

Austin neighbors booming Texas city

Hutto named fastest-growing city in Texas

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HUTTO, Texas (KXAN) - [Hutto](#) has been named the fastest-growing city in Texas by the [Texas State Data Center](#) .

Hutto is going through a transformation from a farming community, where agriculture was king, to really becoming more of a suburban community, said Scott Martinez, Hutto's executive economic director.

The rich soil that once made [Hutto](#) a thriving farming community is now a rich spot for development.

We have all of this available land, said Martinez. "Now, the challenge is getting the correct infrastructure so it can be properly developed."

Huge chunks have already been developed with big-box retailers such as Lowe's, Home Depot and Walgreen's, and one may wonder how a small town becomes a booming city. One road led to the change.

What 130 really gives us is access to the world, said Martinez.

Toll Road 130 has led to the flood of people moving there. In the year 2000, 1,200 people lived in Hutto, but the population has increased by almost 11 times that number since then. Today, it is 13,000, and in five years, it is expected to double to 30,000.

You know it is inevitable, said Ed Schmidt, former Hutto Mayor.

Schmidt was the longest-serving mayor in Hutto, for 20 years during the 1970s and 1980s. He envisioned this change long ago by starting the economic development division and Chamber of Commerce.

Those things all put together prompted this, said Schmidt.

More residents mean fields are turning into subdivisions. Three new schools have been built, and a new high school will open its doors in 2012. Even the old farmers co-op is getting a face lift.

That will eventually be developed into a municipal complex, sort of a town center, said Martinez.

The ultimate goal is to keep residents from commuting elsewhere for work.

We have 89 percent of our residents leaving town everyday to work somewhere else, and that creates a challenge and opportunity for us, said Martinez.

The first library recently opened in Hutto, and city leaders are looking at plans to build a recreation center.