

ST Semicon still without new site - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - July 7, 1988

July 7, 1988 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Steve Hinnefeld

ST Semiconductors of Indiana is again looking for a place to move its Bloomington factory after a rezoning request for property at Fullerton Pike and the Ind. 37 Bypass was withdrawn Monday.

Developer Bill C. Brown, who withdrew the request because of financial considerations, said Wednesday he is continuing to work with the company to find another location for the plant, which manufactures electrical equipment.

"My major concern is to do whatever I can do to make a deal that keeps ST Semiconductors in Bloomington," Brown said.

"And, unfortunately, the economics of this transaction, based upon what we were going to be required to do for zoning and the limitations of that zoning, made it not feasible economically to make the arrangement work.

"But the good news is, we are continuing to work with ST Semicon and we're looking at alternative sites," Brown said. "And I am hopeful we will be able to make an arrangement with them."

Brown had asked for a change from quarrying to manufacturing park zoning for 90 acres at the northeast corner of Fullerton Pike and the bypass. He planned to develop a partially wooded and heavily landscaped industrial park that would have included a new ST Semiconductors factory, a mail-order business and other enterprises.

But his proposal to include a hotel and restaurant at the development was turned down by the Bloomington Plan Commission. Brown said the more profitable commercial uses were needed in the park because manufacturing industries would not do enough to offset the cost of developing the property.

"Industry is difficult because they expect, and they can get, giveaway numbers," he said. "Every community in the country wants industry. Many communities are willing to give them ground, build them buildings, etc."

The plan commission's approval of the project last month required Brown to widen Fullerton Pike from the bypass to the park entrance. And it fell just short of requiring improvements to the intersection of Fullerton Pike and the bypass.

A final city council vote on the zoning change had been scheduled Wednesday before the request was withdrawn.

ST Semiconductors, formerly ST-Semicon, was founded by Bloomington industrialist Sarkes Tarzian more than 35 years ago. The 100-employee firm was bought by its managers last year from Semicon Inc. of Burlington, Mass. Semicon still owns the building at 415 N. College Ave. in

which the plant operates, and the property is for sale, company president Lane Jorgensen said Wednesday.

Jorgensen said the company was working with Brown to find a suitable site for a new plant. Brown is developing the Park 37 business park at Ind. 45 and the bypass and he is trying to develop an industrial park called Park 48 at the Kennedy Farm property on Ind. 48 west of Curry Pike.

In fact, ST Semiconductors had considered building at the Kennedy Farm site but opted for the smaller, more attractive development proposed at Fullerton Pike.

Jorgensen said company officials are not looking outside of the Bloomington area for a new plant site.

"Not yet," he said. "If we get delayed here or have a lot of problems, that's an option. But we have 100 people and it's a big task to replace them."

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