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Crosstown Commons: Forgotten, But Not Gone

By Spencer Lubitz

KRIS-TV

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CORPUS CHRISTI - It was hailed as a lifestyle center that would bring upscale shopping to Corpus Christi, but despite support from the city, the Crosstown Commons is still on hold.

"The economy was fast and furious; everybody was making lots of money. Stores were opening all over the place, all across the country not just Corpus Christi, and so many of the high lifestyle stores were interested in coming to Corpus Christi," said Matthew Cravey, President of Cravey Real Estate, and owner of the land.

In 2007 City Council members voted to approve the construction of the outdoor mall. In June of that year, council granted \$40 Million in tax incentives to prospective retailers. Those retailers backed away in early 2008, following the downturn in the economy.

Cravey said the project is still desirable to more than a few major retailers, especially because the city's tax incentives are still good.

"We had 10 years. So thankfully, that will give

he said.

Even though the city's tax incentives have yet to bring development to the empty lot, Cravey says you can directly credit them for the renovation over at La Palmera mall.

"It forced them to either be competitive, and the same way with Moore Plaza, they either were going to get competitive or they were going to come to our project, over to Crosstown Commons," said Cravey.

Even though La Palmera has attracted a lot of attention from locals, Cravey believes there is still a void for another shopping center in Corpus Christi.

"Crosstown Commons will definitely be a success,"

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parking spot, and then ask the question, gee, do we need anything else? The proof is there," Cravey said.

He advises not to expect the revision of the Commons to look as sprawling as the original.

"It's being retooled and something will eventually go there," said Cravey. "It's too great of a site in the center of the city."

Cravey said there is no set completion date for the Crosstown Commons, "It's the crossroads of the city, the two major highways cross there, and it's been sitting there waiting. It's just a matter of timing."

A representative for the city's economic development program said, the project is currently listed as inactive.

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