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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 Vital Projects for 2016 Selected by Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) Committee

The 10 Vital Projects for 2016 were selected by R5DC's Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) Committee. The projects were prioritized by a group of diverse regional leaders from the private, public & non-profit sectors. The committee selected those with regional significance that create economic vitality, environmental stewardship and quality of life.

Vital Projects listed in the CREDS document allows access to U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding as well as other federal grant programs. Being listed in this document shows alignment to a regional plan which is favorable to most Federal, State or Local funding agencies. **Projects will be shared with multiple funding agencies/partners to encourage these partners to invest in projects meeting regional goals.**

"We are so honored (and super excited) to have been chosen as one of the 10 Vital Projects for R5DC", says Nicole Bjerke, Development Officer for CentraCare Health Foundation-Long Prairie, "We are so grateful for the time, ideas and support R5DC has provided to us and we look forward to many more great conversations and developments related to the Community Well-Being Project in the coming months."

2016 Vital Projects are:

- **Solar for Schools STEM Education**
Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)
- **Grower's and Makers Marketplace**
Sprout
- **Whole Health Pine River Backus**
Happy Dancing Turtle (HDT)
- **Live Open Solutions**
Hunt Utilities Group
- **Virtual Highway Infrastructure Project, Phase II**
Resilient Region Connectivity Champions
- **Career Immersion Experiences**
Bridges Career Academies and Workplace Connection
- **Youth Career Exploration Video Project**
Region Five Development Commission (R5DC)
- **Brainerd Riverfront**
Brainerd HRA
- **Hwy 27 Memorial Bridge Feasibility Study**
City of Little Falls
- **Community Well-Being Building Project**
CentraCare Health Long Prairie

Vital Projects and ideas are accepted annually in August. The R5DC Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy Committee (CREDS) meets in October to review and prioritize projects, followed by a 30-day comment period. The draft document can be found at www.regionfive.org. Comments and questions regarding this plan can be directed to Dawn Espe at despe@regionfive.org or 218-894-3233.

To learn more about the 2016-2021 CREDS, please visit www.eda.gov/ceds or www.regionfive.org.

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Region Five Development Commission's mission is to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties.