

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE ROSTER

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman

3100 Brierfield Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice-Chairman

25 Hawks Branch Lane
White, GA 30184

Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary

P.O. Box 573
Decatur, GA 30030

Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd

3 Orchard Spring Dr.
Rome, GA 30165

Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

P.O. Box 960008
Riverdale, GA 30274

SENATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE RULES 2014

- 1.) All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
- 2.) The quorum for the Science and Technology Committee shall be three (3) members.
- 3.) The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.
- 4.) The Chairman shall have the sole authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
- 5.) The committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
- 6.) The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 48 hours prior to hearing.
- 7.) Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a Minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
- 8.) These rules may be amended or waived upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman.
- 9.) A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designated to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
- 10.) When these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2014; 1:00pm

Room: 307 CLOB

Chairman Brandon Beach called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, announcing that a quorum was not present and the meeting would be delayed for ten (10) minutes.

The following members were in attendance:

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman

*Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice Chairman

*Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary

*Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd

Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

*Note: Senator Hufstetler arrived at 1:10pm and a quorum was established.

Senator Bruce Thompson arrived at 1:20pm

Senator Jason Carter arrived at 1:30pm

Quorum established, Chairman Beach commenced with his opening remarks as to the following:

- Welcomed all persons present
- Expressed appreciation to Legislative Assistant (Gerri Pringle), Senate Press Representative (Emily Williams) and others for their part in preparing for the meeting.
- Announced that the first order of business for that first meeting would be to adopt the 2014 Rules since there was a new chairman.

Senator Seay made a **motion to adopt the Committee rules**. Senator Hufstetler seconded the motion. The vote **passed unanimously**.

Chairman Beach continued his remarks as to his focus for the 2014 Senate Science and Technology Committee meetings:

- Meetings every Monday at 4pm, room 307 CLOB unless otherwise notified
- Making this Committee relevant as we continue as a State, technology will be a key component as well as science.
- Look at the strategic plan of 4-5 years ago, for the purpose of identifying what must be done to update it. However, this will not be a plan to just sit on the shelf and collect dust.

His two (2) major focuses:

- The newest latest and greatest technology, ensuring our State stays on the forefront and cutting edge of it, to remain competitive.

- From the work-force development standpoint, our State must be competitive, by assuring that the Technical Colleges are training a “work-force ready” applicant to move into those high tech jobs that companies like ALCON (manufacturer of contact lenses, of Johns Creek, who has invested \$65m to expand, adding six (6) \$32m high tech assembly lines requiring 250 positions to be filled) will soon be announcing. Thus, the reason for his efforts to work with the President of Gwinnett Technical College to establish the “Quick Start” program for training those 250 potential “work-force” ready applicants.

The Chairman solicited comments from Committee members:

Senator Seay- Having had the privilege of chairing the Digit Divide among seniors, and noting that Comcast rolled out internet essentials to address this Digital Divide for this population, seniors must keep up with technology. I would like to see some of that growth opportunity on the Southside as well. I want to work with you to get Clayton State and others on the Southside to bring some of those jobs to all Georgians.

Senator Hufstetler- I look forward to being more active and a part of moving Georgia forward in the technology arena.

Chairman Beach introduced representatives from the Georgia Technology Authority with the following comments: In a previous discussion with our presenters I mentioned that the Governor made an announcement he had budgeted \$44.8m for rolling out a program that will make sure that every child in the State has access to the latest technology. GTA will probably play a major role in rolling out that technology, and we are here to help with anything that they need that we can provide. Today, they were asked to share with the Committee, what’s going on in the State as pertains to technology.

The presenters for Georgia Technology Authority:

- Mr. Calvin Rhodes, Chief Information Officer
- Mr. Jeff McCord, Legislative Liaison
- Mr. Bill Price, I T Strategist

Georgia Technology Authority is a state authority:

- Self- Funded through data sales & administrative fees
- No directly appropriated state funds
- Limited authority over executive branch agencies
- No authority over Legislative, Judicial, Constitutional, Regents
- Manage the state’s central IT infrastructure:
- Data center, network and telecomm services, security
- Establish standards and policies for state IT
- Promote an enterprise approach to state IT
- Provide oversight on larger IT projects, Broadband Program, State Portal (Georgia .gov.)

The GTA presentation was made in power point format, followed by a ten (10) minute Q&A.

