



Federal Priorities



State Priorities



Support Items

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



2010 Legislative Agenda

Transportation

Greensboro is poised to experience rapid growth – growth attributed to the perfect synthesis of location, infrastructure and a skilled workforce. Our continued success depends on having the resources to maintain a reliable infrastructure helping companies connect to their customers across the country while continuing to attract thriving companies like FedEx and UPS. The completion of the Urban Loop around Greensboro is our priority project. Additionally, we support the complete refurbishment/replacement of the Yadkin River Bridge on I-85.



UNCG/NC A&T Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering – \$2 million (recurring)

The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) at NC A&T and UNCG has made significant progress during FY2009 – 2010. The JSNN facility groundbreaking took place at Gateway University Research Park on November 9, 2009 with building completion expected in Fall 2011.

Although substantial progress has been made, JSNN needs additional funding to realize the vision for the school both academically and

as an economic engine in the Triad. The current budget enables hiring for most of the Nanoscience faculty but only a “skeleton crew” of Nanoengineering faculty. A recurring budget increase is needed to complete the Nanoscience and Nanoengineering



faculty hiring as well as staff the new facility. The additional funding would create approximately 40 new jobs, assist in providing a firm foundation for nano job training with local community colleges, and provide education to local industry on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

NC A&T College of Engineering (COE) – \$2 million (recurring)

The COE has a national reputation for graduating excellent engineering and computer science professionals, especially underrepresented minorities and women and a growing reputation for research productivity, economic development and engagement with pre-college students. NC A&T's aspiration is to further strengthen its COE research profile to position itself to compete in the global economy. The Greensboro Partnership supports these efforts and their potential for economic development and job creation in the long-term.



To improve the national ranking of the COE, it is important to retain the faculty by increasing their salaries to national levels, provide funding to recruit high quality students, enable the recruitment of additional support staff, and provide funds to enhance the research infrastructure.

NC A&T/UNCG Joint Innovation & Commercialization Initiative – \$1 million (\$500K recurring)

The Partnership supports this initiative, which will enhance the ability of both universities to commercialize their scientific and creative innovations and to fill a gap in the process of creating viable new businesses and new jobs.

The initiative creates a self-sustaining funding mechanism to eliminate the existing “Technology Funding Gap” between technology demonstration at the research scale and actual commercialization. It will facilitate prototyping, proof-of-principle, and technology demonstration. It will also support local, off-campus entrepreneurs by extending the schools’ expertise to the community, re-establishing the proven, productive partnership that served more than 200 community clients over a four-year period in the early 2000’s and resulted in the creation of four companies.



The initiative will engage both schools’ technology transfer offices and entrepreneurship programs. It will provide valuable experience to student interns, and it will leverage the broad capabilities of the schools’ faculty members, who will serve as consultants. The initiative will have its principal office located on the south campus of the schools’ jointly operated Gateway University Research Park, which will be perfectly positioned to provide space to start-up companies created by the initiative’s clients. The project requires one-time funding for the technology gap fund and recurring funding for services to entrepreneurs and the staff to provide them.

High Point Furniture Market

The Greensboro Partnership supports the High Point Market Authority's request for continued funding from the State of North Carolina at the current level of \$2,048,925 for the High Point Market and making this support a recurring part of the State budget. Currently, the Market:

- Contributes \$1.2 Billion to the State's economy
- Is expanding its programs to ensure its competitiveness with other regions, nationally and globally.
- Attracts 160,000 attendees annually to the Triad and North Carolina

Within the Triad, the home furnishings industry is responsible for 65,362 jobs. These jobs will be at risk if the Market is not present in the area.



SUPPORT ITEM

Education Initiatives

A strong public school system means better educated students and a healthier economy. We need commitment from every level of government to recognize the magnitude of needs facing public schools and to collectively provide the resources necessary to ensure their success.



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Downtown Greenway

The Downtown Greenway is an approximately 4-mile urban multi-use path and linear park that encircles and defines downtown Greensboro. It enhances the urban landscape with a green space that encourages economic development while also providing an alternative means of transportation, promoting fitness and recreation, and providing for connectedness and well-being for our residents and visitors in an aesthetically pleasing and safe environment.



Construction has started, with the first quarter-mile completed and open for use. Construction will begin on an adjacent quarter-mile within the 2nd quarter of 2010 and design of the remaining sections should be completed by year's end.

Over \$12.5 million of the proposed \$26 million budget has been raised from both public and private sources. \$7 million was voter approved as a part of the 2008 Street Improvement Bond Referendum and \$5.65 million has been raised through local private foundations. An additional \$13.5 million in funding is needed to ensure that the project is completed. The Partnership has recently engaged Womble Carlyle in Washington, D.C. on a trial basis to assist with securing federal funding to further assist with the financing of the Greenway.

Nussbaum Center Relocation/Up-fitting

The Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship plans to relocate to the old administrative building of Carolina Steel off Elm-Eugene Street. Nearly \$4 million is needed to adequately up-fit the facility to accommodate the Nussbaum Center's needs. A \$200,000 grant was recently awarded by the Golden Leaf Foundation and substantial matching funding (1:1) is potentially available via the federal Economic Development Administration. An additional investment of up to \$1.8 million is needed to fully fund the renovation of the Nussbaum Center's new location. The Partnership has recently engaged Womble Carlyle in Washington, D.C. on a trial basis to assist with securing additional federal funding to adequately finance the up-fitting of Nussbaum's new/future location.



Employee Free Choice Act

The Greensboro Partnership opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, which would eliminate the secret ballot provision and replace it with a "card check" procedure, where union negotiations must begin within 10 days once 50% of the employees sign a card. Furthermore, this provision inserts Federal arbitrators into negotiations at the union's request shifting the balance between the interests of businesses and unions. The elimination of the secret ballot provision removes the protection of employees by allowing both union officials and company representatives to make their case to the employee. The insertion of Federal arbitrators takes away a business' ability to regulate the wages and benefits offered to its employees. It is important that both the interests of business management and their employees be maintained, which these provisions upset.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Greensboro Partnership fully believes that a balanced federal budget and a reduced national debt will promote the health of our national economy today and for future generations. The Partnership encourages Congress and the Administration to work in collaboration towards creating a balanced budget. Total spending must be less than total revenue. Any serious strategy to a balanced budget will have at its foundation an intense commitment to maximum, long-term economic growth in a competitive world economy.



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Legislative Agenda

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greensboro Partnership serves as principal economic and community development organization in Greensboro, North Carolina. Its mission is to strategically develop a vibrant community that creates, expands and attracts business while advancing the quality of life for all.