



[About Tim](#) |
 [46th District](#) |
 [Newsroom](#) |
 [Constituent Services](#) |
 [Legislative Information](#) |
 [Useful Links](#) |
 [Photo Gallery](#) |
 [Contact](#)

Solobay, White Announce \$1M Grant for Starpointe Project

» [Home](#) » [Newsroom](#)



HARRISBURG, PA – May 27, 2011 – The next phase of the Starpointe Business Park will receive a \$1 million state grant, State Sen. Tim Solobay and Rep. Jesse White announced today.

The Washington County Council on Economic Development is starting work on Phase 1B of the business park, turning 225 acres of brownfield into more than 100 acres of business-ready sites that will include utilities and high-speed Internet.

"This grant is an investment in the future of Washington County's working families," Solobay said. "With gas exploration fueling local economic growth, industrial infrastructure projects will help diversify the job base and sustain long-term growth."

The grant comes from the Department of Community and Economic Development's Infrastructure Development Program, intended to restore former industrial sites into clean, modern business centers. WCCED estimates that the project will create 500 jobs with an average wage of \$15 an hour when all the sites are sold by 2017.

"Coming out of the recession, our priority must be building momentum for continued job growth," White said. "Some of the people who will be working in this business park are only in high school or middle school today. We want to make sure that if they are ready to work, jobs will be there for them."

Phase 1A of the project contained smaller sites for businesses, with a maximum size of eight acres. The next phase is expected to create sites as large as 46 acres and leverage \$41,000,000 in private investment.

"This grant is critical to our continuing effort to attract employers and employment opportunities for Washington County residents," said Dan Reitz, WCCED's interim executive director. "We appreciate the support of our local lawmakers who understand that targeted public investment will generate millions more in private investment for our community."

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[^ return to top](#)

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[Home](#) |
 [About](#) |
 [46th District](#) |
 [Constituent Services](#) |
 [Newsroom](#) |
 [Legislative Information](#) |
 [Links](#) |
 [Photo Gallery](#) |
 [Contact Me](#)