There being no further business, Chairman Beach adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2014; 4:00pm
Room: 307 CLOB

Chairman Brandon Beach called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

The following members were in attendance:

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman
Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice Chairman
*Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary
Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd
*Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

*Note: Senator Jason Carter arrived at 4:05pm
Senator Valencia Seay arrived at 4:06pm

Chairman Beach opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their presence and introducing the newest member of the Committee, Senator Bruce Thompson, vice – chairman (due to his late arrival to the January 21st meeting). He also provided a brief review of the proceedings of the January 21st meeting for the benefit of Senator Jason Carter, who missed the first half of the meeting.

Before introducing the presenters from the Technology Association of Georgia, Chairman Beach took time to reiterate meeting frequency and what his focus would be for the 2014 Senate Science and Technology Committee meetings:

- Standing Committee meeting every Monday at 4:00pm, 307 CLOB unless otherwise notified.
- 2014 Committee would be relevant and focus on our State being on the cutting edge of technology and “work-force” ready.

Senator Beach introduced the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) representatives, Mr. Tino Mantella, CEO and President and Ms. Shea Ross, Director of Government and Public Affairs.

- TAG was launched in 1999 as a merger of three of the state’s largest Technology Organizations. Today, TAG is the largest tech organization in the country.
- TAG is headquartered in Atlanta with chapters in Macon, Columbus, greater Augusta, Athens, and Savannah. Georgia’s tech industry is strong throughout the state.
- TAG has five strategic pillars:
 - a. Connecting
 - b. Celebrate
 - c. Influence
 - d. Building (jobs)
 - e. Promotion

Mr. Mantella presented many other facts regarding Georgia 's strong technology standing to include a solid Technical College System, the technology payroll growth surged beyond pre- recession levels , topping the National Average; and pumped \$2 billion of new spending into Georgia's economy in 2012, an emerging ecosystem for innovation just to name a few.

HR 68- INNOVATE GEORGIA 2025:

- Passed in 2011
- VISION: by 2025 Georgia will have a leading global science and technology ecosystem ensuring long-term economic growth and prosperity
- MISSION: to grow the state of Georgia by advancing its science and technology capabilities
- 7 strategic goals were created with the recommendations on how to attain each goal:
 - a. Expand and attract science and technology businesses and talented workforce to GA
 - b. Increase capital available for science and technology start ups
 - c. Expand state support for Georgia science and technology start ups
 - d. Strengthen relationships between education and science and technology industry
 - e. Increase the quantity and quality of STEM faculty, programs, and curricula
 - f. Enable Georgia students to be more competitive in the science and technology work-force
 - g. Community infrastructure to enable better access to technology

The TAG presentation concluded with a 10 minute Q &A.

Chairman Beach acknowledged the value of TAG's presentation and their services. He also asked if there were any further comments/public comments. There were none.

There being no further business, Chairman Beach adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2014; 4:00pm
Room: 506 CLOB

Chairman Brandon Beach called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

The following members were in attendance:

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman
Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice Chairman
*Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary
Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

Note: Senator Carter arrived at 4:40pm

This was a joint meeting of the Senate and House Science and Technology Committees to prevent duplication of the presentation by the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

House Science & Technology Committee Chair- Representative Ed Setzler welcomed everyone on behalf of the joint House and Senate committees. He expressed appreciation to the guest presenters for their efforts and time expended to bring such an informative presentation.

Chairman Beach gave the rationale for having presentations of this magnitude:

- Ensure we are on the cutting edge of technology infrastructure
- Ensure we have a trained work-force to supply high tech jobs that are coming to Georgia
- Have the capital invest in projects like this and like other technology projects. We want to keep those jobs in Georgia. We have a lot of exciting things on this subject coming out of Georgia Tech

At this point Chairman Beach asked Chairman Setzler to provide some comments about their discussions on Driverless Vehicles and also to introduce the presenters.

Chairman Setzler: The process of discussions about Driverless Vehicles is not new; it has been going on nationwide for some time now. Here in Georgia, between the last session (2013) and May, the awareness level began to rise. A number of important partners in private industry were having conversations and forums about unmanned technology on both, the aviation side and the ground side.

Last May, we really started more of a formal relationship with Georgia Tech, having meetings to discuss where does Georgia Law need to be to put us on the leading edge? From a driverless vehicle perspective, let's not copy what other states have done, but look ahead and see where we really want to be in '20 in regards to Driverless Vehicle legislation? How do we arrive at the point of allowing the marketplace to move in and provide true break-through technology when the time comes?

This is the first of a number of meetings to happen over the next several months on this topic, appreciation is expressed to Senator Beach for leaping ahead and scheduling this meeting for us so we can do a joint hearing and begin the process of informing ourselves on where the state of technology is and where legislative action might be best advised.

