

Infrastructure Breakout Session
The North Alabama Region: A Globally Competitive Community
Sponsored by
North Alabama International Trade Association
May 23, 2005

Attendance:

- 1) Mike Ward, Vice President/Government Affairs, Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce
- 2) Mitch Bradley, Director, International Intermodal Center, Huntsville International Airport
- 3) D. C. Schafer, Director of Development, TARCOG
- 4) Gerald Kolasch, Vice President/Air Cargo, Total Airport Services
- 5) Greg Harris, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Development, UAH
- 6) Arthur Orr, Attorney
- 7) John Ross, Field Representative, Office of Congressman Robert Aderholt
- 8) Mace Neal, Planning, NARCOG
- 9) Tom Hill, President, Limestone County Economic Development Association
- 10) Rick Tucker, Executive Director, Huntsville International Airport
- 11) Moderator: Wally Terry, Executive Vice President, 1st American Bank
- 12) Moderator: Ronnie Flippo, President, Flippo & Associates

A brief power point presentation was given by Rick Tucker (Exhibit A) which provided infrastructure details on highways, airways, railways, waterways and petroleum fuel pipelines within the North Alabama region. He distributed handouts (Exhibits B and C) which detailed infrastructure strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to use as discussion points during the session. Mr. Tucker noted that the session format was designed to be an open discussion and encouraged everyone to participate.

Moderator Wally Terry stated that the breakout session was tasked to develop a list of the top five issues relating to infrastructure in the North Alabama region which affect the area's ability to compete as a "globally competitive community." Plans are to develop a task force of interested participants to work towards resolving the top five issues identified.

Moderator Ronnie Flippo initiated round-the-table introductions and opened the floor for input on infrastructure weaknesses and solutions in the North Alabama region.

- D. C. Schafer (TARCOG): Lack of a reliable supply of natural gas during winter months.
- Mike Ward (Chamber): Need for additional port access in our region; lack of a petroleum product pipeline.

- Mace Neal (NARCOG): lack of adequate water and sewer infrastructure for rural industrial parks.
- Ronnie Flippo (Flippo & Associates): lack of an east/west route which provides route to Atlanta from North Alabama region.
- Wally Terry (1st American Bank): I65 congestion and future ability to handle traffic demands.
- Greg Harris (UAH): utilization of other modes of transportation to relieve congestion on highways.
- Gerald Kolasch (Total Airport Services): How to make utilization of other modes of transportation (from trucking/highways) meet the needs of industry (i.e., time, cost, efficiency).
- D. C. Schafer (TARCOG): increased use of railroads to river ports.
- Greg Harris (UAH): Lack of a “whole picture multi-modal” infrastructure focus.
- Wally Terry (1st American Bank): Lack of long term regional planning.
- Ronnie Flippo (Flippo & Associates): Information highway deficiencies in rural areas.

Following group discussion on the aforementioned weaknesses/solutions, the group voted from their identified issues listing (Exhibit D) to determine the top five issues to be presented to the full conference attendees at the lunch session. The results were as follows:

Top Five “Infrastructure” Issues

- 1) Highways
 - East/West Interstate Connection (Memphis/Atlanta Highway)
- 2) Pipelines
 - Petroleum Pipeline Fuel
- 3) Planning
 - Long Term Multi-Modal Regional Planning
- 4) Waterways
 - Additional River Port Operations at Industrial/Manufacturing Sites
- 5) Information Highway
 - Broad Band Communication Capabilities throughout the Region

The Infrastructure Breakout Session was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.