

Upcoming Events

2009/2010 Calendar

(All meetings are held at Rolla City Hall—unless otherwise indicated)

September 17	T4
September 18 NEW DATE	RREC Board 9 a.m.
October 9	RREC Board 9 a.m.
October 15	Business Conference
November 13	RREC Board 9 a.m.
November 19	T4 – nominating group
December 11	RREC Board Annual Meeting 9 a.m.
December 17	T4
January 8	RREC Board
January 21	T4

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Economic Development News for the Rolla Region

September 2009

Blight, EEZ and the City of Rolla

The benefits available to new and expanding businesses under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program can only be offered in the EEZ area. In order to be an EEZ, an area must meet some definition of blight. The entire city of Rolla is, obviously, not a place plagued by blight. However, there are areas of the community in which the collective incomes of the neighborhood people or the physical deterioration of the buildings clearly demonstrate economic distress. When the economic statistics of these distressed areas are added and averaged with the non-distressed areas the average of the entire city meets the numerical definition of blight. In other words, **our neighbors in areas of distress are experiencing such suffering that they actually serve to statistically bring down the areas in which Rolla is statistically showing prosperity.**

The obvious reaction of anyone living in a neighborhood reflecting prosperity would be to seek exclusion from blight designation. The problem with carving out pieces of the community is that if we shrink the EEZ area, we miss the chance to offer an incentive to grow potential businesses that could locate in the area. For example, there are areas along the entire length of 10th street which would be suitable for many different kinds of professional and IT related businesses. There is one building, in particular, for which the city has had the consideration of two very serious employers. The 10th street area has unique features in terms of infrastructure, location and character. Carving this area out of the zone could make the area less attractive to a prospective employer, which would be fine if there were an alternative, but there is not.

Enhanced Enterprise Zone is only a tool to provide an incentive for business growth. There is no other tool available to help smaller businesses or businesses making mostly large capital investments with few employees. EEZ has nothing to do with eminent domain or any kind of zoning or land use control. Rolla has actually had an Enterprise Zone since 1981 – this was the first generation of this kind of program – and there is no evidence of property devaluation.

Public Hearing for
Rolla EEZ
Tuesday, October 13
6 p.m.
Rolla City Council
Chambers

Missouri Economic
Development Council
Fall Conference
October 28-30
Columbia
[http://www.showme.org/
alendar.htm](http://www.showme.org/calendar.htm)

Rolla has a unique mix of intellectual and physical assets that fit the needs of businesses creating sustainable employment. It is the only place in south central Missouri with such assets. Accepting EEZ designation will provide Rolla with a tool to help the entire community, as well as the entire south central region, to collectively lift itself out of economic distress.

First Building at the Technology Park

The University issued an RFP for construction of the first building on the Technology Park on Friday, September 11th. The building is scheduled to be completed by next August.

An official from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is coming in September to look at the Tech Park project for possible infrastructure funding.

Project 3 Phase

RREC is working with MoSCI on a project which would co-locate three companies in the building formerly occupied by Briggs and Stratton. While all three companies are related by one common technology, they each require a unique approach and effort.

Company #1 – is a start up based on new technology.

Company #2 – is a recruitment from another state with a strong relationship to the start up (80 jobs est.)

Company #3 – would be a center for research and development to apply the product made by Company #1 (200 jobs est.)

This project is subject to active support from the Missouri Department of Economic Development as well as Senator Barnitz.

Alternative Energy Development

RREC is also supporting the efforts of the University to develop a new opportunity related to alternative energy. This project should be another privately owned center for research and development.

Highway 63 Meeting

The preferred alignment has been determined for Highway 63 between Rolla and Jefferson City. On September 9, RREC hosted a meeting for all communities on the 63 corridor to present the route, gauge the interest of

communities for support of some way to fund construction and present some possible solutions for funding this section of 63. Ted Day, Keith

Strassner and Candace Connell attended from Rolla. There were participants representing the entire 63 corridor. Roger Schwartze (MoDOT District 5) presented the new route for 63. His presentation was followed by discussion about alternatives used by other communities for funding large projects that were actually outside of their cities.

Several people, in addition to those attending, expressed strong interest in knowing more about 63 development. There were also representatives from the offices of Senators Bond and McCaskill.

A study of sales tax revenue, along with other economic indicators, provides a clear picture of the economic benefit of enhanced transportation. More discussions are planned on this topic in coming year.

Sales Tax in 2008 for Counties on the 63 corridor

Counties North 63	Retail Sales 2008
Boone (Columbia; I-70)	\$2,207,577,030
Randolph (Moberly)	\$269,017,035
Macon (Macon)	\$119,963,819
Adair (Kirksville)	\$274,901,955
Schuyler (Lancaster)	\$22,301,411

Counties South 63	Retail Sales 2008
Cole (Jefferson City)	\$1,607,113,284
Osage (Westphalia)	\$88,346,652
Maries (Vienna)	\$38,027,618
Phelps (Rolla)	\$453,173,901
Texas (Houston)	\$162,479,927
Howell (West Plains)	\$422,115,036
Oregon (Thayer)	\$74,221,672

**RREC Recruitment
/Expansion Projects
2009**

Project name	Basic Description	Recent Action
Miner	Illinois manufacturing company exploring relocation to Rolla	Incentive from DED – working to add local incentives
Pure	RFI from materials technology based company looking at the Big Industrial building	Requested information provided to Missouri Partnership
Reserch1	Design center building material	Prelim discussion
Eebus	Recruit related to mst ee prof	Prelim discussion
Project Willow	Technology related manufacturing	Completed RFI and limited follow up June 4
Project Chicago West	Small manufacturer	No further contact with client
LWI 62009	Research Project EE	Site indentified
Project 109	Heavy industrial prospect considering the Briggs building.	Project Lost.
Package	European plastic packing company. 100 new employees	On indefinite hold due to financial issues
Trail	Medical related company. 35 new employees at \$35K avg.	No news
Mapping	10 new employees @27K	Project lost 5/4/09 due to economic issues.
CAMT1	Based in Europe. Working with MST. 7 new research jobs	On indefinite hold due to financial issues
Td1	Significant expansion from a Missouri company	No new information
Addison	Chicago based company considering Briggs warehouse	Project dead due to economic issues
Mp2 Project Rainfall	Consultant request RFI (large Briggs building)	Lost: too far from primary source of raw material
Mp3 Project OX	Consultant request (large Briggs buiding- long shot)	Project still on hold
Local1	Missouri company considering expansion and relocation to Rolla/St. James	Sent packet of information to client on small Briggs building and St. James industrial park.
Entre1 (ProPerma)	company start up	Company is partnership with MoSCI and is actually starting up in MoSCI but starting production on initial product in SW U.S.
Norm2	Missouri company considering relocation and expansion	Sent information materials for parent office in St. Louis
Package 2	Packaging company with locations nationwide considering an expansion in Rolla	Site visit to Briggs building. Discussions regarding lease price – no new information
Project Molder *	Large scale manufacturing	Lost project on building but may have 2 nd chance if project has to look at greenfield sites.
Project Fire	Entrepreneurial start up for research based company	Project dead