Introduction of Presenters

With that being said, Chairman Setzler introduced the GTRI presenters:

- Mr. Terry Hilderbrand (Senior Research Engineer, Georgia Tech Research Institute)
- Mr. Isaac Asher (Graduate Assistant, School of City & Regional Planning)
- Ms. Moon K. Kim (Research Associate) who could not be present for the presentation, but had contributed greatly to the production.

PRESENTATION: Self- Driving Vehicle Technology & Policy Review

This was a thirty minute presentation that addressed the following questions:

- What is self-driving vehicle technology?
- What is the current state of the technology?
- What are the potential benefits of this technology?
- What are other states doing to capture these benefits?
- What are the considerations for Georgia?

There were also several action videos provided that displayed a virtual view of how self-driving vehicles actually perform on the highway which added several minutes of comments and questions to the allotted ten minutes of Q & A.

Chairman Beach gave closing remarks, thanked all who were in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2014; 4:00pm
Room: 307 CLOB

Chairman Brandon Beach called the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

The following members were in attendance:
Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman
Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice Chairman
Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

Chairman Beach opened the meeting with an apology for his lateness and thanked everyone for their presence.

SR 881 by Senator Valencia Seay, 34th Creating the Senate Senior Technology Gap Study Committee

Senator Seay presented the resolution to the committee. There is an assumption that everyone is technology savvy. Research (the Pew studies) shows that only 54 percent of Americans over age 65 have access to the internet, and among those 77 and older, the population drops to about a third. The technology gap is even greater among seniors on the lower end of the economic scale. The purpose for SR 881 is to address those issues/problems encountered by our senior population, to understand those problems that seniors face and develop strategies to overcome such problems. It's a matter of meeting them (our seniors) where they are, letting them know that we do have them in our consideration.

Senator Thompson, 14th: The technology gap between the younger generation and the senior generation is certainly a major concern and in order to serve our senior citizen population, the General Assembly must understand the problems seniors face and develop strategies to overcome such problems.

Chairman Beach: This Study Committee can be the catalyst for crafting legislation that provides guidelines for and actions necessary to implement technological advantages for our senior citizens.

Senator Carter, 42nd: I echo Senator Beach's comments.

Senator Carter, 42nd made a motion that SR 881 DO PASS. Senator Thompson, 14th seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

SR881 DO PASS

Chairman Beach asked if there were any further questions or comments. There being none, he announced that the next meeting would be February 24th and that there would be a presentation.

Chairman Beach adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2014; 5:00pm
Room: 307 CLOB

Chairman Brandon Beach called the meeting to order at 5:06pm

The following members were in attendance:

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman
Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice Chairman
*Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary
Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

*Note:

Senator Carter arrived at 5:11pm, left at 5:55pm

Chairman Beach opened the meeting by greeting everyone and acknowledging the presence of Senator Josh McKoon who would be presenting SB 369 and SR 986 to the Committee for consideration.

SB 369 by Senator Josh McKoon, 29th Relating to motor vehicles and traffic, so as to create a new class of motor vehicles to be known as autonomous vehicles

Senator McKoon spoke to the impetus and rationale behind SB 369 “basically only 4 states in the country have some kind of legal framework to allow autonomous vehicle technology on the road (Nevada, California, Florida and most recently Michigan); Georgia has an opportunity to be the leader in the deployment of this technology and the development of this technology, also the economic growth that will come with whichever state ends up playing host to this industry”.

SB 369 creates that legal framework to allow this type of technology on the road. It defines autonomous technology, autonomous vehicle, stipulates the requirements and criteria it must meet, provides for the opportunity for testing of the vehicle and the criteria for testing, provides for a degree of shield from liability and provides the Commissioner of Driver Services with authority as needed for promulgation of any other requirements/restrictions that would be deemed necessary for successful implementation of the technology.

Senator Carter, 42nd made a motion that SB 369 DO PASS. Senator Seay, 34th seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

SB 369 DO PASS

SR 986 by Senator Josh McKoon, 29th Creating the Senate Unified Courts Technology Study Committee

Senator McKoon presented the resolution to the committee. Over the interim last year, the Senate Expungement Reform Study Committee looked into the issues related to the process of restricting criminal records in the state. One of the things that came out of those hearings was that there are serious issues with the technology used in the process across our court system. Some of those issues being:

- Problems with different systems speaking to each other
- In the current process the information is entered manually
- Much of the time, the information is not present in the system when, say, three (3) different entities are involved (i.e., Sheriff's office, DA's office and the Court)
- 25% of criminal record information at the GCIC is simply not present

This Resolution wants to put together members of the Senate and members of the Judiciary to comprehensively look at the issue of technology in the courts to come up with a seamless process resulting in a technology solution.

