

FedEx Freight plans Shallowford Road facility

By Mike Pare Deputy Business Editor

A new FedEx Freight facility nearly double the size of its existing Chattanooga site is planned for a Shallowford Road tract.

The project, estimated at between \$5 million and \$10 million, will position the company to grow its freight business and work force in the city, said Dennis Beal, FedEx Freight's vice president of physical assets.

"We see the Chattanooga market as a vibrant market," he said.

The 4250 Shallowford Road site will hold 72 loading doors compared to the 46 at FedEx Freight's existing Polymer Drive location, Mr. Beal said.

"This is considerably larger and gives us the ability to grow," he said. "The current location has between 75 and 80 employees," Mr. Beal said.

Rudy Walldorf of Herman Walldorf & Co., which handled the property sale, said the Shallowford road location was a horse farm.

"A lot of it was low and had to be contoured," said Mr. Walldorf.

Seller David Davis, who said the land had been a family farm for at least 70 years, noted it took 20,000 truckloads of dirt to raise the property above the flood area.

"I had a dream it could be a revenue-producing piece for the city," he said, adding the site is close to Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport.

Mr. Walldorf said the 19-acre parcel that was listed by Gene Roberts and Joe Pleva sold for \$2.5 million.

The new facility is the second major investment by FedEx in Chattanooga in the past six months. A \$15 million FedEx Ground facility is under construction off South Broad Street that was once projected as a construction landfill. The company is expected to add about 80 more jobs there over three years, according to FedEx.

Mr. Beal said FedEx Freight plans to sell the Polymer Drive location.

The company is leasing the new site from Scannell Properties, which is the project developer, and work is expected to be finished in nine months to a year, he said.

Mr. Beal said FedEx liked the Shallowford Road location's access to highways.

