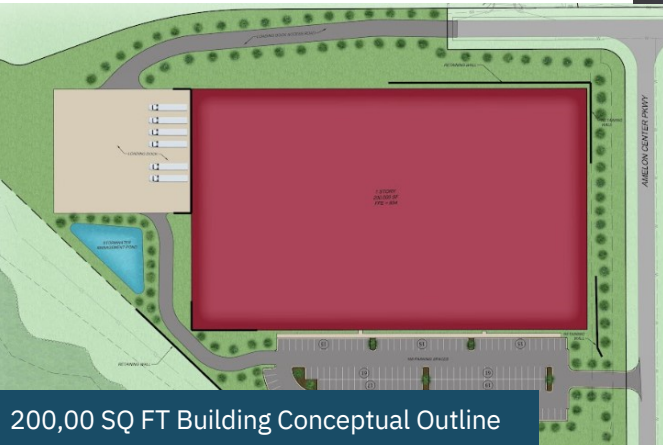


The mission of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of Amherst County is to promote economic development policies and practices that help retain the county’s existing businesses and employment base; facilitate the growth of existing commercial and industrial enterprises; and attract new businesses and employment opportunities. Success in this mission will result in high-quality jobs and a stable and diverse tax base that increases the quality of life of Amherst County residents.

Amelon Commerce Center

The EDA started construction in 2023 on the 45,000 square foot Multi-Tenant building. Construction is due to be complete in fall 2024. This building will provide a move-in ready space for Amherst County expanding businesses and new businesses. The Multi-Tenant Building addresses a lack of suitable spaces for light industrial businesses to start and grow within the County by providing four flexible spaces. This allows Amherst County to be a viable option for growing industrial businesses.



The EDA also completed the grading of Lot 4, the largest lot in the Amelon Commerce Center. Grading makes the site 100% ready for a business to begin construction. It reduces risk and increases the speed to market for a business. The site is big enough for a 200,000 square foot building.

The EDA is focused on ensuring there is adequate sites and buildings available for new and expanding businesses.

2023 Highlights

Hired a **Career Tech Coach** for Amherst County Public Schools

Leadership Amherst is back after COVID break!

Amelon Commerce Center

Completed largest lot grading and started construction on the Multi-Tenant Building

Site Readiness Grant
Dillard Rd Site

Managing **14** active business incentives

Leadership Amherst

Leadership Amherst is back after a COVID break! Leadership Amherst gives participants a unique opportunity to view Amherst County in a different light. The class travels to areas around the County to visit its businesses and nonprofits. The emerging leaders will learn skills to become effective in their jobs and organizations. They are then challenged to use their leadership abilities to influence, motivate and enable others to contribute toward the good of their community. Topics include crucial conversations, a roundtable discussion with local leaders, workforce challenges, challenges in diversity, economic development, and a nonprofit roundtable etc.



2023 Leadership Amherst Class

CTE Career Coach

In partnership with Central Virginia Community College, the EDA hired a Career and Technical Education (CTE) coach for Amherst County Public Schools. The CTE coach helps educate students and parents about the CTE program by visiting elementary, middle, and high schools. Students are able to meet with the CTE coach to discuss career tracks and opportunities, job requirements, compensation, and other career related questions.



CTE Career Coach

Virginia Business Readiness Site Program (VBRSP)

In order for Amherst County to attract new industrial businesses we must have sites ready for construction - or the business will go elsewhere. The EDA is working hard to have project-ready sites for our expanding and new companies.

The Dillard Road Site is the largest industrial site in Amherst County (554 acres) and is the region's only 100+ acre greenfield industrial site with rail, gas, and within a mile from a 4-lane highway. The EDA won a \$322,071 VBRSP grant to bring the Dillard site to Tier 4, which means a company could purchase the site and be ready for operations in 18 months. Two lots within the Dillard site have the potential to attract manufacturing projects with buildings over 1,000,000 square feet and over \$1 billion in new capital investment and 800 new jobs.

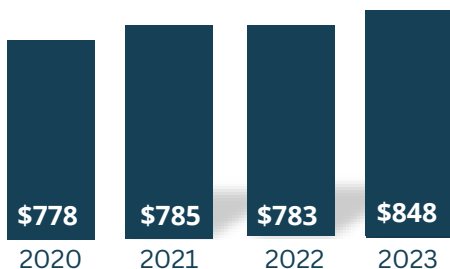


Dillard Rd Site

Economic Development

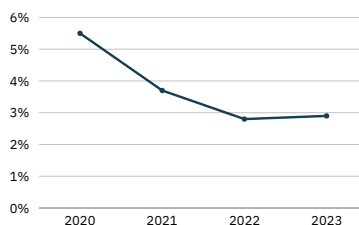
Average Weekly Wages

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Unemployment Rate

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Taxable Sales

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

