



# I-65 Clean Corridor

## Fall Drive Overview & Media Summary



**AMERICA'S FIRST  
BIOFUELS CORRIDOR**



*Prepared by Direct Communications*

# SUMMARY

*The I-65 Clean Corridor campaign was a tremendous success throughout Alabama. News reports filtered into all of Alabama's major markets and most of the secondary markets.*

*The Clean Corridor events began in October of 2006, when President George Bush announced the funding. The following summer brought a round of Workshops conducted by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition and the ADECA Energy Division that provided public education opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel and sought station operators for the Alabama Clean Corridor locations.*

*In October of 2007, Governor Bob Riley announced the first round of Clean Corridor locations at the Dogwood Shell in Birmingham, the future home of Alabama's first Clean Corridor location.*

*Only a few short months later, on Monday, March 10, 2008, the Dogwood Shell held its grand opening. The event was covered by the Birmingham News, Alabama Radio Network and three of the Birmingham television stations, which aired live midday reports. The success of this first station encouraged McPherson Oil to install an E85 pump at second Birmingham station they operate.*

*One of the most successful campaigns of the Alabama Clean Corridor events was the "E85 for 85 cents" promotion at the Dogwood Shell in April of 2008. Over 100 vehicles were served, with nearly 50 lined up prior to the events kickoff. The major Birmingham television stations joined the Birmingham News and the Associated Press at the event. The AP wire story was picked up across much of the Southeast.*

*On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the two Mobile Clean Corridor stations opened with a press conference involving Gov. Bob Riley and Mobile Mayor Sam Jones. All three of the Mobile-based television stations attended. Furthermore, an Editorial Board meeting with the Mobile Press-Register was held prior to the event and helped generate a news article on the openings.*



*Alabama Governor Bob Riley, Station owner Don Evans, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones at Grand Opening of Mobile station on Airport Highway*

*On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Associated Press, Birmingham Business Journal, and Gadsden Times published articles announcing Fall Drive Clean Corridor events. The AP wire story was picked up by multiple outlets across the state.*

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Fall Drive began in Mobile with three television stations (WKRG, WPMI, WALA) covering the media event despite the rain.



Eric Burch, representing the State of Indiana, and Kathy Hornsby (Energy Division-ADECA) cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the I-65 biofuels Corridor. Mark Bentley, Executive Director, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, looks on

Simultaneously, Dr. Wheeler of GM and Mark Warner of Gulf Coast Energy held a series of interviews to discuss the Corridor events. On the drive from Mobile to Prattville, interviews were coordinated and conducted with Alabama Public Radio and Clear Channel in Mobile.

In Prattville, Alabama Public Television, WSFA-TV, and Birmingham station ABC 33/40 joined the New York Times Regional reporter as the skies began to clear prior to the event's kickoff.



Alabama State Representative Greg Wren addressing media at Prattville

*Continuing to Birmingham, the evening Biofuels Summit, hosted by General Motors, was very well attended by over 70 stakeholders and the media alike. CBS 42, the Birmingham News and web news organizations attended and provided exposure for the event.*



*Biofuels Summit attracts crowd in Birmingham*

*On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the second day of the Clean Corridor Fall Drive began again with a downpour. Birmingham TV station NBC13 attended the Dogwood Shell Corridor Ribbon cutting in Vestavia Hills along with web news organization the Birmingham Terminal*



*Alabama State Representative Greg Canfield addresses crowd at Vestavia Hills, Dogwood Shell station prior to ribbon cutting*

*Moving on to Athens in North Alabama the skies cleared and three Huntsville stations (WAAY, WAFF, and WHNT) and three print outlets (Athens News-Courier, Decatur Daily, and Huntsville Times) attended the final Alabama ribbon cutting event at 2 p.m. on October 8th.*



*Bill Johnson, Executive Director, ADECA, listening to Alabama State Senator Parker Griffith at ribbon cutting event at future Biofuels Corridor site in Athens*

***The following pages provide a sampling of the media coverage generated from the various media events during the fall campaign.***

## **MEDIA RESULTS**

### **October 5, 2008**

*Pg. 4 – Gadsden Times, "Ethanol, biodiesel on the way"*

### **October 6, 2008**

*Pg. 5 – FOX 10, Mobile, "More biofuels pumps planned for I-65"*

*Pg. 6 – CBS 42, Birmingham, "More biofuels pumps planned for I-65"*

*Pg. 7 – CBS 4, Dothan, "More biofuels pumps planned for I-65"*

*Pg. 8 – Birmingham Business Journal, "Consortium opens 13 biofuel stations in Alabama"*

