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Railroad spur means jobs for Double H

By Brittany Holbert, Tribune Staff Writer
[Citizen Tribune](#)
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Double H Plastics, located in the East Tennessee Industrial District in Morristown, will be spending almost \$690,000 to construct a railroad spur and the foundation for storage silos with the help of Morristown government.

The construction will be funded by a state grant through Tennessee's FastTrack initiative, and will begin within the next two weeks.

According to the FastTrack Infrastructure Development Program, companies wishing to apply for the grant must be tied to a commitment to create or retain a defined number of jobs.

Qualifying projects must involve companies engaging in manufacturing or other economic activities beneficial to the state of Tennessee.

Double H has met this requirement by pledging to add 10 extrusion lines and 60 molding machines, creating 50 new jobs over three years. Double H has already added a few of those jobs.

Communities must apply for FastTrack grants on behalf of the companies wishing to use it. Applications for FastTrack grants compete against one another for the requested project funding.

The city of Morristown applied for the FastTrack grant on the industry's behalf in 2008.

"Once the state approves a grant, the city enters into an agreement with the local industry for a local match for the project.

"Everything above the grant cap, the industry has to provide the remainder as a match to the city," Jeff Branham, city engineer, said.

The FastTrack Infrastructure and Development Program has agreed to fund a \$388,995 grant for Double H's construction.

Double H Plastics is then responsible for the remaining \$298,000.

"Since the grant comes to the city of Morristown, the city becomes the agent executing the project. What the city incurs in cost we ask the state for reimbursement (through the grant) and ask company for reimbursement of the agreed upon match," Branham said.

Double H Plastics already has a railroad spur, but it fails to meet Norfolk Southern's requirements.

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The spur will be used to transport its plastic raw materials that are currently being transported by tractor-trailers. Double H can reduce product material costs because shipping prices are lower on materials transported by rail.

Brockwell Construction won the bid and will oversee the project..

Double H Plastics is located at 5300 East Morris Boulevard in the old Sherwin Williams building.

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By Brittany Holbert, Tribune Staff Writer

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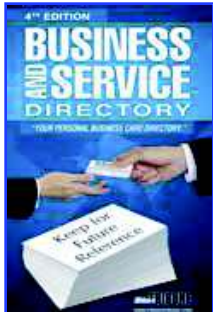
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