



# Tyler Economic Development Council

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July / August 2008

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
September 24, 2008, 3:30  
TEDC Board Meeting  
Genecov Room

## GOODYEAR UPDATE

**EDA Grant:** Representatives from the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) at Texas A&M met with TEDC staff on June 11 to begin work on an economic development strategy for dealing with the loss of Goodyear jobs. Tom Mullins briefed Michael West, Joan Quintana, and Lisa Mutchler on current projects, the Tyler 21 initiative, the educational community, and other general information on Tyler. TEEX reps will be in Tyler August 5-7 to meet with community leaders.

**Plant Closure:** Union membership voted on July 18 to ratify an agreement for closure of Goodyear, Tyler mixing operation. The Company will close the plant early and release the remaining 60 employees due to a national decrease in the demand for rubber. No date has been set for the plant closure. Amy Brei, Manager of Manufacturing Communications, said the company has not decided if it will retain or sell the land and building if the mixing operation is closed.

**INVESTOR BANNERS** The TEDC website now has space available for your banner ad. A maximum of 10 banners will be available for placement on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is being offered to TEDC Investors and Contributors only. For more information, visit [www.tedc.org/banners.php](http://www.tedc.org/banners.php) or contact Chris Wynn 903.593.2004, ext 225 or [cwynn@tylertexas.com](mailto:cwynn@tylertexas.com).

**PROSPECT ACTIVITY** TEDC has been contacted by CB Richard Ellis in Phoenix regarding a Fortune 100 company that has placed Tyler on the short list of 5 cities (3 in Texas) for a 400-800 employee customer service center with a capital investment in excess of \$5 million. The original search looked at 3,600 cities nationwide. The company needs a bilingual workforce and a 60-70,000 sf facility (preferably an existing building).

TEDC also submitted information to Cresa Partners in Boston for a community summary they are presenting to a prospect. The company is looking for 25,000-30,000 sf for an inbound/outbound customer service center that would hire at least 200 employees. Investment numbers are not available.

In addition, TEDC responded to requests for proposals for four manufacturing prospects totaling more than 700,000 sf, 650 new jobs and \$45 million in investment.

## ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

On July 17, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison announced the approval of the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, which includes \$29 million for a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Tyler. The project will still need to be included in the final federal budget.

**ENERGY COSTS** On June 30, US Senator John Cornyn visited the Brookshire Grocery Company to discuss increasing transportation costs due to rising gas and diesel prices. TEDC was invited to make comments regarding the impact high energy costs have on economic development. Barham Fulmer, Chairman and Tom Mullins, President/CEO attended.

**BENNETT STREET** TEDC is working with Adams Engineering, the City of Tyler, and Reynolds & Kay to extend Bennett Street in the Tyler Industrial Business Park to connect with New Sunnybrook. This will open additional land for development and potential prospects. At the preconstruction conference held July 30 a Notice to Proceed was granted to Reynolds & Kay. Construction is scheduled to begin August 18, 2008.

**TJC AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** Phyllis Schneider, VP-Finance, is a member of this Committee that met on Thursday, June 19. The TJC Auto Tech program prepares certified students for jobs at area dealerships, auto repair shops, etc. The gold standard in the auto industry is NATEF certification (the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation). The NATEF accreditation team made their on-site visit May 20-21, and the Program received a very high score. Full certification was granted in June. The outstanding TJC program is the only one in the State of Texas with a high school and a college program that has NATEF certification. All of the instructors are ASE Master Certified, which is very unusual. After completing the 2-year program, entry salaries are about \$25,000-30,000; after 2 years of solid experience, it is not unusual for graduates to earn \$50,000. And salaries can go on up above \$100,000 if technicians specialize in certain models.

**LEAN MANUFACTURING** Trane hosted a meeting on July 1 with representatives from Trane, Tyler Pipe, Brookshires, TJC, TMAC and TEDC to determine how to establish a regional Lean Consortium. TJC and TEDC will work together to request funds from the Texas Workforce Commission to help start up and staff the Consortium. Other companies expressing interest are Luminant Energy, Hood Packaging, the hospitals, and the City of Tyler. Bill Cornett of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension has recommended TJC to be the lead sponsor to the Lean Consortium. He believes it will be easier to organize the Consortium in Tyler first and then try to expand regionally after it becomes established.

**INCENTIVES GUIDELINES** On June 25, the TEDC Executive Committee reviewed an initial draft of the City of Tyler's proposed incentives guidelines for economic development. Barham Fulmer and TEDC staff met with Mayor Barbara Bass and City representatives on July 10 to discuss the City's response to suggestions made by TEDC to the first draft. The City Council will consider adopting the guidelines within the next 60 days.

TEDC has also asked the City to increase the contract for services to \$90,000 (from \$50,000 which was set in 1988) and to provide \$20,000 as part of the Goodyear EDA grant match.

## TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

Governor Perry has appointed Tom Pauken as the new Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission. Mr. Pauken addressed the TEDC Board on July 30 and met with a smaller group of business and community leaders for breakfast at Luminant Academy on July 31.

Ron Lehman, Commissioner for Employers, will be leaving the Texas Workforce Commission at the end of this year. TEDC sent a letter of appreciation for his service.