



Wal-Mart confirms Mankato as the next Midwest Distribution Center

Wal-Mart has confirmed that Mankato is the location of the next Midwest Distribution Center. While contingent on anticipated store build outs and existing facility capacity, Wal-Mart affirmed that construction is in the near term of their five-year plan. Mankato City Manager Patrick Hentges, Community Development Director Paul Vogel and Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. President & CEO Jonathan Zierdt received the news during a recent visit to Wal-Mart headquarters in Bentonville, Ark. where they updated Wal-Mart leadership on the progress the community has made in developing the infrastructure supporting and servicing the site for the distribution center.

“This personal visit to their home office was a positive and productive way to build on the relationship between Wal-Mart and Mankato and to keep each other apprised on the project’s progress,” Hentges said. “It is clear that the regional investment and local partnerships have provided the framework for the success of the project.”

As a part of their visit, Hentges, Vogel and Zierdt toured the Bentonville distribution center to see the operations firsthand. This tour helped to emphasize that work to ready Mankato for a distribution center have moved forward in a positive direction. “The efforts we have taken to prepare the development area will serve Wal-Mart and supporting business opportunities as well,” Vogel said.

Greater Mankato is ready for the project and community interest is strong, according to Zierdt. “We gained a clear sense from Wal-Mart that they are committed to the Mankato project and the forthcoming distribution center’s role in their service to stores and customers,” Zierdt said.

The new facility will be located on the city’s northeast side between County State Aid Highway 3 and U.S. Highway 14. Information regarding the construction and development of this Wal-Mart distribution center will be announced by Wal-Mart officials.

According to city research, the new Wal-Mart distribution center will be one of the top five taxpayers in the community and will be the region’s fifth largest employer. In addition to the 500-700 jobs directly associated with this new center, 550 jobs may be created in other industry sectors related to the project. Annual payroll associated with the distribution center is expected to exceed \$21 million.

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