



Development plan will provide economic boost for Lancaster

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By JEFF BRADY / WFAA-TV

It's an aggressive plan that will 'morph' much of Lancaster from quiet countryside into a bustling industrial complex.

Ellen Clark's family has been farming Lancaster fields for 150 years. Now she sells real estate, and says the transformation will be positive. Up to 30,000 jobs, and an economic tidal wave for the town. "They're going to be eating in our restaurants, buying gas at our gas stations," said Clark.

Altogether, 6,000 acres are under development between Dallas, Wilmer, Hutchins and Lancaster, to create the Dallas Logistics Hub, the largest logistics park in North America.

The current Union-Pacific Intermodal facility handles more than 300,000 ocean-going containers annually. Most arrive by train from LA, transfer to big-rigs, and go directly to the east coast. "All of those containers are coming from China. The transit route is already established. This is where we've got to be," said Dan McAuliffe, vice-president of development, the Allen Group.

No earth-work is underway yet, and the entire transformation will take decades. Every thing in Lancaster will expand, even the Executive Airport, with new runways and personnel to handle jets.

In a way, Lancaster is returning to its roots, as one of the original Texas logistics hubs.

"In the Civil War time traders used this area, so now we're official!" said Clark. E-mail jbrady@wfaa.com



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