

Dodge Main Task Force

When the Dodge Main Plant closed, Congressman Lucien Nedzi formed a Task Force to determine what to do with it. It had five million square feet under its roof. Consultants were hired, studies were initiated. No one could come up with a reuse of a facility that large. The square feet could hold five regional shopping centers, ten prisons, four thousand people. It had no use as a modern manufacturing facility which were now required to be on one floor. It took GM to make a commitment to reuse the site for its Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Facility. Through prudent reuse of materials, it only cost a little over \$10 million to demolish the facility. Representative Nedzi later plays an important role in shepherding a bill through Congress for us to permit us to trade an army missile plant for two new office buildings.

Congressman Lucien Nedzi Names Task Force to Work With WCEDC to Offset Impact of Scheduled "Dodge Main" Plant Closing

Statement By Hon. Lucien N. Nedzi
House of Representatives, 14th District, Michigan



As a result of the Chrysler Corporation's recent announcement to close its Dodge Main facility, I am today recommending the creation of an Economic Recovery Advisory Committee.

(see other side)

This Advisory Committee will review the recommendations made by a Technical task force working with the Wayne County Economic Development Corporation in leading a partnership of city, county, state, federal and private agencies to develop and implement a plan for the reuse of the Dodge Main plant property, that will provide for new employment opportunities and replacement tax base in the City of Hamtramck.

I would like the following people to serve on the Technical Task Force:

Mayor William V. Kozerski,
Mayor, City of Hamtramck (or his designee)

Paul Donahue, Aide to Congressman Lucien Nedzi

Marya V. Sieminski, State Economic Development Coordinator for Senator Donald Riegler

Albert A. Bogdan, Regional Director, Michigan Office of Economic Expansion

Robert E. FitzPatrick, Executive Director, Wayne County Economic Development Corporation
Donald N. Smith, Director, Industrial Development Division, University of Michigan.

Vincent Thomas, Community Development Aide to Senator Carl Levin

The first action the Wayne County E.D.C. will be to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, for a Title 9 grant to develop a strategy which will help offset the sudden and severe impact Hamtramck can be expected to undergo and to provide a basis for lasting recovery of the city.

Exploratory meetings have already been held with E.D.A., and they invite our application for Title 9 funds. These grants are made on the basis of up to 75% from the federal government and 25% local match. The purpose of this grant is to assist the City of Hamtramck in obtaining major funding to implement the objectives developed in the recovery strategy.

The closing of a plant anywhere in southeast Michigan affects all of southeast Michigan.

Just as workers from throughout the City of Detroit, Wayne County, and

southeast Michigan work in the Dodge Main plant, so, too, do the people of Hamtramck hold employment throughout the area. It is for this reason I recommend that the preparation of the economic recovery strategy, to be done for the City of Hamtramck, be phase one. Phase two must look at the impact that the downsizing of automobiles, coupled with more stringent mileage and emission standards, will have on Wayne County and the surrounding southeast Michigan area.

Positive solutions must be found to react positively to the inevitable obsolescence of additional automobile plants.

Rather than reacting, we must act to create positive, long-term strategy to address the economic needs of the citizens of southeast Michigan.

Upon agreeing to serve, it is my hope that the Technical Task Force members will meet with the Wayne County E.D.C. and within two weeks bring firm recommendations and a budget for phase one for the Economic Recovery Committee to approve. Immediately thereafter, the Wayne County E.D.C. will apply for the Title 9 funds to begin development of the economic recovery strategy.