

**I-85 Corridor Alliance  
Meeting Minutes  
National Center for Asphalt Technology  
Auburn, Alabama  
April 27, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

Present were:

1. *Joe Sumners, AU/EDI (Executive Director)*
2. *Larry Fillmer, Auburn University*
3. *Scott Slocum, Westin Solutions (Treasurer)*
4. *Cheryl Cunningham, Congressman Mike Rogers office*
5. *Sandra Nichols, Wildlaw*
6. *Titus Lindsey, Alabama Power Company*
7. *Deroald Hopkins, First Tuskegee Bank (President)*
8. *Changhoon Jung, Auburn University*
9. *Joe Molnar, AU Rural Sociology Department*
10. *Allen Hendrix, City of Valley*
11. *Valerie Gray, Chambers County IDB*
12. *James T. Bryan, City of Valley*
13. *Margaret Gunter, AL Commission on Higher Education*
14. *Ralph Foster, AU Outreach Information*
15. *Mike Easterwood, AU/EDI*

1. Joe Sumners called the meeting to order and introductions were given.

**2. Officer's Reports**

- Deroald Hopkins reported that progress has been made on the promotional CD that the First Tuskegee Bank is planning to underwrite for the Alliance. He also reported on a meeting about the development planned for Exit 38. It will be similar to the design of East Chase and the next steps are to evaluate which land to annex, etc.
- Scott Slocum reported that there has been no change in the bank balance and that he is distributing invoices to Board members for the annual \$500 dues.

**3. Committee Reports**

- Joe gave an introduction to the new committee structure, which focuses on specific actions.
- Ralph Foster reported on progress of the Promotions and Marketing Committee, which is also serving as the Networking Workshop Planning Committee. Updates of the brochure, website, letterhead, business cards, etc. are ongoing. Ralph noted that his committee is planning the networking workshop for June. The committee is also working on updating the stakeholder list and considering what mix of people to invite from the public,

private, and civic sectors. Allen Hendrix volunteered the City of Valley Community Center for the location of the meeting.

- Scott Slocum gave the update on the Finance and Fundraising subcommittee. The committee is working on a proposal to Senator Little for funding. The committee discussed grant applications but decided that we couldn't get grant funding for operational costs, which is what we need now. Scott, Joe, and Larry Fillmer met with Mike Hubbard and Ted Little and are planning to meet with Mike Rogers.
- Al Cook was not present to give an update on the Stakeholder Relations committee
- Larry gave an update on the status of the planning for the Business and Innovation Forum. The university research and development offices have made commitments. The forum is scheduled for November 2-4, with a schedule similar to last years'. It is the weekend of the Arkansas State game. Meetings will be held at the Lodge at Grand National in Opelika and on the AU campus.
  - AU (I-85 Corridor Alliance) will contract with George McMillan and Associates for the 1) promotion, 2) sponsorship, and 3) bringing in venture capitalists from around the region. They will get a commission from the funds that they raise.
  - An event manager, Lesley Parsons, has been hired. She will create a detailed implementation plan. The target audience is 50 high-level key executives from around the country who would have an interest in the work at the research park
  - Plans are for a keynote dinner on Thursday on the theme of the Global Competitiveness of the region. The event might feature 1) alternative fuels research, 2) transportation, 3) safety and security, 4) wireless engineering.

#### **4. Other Business**

- An issue was raised about whether board members who represent state agencies might be exempt from paying dues.
- Joe Molnar gave an update on the status of the AU Center for Sustainable Rural Living. Architectural designs are in the planning stage. The site has many assets that will be valuable for the public to experience but they are waiting for university support to move forward.
- Valerie Gray gave an update on the Kia plant. The groundbreaking has been postponed indefinitely but there is no concern. The state of Alabama has organized a trip to Korea in June and the real estate market in that region is heating up.
- Valley was chosen as an Alabama Community of Excellence and will be recognized next month at the annual Alabama League of Municipalities Convention.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2006 at the National Center for Asphalt Technology in Auburn from 8:00-10:00 AM.