### **October 7, 2008**

*Pg. 9 – ABC 31, Huntsville, "More biofuels for Alabama"*

*Pg. 10 – Birmingham News, "More biofuels for Alabama"*

### **October 8, 2008**

*Pg. 11 – Tuscaloosa News, "Alabama part of biofuel corridor"*

*Pg. 12 – Gadsden Times, "Biofuels more widely available"*

*Pg. 13 – CBS 19, Huntsville, "E85 Station Coming to Athens Soon"*

*Pg. 14 – NBC 48, Huntsville, "Clean Corridor Taking Shape"*

*Pg. 15 – The Terminal, Birmingham, "New biofuels corridor almost complete"*

### **October 9, 2008**

*Pg. 16 – Huntsville Times, "More ethanol stations to hit 65"*

*Pg. 18 – Decatur Daily, "Athens joins Clean Corridor, to sell biofuels"*

*Pg. 19 – News Courier, Athens, "Athens becomes latest link in biodiesel 'Clean Corridor'"*

*Pg. 21 – Bama Environmental News, "America's first biofuels corridor opens in Mobile"*

**October 5, 2008**

**Ethanol, biodiesel on the way**

Even though your car or truck, especially if they're newer models, be able to run on 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, you might not have ever filled up with E85 fuel or B20 biodiesel fuel because until recently there's not been any available. That's changing, with E85 stations at Interstate 65 exits in Athens, Hoover and Prattville.

The state is trying to get more E85 pumps, and on Tuesday there's a summit meeting to discuss alternative fuel. General Motors, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition are sponsoring a Biofuels Summit in conjunction with the opening of Americas First Biofuels Corridor from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Teds Garage in Birmingham, ADECA said.

The I-65 Biofuels Corridor means cross-country availability of E85 ethanol and B20 biodiesel fuel. It stretches from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico. ADECA said completion of the corridor means a motorist will not be more than a quarter of a tank away from an E85 or B20 pump.

Panelists will talk about the next generation of ethanol, the research and development in the Southeast and Alabama. Speakers will be Candace Wheeler, technical fellow, General Motors' Research and Development Center; Larry Fillmer, executive director, Auburn University Natural Resources Management and Development Institute; and Mark L. Warner, president and chief executive officer, Gulf Coast Energy Inc., ADECA said.



**WALA-TV FOX 10, Mobile**

**More biofuels pumps planned for I-65**

**Monday, 06 Oct 2008**

**More biofuels pumps planned for I-65 Report by: Associated Press**

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) - Officials plan to open more biofuels pumps for use by motorists on Interstate 65 in a distance from Mobile to Gary, Ind.

Alabama is slated for eight biofuels pumps with E85 ethanol and B20 biodiesel, including the two recently opened pumps in Mobile.

A "Clean Corridor" kickoff event is planned for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the site of a Government Boulevard station off I-65 in the port city.

Elected officials will be joined by Kathy Hornsby of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs energy division, Ford's Fuel president Don Evans and Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition director Mark Bentley.

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**WTVY-TV CBS 4, Dothan**

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**October 6, 2008**

**Consortium opens 13 biofuel stations in Alabama**

Work is now complete on making Interstate 65, which runs through Alabama, the nation's first biofuels corridor.

E85 ethanol and B20 biodiesel is now available at select fuel retailers the entire length of the Interstate, from Gary, Ind., to Mobile, according to a news release.

The effort is a \$1.3 million federally funded project, which equipped 31 fuel stations accessible to I-65 – 13 of which are in Alabama, 123 in Indiana, 50 in Tennessee and 34 in Kentucky.

The project started in 2006. Statewide partners include the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition. Other partners include the U.S. Department of Energy, General Motors, the Ethanol Promotion and Information Council and other state organizations.

E85 is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline and can be used in any vehicle designed to use FlexFuels. B20 is a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum-based diesel and may be used in diesel engines.

To celebrate the completion, project officials will drive simultaneously north from Mobile and south from Gary, Ind., holding press conferences along the way for three days.



