

Date: March 8, 2004  
To: I85 Corridor Initiative Executive Council  
From: Larry Fillmer  
I85 Corridor Initiative Program Manager  
Subject: March 4, 2004 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The I85 Corridor Initiative Executive Council convened at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Tuskegee University.

The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Jill Bonneau – Michelin
2. Jerry Clement – Batson-Cook (Educational Services Cluster)
3. Al Cook – City of Opelika
4. Deroald Hopkins – First Tuskegee Bank (Tourism and Community Development Cluster)
5. Katherine Jackson – AUM
6. Dean Matheson – Interport/SDS
7. Scott Slocum – Weston Solutions, Inc.
8. David Wilson – Auburn University
9. Jean Vaughan – City of Tuskegee
10. Ray Vaughan – Wildlaw
11. Velma Blackwell – Tuskegee University
12. Larry Fillmer – I85 Corridor Initiative

After initial introductions, Ralph Foster, Auburn University Outreach Office, briefed the Council on communications plans for the I85 Corridor Initiative Program. Included in Ralph's presentation were a representation of the logo for the program, the establishment of an initial web site, the creation of a map identifying the "Corridor" and its various resources (e.g., companies, universities, historic sites), as well as information about media coverage that the program has received to date. Suggestions were made regarding enhancing the web site, which will be incorporated shortly. Members of the council were encouraged to provide any changes or additions through the email address identified on the web site. Changes or additions will be reviewed centrally before they are made to the site. This will be the responsibility of the Program Manager working in conjunction with the Auburn University Outreach staff. For the immediate time, the web site will remain on the Auburn University server until such time that funding is available to work with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to create a standalone web site and email address. The

Council was also encouraged to examine <http://www.teamneo.org/>. Team NEO is a program in NorthEast Ohio similar to the I85 Corridor Initiative.

Deroald Hopkins and Jerry Clement provided updates on the Tourism and Community Development Cluster and the Educational Services Cluster, respectively. It was noted that work on the Transportation Technology Cluster was still in its formative stages and that more work was needed to define initial program efforts for this cluster.

Jerry Clement identified the members of the Educational Services Cluster, defined some of their objectives and highlighted the involvement of personnel from the university, junior college, career technical training and K-12 public school levels. One issue that was referred to the Council was to identify possible sources of funding to cover teacher travel and related costs to attend the Cluster Meetings. It was noted from the Executive Council that most of the communities along the corridor have funds that are set aside for this purpose. Jerry Clement indicated that he would advise the Educational Services Cluster and propose that this avenue be pursued where reimbursements are needed.

Deroald Hopkins also presented, for approval, an initiative being planned by the Tourism and Community Development Cluster designated *Taste of the Corridor*. This event is being planned in conjunction with Tuskegee's George Washington Carver Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday, May 8, 2004. The Taste of the Corridor will feature booths for Corridor communities to display information about upcoming events as well as food selections from well know restaurants in their communities. The booths will be under an overall I85 Corridor Initiative Banner. After constructive discussion about the event, the council gave its approval to the program.

Jill Bonneau, Michelin, shared with the Council a Civil Rights Map that has been produced by the Maps and Guides Division of Michelin. The map does an excellent job of highlighting a number of the historic civil rights sites along the I85 Corridor and throughout Alabama. Jill indicated that after the maps are distributed to her employees that there will be other copies that may be available for the Council's use.

Dr. Wilson provided the Council with updates on the "Greenfield Cluster" effort and the next steps with regard to approaching the EDA for funding grants. Work on the Greenfield Cluster is expected to formalize toward the end of March with the help of technology analyses being conducted by Ignition Ventures for Auburn University. Ignition Ventures is working as a subcontractor to the OTF Group as part of their overall work with Auburn University on the I85 Corridor Initiative. This effort will help to identify a small number of initial technologies that are candidates for development in the corridor. The purpose of this analysis is to identify technology that has the most likely chance to succeed from the lab to commercialization.

Initial meetings with the EDA were held in January. The Regional Director of the EDA, Bill Day, expressed enthusiasm and support for the Corridor Initiative. A follow-on meeting with the South Central Alabama Development Commission is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, March 11, 2004. The meeting will be held at the Commission's

office at 5700 Carmichael Place in Montgomery. Dr. Wilson, Larry Fillmer, Henry Burdg, Auburn University Technical Assistance Center and Andrew Smith, OTF Group as well as three members from ADSS will attend this session. Dr. Wilson encouraged Council members to attend, if interested.

The Council deliberated the establishment of the I85 Corridor Initiative Governing Board. It was decided that the Board should be composed of 15 members—5 from the academic sector, 5 from the private sector and 5 from the public sector. It was also decided that four names for each category would be submitted from the Executive Council and then the four members from each sector would identify an additional candidate to be added for each sector. The Council recommended the following names as candidates for the Governing Board:

### **UNIVERSITY SECTOR**

Dr. Ed Richardson – Auburn University  
Dr. Benjamin Peyton – Tuskegee University  
Dr. Joanne Jordan – Southern Union Community College  
Dr. Joe Lee – Alabama State University

### **PRIVATE SECTOR**

Ms. Jill Bonneau – Michelin  
Mr. Todd Strange – Private Citizen  
Mr. Jim Wright – First Tuskegee Bank  
Mr. Gordon Martin – Alabama Power Company

### **PUBLIC SECTOR**

Mr. Mike Hubbard – State Representative – 79<sup>th</sup> District (Lee)  
Mr. Thad McClammy – State Representative – 76<sup>th</sup> District (Montgomery)  
Mr. Myron Penn – State Senator – 28<sup>th</sup> District (Barbour, Bullock, Henry, Lee, Macon, Russell)  
Mr. DuWayne Bridges – State Representative – 13<sup>th</sup> District (Chambers)

The Council agreed that candidates for the Governing Board would be finalized at its next meeting. A personal letter of invitation to join the Governing Board will be prepared for the Co-Chairs, Dr. David Wilson and Mr. Les Porter to sign for each candidate. The letters would then be hand delivered to each candidate by a member of the Executive Council along with a brief explanation of their role and responsibilities. It was also agreed that at the next meeting a time and place would be established for the first Governing Board Meeting, which should be held before the end of May.

The meeting was concluded with the distribution of the I85 Corridor Initiative ***Guiding Strategy Document*** prepared by the OTF Group. The Council agreed to hold a separate meeting to thoroughly review and discuss the document and its plan for moving forward

the various corridor initiatives. This meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with a buffet breakfast available at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center. **Council members are requested to confirm their attendance for this meeting to Larry Fillmer no later than the end of day, Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Council Members are also requested to provide their preference for a standard Monthly Meeting date with their confirmation.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.