

Date: July 29, 2005  
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance Board  
From: Larry Fillmer, I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Director  
Subject: July 28, 2005 Board Working Session Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance Board Working Session for July was convened at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2005 at the Auburn City Hall in Auburn, Alabama. We thank Phillip Dunlap and his staff for arranging our meeting and for their hospitality. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Scott Slocum – Weston Solutions
2. Al Cook – City of Opelika
3. Larry Fillmer - Auburn University Development
4. Titus Lindsey – Alabama Power
5. Dr. Joanne Jordan – Southern Union State Community College
6. Maria Traylor – Auburn-Opelika Convention and Visitors Bureau
7. P.K. Raju – Auburn University, AETAP
8. Dean Barber – Barber Associates (Guest)
9. Dennis O'Malley – Global Solutions (Guest)

**Introduction:**

Larry Fillmer opened the meeting. Since there was not a quorum present for the meeting, no official business was conducted at this session. The balance of the meeting was spent providing brief updates on the major projects now being undertaken by the Alliance.

**Officers Reports:**

Al Cook reported that economic development activity within the City of Opelika and throughout Lee County was continuing at a rapid pace. Because of decisions made to increase the overall population of Fort Benning, approximately 8000 new homes will be needed in the area in the next several years. This includes the replacement of 3000 existing homes on Fort Benning. With the relocation of personnel and the need for additional housing, the overall comments from those present indicated that these increases will tax local construction companies, utilities and school systems throughout Lee and Russell counties for some time.

Scott Slocum reported that a number of organizations have not provided their \$500 assessment for the Alliance. Scott will be sending out additional notices to those who have not paid. Scott's Treasurer's Report will be attached to the email distributing the meeting minutes.

### **Project Updates:**

Larry gave an update on planning for the Fall Innovation and Business Partnership Forum planned for September 15-17th. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend. Larry will distribute to all Board Members a separate program outline as well as a request to confirm attendance at specific program events. This email will go out around August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Forum Program has now been finalized. Larry reported that a request had been made to Sam Ginn, Chairman Emeritus of Vodafone and Auburn University Trustee, to be the Keynote Speaker on Thursday evening, September 15<sup>th</sup>. After the meeting, Mr. Ginn's office confirmed that Mr. Ginn had accepted our invitation to be the Keynote Speaker. All program events on Thursday evening and Friday morning will be held in the AUHCC.

Larry also gave an update on the Workforce Development Initiative - "The Academy of Technical Business" being proposed by Auburn University College of Business and Southern Union State Community College. A detailed prospectus has been developed and is currently being vetted through the appropriate curriculum channels at Auburn University. During the month of August, additional meetings will be held to determine if there are public funds available to support the program. Funding is required to allow the initial program prototype to proceed and must be secured prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> in order for the program to commence with Spring Semester 2006.

Finally, Larry gave a quick overview of plans for tradeshow in the fall. Because of decisions made by other organizations to withdraw from participation in the Plastics USA Trade Show, the I-85 Corridor Alliance will limit its participation to the Aviation Trade Show in New Orleans in November. Booth space has been reserved for this show and the Alliance must decide in September how it will participate along with the Auburn-Opelika Airport.

### **Cluster Updates:**

P.K. Raju reported that he is now in the process of soliciting membership in the Technology Services Cluster and hopes to convene the group in the fall.

Maria Traylor reported that all of the efforts of the Tourism and Community Development Cluster are focused on support of the Fall Forum. No other projects will be undertaken by this Cluster until the Fall Forum is complete.

**Additional Business:**

We had two guests at our session, Dean Barber and Dennis O'Malley. They are both working with Macon County and the City of Tuskegee on economic development possibilities for Exit 38. They provided a brief report on their activities and the considerations that are being deliberated for the further development of sites around Exit 38.

Because there will be considerable effort required for the Fall Innovation and Business Partnership Forum, September 15-17, 2005, it was decided that there would not be a Board Working Session in August. Additionally, it was felt that the major agenda items for the September Board Working Session should be a review of the outcome of the Forum and a possible adjustment in monthly meeting requirements.

**Next meeting will be Thursday, September 22, 2005, 8:00AM-10:00AM CT; location TBD.**