

Burlington County Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Committee
Minutes of April 23, 2003
Meeting

Attendance:

G. Beyranevand, D. Doyle, E. Holt, J. Igo, T. Mulligan, E. Penberthy, H. Reeves, M. Remsa, J. Schweppenheiser, K. Howell-Ikeda.

Mr. Remsa outlined what is happening in respect to the Route 206 project. He described the area as including 13 municipalities from Bordentown to Southampton exclusive of areas in the Pinelands. The project was delayed for at least a year while waiting for promised funds from the state. A physical impact study for municipalities has begun followed by the planning process, analysis and more planning. At this time data is being collected. There will be a visioning study conducted to determine how the area will look. This will include input from the public. The DRVP will study the roads and determine what improvements are needed.

The committee questioned how much farmland has and will be preserved in Burlington County. Mr. Remas told the committee that 20,000 acres have been preserved, 80% of that being in the corridor. TDR seems to be the direction municipalities may be taking to help with preservation.

Value added programs such as an ethanol plant which has recently opened in South Jersey will help not only use crops grown in the area but also help air quality by burning a clean fuel.

Mr. Igo asked Mr. Remsa if the Chamber could help by putting together a committee that might look at the Rt. 206 project from a business perspective. Mr. Remsa stated that all interested parties will be involved in the visioning study. A steering committee is now in place that includes members from all 13 municipalities. Mr. Remsa welcomes the Chamber participation which could lead to new chamber members. It was also suggested that the Chamber might be instrumental in bringing new business to this corridor.

Mr. Remsa stated that the state plan is not the Big Map. The state came up with the Big Map and it has changed several times since it was unveiled. There will be additional changes before the plan is finalized.

There will be a seminar in the fall about the Big Map, Smart growth. A tentative date is September 24, 2003 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. An October date will also be considered.

Mr. Reeves gave a report about the successful Light Rail seminar. The next seminar will be Employee benefits. Mr. Mulligan stated that the seminar will be held instead of the May Economic Development Committee meeting.

Mr. Penberthy asked if anyone would volunteer to be a back up secretary. Mr. Remsa also mentioned that there is a visioning study being completed and asked for volunteers to participate in the study.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Stevenson