

FRIENDS OF THE HISTORIC TRAIL

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Dr. F.D. Reese,
Dallas County Coordinator

Memorandum

TO: Ms. Alfedra Acoff, Project Manager
Alabama Department of Transportation

FROM: Dr. F. D. Reese, Dallas County Coordinator

DATE: August 25, 1997

RE: Alabama Department of Transportation
Project SB_AL96(001) – Selma to Montgomery
Scenic Byway/All American Road/Historic Trail
(Route of the 1965 Voting Rights March)

This correspondence and attachments document the outcome of:

- interviews with fifteen voting rights marchers and support persons,
- the public meeting held on July 10, 1997 in Dallas County at the Selmont Community Baptist Church, and
- two workshops held on July 22 and 23, 1997 in Selmont, the Dallas County area adjacent to the Edmund Pettus Bridge and city of Selma, respectively.

Mr. Charles H. Johnson and Mr. James Perkins, Jr. were selected as interviewers and workshop facilitators.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Perkins, Jr. conducted a total of fourteen interviews with persons who were directly involved in activities during Bloody Sunday in Selma. All interviews were audio taped. The tapes are identified as attachment 1 of this correspondence.



SCENIC BY-WAY/ALL-AMERICAN ROAD/HISTORIC TRAIL

Selma-to-Montgomery (1965) Voting Rights March
Continuing the Citizenship Legacy

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Ms. Alfreda Acoff, Project Manager
Alabama Department of Transportation

During the July 14, 1997 public meeting, I served as moderator at the Performing Arts Center in Selma, Alabama. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Perkins, Jr., the facilitators, assisted with audio/video recordings, handouts, and other floor and crowd related tasks. The meeting format is presented in the document identified as attachment 2. Questionnaires were handed out to all attendees. Attendees were asked to complete the questionnaire prior to leaving or complete the questionnaire and mail it to the Alabama Department of Transportation, in care of Ms. Alfreda Acoff, Project Manager. Over 100 persons attended the public meeting. Forty-seven questionnaires were completed and returned. They are identified as attachment 3 of this correspondence.

The questionnaires were compiled and summarized into the document identified as attachment 4 by the Dallas County Team (i.e. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Perkins, Jr. and me). The first draft of the questionnaire summary was used as the July 22nd input document. Attendees at the July 22nd workshop received the questionnaire summary and used it as a guide during an open forum workshop. Comments made during the first workshop were incorporated into questionnaire summary.

The updated questionnaire summary was used as the input document at the second workshop. Comments made during the second workshop were incorporated in the questionnaire summary to produce the final document identified as attachment 3 of this correspondence.

A consensus was reached by attendees at the second workshop to submit the recommended sites that are listed in the questionnaire summary report.

We were admonished to make sure that black contractors be included in the process.

cc. Charles H. Johnson
James Perkins, Jr.
Dr. Gwendolyn Patton

Attachments