

Date: December 9, 2004
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Executive Council
From: Larry Fillmer
I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Program Manager
Subject: December 8, 2004 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Executive Council convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2004 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center in Auburn, Alabama. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Al Cook – Economic Development – City of Opelika
2. Cary Cox – Auburn Training Connection – City of Auburn
3. Margaret Gunter – Alabama Commission on Higher Education
4. Deroald Hopkins – First Tuskegee Bank
5. Dean Matheson – Interport/SDS
6. Sandra Nichols – Wildlaw
7. Scott Slocum – Westin Solutions
8. Joe Sumners – Economic Development Institute – Auburn University
9. Ray Vaughan – WildLaw
10. John Veres – AUM
11. David Wilson – Outreach Office – Auburn University
12. Larry Fillmer – I-85 Corridor Alliance™

Larry Fillmer opened the meeting and indicated that the primary objectives of this meeting were to adopt the I-85 Corridor Alliance™ By-Laws, to establish a structure for the Board of Directors and to select Officers. Prior to addressing those items of business several other pertinent items were discussed.

David Wilson provided an update on several on-going program activities. The next I-85 Corridor Alliance™ Network Meeting is now being scheduled for either the afternoon of Tuesday, January 25th or Thursday, January 27th. David has been able to secure a commitment from the Regional Economic Development Administration (EDA) office in Atlanta to have either Mr. Sandy Baruah, Chief of Staff for the EDA or Mr. Rob Bogart, Senior Policy Advisor for the EDA come to the meeting and be our keynote speaker. Once we are able to obtain their preference for the meeting, then we will confirm the date. We expect to have this confirmation prior to the holiday break. David further described the importance of this meeting as it will be the first opportunity to “showcase” for the EDA the progress that we have been making with regard to regional cooperation and support for the Alliance. As we discussed in our November Meeting, a Resolution

supporting the Alliance and its efforts has been drafted and endorsed by Dr. Richardson, and we are now in the process of obtaining signatures from mayors of the various communities along the Corridor as well as Dr. Richardson, Dr. Jordan, President – Southern Union State Community College and Dr. Guin Nance, Chancellor – Auburn Montgomery. The Resolution will be presented along with appropriate comments of support at the upcoming I-85 Network Meeting.

We also received brief status reports from Deroald Hopkins, Tourism and Community Development Cluster and Dean Matheson, Infrastructure Services Cluster.

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. **Infrastructure Services** – Monthly meetings now being held for this Cluster under the leadership of Dean Matheson 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 with the City of Opelika in the existing industry building program, *Foundation for Growth*, through assisting with the visitation work effort.

Larry Fillmer and Joe Sumners also provided a brief update on the Branding and Marketing Program. Joe indicated that most of the work was now complete on the Regional Asset Inventory that has been compiled by his staff at the Economic Development Institute. As Joe has described, this effort is not a marketing program rather a compilation of various community-related industrial, cultural, historic and tourism resources that are available within the Region. Because this material will become dated very quickly, the objective is to use the Asset Inventory to populate the I-85 Corridor Alliance™ web site, with connectivity to other web sites that are associated with the Region, so that the information can be readily updated and kept current. Larry also indicated that the next meeting regarding the Branding and Marketing Program will be held on Thursday, December 16th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the Auburn City Hall. Members of the Executive Council were encouraged to attend, particularly if they have input for the program.

Larry also provided a status on the Workforce Development “Needs Assessment Survey.” The surveys have now been returned and Dr. Sharon Oswald and Dr. Vic Uzumeri from the Auburn University, College of Business-Management Department are now collating and analyzing the information. The results of the survey will be available in early

January. A meeting to review the results will be scheduled with Southern Union State Community College and other appropriate personnel at that time. These results will then be presented at the I-85 Network Meeting in late January.

With these items of business concluded, the Executive Council used the remaining time to review and adopt the By-Laws, identify a structure for the Board of Directors and select officers. Executive Council members had received a draft of the By-Laws and came prepared to make necessary changes. All *Articles* in the By-Laws were reviewed, discussed and modified where necessary. Ray Vaughan has agreed to make these changes and to prepare a final version of the By-Laws within the next few days. Once the final version is received, Larry Fillmer will distribute it to the Executive Council for their review, concurrence and approval. A special meeting of the Executive Council will then be convened on Thursday, January 6, 2005 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of signing and formally adopting the By-Laws. Once this step is complete, then Larry Fillmer and Ray Vaughan will complete the necessary IRS paperwork to formally establish the Alliance as non-profit organization under the provisions of Internal Revenue Regulation 501 (c) (3).

No attempt will be made in these meeting minutes to present all the changes and comments that were discussed as part of the review of the By-Laws. The results of this discussion will be presented as part of the final version of the By-Laws. It is, however, appropriate to describe the selection of Officers for the Alliance. A slate of officer candidates was presented to the Executive Council based upon input received from the members prior to the meeting. Several candidates asked that their names be withdrawn from consideration because of concerns regarding time commitments required to serve in the positions. In the forum of an extremely open discussion, various positions and candidates were considered. The discussion concluded with the selection of the following officers for the I-85 Corridor Alliance™:

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

Congratulations to each of these individuals for their selection as officers as well as a sincere thank you for their willingness to serve in these positions.

As there were no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.