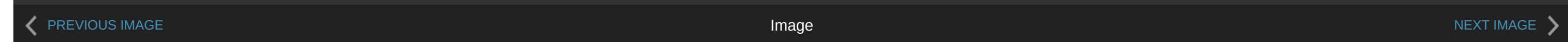


# Gary welcomes new growth in Miller section

## Truck parking facility coming to Melton Road location



Tim McCahill, second from right, of Transport Properties, announces a \$6 million transportation hub on U.S. Route 20 in Gary on Wednesday. From left are AJ Bytnar, executive director of redevelopment for the city of Gary, Gary deputy mayor Trent A. McCain, McCahill and Rachel Field, project executive with Lee Construction Management. Michael Gard/Post-Tribune



By Carrie Napoleon For Post-Tribune

Transport Properties of Chicago announced the first phase of a nearly \$6 million development that includes a secure truck and trailer parking facility in Gary.

The project sits on 22 acres and includes 574 secure semitractor-trailer parking spaces, according to Tim McCahill, principal. McCahill was joined at the site Wednesday by Deputy Mayor Trent McCain and AJ Bytnar, Executive Director of Development from Gary and Rachel Field with Lee Construction of Gary to tout the project at a formerly vacant site in Gary's Miller section.

Transport Properties is a Chicago-based real estate company focused in the acquisition and operations of specialized industrial properties nationally, according to the company website.

The facility offers its customers an opportunity to rent a spot or set of parking spots for semitractor-trailers. It is paved and offers state-of-the-art keycode entry that allows the site to keep track of who enters and leaves and provide information to multi-spot clients looking to track one of their vehicles.

The Gary facility will provide storage options for large trucking firms like Martin Transportation, which recently secured 25 spots and will use the site as a relay yard where drivers drop off a truck from one destination and pick up trucks heading to other destinations, McCahill said.

"It makes it so the trucks are in a safe, secure reliable place," he said.

McCahill also announced DriveCo CDL Learning Centers will take up about 100 of the spaces at the facility for its driver training school. Truck drivers are in high demand with the increase in shipping, and the number of available jobs outpaces the workforce. Truck drivers earn substantially more than minimum wage. Having the training center at the site was a logical partnership.

"I think it will be a really good job generator for the city of Gary," McCahill said.

The announcement was the second in a week touting new development along Melton Road. The city welcomed Chicagoland Independent Auction to Gary on Monday. The business will occupy the former Kmart building and 14 acres at 7900 Melton Road, kitty-corner from the Transport Properties facility.

"This is our vision reimaging development," McCain said. "This is an exciting time for the city of Gary."

Chicago Independent Auto Auction was founded in 1947 and opened the Dyer location in 1977, according to vehicleremarket.com. The Monday announcement marks the full transition of all of its dealer and commercial accounts from Dyer to the new Gary location, which began operations in November.

The new site includes a 100,000-square-foot auction building and eight auction lanes. Weekly sales will continue on Fridays, according to the website. The weekly auto auctions will mean dozens of jobs for Gary residents, the city said in announcing the development.

Carrie Napoleon is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.