

Franklin County Area Development Corp. sees business growth despite economic downturn and outlines goals for 2010



By

Ross

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Chambersburg, Pa. -

Franklin County Area Development Corp. saw increased growth in 2009 despite the economic downturn and 2010 is shaping up to be another good year.

President Mike Ross presented a look back and a look ahead at FCADC's annual meeting on Thursday.

2009 recap

Last year, FCADC was involved in 42 projects worth \$181 million that spanned the length of Franklin County and were vital in creating and retaining 1,500 jobs, according to Ross.

While the economy was hard on many businesses, including Manitowoc's crane facility in Shady Grove, Ross reported that some grew in 2009, like the Target distribution center.

"We have been able to weather the economic downturn better than most," Ross said.

Even in a declining economy, Ross reported that Franklin County is still one of the fastest-growing counties in Pennsylvania.

"The challenge is can we manage the growth," Ross said.

Since 1986, FCADC has completed a total of 650 projects, worth more than \$1.4 billion in investments and impacting more than 40,000 jobs.

"That's what makes Franklin County great," Ross said. "Everyone works together."

Looking ahead

FCADC has several large projects planned for 2010, including the Norfolk Southern intermodal rail hub in Antrim Township.

"They are committed to being here," Ross said.

The facility will be part of the "Crescent Corridor," a freight transportation system running from Louisiana to New Jersey.

Freight from trucks will be transferred to high speed trains at the hub.

When completed in 2012, the facility is expected to create 126 jobs immediately, according to Ross.

By 2020, the facility will have provided 3,651 jobs directly or indirectly.

Construction crews are expected to break ground this summer, according to Ross.

“As we get ready for 2010, we want to get a better idea of what needs done and lay out a plan of action,” Ross said. “We want to improve our operations and look for ways to improve revenue streams.”



Other 2010 goals include completing at least one project in all six school districts in Franklin County.

“We want to be from Willow Hill to Blue Ridge Summit and everywhere in between,” Ross said. Another goal of FCADC is to be a repository of information.

“We want folks to be able to come to us and find the information they need so they can make the best informed decision,” Ross said.

FCADC also will work with the Franklin County Planning Office to develop a county-wide GIS mapping system.

The system will provide developers with better information when selecting sites, Ross said.

What’s in store

Major goals of FCADC in 2010:

- Expand and renovate the FCADC office building at 1900 Wayne Road, Chambersburg
- Complete at least one project in all six school districts in the county
- Construct a 15,000-square-foot industrial building in the Cumberland Valley Business Park
- Work with the Franklin County Planning Office to develop a countywide mapping system
- Create a 25-year anniversary committee
- Publish a quarterly newsletter

Background

FCADC is a private small business that is not part of the county government.

It is responsible for planning, acting and promoting a comprehensive countywide economic development strategy.

More information on the FCADC, 263-8282 or visit:

www.fcadc.com

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