

Target: On track

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Activity around the new site for Target's regional distribution facility should begin in earnest in the coming weeks. While work on the N.C. 10 site spells good news for the region's distant future, area businesses should also see an immediate impact, too.

"We're going to start seeing activity there during the next couple of months," said Catawba County Economic Development Corp. President Scott Millar. "I think it is going to be a beehive of activity. Once that gets started it is going to generate a lot of excitement."

The project should to build the \$90 million Target Corp. facility will generate more than excitement, however.

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Newton could attract even more businesses with a multi-jurisdictional park. See what the Economic Development Corporation has to say about Newton.

"It ought to generate lunch traffic and shopping traffic, and that won't ever stop once it starts out there," Millar added. "It will be interesting to watch as it goes along."

Before actual work begins on the site for the 1.54 million square foot distribution center, other construction work will be occurring in the area.

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Newton City Council on Tuesday approved a \$48,984 bid from Neill Grading and Construction to construct "interim" water facilities for the project's construction staging area. That temporary infrastructure will include about 700 linear feet of waterline, a flow meter and related equipment.

"These water facilities are to temporarily serve a construction staging site," said Newton Planning Director Glenn Pattishall. "That is where the materials and the equipment will be brought for the duration of the construction of the building. We also need to have fire protection for those facilities and have fire protection within proximity to the construction site."

Willis Engineers accepted bids for the project, and company representative Charles Willis said the water facilities will help serve several hundred construction workers at the site. However, he said the water lines will not serve Target in the future. Instead, the facility's main road will be located about a half mile west of the construction staging area on N.C. 10.

As a result, Pattishall said that when construction is complete, the city will likely remove the water line.

Funds for construction of water

"These water facilities are to temporarily serve a construction staging site."

Glenn Pattishall
Planning Director,
City of Newton

facilities are included in the overall budget of the Target incentive package, Willis said, adding the expenditures were not unexpected.

Construction on the Target distribution center is slated for completion before the end of 2009, Millar said, adding work should begin mid-summer.

"The reason why they are beginning construction in mid-summer is they ordered shipments to arrive into this facility to service the Christmas season in 2009," Millar said. "They have already got companies scheduled to deliver products to the facility in December 2009. From there they worked backwards to determine when to start obtaining permits and begin construction. There was no reason to start in the dirt work until the summer or late in the spring."