

Vice President Visits Northside Factory Site

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- [Vice-President Biden Visits Northside Site](#)
- [VP Joe Biden Visits Northside Renovation Project](#)

Vice President Joe Biden came to the Tri-State to see how \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money will be put to work. Air Force Two arrived at the [Cincinnati](#) Northern Kentucky Airport in Hebron this morning.

A motorcade traveled down I-75 to Northside, where Mister Biden toured the Factory Square Development. It's at the former American Can Company on Spring Grove Avenue. Cincinnati is using federal grant money to help developers turn the abandoned factory into 96 apartments and commercial space.

The American Can Factory has been a visual and economic blight on Northside for decades. A developer had been lining up funding for years, but things dried up when the economy went south. However, the message today was-- stimulus plan to the rescue, jobs and economic development the outcome.

Vice-President Joe Biden announced \$1.6 million federal stimulus dollars will go to help turn American Can into 100 apartments, plus stores and offices. "We're investing in jobs, but we're not only investing in today's jobs but in tomorrow's prosperity," said Biden.

Developer Steve Bloomfield says the rehab of American Can will mean up to 300 construction jobs, and then 30-40 permanent jobs. "Bottom line without the stimulus money does this happen? No," said Bloomfield.

The vice-president said the stimulus is making a lot of other things happen, including thousands of jobs nationwide. One of those jobs went to Thomas Fickling, Junior who was unemployed. Thanks to federal stimulus dollars Fickling was recently hired by the Community Action Agency to help low-income people make their homes more energy efficient. "When it seemed all was lost I looked in my mailbox and found a nice, thick packet. Right then and there I opened it, I knew it was an acceptance letter. I almost broke out in tears of joy because I could support myself and help my [family](#)," said Fickling.

Biden said those criticizing the stimulus are wrong. It's only been 140 days, he said, since the Obama administration began turning around a mess eight years in the making. However, Biden said it is getting better. "It's a hard case to prove but look around at the people who have jobs, like this young man you heard today. Thousands, tens of thousands like him employed only because of the recovery act," said Biden.

The Cincinnati Tea Party used the Vice President's visit to reiterate the group's opposition to using federal funds for local projects. Mike Wilson, the President of the Cincinnati Tea Party, joined others in a gathering this afternoon to voice their concerns. Wilson said, "We were told that the stimulus was necessary to prevent unemployment from reaching a peak of 9.1% in the second quarter of 2010. We were told that the stimulus would create a lower peak of 8 % in the third quarter of 2009. Last week's official number of 9.5% showed that the Tea Parties organizers were right and the Obama-Biden administration was wrong."



Vice President Joe Biden

Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working?

- Yes
- No

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