

Transportation

Winter Haven industrial park earns coveted CSX designation



Pictured L-R: Jim Ford, Tratt Properties; Bruce Lyon, WHEDC; Aubrey Brown, CSX; Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong, city of Winter Haven; T. Michael Stavres, city manager; Eric Labbe, director of economic opportunity and community investment

WINTER HAVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



By [Breanne Williams](#) – Reporter, Tampa Bay Business Journal
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The Central Florida Intermodal Logistics Center in Winter Haven has been designated a [CSX](#) Select Site, highlighting to companies that it is ripe for development.

The 1,500-acre CFILC lies along State Road 60 and includes a CSX Intermodal Terminal. It is also currently home to Ball Corp.'s Florida Can Manufacturing and [Coca-Cola Beverages Florida](#).

The industrial park received a silver level rating and was one of 18 sites across 12 states to recently earn a gold, silver or bronze rating from CSX.

CSX Senior Director of Industrial Development Kellen Riley said in a statement that each Select Site represents a “significant opportunity for economic growth.”

“By bringing these sites to market with the right due diligence already in place, we’re making it faster and easier for manufacturers to invest, build and create jobs for local communities,” Riley said.

According to the Winter Haven Economic Development Council, the official designation was recognized on June 24. CSX presented the city with a ceremonial rail spike.

“This designation validates the CFILC’s unique strengths and readiness to support large-scale industrial users,” Bruce Lyon, president of the WHEDC, said. “It positions Winter Haven and Central Florida for even greater economic growth, diversification and job creation.”

The area has seen a recent wave of significant corporate interest. According to the WHEDC, Niagara Bottling is on the cusp of starting construction on a [1.45 million-square-foot manufacturing facility](#), and Tratt Properties’ 1.2-million-square-foot spec warehouse is in the final stages of lease negotiations with a global company.

In March, Gov. Ron DeSantis awarded Winter Haven \$1.5 million through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to extend rail access within the CFILP. The CFILP can accommodate more than 8 million square feet of development, which can be supported by the CSX Rail Intermodal Facility.

“[This] award will make it easier to invest, operate and relocate in Central Florida,” DeSantis said in a statement. “This strategic transportation investment, combined with our ongoing Moving Florida Forward initiative, will

eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and boost shipping capacity along the Interstate 4 corridor, supporting businesses and strengthening our economy.”

