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## **GULF STATES TOYOTA ANNOUNCES**

### **VEHICLE PROCESSING CENTER FOR TEMPLE**

**TEMPLE, TEXAS – November 15, 2007** – Temple has been selected as the site for a new multi-million dollar Toyota and Scion Vehicle Processing Center, Gulf States Toyota (GST) announced today. The facility will be built in Temple’s Rail Park at Central Pointe with direct service from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe main rail yard. The Vehicle Processing Center will serve as a centralized location for receiving, accessorizing and distributing Toyota and Scion vehicles in the five-state Gulf States Toyota region, including Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mississippi.

“The economic landscape of Temple, Texas, truly complements the needs of Gulf States Toyota,” Lee Peterson, president of the Temple Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), said. “Gulf States Toyota’s Vehicle Processing Center will have immediate access to the Burlington Northern rail switching yard and IH-35. In addition, the facility will have a skilled and ready-to-work labor force right in its backyard.”

“Gulf States Toyota and TEDC have worked closely together to negotiate a deal that is mutually beneficial,” Gary Schmidt, immediate past-chairman of the TEDC board of

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directors, said. “Temple’s location on the North American Trade Corridor provides Gulf States Toyota the best competitive advantage, while the central processing center will have a significant impact on our local economy.”

Temple City Manager David Blackburn said, “We are confident that Gulf States Toyota will be an excellent corporate citizen. The company will provide a positive contribution to our city’s tax base and allow for hundreds of new jobs for the residents of Temple, a win-win situation all around.”

The initial phase of the multi-phase Vehicle Processing Center development will consist of a 100 plus acre site with approximately 230,000 square feet of buildings. The facility will employ approximately 240 people initially to process and ship approximately 100,000 vehicles annually. The development will be the 8th among regional Gulf States Toyota facilities and dealerships to incorporate the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

“We are pleased to expand Toyota’s presence in Temple with this new Vehicle Processing Center,” Michael Owen, vice president vehicle processing for Gulf States Toyota, said.

“Temple offers a solid transportation infrastructure, with both rail lines and roadways, which is essential for a distribution business. Temple will also provide the solid workforce that we need.”

“We are so fortunate that this project has become a reality,” Mayor Bill Jones III said.

“Months of hard work on the part of TEDC leadership, Reinvestment Zone #1, City of Temple staff and City Council will pay off for our community ten-fold. We anticipate continuing to build a strong economic base by attracting excellent corporate partners just like Gulf States Toyota.”

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The master planning for the facility will begin in early 2008, with the ground breaking projected to commence in 2009. It will be Gulf States Toyota's second vehicle processing center. The company's current vehicle processing center north of Houston is also being expanded.

"We are preparing for our future growth with both of these facilities," Gary Cole, director of transformation integration, said. "Our vehicle processing centers are vital to the service and support of all our dealers and ultimately their customers in the region."

**About Temple:**

Temple, Texas is a community with a diverse economic base that includes healthcare, distribution and warehousing, and manufacturing as the foundation. Within 180 miles of a population of 17,800,000, Temple is in a strategic location that is central within the southwest U.S. marketplace.

**About Gulf States Toyota:**

Gulf States Toyota is the independent distributor of Toyota vehicles in the five-state region, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. The company serves 148 Toyota dealers in 150 outlets in the region, providing marketing and management support as well as vehicle distribution.

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