

Building a Stronger Milwaukee

Department of City Development NEWS

Tom Barrett, Mayor



Building a Stronger

Milwaukee is a news digest representing our work in the community to help shape the city's future.

Under the direction of Mayor Tom Barrett and in partnership with the Milwaukee Common Council, the Department of City Development works each day in a variety of ways to guide development, grow opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods.

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

Department of City
Development

Talgo will be Century City's first tenant

Talgo, a Spanish-based manufacturer of high-speed rail equipment, is the first company to lease space at Century City, the business park being developed at the site formerly occupied by A.O. Smith and Tower Automotive on Milwaukee's north side. Talgo will perform manufacturing and assembly of high-speed trains in a completely refurbished building at 27th and Townsend Streets. The company will occupy the building in summer 2010, and expects to employ about 125 people hired from the Milwaukee area.

Talgo selected the Century City location after evaluating sites throughout the state. The company's contract with the State of Wisconsin to build train sets for the Hiawatha line between Milwaukee and Chicago requires that manufacturing be performed in Wisconsin.

This will be Talgo's first North American manufacturing operation. The company recently won a contract with the Oregon Department of Transportation to build train sets for Amtrak's Cascades passenger service. This manufacturing also will be done at the Century City plant.

Contact information for the company is available at [Talgo's web site](#).



Milwaukee from 29,000 ft.

Spirit, Southwest Airlines in-flight magazine, recently devoted [10 pages](#) to Milwaukee, with special emphasis on local water resources. *Spirit* has more than 3.2 million readers each issue.

Milwaukee 7 a key player in business attraction

[Milwaukee 7](#), the seven-county region's economic development initiative, played a pivotal role in attracting two Spanish manufacturing firms to Milwaukee. M7 has provided ongoing support for projects throughout the southeast Wisconsin region, including the recruitment of both Talgo and Ingeteam, a wind energy firm that is building a plant in the Menomonee Valley Business Center.

Mayor Tom Barrett and regional business leaders formed M7 in 2005 to develop and execute a unified strategy to support and maintain economic growth in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties. Through its work, more than **5,300** jobs have been created or retained in the region, with an impact of more than **\$294 million** in direct payroll.



Loan approved for solar business



The Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. has approved a \$500,000 loan to Helios USA to support the company's development of a robotic assembly line to make solar panels for residential and commercial use. The company is expected to begin operations in Milwaukee by the end of 2010. The robotic assembly line will be the first in Wisconsin and the second of its kind in the United States.

Helios USA received a \$1 million State Energy Program grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The company expects to create 54 green jobs.

City comprehensive plan completed

Milwaukee's Smart Growth comprehensive plan is complete. Over a six-year period, the project created [12 area land use plans](#) covering the entirety of the city, and a [citywide policy plan](#). The effort involved several thousand community representatives who served



on contract management teams, and provided input at workshops and open houses.

The comprehensive plan provides guidance for land-use decisions and City investment in projects that will catalyze additional investment.

An update of the 1999 [downtown development plan](#) will be completed this summer.

Redevelopment of Valley complex underway

Renovation is underway to transform the former Milwaukee Gas Light complex in the Menomonee Valley into contemporary office space. The largest building in the complex, a massive red brick structure visible from I-94 near N. 25th St., will become the headquarters of Zimmerman Architectural Studios Inc. Mallory Development is undertaking the \$14 million project.

A tax increment district created in 2009 will pay for infrastructure improvements at the site.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recently carried an excellent [description and photos](#) of the work underway at the property.



Foreclosure outreach week contacts thousands

More than 20 community organizations and the Milwaukee Police Department visited thousands of Milwaukee homes the week of March 15 to increase community awareness about resources available to assist property owners facing mortgage foreclosure. The effort was organized by the [Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative](#), which has implemented a variety of strategies to prevent foreclosure and stabilize neighborhoods impacted by large numbers of bank-owned properties.

Employers can create opportunity through Earn & Learn

[Earn & Learn](#) is a partnership between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board that provides job opportunities to high school students and young adults. Working for the government, community- and faith-based organizations, and private sector firms, Earn & Learn participants gain valuable work experience that will help them successfully transition to adulthood.



Private employers play a critical role in Earn & Learn, by creating part-time jobs suitable for youth. If you would like to hire young people for a summer or year-round position, or learn more about Earn & Learn, please contact William J. Malone, DCD Youth Development Coordinator, at 414-286-5894, William.Malone@milwaukee.gov, or Chytania Brown, MAWIB Youth Services Manager, at 414-270-1714, Chytania.Brown@milwaukeeewib.org



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