

# City confirms Bass Pro deal, bridge over Alabama 20

A Bass Pro Outdoor World would be located at the southwest corner of Interstate 65 and I-565.

By Eric Fleischauer Staff Writer

Mayor Don Kyle today confirmed a proposed development project in the Decatur-annexed portion of Limestone County would be anchored by a Bass Pro Outdoor World, to be located at the southwest corner of Interstate 65 and I-565.

The City Council will vote March 17 on an incentive package that includes tax rebates of \$31 million for the Bass Pro. If, within three years of opening the Bass Pro, the developer builds a hotel, the city would be obligated to contribute up to \$14 million in additional tax rebates. Other incentives for secondary commercial development could add another \$10 million to the city's incentive package.

The city would be obligated for a maximum of \$61 million in incentives, most in the form of sales-tax rebates. The city would be obligated to pay about \$11 million in incentives regardless of the level of Bass Pro sales.

Included in the project is a mile-long boulevard west of I-65 and south of Alabama 20. The development also will include a \$10-million bridge over Alabama 20, just west of I-65. The city will share the cost of the bridge construction — which would open land on both sides of Alabama 20 to development — with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Bass Pro plans to include a recreational vehicle sales store next to the sporting goods store.

The initial draft of the agreement between the city, Bass Pro and developer Genesis USA does not specify a date at which the Bass Pro must open. Kyle said the parties are trying to finalize that date, but it will depend in part on when the bridge can be built.

Kyle said the financing of the project will rely in part on a 1-cent sales tax that has been contributed to Decatur City Schools since 1980. Kyle said he is confident the additional sales-tax revenue from the project will more than make up for the penny.

The first phase of the project, Kyle said, would create 400 jobs. Later phases could bring the job total to 4,000, he projected.

Read more in Tuesday's edition of The Decatur Daily.

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