

Date: January 10, 2005
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Council
From: Larry Fillmer, I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Director
Ray Vaughan, I-85 Corridor Alliance Secretary
Subject: January 6, 2005 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Council convened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2005 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center in Auburn, Alabama. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Dean Matheson
2. Ralph Foster
3. Deroald Hopkins
4. Ray Vaughan
5. Scott Slocum
6. Al Cook
7. Jerry Clement
8. Maria Traylor
9. Yvonne Hardy
10. Valerie Gray
11. John Veres
12. David Wilson
13. Margaret Gunter
14. Joe Turnham, sitting in for Harold Powell
15. Dr. P.K. Raju
16. Megan McGowen, sitting in for Phillip Dunlap
17. Larry Fillmer

Larry Fillmer opened the meeting and indicated that the primary objective of this meeting was to adopt the I-85 Corridor Alliance By-Laws. Prior to addressing the By-Laws, several other pertinent items of business were discussed.

Deroald Hopkins announced that Maria Traylor would be taking over the Tourism and Community Development Cluster as Deroald assumes his position as President of the I-85 Corridor Alliance.

Yvonne Hardy from the Auburn Engineering Technical Assistance Program was introduced as she and Dr. P.K. Ragu from the Auburn University, College of Engineering will be taking leadership roles on the Technology Services Cluster. Yvonne gave an

overview of the Engineering Technical Assistance Program. We also had an opportunity to introduce Dr. Ragu as he joined the meeting. We welcome both Yvonne and P.K. to the I-85 Corridor Alliance Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

We also received brief updates from the clusters. Deroald Hopkins and Maria Traylor provided updates on the Tourism and Community Development Cluster. Jerry Clement indicated that although the Educational Services Cluster had been inactive for several months, there would be renewed efforts to get this Cluster energized, particularly around work force development issues. Dean Matheson identified the continuing work of the Infrastructure Services Cluster around the *Foundation for Growth* program.

After a review of the draft By-Laws, no changes were made to the By-Laws. The Council then adopted the By-Laws unanimously. As part of the adoption of the By-Laws, officers were officially appointed for 2005 as follows:

President – Deroald Hopkins, First Tuskegee Bank
Vice President – Al Cook, City of Opelika
Secretary – Ray Vaughan, WildLaw
Treasurer – Scott Slocum, Westin Solutions

A discussion regarding beginning the process for IRS recognition of 501(c)(3) status was held. Larry and Ray will work on the application.

Larry gave an update on the Marketing and Branding Program, including the December 16, 2004 follow-on meeting. A subgroup has been put together for the Marketing and Branding Program, with a working session scheduled for January 20, 2005 at the Auburn City Hall. At that meeting, specific strategic planning and task development will be done. Members of the Board are urged to attend and participate if they have particular input or recommendations regarding the Marketing and Branding Program.

David Wilson made a suggestion for a “tag line” for the Alliance -- “Committed to innovation, prosperity, collaboration and competitiveness.” Larry mentioned that the Marketing and Branding working group had a similar idea and would tackle that assignment at their January 20th meeting.

Larry gave a report on the upcoming I-85 Network Meeting on January 25, 2005. Guest speaker will be Robert Bogart, Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce, instead of Sandy Baruah. A draft agenda for the meeting was circulated. A luncheon meeting with Mr. Bogart and corridor mayors, their economic development directors and members of the I-85 Board will be held before the main meeting. In a previous meeting with David Wilson and Larry, State Senator Ted Little had suggested a breakfast meeting with the regional legislative delegation to bring them up to date on the Alliance. Larry and David Wilson will work on coordinating this meeting, prior to the I-85 Network Meeting, if possible.

Larry discussed setting the fourth Thursday of the month as the regular meeting of the Board. The Board gave general concurrence. Next meeting was set for Thursday, January 27, 2005, at 8:00 AM, CST at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center.

Larry brought up the need for a budget for 2005, approved within a couple of months. Larry will send out his previously prepared three-year budget outlook, and the Executive Committee will meet from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on January 27th to discuss the possible adoption of a budget and funding considerations. The remainder of the Board and other adjunct members of the I-85 Corridor Alliance will meet from 9:00-10:00 a.m., following the Executive Committee Meeting. The primary objectives of the January Board Meeting will be to discuss the budget considerations and to review the results of the I-85 Network Meeting that will take place on January 25th.

John Veres brought up the need to stay abreast of the development of a possible extension of I-85 west from Montgomery to I-59/20.

As there were no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. CST.