

Wal-Mart Site Takes Shape



A parade of Kanawha Stone's large trucks work on the site of the new Wal-Mart Super Center at Hurricane Exit 34 as the site begins to take shape.

The photos above and right, show site construction activity well underway at the Hurricane Business Park property now under development as the site of a new almost 190,000 sq. ft. Wal-Mart Super Center.



Area Development's Corporate Survey 2006

Recently, Area Development magazine's annual Corporate Survey has been released, and although the results haven't changed much since last year, companies are planning a different location for new facilities.

"The South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi) is the leading choice for their new domestic facilities—20 percent of the survey respondents' new facilities are headed to this region." Second choice was the Midwest (Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin).

Last year's top pick was the Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) but it came in third this year with 14 percent.

Ten percent of the respondents said they would choose the South Atlantic (North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and **West Virginia**).

About half of the new domestic facilities will be manufacturing plants, and nearly a third will serve as warehouse and distribution centers. According to respondents, new domestic facilities will not be big job creators. More than 60 percent of the respondents will create fewer than a total of 100 jobs at the new domestic facilities.

In site selection factors, labor costs rated the highest ranking at 95.0 and availability of skilled labor ranked #8 on the list at 85.1. A table of all combined rating factors can be found on the next page.

This information appeared in Area Development's 2006 Corporate Survey, published in the December 2006/January 2007 issue.

Site Selection Factors

		2005	2006
Ranking			
1	Labor Costs	87.9	95.0
2	Highway accessibility	91.4	90.9
3	Corporate tax rate	85.0	90.8
4	State and local incentives	86.0	88.6
5	Availability of telecomm. services	79.8	88.3
6	Tax exemptions	83.6	86.7
7	Occupancy or construction costs	83.7	85.5
8	Availability of skilled labor	87.2	85.1
9	Energy availability and costs	82.8	82.4
10	Availability of high-speed internet access	85.7	82.1
11	Cost of land	79.1	79.2
12	Low union profile	77.0	78.4
13	Proximity to major markets	83.2	76.9
14	Availability to land	75.0	73.3
15	Environmental regulations	71.1	68.9
16	Right-to-work state	69.7	67.1
17	Availability of unskilled labor	50.6	65.3
18	Raw materials availability	62.3	64.1
18T	Availability of long-term financing	56.5	64.1
19	Accessibility to major airport	50.0	61.4
20	Training programs	59.6	56.0
21	Proximity to suppliers	66.7	49.3
22	Proximity to technical university	30.2	30.0
23	Railroad service	28.9	20.8
24	Waterway or oceanport accessibility	20.2	17.0

QUALITY OF LIFE FACTORS

1.	Low crime rate	67.8	70.8
2	Ratings of public schools	56.8	64.4
3	Housing costs	60.0	63.9
4	Health facilities	59.3	54.4
5	Housing availability	59.3	54.4
6	Climate	46.5	48.4
7	Colleges and universities in area	46.0	44.6
8	Recreational opportunities	44.8	43.7
9	Cultural opportunities	48.8	41.4

**All figures are percentages and are the total of "very important" and "important" ratings of the Area Development Corporate Survey and*

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Construction Underway on new 4-Lane U.S. 35

Construction is progressing quickly on the section of new U.S. Route 35 between the new Crooked Creek Interchange and State Route 34. The photo (right) shows clearing has already begun on the section. Putnam County's own Kanawha Stone Company is currently working to prepare the site.

Work has also begun on the section that crosses Putnam Business Park (from CR 19 –Hurricane Creek Road to 5 & 20 mile Road). The contractor for that section is Elmo Greer and Son's. Mountaineer Paving was awarded the section from 5&20 Mile Road on to the new road's connection with the Buffalo Bridge.

The longest section (between SR 34 and Hurricane Creek Road) is expected to be let as a design/build project later this year. Construction is expected to be complete at the end of 2008.



The scenery is changing along SR 34.

Pennington Finishes 2-Year Term

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Bob Pennington, above left, receives a plaque in recognition of his two year term as PCDA Board President, new President Linda Williams (right) presented the plaque at the January PCDA board meeting.

Did You Know? WVBT Explains.

Did you know that:

- West Virginia is **one of only four** states that is responsible for all roads, bridges and highways.
- West Virginia has the **sixth** largest road and highway systems in the nation.
- Nearly **30 percent** of West Virginia's roads are in substandard condition.
- More than one-third of West Virginia's bridges are structurally deficient or are functionally obsolete.
- The West Virginia Department of Transportation has identified **170** major transportation projects around the State that have a price tag in excess of **\$20 BILLION**.
- Paving has dropped **50 percent** in the last **five years**.
- West Virginia's highway fatality rate is **50 percent above** the national average.

For more information on how you can help contact: West Virginians for Better Transportation, P.O. Box 11830, Charleston, WV 25339-1830 or for more information or to sign up to support: <http://www.keepwvmoving.org>.

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