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New economic development plan on tap for Kyle

Austin Business Journal

The city of Kyle will launch its new economic development plan on Feb. 7, kicking it off with a celebration at the Kyle city hall.

The city started working with **TIP Strategies Inc.** in April to develop the plan, which will focus on managing the city's growth by balancing employment, retail and residential development. Kyle's city council approved the plan in June.

TIP's plan, done in three phases, recommends a series of steps, starting from the ground up. Getting infrastructure, such as roads and sewer lines, in place will be key, TIP says. The city has already implemented transportation and utility expansion plans and is also undertaking a downtown revitalization project. Those projects are starting to pay off. **RSI Inc.**, brought about 75 employees to Kyle when it relocated there at the end of 2007. And a 205-acre project planned by Seton Family of Hospitals will bring a hospital and retail center to the city -- and a total of 4,600 new jobs -- by 2010.

"Kyle could be the next Round Rock if they really position themselves in a wise sort of way," Alan Cox, a project manager with TIP Strategies, said in April of the plan. "The southern tier of the Austin metro area still doesn't have a defined employment center. There is demand for a new employment center for the Austin area overall, and it's going to be increasingly difficult to do that. Given Kyle's location and the fact that they can do a commuter rail station, that leverages them in a good way."

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