Jones, Senior Director of Public Affairs at Union Pacific. “Our employees live and work in these communities, and we believe these projects will have a positive impact, igniting the economy as we recover from the pandemic.”

Grant project ideas were judged based on how they would contribute to commercial district recovery efforts, as well as their community impact after the initial project implementation. Recipients are all designated Main Street America communities and recognized Union Pacific communities.

“On behalf of the City of McPherson we want to thank the Union Pacific Railroad and appreciate their efforts in trying to help give downtowns throughout the state a jumpstart following the COVID-19 Pandemic,” said Assistant City Administrator Bo Modellmog, “This grant will go towards promoting our annual Shop the Night Away event and will give the local businesses in town the boost they need to get back on their feet.”

“Union Pacific has a long-standing history in many downtowns across Kansas,” said Scott Sewell, Director of the Kansas Main Street program. “We appreciate the efforts of U.P, and the National Main Street Center to help make these grants available as downtowns begin to reopen and recover from the pandemic.”

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL MAIN STREET CENTER

The National Main Street Center has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for 40 years. Today, its network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. The organization is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit mainstreet.org.

ABOUT THE KANSAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Kansas Main Street program assists Kansas communities by helping them develop transformational strategies that articulate a focused, deliberate path to revitalizing or strengthening their downtown or commercial district's economy. Centered around four points—economic vitality, design, promotion and - organization—these strategies guide the local program toward their distinct vision of what they want their community, and downtown, to be. For more information, please call 785-296-7288.

ABOUT UNION PACIFIC

Union Pacific (NYSE: UNP) delivers the goods families and businesses use every day with safe, reliable and efficient service. Operating in 23 western states, the company connects its customers and communities to the global economy. Trains are the most environmentally responsible way to move freight, helping Union Pacific protect future generations. More information about Union Pacific is available at www.up.com.