Committee members commended Senator McKoon on the legislation and indicated that it was absolutely worth studying, and there was excitement that Georgia is finally seeing how we need to connect across the board all of these technologies.

Senator Seay, 34th made a motion that SR 986 DO PASS. Senator Thompson, 14th seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

SR 986 DO PASS

Presentation –“High Tech Medical & Medical Destination Development in Georgia”, Mr. Jeff Kellar (BDO-High Tech Medical Incentives)

Chairman Beach briefly shared with the Committee members the reason for his excitement about this presentation. He recalled the details of a previous trip to Turkey and the opportunity to tour a hospital there which was in a 50-50 partnership with Johns Hopkins out of Baltimore. They had a treatment there called “Cyberknife” and people were coming from all over the Middle East to get the treatment at this hospital, which had two hotels attached to it and shopping areas. The stay was six (6) weeks, you were not sick from chemo therapy. They said (of the facility), “this is health care, but it's economic development, medical tourism and they loved it because they were making a lot of money”.

Chairman Beach also shared info about a similar facility he visited in Houston, Texas, the MD Anderson Medical Center (having hotels, restaurants, apartments, etc), and how this type of high tech medical development would be an unbelievable opportunity for Georgia, especially with the airport's location and travel here anywhere from the eastern seaboard is easily within 1-2 hours flight time.

With that said, Mr. Kellar was asked to provide the Committee with some background information about himself and make his presentation.

Mr. Kellar began his presentation by first reading a Disclaimer Statement from his firm's general counsel.

With the Chairman having set the stage for introducing the concepts of Medical Destination and Medical Tourism, Mr. Kellar proceeded to share with the Committee members the "why" seeking legislation that would amend current Sales Tax definitions in the code regulations to include exemptions for the "high tech" technology equipment/facility of high tech medical and destination medical care.

He indicated that his main reason for coming before the Committee was essentially to help them help him bring these types of projects to Georgia. Since it is the case Georgia has some barriers in place to keep this type of technology from coming to the state.

In 2011, one such major opportunity was almost lost. It entailed the Proton Beam, leading technology for treating cancer patients (without radiation). The client would be spending more than \$200m, with an average of 2000 patients /year, staying 6 weeks for treatment. Fortunately, for the state of Georgia, they had already signed a letter of intent with Emory, otherwise the project would have been located in another state where the tax incentives were much more accommodating.

In the state of Georgia, all of the building materials and equipment is subject to sales tax. Whereas in other states, they have some mechanism in place to exempt the equipment, building materials and job credits from sales tax.

Georgia has a "high tech" tax exemption, but it is limited to computer technology, thus this type of "high tech facility" does not meet that very narrow definition. The task before us is to somehow get the Commissioner of Revenue and Attorney General to render an opinion that this type of medical facility meets the definition of "high tech" as given in the current Georgia code section regarding tax credit. Clearly it is a leading edge high tech opportunity with unbelievable potential for economic development in our state.

Questions regarding the current cites in the Code about sales tax exemption and what the possible percentage of business would be from people coming for treatment outside of the state were posed by Senator Carter and Senator Beach (respectively). Mr. Kellar offered to send this information back to them, giving the relevant code and regulations, also the researched data for the business potential

Chairman Beach expressed his appreciation and thanked Mr. Kellar on behalf of the Committee for bringing this information forth. It will be the focus of some of the Committee's legislation for the 2015 session.

Presentation- “Securing Your Health For Life, Learn How Your Stem Cells May Save Your Life and Help You Live Long...er!” Mr. Adam Houtman, Founder & CEO, Vault Stem Cell

Mr. Houtman spoke to the Committee on the rapidly evolving state of adult stem cell therapies and treatments, and the emerging field of individual stem cell collection and storage.

He explained that adults now have a second chance at collecting their own adult stem cells from extracted teeth, for example; during a routine wisdom tooth extraction. There is the rare opportunity to reliably collect one’s adult stem cells and preserve them in stasis in their current biological state; they will remain healthy and disease free, without further aging; preserving their potential to generate replacement tissue and heal the body whenever the need in the future arises thanks to companies like Vault Stem Cell.

