

April 18, 2106 – Press Release

This morning, after reviewing the facts of our efforts to encourage location of the CSX Hub in Southern Johnston County we have come to the conclusion we have gone as far as we can. This project was always a public/private partnership which was made up of \$100 million dollars of public money controlled by the State of NC and \$150 million dollars investment of private money from CSX.

This past Thursday there was an announcement that this project was the number one project in North Carolina and qualified for the \$100 million dollars. On Friday, the Mayor and members of the Johnston County Economic Development office and Representative Leo Daughtry met to discuss the project with the Department of Commerce and Department of Transportation. As everyone knows there are people in opposition of this project as well as people who are in support of the project. There are property owners who have signed a commitment; property owners who indicated they would talk to the railroad if they choose to come and there are people who are adamant that they would not sell their property.

At the meeting we informed the state officials of our progress, as well as the mounting opposition to the project. It is now up to Governor McCrory and the railroad to reach a decision about the location of this project.

I would like to thank the people who have voiced their support as well as thank the railroad for their consideration of a large financial package for the affected property owners. I would like to also thank the people who have entered into a honest debate on this issue. From the beginning I have looked at this from a futuristic and historical perceptive. In the future, based on analysis with top economist and Department of Commerce, this project could attract 8,000 jobs in five years and 20,000 jobs in fifteen years. The track of land cornering I-40 and I-95 contains thousands of acres of undeveloped land that could be sites for manufacturing and distribution centers for years to come. From a historic prospect, I only have to look at our town to know what can happen when the railroad builds a depot, in the instance of Four Oaks where business, churches and schools were created. If our forefathers could have accomplished this, it was my belief we could too and thereby leave our children an opportunity to compete in the global economy.

I never believed the world would come to an end if this project did not come to Four Oaks and I never believed the streets would be paved in gold if it did. No matter what the result we will get up and continue to move our town and community forward.

Thank you to all who have participated in this process.

Mayor Linwood Parker