



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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USDA ASSISTS WITH TRANSPORTATION DEPOT MUSEUM

Kearney, Neb., April 26-The Howard County Historical Society received in early April, \$53,000 in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan funds. These dollars will be used to assist in the costs associated with the renovation of the Transportation Depot Museum.

"The renovated depot will be used to preserve the history and cultural artifacts of the community," stated Lennis Hodgson, rural development manager for USDA Rural Development. "The museum will serve as the main visitor complex of the historic village and will be open on a year round basis."

The \$238,000 project combines USDA funds with a \$124,868 Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant and an applicant contribution of \$60,132. The USDA loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.75 percent interest.

The Howard County Historical Society purchased the old Shelton Railroad Depot in an effort to add to their historical main street and to develop a transportation museum. The depot was in need of renovation work. Lists of donors totaling 267 have provided for this project. Much of the work has been completed by volunteer labor. Additionally, the City of St. Paul provided the land on which the historic main street is located and where the Depot resides.

The Transportation Depot Museum will be a main part of the historical Main Street in St. Paul. The museum will provide additional cultural and educational opportunities not only for the 6,567 residents of Howard County but also for people traveling through the area as the facility should attract tourism. Once the Depot Restoration project is completed and exhibits are installed, the Howard County Historical Society will begin to generate income from admissions.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the USDA whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

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