

Date: November 11, 2004
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Executive Council
From: Larry Fillmer
I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Program Manager
Subject: November 8, 2004 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Executive Council convened at 2:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 8, 2004 at the Valley Industrial Authority Conference Room in Lanett, Alabama. We thank Valerie Gray for her hospitality. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Al Cook – Economic Development – City of Opelika
2. Cary Cox – Auburn Training Connection – City of Auburn
3. Sandra Nichols - Wildlaw
4. Joe Sumners – Economic Development Institute – Auburn University
5. Ray Vaughan – WildLaw
6. John Veres – AUM
7. Larry Fillmer – I-85 Corridor Alliance

Because of numerous schedule conflicts there was limited attendance at this meeting, which had been rescheduled from October 28, 2004. Larry Fillmer provided a brief update on Cluster activities.

1. **Tourism and Community Development** – Currently concentrating on three major projects: (a) Task Force comprised of representatives from Tuskegee University, the City of Tuskegee, Macon County, the National Park Service and the I-85 Corridor Alliance to develop the concept of a *Gateway to Tuskegee at Exit 38*; (b) the development of a Center for Sustainable Rural Learning and Living at the E.V. Smith Research Center at Exit 26; and (c) a calendar of local programs, events and festivals that can be publicized throughout the Corridor.

2. **Educational Services** – No recent activity other than the continuing examination of Workforce Development requirements through the survey of manufacturing enterprises along the Corridor. The *Needs Assessment Survey* has been sent to approximately 150 companies with responses requested by November 15, 2004. To date, approximately 10% of the surveys have been returned.

3. **Transportation Technology** – No recent activity.

4. **Infrastructure Services** – Monthly meetings now being held for this Cluster under the leadership of Dean Matheson, Jerry Clement and Bill Lavers, AmSouth Bank. The Cluster has agreed to focus on the following two major efforts: (a) identifying basic facilities, services, and installations needed to support the communities of this Region such as transportation, communications systems, energy sources and public institutions. This will be done by mapping the political and physical infrastructure within 10 miles of I-85 and then using these maps to identify infrastructure related assets and opportunities; (b) supporting and participating in the existing industry building program, *Foundation for Growth*, through assisting with the visitation work effort.

Larry advised that the I-85 Corridor Alliance™ *Articles of Incorporation* had been filed and that a working meeting needed to be convened to finalize the By-Laws and to designate Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and a Board of Directors. Ray Vaughan indicated that this action was necessary to be completed before filing the necessary paperwork with the IRS to be recognized as a non-profit organization. Larry agreed to work with the Executive Council to find a suitable date for this meeting.

Larry discussed the proposed I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Marketing Program and summarized the meeting on this subject that was held on October 6, 2004. An outline of the results of this meeting is attached to these minutes. Joe Summers presented the work that his staff completed on the Asset Inventory that will be an essential part of the Corridor Marketing Program. While this is still a work-in-progress, substantial effort has been made in identifying the wide variety of resources, enterprises and institutions that make up the fabric of this Corridor. The material that Joe presented at the meeting is also attached to the minutes. The Executive Council is grateful to Joe and his staff for the work that they have done on this project.

Larry also advised the meeting that a new web address has been obtained for the program. The new web address is: [www:i85corridor.org](http://www.i85corridor.org) and the domain name has been purchased for five years. Larry also discussed the opportunity to submit the I-85 Corridor Alliance™ as a nominee for the 2005 Innovator Awards, given annually by the Southern Growth Policies Board to honor innovative Southern programs and initiatives that are improving the quality of life in the Region. Larry and Ralph Foster are preparing the nomination for submission by David Wilson. The nomination must be submitted by November 22nd and any input on the nomination by Executive Council members is welcome.

Larry briefly discussed the next I-85 Network Meeting, which is proposed for either January 25th or 27th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Auburn and will include an Alliance Status Report, a noted economic development speaker and the signing of a Resolution of Support by noted officials from communities and institutions that have been actively involved in the I-85 Corridor Alliance™ since its inception.

As there were no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.