**WAAZ-TV ABC 31, Huntsville**

## **More Bio Fuels For Alabama**

**Oct 7, 2008**

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# The Birmingham News

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### State Briefs

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## Alabama part of biofuel corridor

By Dana Beyerle  
Montgomery Bureau Chief

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

PRATTVILLE | Alabama on Tuesday joined the Interstate 65 Biofuels Corridor, a stretch of 886 miles from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico that will feature service stations selling alternative gasoline and diesel fuel.

At events in Prattville and Mobile on Tuesday, the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition promoted Alabama's availability of biofuels designed to cut dependence on foreign energy sources and provide markets for corn, soybeans and other plant material. Similar events were planned for today in Athens and Vestavia Hills and in three other states.

'Increasing the availability of biofuels is the right thing to do for our environment, our economy and our national security,' Gov. Bob Riley said in a statement.

At a USA Travel Center in Prattville, where biofuel was touted at a news conference, station manager Beverly Cillery said both E85-ethanol and B20 biodiesel will be available by Thanksgiving. 'There will be signs posted at the exits and signs at the service stations,' Cillery said.

E85-ethanol is a blend of 85 percent ethanol made from plants or grain, and 15 percent unleaded gasoline. It can only be used in vehicles that are designated for flex fuel or E85-ethanol.

B20 biodiesel is made from animal fat or vegetable oil and can be used in vehicles that run on diesel fuel. It can also be blended with petroleum-based diesel fuel.

In Alabama, biofuel will be available at I-65 exits in Athens, Vestavia Hills, Montgomery and Mobile by Jan. 1. Biofuel is available now in some locations, including in Tuscaloosa, Vestavia Hills and Mobile, officials said. A national Web site, [www.e85fuel.com](http://www.e85fuel.com), lists biofuel locations.

Mark Bentley, executive director of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, said E85-ethanol was \$2.85 a gallon in Mobile, 44 cents less than unleaded regular gasoline at an independent station near the Prattville news conference location.

He said E85-ethanol burns cleaner than gasoline, but it does not have quite the performance as gasoline. He said the lower price makes up for the shortfall in performance.

Bentley said the goal is to have eight biofuel pumps in Alabama open by Jan. 1 along the I-65 Biofuels Corridor. He said the corridor will have biofuel pumps no more than one-quarter fuel tank apart.

Station owners were able to obtain grants of \$20,000 to install one alternative fuel pump, or \$50,000 to install both E85-ethanol and B20 diesel pumps, he said.

## Biofuels to be more widely available

October 8, 2008

By Dana Beyerle  
Times Montgomery Bureau

PRATTVILLE — Alabama on Tuesday joined the Interstate 65 Biofuels Corridor that soon will have service stations selling alternative gasoline and diesel fuel from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

At events in Prattville and Mobile on Tuesday, the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition promoted Alabama's availability of biofuels designed to cut foreign energy dependence and provide markets for corn, soybeans and other plant material. Similar events are planned in three other states and in Athens and Vestavia Hills today.

"Increasing the availability of biofuels is the right thing to do for our environment, our economy, and our national security," Gov. Bob Riley said in a statement.

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In Alabama, biofuel is or will be available at I-65 exits in Athens, Vestavia Hills, Montgomery, and Mobile, by Jan. 1. Biofuel is available now in some locations including Tuscaloosa, Vestavia Hills and Mobile, officials said. A national Web site lists other biofuel locations.

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**WHNT-TV CBS 19, Huntsville**

## **E85 Station Coming to Athens Soon**

**October 8, 2008**

**By Ellis Eskew, NewsChannel 19 Reporter  
ellis.eskew@whnt.com**

Property along I-65 at Highway 72 in Athens will soon be a place to fill up. But it won't be your average gas station.

"Much cheaper. Not as much octane rating. Not as much energy in a gallon, but it's significantly cheaper," said Bill Johnson, Executive Director of AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Alabama will be a part of a clean corridor project from the Gulf all the way to the Great Lakes.

"What we did is say from Gary to Mobile, we need stations within a quarter of a gas tank where people can refuel E85 ethanol or B20 biodiesel," said Mark Bentley, Executive Director of AL Clean Fuels Coalition.

The state backs ethanol as a way of burning a much cleaner fuel with less dependence on foreign oil. Some critics say it's taking valuable food crops... But state officials say that's not necessarily the case.

