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For Immediate Release

Date: October 10, 2011
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EDA seeks community support for multi-regional logistics hub development Next Michigan Development Corporation (NMDC)

St. Clair County, Michigan

The Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of St. Clair County is encouraging support from local municipalities as part of a multi-regional collaborative to jointly apply for a Next Michigan Development Corporation (NMDC) designation. An NMDC is essentially an independently established corporation representing a partnership that works to grow a logistics hub around intermodal access points within a region. Only five designations are permitted in the State of Michigan.

The intent of establishing a Next Michigan Development Corporation (NMDC) is to create a cooperative partnership with local units of government to use incentives to attract businesses that depend on multimodal commerce. Incentives utilized as a result of an NMDC designation would be applicable for eligible businesses that move products or services via multimodal commerce; two or more modes of transportation services: air, roads, rail or water.

The proposed collaborative and application would represent Genesee, St. Clair, Oakland, Shiawassee, and Lapeer counties and as many as 19 local municipalities. Key intermodal assets in the proposed area include Flint Bishop International Airport, St. Clair County International Airport, I-75, I-69, I-94, ports in St. Clair County and rail lines owned by CSX and Canadian National.

The first NMDC approved in early 2011, was recently established in Wayne County and is located around the Detroit Metro Airport and Willowrun Airport.

In order to apply for an NMDC, an applicant must first have an executed Inter-local Agreement between community partners including the county, city and townships (in this case, along the proposed I-69 corridor logistics hub). The EDA is now beginning to work with local communities in order to gain their approval of the agreement.

As part of an established Next Michigan Development Corporation (NMDC), the St. Clair County region can benefit from potential new business, jobs & investment, take advantage of tax incentives, including

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renaissance zones, local development finance authority, tax abatements and exemptions and joint marketing.

Once approved, the NMDC would be marketed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and regional partners along I-69. A marketing and communications plan that brands the Next Michigan Development Corporation nationally and internationally also would be developed and fully implemented.

In order to successfully compete with regions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, the NMDC must have local and regional cooperation, strong government support, and a business friendly climate that encourages investment and commerce.

Next Michigan Development Corporation – NMDC Tools & Abilities

- Ability to establish a plant rehabilitation district or industrial development district
- Grant real & personal property abatement to eligible NMDC businesses
- Allows NMDC to create a multi-jurisdictional Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA)
- Eligible NMDC businesses can seek Renaissance Zone designations
- MEDC will market NMDC communities
- Allows additional tools to be utilized to attract new businesses (including start-ups)
- NMDC tools not subject to MEDC approval

The regional partners plan to submit the application to the MEDC at the end of the year. Additional steps include approval by the Governor and the Michigan Strategic fund.

The I-69 partners have already begun to work together on new initiatives, including promotion of exporting to companies located in the five-county area.

About EDA:

The Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of St. Clair County is a private non-profit organization that provides general purpose economic development services throughout St. Clair County. EDA offers a wide variety of services involving business recruitment and business retention with an overall goal of enhancing the quality of life for residents in St. Clair County. EDA also serves as a satellite office for the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) offering free resources, classes and guidance for entrepreneurs and small business owners. EDA is supported by a membership of over 100 businesses from the private & public sector. www.edascc.com