

*Texas Engineering Extension
Community and Economic Development Initiative
1 – Year Progress Update
April 14th, 2015*

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President/CEO

Taylor Economic Development Corporation

The Process...

- Over 5700 Community Surveys Mailed
- 4 Community Focus Group Discussions Held
- 1 High School Student Focus Group Discussion Held
- Surveys and Announcements Printed in Taylor Press
- Over 3% of Taylor's Population Shared Thoughts and Insights
 - TEEEX Average is Less than 2% Response Rate

The Results...



- The Taylor Community and Economic Development Initiative culminated with an Action Plan that is developed to lead, excite and unite residents, leaders and businesses to aggressively promote and build upon the many natural and acquired assets present in Taylor while preserving the core values.
- While virtually all potential projects and activities received high priority rankings, among the top ranked priorities were:
 - Communication
 - Infrastructure (roads)
 - Education
 - Business Environment (Consistency and Ease When Working with the City to Attract, Retain and Expand Existing Businesses)
 - Entertainment
- These priorities shaped the core of Taylor's Community and Economic Development Initiative Action Plan for Taylor's economic development.



TEDC as “Lead Agency”

- Communication
- Infrastructure
- Business Environment



Communication: Attain a Unified Community Vision

- TEDC First Friday Breakfasts
- Civic Club Guest Speaker/Program
- Participate in Annual “State of the Community” Event
- TEDC Board Meetings Open to Public with “Citizen Communication” On each Agenda
- Board Positions Appointed by City Council as needed; all Citizens Encouraged to Apply
- Annual TEEEX Report Card Update

Infrastructure: Amtrak becoming full service in Taylor



- The TEDC has not made any progress towards this Action Item
 - There is Round-Trip Service from Austin to Taylor for Day Trips
 - We will work to improve and add to this service as other Priorities are Met and Completed



Business Environment: Incentives are consistently and fairly distributed

- TEDC Funds Two Types of Projects:
 - Primary Job Creation Projects
 - Infrastructure Development Projects
- Cash Incentives are Based on 10% of the Average Annual Wage of New Jobs Created (i.e. \$40,000/year Job = \$4,000 Cash Incentive)
 - Health Insurance, Sick Leave, Vacation and Retirement are each valued at 7.5% each and are Deducted from Final Incentive if not Offered or Paid for by Employer
- Infrastructure Projects are Funded at the Discretion of the Board of Directors and are Dependent upon the Size of the Project, overall impact on Property Tax and Sales Tax
- Our BRE Program works Diligently with ALL Local Businesses to see if the TEDC can be of Service



***Business Environment:
Seminars held for developers/builders and current business
owners on “Opening/Expanding Business in Taylor”***

- The TEDC works closely with the City of Taylor to make sure the Development Process is well understood by all our clients and local developers.
- The TEDC attends the DRC Meetings as needed
- While “Seminars” have not been held, the TEDC will continue to Work with the City to Gage this as an potential Future Need.



Business Environment: Recruit and Encourage Development of Niche Industries (Manufacturing) to Serve Specialized Markets

- High-End Manufacturing
- Logistics (Distribution)
- Taylor-Hutto Mega Site
 - Partnership with Hutto
- Partnership with Austin Chamber
 - Lead Generation
- Newly Formed Williamson County EDO Partnership
- Direct Lead Generation Activity in California, New York, Illinois
- Current Lead Activity Posted Monthly on our Website
 - C&I Pipeline Report (Currently Working 14 Relocation and Expansion Projects Since 01/01/2015)

Business Environment:

Recruit and Encourage Development of Niche Industries (Manufacturing) to Serve Specialized Markets



City of Taylor
Mustang Creek Industrial Park



10.31.14



Business Environment: Increase Assistance to Retain and Expand Existing Businesses

- The TEDC BR&E Program:
 - Works with Local Companies to Assist with their Needs and Help them Navigate the City's Development Process if Needed
 - Sits on the Main Street Economic Restructuring Committee
 - Support Local Retail via the Chamber's Business Support Committee
 - Preparing for a 2015 Taylor Economic Development Summit akin to the one held in 2011



Business Environment: Invest in Entrepreneurship and Innovation

- TEDC Has Partnered with the SBDC in Round Rock for Counseling Services
- Sponsor a Variety of Entrepreneurial and Small Business Focused Classes
 - QuickBooks, PowerPoint, Excel
 - Entrepreneurial Boot Camps



In Closing...

- We are very pleased with the accomplishments over the first year
- We recognize we have a ways to go
- We are excited to see what 2015 brings Taylor
- Please call us if you have any question