



May 2008

Transit Study of the Eastern Shore . This included representatives of the three cities, and county representation through their engineering department and Taylor Ryder with BRATS. The final study was presented to the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, and Transportation Committee. We will be presenting the study to our three cities and to the county in June 2008. The study is being conducted by Gresham Smith and Partners 3595 Grandview Parkway, Suite 300, Birmingham, AL 35243.

Feasibility Study for a Technology Training Park. Interviews were held throughout the region to gather information and to establish a possible plan. The first draft was presented in April. There will be another round of interviews. This feasibility study is being conducted by George, Henry George Partners, LLC, 1038 Dead Run Drive, McLean, VA 22101

Tourism – the Eastern Shore Tourism Council. This newly formed council is promoting the entire Eastern Shore with representation from our three cities and the county. Governing and structure was established and a marketing study was conducted through interviews with all elected officials, tourism partners as well as with the public at large. The Scenic Overlook Welcome Center is now open seven days a week instead of five.

Other goals set and achieved over the past two years are:

- Restructure Chamber to include new strategic goals.
- Revise website
- Established weekly e-letter for better communication
- Established job description and hire one economic development and/or governmental affairs staff person, our Director of Business Development
- Established job description and hire and a Director of Tourism
- Established job description and hire Director of Development
- Established Choices, a “life basics class” in 32 - 7th grade classes along the Eastern Shore. Chamber members trained and went in classrooms to teach.
- Set curriculum and established the Eastern Shore Business Academy to work towards training and seminars for existing businesses to utilize instead of going out of town.
- Environmental – partnered with Weeks Bay Estuary and SmartCoast on seminars and training. Also working on grants for the education of business and the Eastern Shore on green practices.
- Working with Dr. Hollinger, the Board of Education and Patty Hughston to support and move forward technology/career training in area high schools.