"We were actually recognized by President Bush for the research in using switch grass and cellulosic ethanol, wood waste ethanol that don't come from food sources. I think that is going to be a area of hot interest and development over the next few years," said Johnson.

E-85 is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent regular gas. If you drive a flex-fuel car you will be able to pump it.

Right now, the property is a car lot. But by the end of the year, the owners hope to see just as many cars lining up at the pump.

"To us, this is the intellectual property. We are excited about all the scientists that are in the area and we know they come out of the woodwork with our fuel," said station owner Don Evans.

Ethanol sells for about 2.85 a gallon.

Officials say it should be up and running in Athens in December.



**WAFF-TV NBC 48, Huntsville**

## **Clean Corridor Taking Shape**

**Oct 8, 2008**

**Video link:** <http://www.waff.com/global/story.asp?s=9148588>

### **Clean Corridor to come to Athens**

With gasoline and diesel setting price records, drivers are pushing for cleaner, cheaper fuels. Wednesday the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition was in the Valley to open a new clean corridor. Limestone county is part of that corridor. You'll soon see a biofuel station open up in Athens. It's part of a state-wide effort to provide an alternative to gasoline and regular diesel. We all know the biohazards from contemporary fuel sources.

With the snip of the scissors, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition are joining forces in a movement to clean up our air.

Mark Bentley is the Executive Director, "This corridor is going to be available to consumers to purchase either the e-85 ethanol or b20 biodiesel within a quarter of a gas tank anywhere along the way."

This location just off Interstate 65 will house one of many fueling stations. There will be thirty-two E-85 stops and eight biodiesel pumps. One fuel is 85-percent ethanol, 15-percent gasoline. Another is b20 biodiesel, "Both fuels, the e-85 ethanol and the b20 biodiesel are extremely environmentally friendly. Both have lower emissions, and greenhouse gasses." The "I-65 Clean Corridor" is a 4-state project, "Both are also, the majority of them, are domestically made, so maybe we don't have to import them from a country that doesn't like us. And it's good for the agricultural industry and economic development in the state of Alabama."

This group is making the trek from the Alabama Gulf all the way north to Gary, Indiana.

You can email Bobby at [bshuttlworth@waff.com](mailto:bshuttlworth@waff.com)

## **New biofuels corridor almost complete**

**October 8th, 2008**

**by Andre Natta**

Fuels Coalition's Mark Bentley at this morning's press conference in Vestavia Hills.

Last night the I-65 Biofuels Corridor Summit at Ted's Garage provided attendees with a chance to learn more the completion of the first cross-country route that allows owners of FlexFuel vehicles easy access to E85 fuel from Mobile, AL to Gary, IN (where events will be held tomorrow evening). One of those stations is the Shell station located at the intersection of I-65 and U.S. 31 in Vestavia Hills. Earlier today public officials attended a ceremony marking it's designation as one of seven (7) stations offering E85 along the north/south thoroughfare. Drivers that visit that station today, provided your car can run on E85, will be able to fill up on the alternative fuel for \$2.85/gallon.

Representatives from Auburn University, Gulf Coast Energy and General Motors spoke about the various methods for creating the alternative fuels as well as painting a picture of the potential new industry that could develop in the state as a result of the ever emerging and changing field.

We'll have more tomorrow over in our my Birmingham section.

# The Huntsville Times

## **More ethanol stations to hit 65**

**Thursday, October 09, 2008**

**By STEVE DOYLE** Times Staff Writer  
steve.doyle@htimes.com

### **Drivers of flex-fuel vehicles also happy with lower prices**

ATHENS - The 110,000 Alabamians who drive flex-fuel vehicles finally have more places to fill them up with ethanol.

State officials were in Athens on Wednesday to tout the creation of a string of alternative-fuel stations along Interstate 65 between Limestone County and Mobile. They form the southernmost leg of what is being called the nation's first "biofuels corridor."

Mark Bentley, who heads the nonprofit Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, said stations selling E85 ethanol and B20 biodiesel will be located every 100 miles or so along the entire length of I-65 from Gary, Ind., to Mobile. The Alabama sites are in Athens, Warrior, Vestavia Hills, Prattville, Montgomery, Brewton and Mobile.

Bentley said sales are brisk at stations that have opened in Mobile, Montgomery and Vestavia Hills. Drivers in Montgomery have pumped 140,000 gallons of biodiesel since Aug. 15, he said.

