# Hobart confirmed as Amazon Web Services data center site

## The financial impact is yet to be determined, but it will be a huge amount of money



Mayor Josh Huddlestun speaks during an informational session on data centers and their impact on the city at the Hobart Community Center in Hobart, Indiana. Andy Lavalley/for the Post-Tribune

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A large slice of Amazon's planned $15 billion data center pie is on Hobart's plate, Mayor Josh Huddlestun confirmed Tuesday.

The city is finalizing a development agreement with Amazon Web Services that will be presented to the City Council when it's done, he said.

The site at 61st and Colorado Street is about 500 acres, nearly half of the 1,100 acres that Brandon Oyer, head of Americas water and power at AWS, said would be needed to fulfill the company's plans for the $15 billion investment in Northwest Indiana.

The financial impact for Hobart can't be determined until the final numbers are crunched, but it's going to be big money.

"I don't think it's out of the ballpark to think this thing could bring $20 million, $30 million a year," Huddlestun said.

Hobart has been buffeted by a series of financial hits, from the Southlake Mall property tax appeal to Senate Enrolled Act 1, which will offer property tax relief to taxpayers by reducing revenue local governments use to provide services to residents, he said.

"Hobart, residents are struggling," Huddlestun said. "I want to actually give them relief."

"We're going to provide relief to our community," he said, with money to solve flooding issues through the city as well as improving parks, police and fire protection and other services.

The Hobart data center complex is not without opposition. Angelita Soriano, a coordinator with the No Data Centers Hobart Indiana group, gathered some of her colleagues at her Eagle Creek home Tuesday afternoon to plan next steps.

The group planned to protest outside City Hall at about 3 p.m. Wednesday and downtown on Small Business Saturday.

"We were hoping it wasn't Hobart, but then we got this leak email from Mayor Josh telling the city