

NEWS from



Macon Economic Development Commission

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I-16 Corridor Alliance Organizes

In an effort to grow business along the I-16 corridor and to foster the relationship with the Georgia ports, Economic Development Directors and Chamber leaders from the twelve counties along the I-16 corridor have formed the I-16 Corridor Alliance. The counties included in the alliance are: Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Bleckley, Laurens, Treutlen, Emanuel, Candler, Bullock, Bryan, Effingham and Chatham. The focus of the alliance will be cooperative marketing of the interstate to groups such as the utility company project managers, state economic development departments and site procurement associations.

At the organizational meeting held at Wildwood Lake House in Treutlen County on July 23, 2008, the executives discussed the formation of the alliance, the need for officers, bylaws, a vision statement and a logo. They discussed combining their marketing efforts to secure a larger portion of the economic development now being enjoyed by Georgia. One of the first projects will involve the construction of a website that will link to as many sites as possible in order to achieve maximum marketing value.

Officers were elected, including: Judy Sherling (Twiggs County), *President*; Patrick Topping (Macon and Bibb County), *Vice-President*; and Shantell Roberson (Savannah), *Secretary-Treasurer*. Meetings will be held monthly in the member counties. Anyone interested in learning more about the business opportunities along I-16 can contact each county's Economic Development Director or Judy Sherling at (478) 945-3486 or director@twiggschamber.com.

If you would like more information on economic development in Macon and Bibb County, please contact Patrick Topping, CEcD, Senior Vice President of the Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) at 478-621-2030 or visit www.maconworks.com. The Macon Economic Development Commission is the private/public partnership responsible for recruiting new business and industry to Macon and Bibb County, GA and for the retention of established companies



Pictured at the organizational meeting of the I-16 Corridor Alliance in Treutlen County are (left to right): Patrick Topping (Macon and Bibb County), Shantell Roberson (Savannah), Kathryn Fisher (Bleckley County), Gwen Strickland (Bryan County), John Lee (Treutlen County), Willie Paulk (Dublin – Laurens County), Judy Sherling (Twiggs County), Ralph Staffins and Mary Purcell (Wilkinson County), Andy Riley (Emanuel County) and Bill Rogers, Jr., (Swainsboro Chamber of Commerce).