

Target facility on track for 2013

Food distribution center will serve eight states

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By Karina Ramírez / Staff Writer

Target Corp. officials say plans for a 360,000-square-foot food distribution center off Airport Road are well on their way with an expected opening date of March 2013.

“Target looks at several factors before choosing its stores. We looked at accessibility of transportation, its workforce availability and quality of life,” Andrea McCauley, spokeswoman for Target Corp. in Dallas, said Tuesday.

McCauley said the company did extensive research throughout the North Texas area before deciding where to open the distribution center.

“Denton is a great city, and we were really impressed with the municipality and city economic officials,” McCauley said.

The search for the new center, which will replace the Supervalu Inc. distribution center in Fort Worth, began in 2009.

Karen Dickson, vice president of economic development for the Denton Chamber of Commerce, said Target officials approached the city about finding their next location.

Dickson said she received a call from a site location consultant representing the company on May 11, 2009.

“By May 14th, they were here,” Dickson said.

The Minnesota-based retailer considered 42 possible locations for the distribution center and looked throughout North Texas for an ideal location. Locally, the site consultants visited Sally Beauty Holdings Inc., Fastenal and Anderson Merchandisers.

“In June [2009] they had eliminated Denton as a possible candidate,” Dickson recalled. “We were out of the game at some point in time.”

That August, officials included Denton again as one of two possible locations, and Dickson said she signed a nondisclosure agreement that same month.

Construction of the new center began in March. The facility is in Denton’s industrial park at 3952 Corbin Road near Interstate 35W. The center will bring about 250 construction jobs and 140 permanent jobs, McCauley said.

The area near Denton Airport is also home to Fastenal's 200,000-square-foot distribution center, which opened in 2006, and German grocer Aldi Inc.'s 500,000-square-foot distribution center, which opened last year.

Dickson said the industrial park was an ideal location for Target's distribution center.

Target received a tax break worth an estimated \$1.7 million over five years, approved in 2010 by the City Council.

The new center will feature an automated food distribution system that will serve 235 stores in Texas and seven other states.

"We are proud to have Target here in our community," Dickson said. "At their new location and with all the other businesses in the industrial area, they are in good corporate company. We look forward to integrating them into our community."

Dallas Morning News staff writer Maria Halkias contributed to this report.

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