GROW through the county good and bringing more businesses into the county to support the higher traffic.

Suggested members for the tourism committee were representatives from the two national parks in Sumter County, the Americus-Sumter Chamber of Commerce, an Americus City Council member, a representative from South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW), a Sumter County commissioner, a member of the PDA, a representative from SAM Shortline, a member of the Americus-Sumter County Tourism Council, a representative from the Sumter Parks and Recreation Department and a representative from the Sumter County School System.

Suggested members for the health care committee were a Phoebe Sumter Medical Center and a representative from each of the nursing homes in the county.

Suggested members of the higher education committee were members of GSW's and SGTC's foundations, a representative from the Sumter County Board of Education, a representative from Southland Academy and representatives from Sumter EMC and Georgia Power Co.

Possible members of the intermodal port committee were representatives from SAM Shortline, business leaders and members of the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Each group, at the end of the meeting, was instructed by Matt Bishop, coordinator of operations for the Archway Partnership, to go back to their groups, have discussions, and bring suggestions to the table when the group will meet again, on March 23.

"I want names," Bishop said.

This was after Bishop gave the group some statistics they had requested at their retreat.

If the community was to scout warehouse and distribution companies, Bishop said it could possibly create 180 jobs for Sumter County and add 39 jobs to the state's capital city. The total income for these jobs would be $4.3 million, but the total economic output for the community would be $11.7 million, which would raise the county's economic output by one percent.

If the community were to scout medical field positions, Bishop said, it could possibly create around 80 jobs for the community, and it bring in $4.2 million in income for the employees, but at half the employment base.

With this, though, the total output for scouting health care would be $6 million, and bring the county's total economic product up by only a half of a percent.

"That's just something to consider," Bishop said. "I'm not saying that's good or bad; it's just something to think about." Bishop said the group had requested statistics on recruiting higher education scouting at their retreat, but Bishop didn't have enough information about Sumter County to enter into UGA's equation.

"It really depends on what kind of jobs you're looking for," Bishop said.

Right now, Sumter County has about 100 physicians, and would be able to support 135.

Sumter County partnered with Archway in 2009. It's an organization through the University of Georgia that strives to identify and advance community priorities.

Americus Mayor Barry Blount said it's not just about scouting new businesses to the area, but it's also about growing and marketing the ones we have, and the group seemed to agree.