Ford's Fuel, based in Point Clear, is building the Athens station, where a gravel car lot now sits near the busy junction of I-65 and U.S. 72. Owner Don Evans said he expects the pumps to be ready by year's end.

Evans said motorists who come to his existing stations looking for gas are pleasantly surprised to learn that E85 ethanol is cheaper than regular unleaded - \$2.85 a gallon as of Wednesday - and produces a cleaner exhaust. The downside: It's slightly less fuel-efficient than standard gas.

Dozens of newer-model vehicles, including Dodge Durangos, Jeep Cherokees, Ford F-150 pickups and Chevrolet Impalas, are equipped with engines that can burn regular gas or gas blended with ethanol.

"Our (ethanol) customers leave very happy and very loyal" because of the cheaper prices, Evans said Wednesday.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is offering grants of up to \$50,000 to encourage businesses to open alternative-fueling sites near I-65. The money is coming from a Department of Energy program.

Bill Johnson, ADECA's executive director, said buying alternative fuels is the "patriotic thing to do" because the money ultimately goes to American farmers instead of oil barons in the Middle East.

Biodiesel can be made from any type of fat or vegetable oil. Ethanol is a distilled, alcohol-based fuel derived from a variety of organic materials such as corn husks, paper pulp, switchgrass and sugar cane, even algae.

State Sen. Parker Griffith, D-Huntsville, said having homegrown biofuels available along I-65 will help reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil. Plans call for 19 fueling sites in Indiana plus three each in Tennessee and Kentucky.

"We can no longer depend on foreign governments for our fuel," Griffith said at a news conference in Athens. "We understand that it's possible for us in each state to produce and help with this energy crisis."

Griffith is running for the 5th Congressional District seat being vacated by Democrat Bud Cramer. His Republican opponent is Wayne Parker.

A handful of people involved in the project are driving from Mobile to southern Indiana - in flex-fuel vehicles, of course - to talk up the biofuels corridor idea. E85 ethanol sells for about 15 percent less than regular unleaded in Alabama, but Bentley said the price should come down as the state begins producing more ethanol.

October 9, 2008

## Athens joins Clean Corridor, to sell biofuels

By **Holly Hollman**  
Staff Writer

Daily photo by Holly Hollman  
Don Evans' station in Athens will sell biofuels.

ATHENS — Athens is a stop on the nation's first Clean Corridor, an effort that state leaders said will reduce pollution and make the nation less dependent on foreign countries for fuel.

On Wednesday, state leaders held a ribbon cutting on U.S. 72 east of Interstate 65 at the future site of a biofuel service station.

The I-65 Clean Corridor is 866 miles between Mobile and Gary, Ind., where motorists can purchase biofuel along the interstate at cities including Athens. Fifteen stations will be on the interstate in Alabama, three in Tennessee, three in Kentucky and 19 in Indiana. Sen. Parker Griffith, D-Huntsville, who is chairman of the Biofuels Subcommittee, said the project is a national security issue.

He said these efforts will help "wean ourselves off foreign countries" and provide economic stability. Since Alabama's farmers can produce the fuel source, it also will improve the state's status after disasters strike. For example: Hurricanes Katrina and Ike limited gasoline availability and drove up prices.

Don Evans, owner of Ford's Fuel, said his Athens station should open by Dec. 31. He said he'll build it in phases and will offer E10 fuel, which any vehicle can use; E85, which flex fuel vehicles can use; and biodiesel, which any diesel vehicle can use.

Biofuels are produced from soybeans and other crops that produce oil.

Evans said most ethanol now is derived from crops raised in the Midwest. He said it is transported here by train and truck, and mixed with gasoline and diesel.

Evans owns biofuel stations in Mobile and Newport, Miss.

"The Newport one was our first, and that's where the company name comes from because we located it at the Ford's ice cream plant," he said. \$2.859 vs. \$3.489

Evans said E85 is selling for \$2.859 in Mobile. In comparison, the price of unleaded regular at the Raceway in Athens, adjacent to the biofuel station site, was \$3.489 on Wednesday.

“There has been some talk about not getting as much per mile, but you save more in money than you lose in miles, and it’s emitting clean exhaust,” Evans said.

Eric Burch, communications director for the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development, said his state has 116 stations, including those on the interstate.

