



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Amazon to build \$325 million state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Birmingham

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Cooper: 205-241-8127 (office); 205-910-3215 (cell)
Rachel Burchfield: 205-241-8102 (office); 785-230-1452 (cell)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – June 22, 2018 – Online retail giant Amazon has announced it will build a state-of-the-art fulfillment center in the Birmingham region that will employ 1,500. Amazon will invest \$325 million to build a 855,000-square-foot facility that will sit on more than 100 acres off Powder Plant Road in the city of Bessemer.

“We are thrilled to bring our first fulfillment center to the state of Alabama, creating 1,500 full-time jobs,” said Mark Stewart, Amazon’s Vice President of North America Customer Fulfillment. “Alabama has a talented workforce and we look forward to making a positive economic impact in a state where we are committed to providing great job opportunities and an exceptional customer experience.”

Amazon employees at the state-of-the-art fulfillment center will work alongside innovative technology created by Amazon Robotics, which help employees complete jobs in a more efficient manner. Employees will pick, pack and ship small items to customers such as books, household items and toys.

The Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) was an integral part of the team that helped bring Amazon to metro Birmingham, coordinating the site, infrastructure and incentives.

“Amazon’s \$325 million investment in our community is a big win for the Birmingham region,” said Lee Smith, East Region CEO for BBVA Compass and 2018 Chairman of the BBA. “This state-of-the-art facility will be able to accommodate an expanding workforce and a changing economy as Amazon continues to prepare for its future. The BBA was pleased to lead several aspects of the project, including presentation of the site, infrastructure issues and local incentives. As in most successful projects, it was a well-coordinated community effort that led to a successful conclusion, and we’re very grateful to our partners and allies for their great work on this project.”

Amazon's fulfillment center will have an annual economic impact of \$202.7 million on Jefferson County and a \$232.1 million impact on Alabama, according to an analysis prepared by the prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research, Culverhouse College of Business, The University of Alabama, and commissioned by the BBA.

Annually, \$122.7 million will be added to Jefferson County's GDP, \$44.8 million of which is earnings to households for 1,523 direct and indirect jobs; \$137.3 million will be contributed to Alabama's GDP annually, \$79.6 million of which is earnings to Alabama households for 2,630 direct and indirect jobs.

"Amazon is one of the world's most dynamic companies, and we couldn't be more proud to see the company select Alabama for one of its high-tech fulfillment centers," said Governor Kay Ivey. "This facility represents good jobs for our citizens and the beginning of a long partnership that I believe will see Amazon expand and grow in Alabama in the future."

U.S Senator Richard Shelby said this is an opportunity to promote economic growth and development throughout the state.

"Amazon's decision to build a new fulfillment center in Bessemer, Alabama, is evidence of our state's excellent workforce," said Senator Shelby. "This project gives us the opportunity to partner with one of the most successful, widely recognized companies in the world to promote economic growth and development throughout Alabama. I am proud to be a part of this great announcement and am thrilled to welcome Amazon to the greater Birmingham area."

Amazon's fulfillment center is in line with the state's strategy to recruit technology-focused jobs, said Greg Canfield, Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce.

"Amazon's new fulfillment center in Bessemer will create a large number of high-quality jobs and feature cutting-edge automation and technological innovation," he said. "We've made recruiting technology-focused jobs a priority, and Amazon's presence in the state will help us advance toward our goal."

Amazon worked closely with the following to finalize the project: Alabama Department of Commerce, Jefferson County Commission, the City of Bessemer and its Industrial Development Board, AIDT, Alabama Department of Transportation, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, Alabama Power Co., Spire, Cushman & Wakefield | EGS Commercial Real Estate, U.S. Steel and the Birmingham Business Alliance.

“Whenever a company of Amazon’s panache enters a community, things improve,” said Jefferson County Commissioner David Carrington. “Not only does Amazon bring the Birmingham metro area a minimum of 1,500 good-paying jobs with full benefits, it also provides its employees a post high school education pathway with its tuition assistance program.”

Amazon is one of the largest economic development projects the city of Bessemer has ever had, said Bessemer Mayor Kenneth Gulley.

“I would like to officially welcome Amazon to The Marvel City of Bessemer,” he said. “Words cannot truly express the excitement this announcement has brought to our city. By choosing to locate its Amazon Fulfillment Center here, Amazon is making the largest single private investment in the city of Bessemer’s 131-year history. Amazon is bringing jobs and opportunity to our residents and students. I am particularly proud of the educational incentives Amazon will offer our young people: get your high school diploma, work one year and receive \$3,000 the next four years toward furthering your education. I anticipate this investment by Amazon will spur other development opportunities in Bessemer.”

Before this announcement, companies such as BLOX, Milo’s Tea and others have continued to expand within Bessemer, resulting in over 1,068 jobs and \$264.4 million in capital investments since 2011. Amazon’s announcement in the City of Bessemer brings the eight-year total to nearly 2,568 announced jobs and \$589.4 million in capital investments.

Recruitment, screening and pre-employment training will be handled by AIDT. Interested candidates can visit www.amazondelivers.jobs.

About the Birmingham Business Alliance

The Birmingham Business Alliance is the lead economic development organization for the Birmingham region. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

###