

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 15, 2010

Over forty south Hillsborough County business leaders braved a rainy, cold afternoon to attend the first meeting of the South Hillsborough Economic Development Council (SHED Council) on February 12, 2010 at the SouthShore Corporate Park. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Gary Bauler, Vice President for Development with the Ryan Company, on the progress being made at the SouthShore Corporate Park. Mr. Bauler stated that there is a “flurry of interest” in the 90,000 square foot building currently owned by Ryan at the southern entrance to the SouthShore Corporate Park.

SHED Council held its first meeting at the Ryan facility as a way to highlight one of south Hillsborough County’s most significant economic development assets. The SouthShore Corporate Park is pre-approved for over 4 million square feet of light industrial and warehouse space.

The first meeting of the SHED Council also included a presentation from Jim Hosler, Managing Director, and Fred Jacobsen, Marketing Director, on south Hillsborough County’s numerous economic development advantages and SHED Council’s initial economic development targets. It was emphasized by both speakers that the focus of the SHED Council will be on job creation. South Hillsborough County has attracted residential development, and now is the time to attract economic development, new enterprise and the resultant new jobs.

South Hillsborough County has numerous pre-approved development sites for a wide range of economic development uses. The area has always had an excellent transportation network and has possessed a number of the major locational advantages normally sought by industry. Within the past five years, south Hillsborough County has also attracted thousands of new residents who can now provide a local labor force. One of the SHED Council's major goals is to match this local labor force with new industry so that local residents do not have to commute outside of the area for employment.

The meeting concluded with comments from south Hillsborough County Chambers of Commerce and questions from the audience. It was the consensus that all groups and entrepreneurs need to continue to work together to develop south Hillsborough County’s economy.

The next meeting of the SHED Council will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 from 5:30PM until 6:30PM at the SouthShore Library on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Ruskin. The purpose of the March 11 meeting will be to receive input from local businesses and organizations concerning what they see to be the major economic development challenges and opportunities in south Hillsborough County and to make those a part of our overall marketing plan for the region.

**If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Jim Hosler at [jim@SHEDCouncil.com](mailto:jim@SHEDCouncil.com) .  
Any person interested in the creation of jobs in south Hillsborough County  
is invited to attend.**