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Bedford thrives despite challenges of North Tarrant Express work



Part of the North Tarrant Express project is shown in January. Bedford is continuing its healthy rebound six months after the North Tarrant Express opened after several years of construction headaches. During a recent round table, officials told residents that restaurants and other businesses are thriving. | **Max Faulkner** - Star-Telegram

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BEDFORD — Bedford is continuing its healthy rebound six months after the North Tarrant Express opened after several years of construction headaches.

During a recent round table, officials told residents that restaurants and other businesses are thriving.

“Bedford is booming,” said Bill Syblon, the city’s development director.

Sales tax revenue was up 33 percent from October to March compared to the same time period last year, Syblon said.

Syblon said that the city worked hard to keep businesses accessible and visible when the construction was underway and that the efforts are paying off.

Chili’s and Mexican Inn, which pulled out of Bedford and then came back, are seeing lots of customers, he said.

Applebees is drawing customers, and Hanami Sushi is also making a splash, he said.

Other companies are also investing in Bedford, such as Texas Oncology, and other projects are underway, Syblon said.

Texas Health H-E-B recently launched a \$25 million expansion of its intensive care unit, which should be completed in July 2016.

Adam Smith’s Texas Harley-Davidson is building an 80,000-square foot dealership just east of its current location on Airport Freeway with plans to open later this year.

And Bedford is also getting a “flagship” Movie Tavern featuring eight screens and reclining seats. The Movie Tavern should open by the end of this year, Syblon said.

The city is also moving forward with discussions on Bedford Commons, a proposed development near City Hall that could include town homes, retail and restaurants. Bedford Commons is bounded by Texas 183 on the south, Bedford Road on the north, Forest Ridge Drive on the west and Central Drive on the east.

Mayor Jim Griffin said Bedford Commons is “a vision for the city’s future.”

The Planning and Zoning Commission met Thursday to discuss design standards for Bedford Commons. Once the zoning is in place, the city can meet with a developer, Griffin said.

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