

Logistics services provider chooses Bethlehem for expansion

By JON HARRIS

THE MORNING CALL | NOV 23, 2020 AT 4:59 PM

A provider of expedited ground transportation and related logistics services is delivering some good news to Bethlehem. Forward Air Corp., which provides less-than-truckload, full truckload, final mile and intermodal drayage services to businesses across North America, has signed a lease for nearly 38,000 square feet at 2675 Commerce Center Blvd., a newly constructed 88,000-square-foot industrial building in Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII.

Forward Chairman, President and CEO Tom Schmitt said he expects the facility to launch next month with an initial team of 10 employees, including office and sales personnel, dock workers and independent contractors. He said the company was attracted to the area's workforce and its manufacturing strength, seeing it as an opportunity to "grow with the region." "We as a company are just thrilled to have our own presence in Lehigh Valley and in Bethlehem," Schmitt told The Morning Call. "If you want to walk away with one sentiment, walk away with some energy and enthusiasm from our team about being more present in a part of the country — Bethlehem, Allentown, Lehigh Valley — that's becoming more important."

In a Forward news release Monday morning, Lehigh Valley officials applauded the job growth amid the pandemic and noted the role of Forward Air in the supply chain, a crucial component for the area to continue its economic growth. "Forward's expansion into Bethlehem is a benefit to Lehigh Valley companies of all sizes who use trucking services to get their products in the hands of consumers," Bethlehem Mayor Robert J. Donchez said. "I welcome Forward to the city of Bethlehem and look forward to working with them in the years to come."



Forward Air Corp. has signed a lease for nearly 38,000 square feet at 2675 Commerce Center Blvd. in Bethlehem, a newly constructed 88,000-square-foot industrial building in Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII. (FORWARD AIR CORP./CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

For Forward, ranked No. 29 on Transport Topics' list of the 100 largest for-hire carriers in North America with revenue last year of \$1.41 billion, the new Bethlehem facility fits into its ongoing less-than-truckload network expansion. Forward has been growing to cover more cities, beyond its airport-to-airport footprint.

Forward Air, a publicly traded company headquartered in Greeneville, Tennessee, operates about 200 facilities across the country and employs more than 5,200 people nationwide.