

I have learned that the proposed Foxconn plant, likely the largest economic development project in Wisconsin history, will almost certainly be located in western Racine County. A source close to the situation tells me Racine area officials and Foxconn are in “advanced negotiations” over the specific site. Speculation over the past several weeks has centered on sites in both Kenosha and Racine Counties near I-94 with most believing a site near Highway 11 in Racine County was the frontrunner. Real estate firms representing Foxconn have been offering options to landowners with property in both counties. The source did not name the exact site Foxconn is settling on but it is believed to be in southern Racine County between Highway 11 and the Kenosha-Racine County line.

The current talks are aimed at finalizing infrastructure and government agreements. The Village of Mount Pleasant is involved in the talks along with economic development officials from Racine County. State officials are obviously also involved. It is unclear if any of the land Foxconn is targeting would be annexed to another municipality. One of the biggest issues being resolved deals with access to the enormous amount of water Foxconn would be both using and disposing of and developing the infrastructure to move it back and forth.

There has been significant development along I-94 in Kenosha County but far less in Racine County which, in an odd way, has benefited Racine county in the Foxconn siting. There’s simply more undeveloped land, currently used primarily as farmland, in Racine County. The site would be within a 75-minute drive of downtown Chicago and all of southeastern Wisconsin. The state senate is expected to approve the state’s Foxconn incentive package in the next two weeks so a final deal in Racine County would be the final governmental approval needed.

The Foxconn development is pegged to cost about \$10 billion and could take up several hundred acres. While Racine County is the actual site, its proximity to Kenosha County and, for that matter, the rest of southeastern Wisconsin makes this an economic development boon for everyone in the region.

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August 8