This presentation was to highlight the shared goals of Vault and the city of Atlanta which included preparing Georgia to be a leader in this medical revolution, educating citizens to the potential lifesaving benefits, and reduction in medical costs, while simultaneously promoting huge growth of an emerging industry in the region. There were several testimonials attesting to the healing, new skin rejuvenation ability of adult stem cells, proving that we are our own best medicine. It was well received by the Committee and Chairman Beach indicated that he would want to have further dialogue with the Committee members to see if a Study Committee could be created.

There being no further business, Chairman Beach adjourned the meeting at 6:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary

SENATE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2014; 4:00pm
Room: 310 CLOB

Chairman Beach called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

The following members were in attendance:

Senator Brandon Beach, 21st, Chairman

Senator Bruce Thompson, 14th, Vice-Chairman

*Senator Jason Carter, 42nd, Secretary

*Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd

Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

*Note: Senators Carter and Hufstetler were in another meeting and would be arriving late.

Chairman Beach introduced the first presenters: **Mr. Jordan Rose-MPH**, Associate Director of Outreach, Emory College Center for Science Education and **Meisa Salita, Ph. D.**, Director of Education, Outreach & Diversity, NSF/NASA Center for Chemical Evolution, Georgia Institute of Technology

Presentation: Atlanta Science Festival (March 22-29, 2014)

This was a 15minute power point presentation about the Atlanta Science Festival. The first event of its kind in the Metro area. A weeklong celebration of local science and technology that culminates with an all-day interactive Exploration Expo at Centennial Olympic Park. Scientists, experts and educators from local schools, colleges, universities, museums, and corporations will uncover mysteries and explain discoveries in hands on activities, facilities tours, stimulating presentations, and riveting performances at venues across the city. Per the presenters, the mission of the Atlanta Science Festival is to celebrate the inherent integration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in our lives today, share the impact they have on our community, and inspire us all to wonder about our future.

The Festival was produced by a collaboration of science, cultural, and educational institutions, led by Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber. A very informative brochure was distributed to everyone; it gave daily schedules of events to include detailed descriptions, age appropriateness, times and venues.

The presenters indicated that they would entertain any questions and or leave their contact information should there be any additional information needed.

Chairman Beach expressed appreciation on behalf of the Committee members for the presentation and reiterated the comments of others; this is indeed on the cutting edge for our workforce development, economic development and has invaluable implications for the interest level of “life-long learners” our seniors.

Mr. Virgil Williams was the next presenter introduced by Chairman Beach. He referred to him as his good friend and shared a few of his accomplishments from his bio. He indicated that he (Chairman Beach) was especially excited about this presentation because of the potential for moving Georgia up on the ladder of “premium technology centers” and that this was a great idea for expansion of technology in Georgia.

Presentation: Georgia Technology Education, Learning & Event Center

Mr. Virgil Williams addressed the committee. After providing some background info as to how he and his family came to acquire ownership of Lake Lanier Island, Mr. Williams shared that it was his dream and vision to do something for Georgia and its citizens that would make it special for Georgia and be a living legacy. Thus, this family project (which has been for the last 10 years a major restoration development of this beautiful property of 1500 acres, 27 miles of shore line). The Center will be a very visible center used in marketing and supporting the recruitment and development of Technology companies from California and other unfriendly States, and to create an environment to motivate young entrepreneurs to locate their companies in a place that will “Attract the young innovative workforce that will live, work , and migrate to the North Atlanta Corridor because of the very friendly “Live, Work, Play, Meet & Train Environment” that is surrounded by both beauty and fun (taken from presenter’s handout).

The Georgia Technology Education, Learning, & Event Center and a new 500 room supporting hotel would be located on the Lanier Islands Resort and centered between the two current major “High Technology Corridors” in Georgia, of North Fulton and North Gwinnett Counties and now moving north into Hall and Forsyth Counties.

Five (5) key Drivers of the Concept were summarized and the Committee members given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. They were:

1. Surrounded by top academic and training institutions
2. Central accessibility from every major Technology Corridor
3. A strong employee environment with quality life style
4. A very special environment which could be attractive to support our existing technology based companies
5. Georgia does not have any existing facility of the concept and scope to accomplish the need for supporting Training, Education, Large Meetings, Team Building events, and Technology Trade Shows in the Northern Technology Corridors of Atlanta.

Chairman Beach thanked Mr. Williams for being the visionary of this awesome project. Senator Thompson thanked him for his investment in Georgia on the behalf of the people of Georgia. Other Committee members voiced similar sentiments.

There being no further business, Chairman Beach adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Carter of the 42nd, Secretary