

## Hampton Inn in Anson a possibility

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Reporter

A major hotel chain could bring one of its facilities to Anson.

Building may start in 2010, provided the developer secures the necessary financing and governmental approvals in a timely manner, according to Craig Anderson, Duke Realty vice president of property operations in Anson.

Nash Patel, a hotel developer and president of Meridian Lodging in Carmel, is the franchisee for the Hampton Inn hotel that will be built in Anson, Anderson said.

Charmaine East-Samuels, director of public relations for Hampton Hotels, confirmed that a 92-room hotel is planned in the northeast corner of County Road 650 East and Central Boulevard on a 2.2-acre site.

"There is no official opening date yet, as it's just in the planning phase," she said.

Anderson said the project is being held up until Patel finds the necessary funds, and it is uncertain when that will happen, he said.

"They are looking for financing like most companies nowadays," he said. "As soon as he finishes the financing, then this thing can move forward."

The hotel will be a limited-service hotel (meaning it will be without a restaurant), but that it will have a large meeting room conducive to holding conferences, Anderson said.

"It will be a nice looking, modern Hampton Inn," he said. "It will benefit Anson and Boone County."

Anderson said a hotel is desperately needed in the Anson development, which thus far does not have one built.

"It's integral," he said. "There is no hotel within seven miles of Anson, Medco

and Amazon clients are coming in, and they have to stay seven to 10 miles away from where they need to be. We want them to be able to stay and dine in the area."

Steve Russo, executive director of the Boone County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said in a release that BCCVB's marketing budget is dependent on innkeepers taxes levied on visitors staying on Boone County hotels or motels. Having no hotel in the southern part of Boone County results in the annual loss of thousands of dollars in tourism marketing funds,

the release said.

"Somebody has to build a hotel in Anson, and I think a Hampton Inn would be a perfect start," Russo said.

Russo added that if a hotel were built in Anson, the BCCVB would actively promote the facility to visitors, as well as market the location to new groups for regional meetings, seminars and conventions.

Anderson said he and Duke officials, as master developers for Anson, have looked at tentative engineering plans from Patel's company. Duke will have to give its

approval of the architecture and design before it can move to the Boone County Area Plan Commission for its decision.