

## **Downtown Hico Business Façade Improvement Project Launched**

The Hico Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has approved a plan to assist local business owners in the improvement of the exterior facades of their buildings. During the June 6, 2011 meeting, chairman Steve Morgan suggested that a plan be implemented that would provide local business owners some financial assistance for improving the exterior of their buildings.

After discussing the idea, the EDC Board agreed that improving the curb appeal would also heighten community pride. The BFI (Business Façade Improvement) project will be open for applications beginning on August 15, 2011 and will be available for 18 months or until the \$20,000 of allocated funds expire. The applicants will be asked to describe their project(s), estimate project costs, explain the need for the improvements, disclose any historic information and past restorations, and provide the location of the building. To meet grant requirements, a building must be located on or near the downtown or on or near a feeder street.

The EDC Board will have final approval of applications that meet these requirements in an amount up to 50% of the cost of the improvement, but not more than \$1000 per project.

As all small towns compete for a share of tourism and visitor traffic through their towns, the town with the best curb appeal will always have the advantage. The EDC encourages our Hico business owners to take advantage of this program and to improve their own "curb appeal."

If you would like to apply for a BFI Grant, please contact the EDC office via email [Hicoedc@embarqmail.com](mailto:Hicoedc@embarqmail.com) or call 796-4620 to request application forms.