Economic Development Activities & Accomplishments

Rutherford County Board of Commissioners
2014 Year in Review

Jobs and the Local Economy

• Over the past 12 months, Economic Development staff has worked closely with the Board of Commissioners to:
  – Attract 2 new industrial projects, and
  – Assist in 4 existing industry expansion projects
• As a result of these efforts:
  – Announced more than 220 new jobs, and
  – Over $9.5 million in new investment
Jobs and the Local Economy

• Team Air, Inc.
  – On February 27th announced commitment to create 70 jobs and invest more than $4.2 million over the next 3 years
  – Purchased former All-American Homes facility
  – Made possible, in part, through state and local grants:
    • State: $272,000
    • Local: $ 87,380

Jobs and the Local Economy

• Bonita Pioneer
  – On March 4th announced commitment to create 50 jobs and invest more than $2.8 million over the next 3 years
  – Leasing former shell building at RiverStone
  – Made possible, in part, through state and local grants:
    • State: $555,000
    • Local: $ 75,000
Jobs and the Local Economy

• Alliance Precision Plastics
  – On April 23rd announced plans for an expansion and the commitment to invest at least $1.25 million in machinery & equipment and continue adding jobs at the Spindale location
  – Made possible, in part, through state and local grants:
    • State: $150,000
    • Local: $37,500

• Ameridial
  – On May 21st announced plans for a second expansion and the commitment to create 100 jobs and invest at least $1.27 million
  – Purchased former BI-LO grocery building in Spindale
  – Made possible, in part, through state and local grants:
    • State: $290,000
    • Local: $14,500
Jobs and the Local Economy

• Creative Gift Packaging
  – Expanded warehouse, online fulfillment center, and distribution operation to 650 NC Hwy 120
  – Retail and classroom remain at Forest City location

• Project FPS
  – Expansion of existing healthcare operation
  – Awarded a Building Reuse Grant – December 18
  – Formal announcement to come

Jobs and the Local Economy

• In November 2013, the unemployment rate in Rutherford County was 9.3%.
• A steady decline has continued throughout 2014 and is now:

  7 %

November 2014
**Jobs and the Local Economy**

- **Business Retention & Expansion**
  - Completed more than 45 visits with existing business and industry
  - Providing access to resources necessary to retain and attract jobs to our county

*Work, Grow, Thrive!*

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**Jobs and the Local Economy**

- **Gateway West Commerce Park**
  - Master-planned industrial park
  - Conveniently located to capitalize on the surrounding assets including Isothermal Community College, creating a setting that builds diversity in commercial, retail, and technologically advanced jobs.
  - Board of Commissioners identified the development of a pad-ready (pre-graded) site as a goal for FY 14-15
  - Site development activities commenced Dec 11th
Gateway West Commerce Park

- A pre-graded site(s):
  - Reduces construction time
  - Reduces development cost
  - Reduces risk
Mail & E-blasts

Jobs and the Local Economy

Rutherford County Airport

- Important tool for **Economic Development** and **Tourism Development**
- Significant increase in air traffic as a result of the Tryon International Equestrian Center
- **Rutherford County Welcome Bags** are being distributed to all visitors at the airport.
- Completed conceptual development plan and budget level cost estimates for **industrial/business development** at county airport
Rutherford County Airport Industrial Park
Conceptual Development Plan

Challenges Ahead:

• Diversification of available buildings and sites that meet the needs for advanced manufacturing opportunities
  – Buildings need ceiling heights above 26 feet
  – Large, available sites needed near major transportation corridors
  – Encourage demolition of functionally obsolete buildings

• Continue to reintroduce Rutherford County to the new Economic Development Partnership of NC

• Continue partnership with ICC and RCS to develop workforce skills needed for advance manufacturing and high-tech industries
Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Rutherford County!