Monthly Key Accomplishments – February 2011

I. **Communities of Opportunities Program**
The Sumter Archway Executive Committee requested assistance to address training and curriculum development needs of citizens appointed to serve on authorities, boards and commissions by the two local governments. Archway addressed this request by approaching DCA and created a scope of work acceptable for the Communities of Opportunities (Co-Op) Program. The Archway Executive Committee serves as the community input component to meet requirements of Co-Op. The process began with sending surveys to 164 citizens who serve in appointed positions on 27 authorities, boards and commissions. With a 33% response rate to the survey by individuals, and 81% of the organizations represented by the responses, data was collected to determine needs. A plan of action (stated below) has been approved to develop a handbook that both the City of Americus and Sumter County will present to a citizen when appointed to the board.

Recommended Plan of Action (A more defined scope of work has been approved):

A) Develop a handbook that is given to all citizens when appointed. The handbook cover page will include logos of the City, County and Chamber, representing their collaborative efforts for citizens. There will be two copies of the cover letter for the document, to be signed by both the appointing board and citizen, and to be maintained in a file for reference.

1) Cover letter thanking the citizen for serving and:
   Stating the name of the appointee.
   Naming of group they have been appointed to serve.
   Referencing of the enabling legislation (when available).
   Stating the term of service.
   Stating the legal requirements to serve (training, attendance, etc...).
   Stating date, time, and location of meeting.
   Stating actions that must be taken if not attending (such as alert staff or chair).
   Listing all current board members and terms of service.
   Listing of professional staff and contact information.

2) Enabling legislation.
4) By-Laws.
5) Training requirements and ramifications of not participating in training.
6) General board operating procedures and laws.
7) Goals and on-going projects of board.
8) Minimum qualifications to serve on board.

B) Host a one day training session twice per year, or as needed.
C) Organize appointments as timing allows.

II. **Highway 19 Corridor Revitalization**
As a culmination of economic development discussions, the Executive Committee has chosen to move forward with developing a revitalization plan for the Hwy 19 Corridor, extending from the
Sumter County Parks and Recreation Sports Complex in the South, northward to the South Georgia Tech Parkway intersection. The Partnership would like to move quickly, as the new hospital facility is being built on this corridor at the intersection of Highways 280 and 19, and will be completed in the Fall of 2011. The area is anticipated to experience significant growth as ancillary services associated with the hospital and medical facilities develop. In anticipation of this growth, the local governments and community would like to be prepared to assist and enhance the overall appearance and design of the corridor. When developing a revitalization plan, the following factors, and others as appropriate, should be included: Planning, Zoning, Design Standards, Traffic Patterns and Flow, Sign Ordinances to accommodate the various land elevations along the highway, Public Right-of-Way, New Developments, Gateways, etc.

The following organizations and departments met on February 1, 2011 to discuss the revitalization plans, ensure all interested individuals have been apprized, and ask that all pertinent details be shared with the group at-large.

- City of Americus
  - Public Works, Zoning, Natural Gas, Community and Economic Development
- Sumter County Board of Commissioners
  - Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, Zoning
- Local Citizens
- Americus Sumter Payroll Development Authority
- Sumter Electric Membership Corporation
- Georgia Power
- UGA Cooperative Extension
- Phoebe Sumter Medical Center
- River Valley Regional Commission

The data gathered from the local meeting on February 1st has been shared with Langford Holbrook and Danny Bivins of the UGA Fanning Institute. The two gentlemen conducted a site visit on February 9th, and are in the process of defining a scope of work to be used in contract negotiations with Archway.