The SLC region is making progress toward the implementation of the action items identified in Georgia Tech's strategic plan recommendations report, however, the Council of Governments is currently re-evaluating its mission and plans for the future.

**Points of Contacts**

The current points of contact for economic development opportunities in the region are:

Ken Penuel                Clay County  
Mac Moye                  Stewart County  
Adolph McClendon         City of Richland  
Andy Barnett             Randolph County  
Richard Morris           Quitman County  

Each county continues to work on the strategic goals identified in the December 2005 meeting.

**Regional Project**

The SLC region continues to work on the telecommunications project in an effort to provide wireless broadband services in the rural areas of the counties. The region has installed surveillance cameras in Shellman, Georgia as the first wireless broadband pilot project.

The four county governments have signed a memorandum of understanding for the creation of a regional technology authority to begin the work of developing a plan to provide greater broadband access throughout the region.

**Clay County Economic Development Activities**

The Clay County Economic Development Council is currently working to rejuvenate efforts to foster tourism development with the following projects:

**Current Project List:**

1. Development of a Phenomenon Trail – Phase II on Lake George- UGA’s Fanning Institute has completed a project to help design the landscape of the trail.  
2. Implementation of "Keep Georgia Beautiful Campaign" is a major effort to keep the county attractive and appealing to tourists and visitors in the city and county (Oct 2-9).  
3. Refurbishment of the Pioneer Cemetery Project. (Just applied for grant funding)  
4. Development of a Marketing Program/Campaign for Bagby State Park to increase the number of tourists visiting the area. Plans also include increasing the number of cabins at the lodge and expansion of the marina.  
5. The county has been designated as the location for the "Georgia Guild of Craftsman" which is a resource center for Georgia's tourism industry.
Quitman County Economic Development Activities

The consolidation efforts of the local governments was success and new elections will occur in the next few months.

The Quitman County steering committee is the lead organization for the Accelerator project. The committee has decided to focus on tourism projects for 2007.

Current Project List:

1. The county is actively working on a plan to construct a new marina project with outside developers.

2. Implementation of “Keep Georgia Beautiful” program in the city and county.

Stewart County Economic Development Activities

The leaders in Stewart County have worked to bring in local jobs to the community. The county does not have an active economic development steering committee as a result of the Accelerator program, however, the new county manager is working on several recommendations primarily tourism development and improved law enforcement.

The county is also working in small business development efforts.

Federal Prison

The Federal prison began operations in October 2006. The county is currently employing workers in the region. The $45 million prison, built by Corrections Corporation of America of Nashville, Tennessee, will employ over 300 people and is expected to be substantially occupied during 2007.

Randolph County Economic Development Activities

The Randolph County Development Authority continues to lead the economic development efforts in the county. The county has been involved in increased business recruitment activities over the last year. Brian Marlowe of the Georgia Department of Economic Development continues to work closely with the authority to provide the support needed for business and industry.

Hortense Jackson
December 31, 2006