“We have a significant number of flex fuel vehicles in Indiana, and we look at it as also helping our farmers because the corn they grow becomes fuel for the state,” Burch said. A U.S. Department of Energy grant for \$312,000 is funding the pumps by covering up to 50 percent of the cost for a retailer to add the infrastructure necessary to offer the alternative fuels.

The Athens station is at Exit 351. The other Alabama exits that will have or now have stations are 282 in Warrior, 252 in Vestavia Hills, 179 in Prattville, 168 in Montgomery, 69 in Flomaton, 3 in Mobile and 1 in Mobile.



## **Athens becomes latest link in biodiesel 'Clean Corridor'**

**By Karen Middleton**  
**karen@athensnews-courier.com**

**October 09, 2008**

*Soon it will be possible to drive the 866 miles from Gary, Ind., to Mobile, in vehicles powered solely by biofuels.*

*Wednesday, Athens was officially designated one of five sites in Alabama with stations offering biofuels such as E85 (85 percent Ethanol, 15 percent gasoline) and B20 (20 percent biodiesel, 80 percent petroleum-based diesel).*

*The others adjacent to Interstate 65 are off exits 1 and 3, which are already open, Exit 69 that will open in December, and Exit 179 at Prattville.*

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The others adjacent to Interstate 65 are off exits 1 and 3, which are already open, Exit 69 that will open in December, and Exit 179 at Prattville.

Officials with the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Energy Division, as well as an Indiana official, joined to cut the ribbon at the site of the Athens station on U.S. 72 East.

The station, which according to distributor representative Don Evans of Ford's Fuel of Point Clear, will be up and running by the end of December. The station is to be located just east of Burger King and across from Russell Stover on property owned by Dwight Billions and Allen Shaw.

Evans said that biodiesel is selling for about \$2.86 in Mobile. He said a biodiesel plant being opened in Athens by Beverly and Melvin Kilgore on the old Knight Lumber site off Airport Road would become a part of a network of suppliers for biodiesel fuels to stations along the corridor.

Officials likened the importance of the opening of the corridor to modern transportation to the 1869 opening of the Transcontinental Railroad. They said it also shows the U.S. moving away from dependence on foreign oil.

State District 5 Sen. Parker Griffith, D-Huntsville, who was on hand for Wednesday's ribbon cutting, called the implementation of domestically produced biodiesel fuels a "security issue."

"It's more than miles per gallon," said Griffith. "It's a national security issue. Over the next 120 months we hope to wean off foreign oil. It's not only the cheapest, but it's something that America needs to buy into as good for the whole country. We have to develop that mind set. It's great for Alabama because it can be produced locally and feed our own economy."

Mark Bentley, executive director of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition said that the move to biodiesel is about 30 years behind.

"What we didn't do in the 1970s we are now doing in 2008 and beyond," said Bentley. "This partnership is important to move things forward in the state. We couldn't have done this without ADECA's Energy Division."

ADECA Executive Director Bill Johnson said, "We are glad to be able to partner with Auburn University in the development of biofuels. Some of the best research in the country is being done there. We have a 60-million-gallon-per-year capacity in Alabama. The link is getting this resource into use. This is where the rubber meets the road. We need to send the profits back to our farmers instead of Mideast countries, many of which don't appreciate us."

Eric Burch, communications director of the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development, said, "Bringing E85 and B20 pumps to drivers the entire length of I-65 not only promotes the use of cleaner fuels, but takes us closer to the goal of energy independence."

**BEN - Bama Environmental News**

**Thursday, October 9, 2008**

**By Pat Byington**

## **America's First Biofuels Corridor Opens In Mobile**

Earlier this week, the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition and the ADECA-Energy Division, in partnership with Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee state governments and businesses, opened up the nation's first Biofuels Corridor on I-65 beginning in Mobile and ending in Gary, Indiana.

There will now be thirty-two (32) E85 ethanol and eight (8) B20 biodiesel pumps throughout the 886 mile I-65 corridor. Fifteen (15) of the E85/B20 pumps are located in Alabama. E85 (85% Ethanol and 15% Gasoline) can be used in any vehicle designated to use "Flex Fuels." A guide to determine if your vehicle is Flex-Fuel ready may be found at <http://www.e85refueling.com>. B20 (20% Biodiesel, 80% petroleum based diesel) may be used in any diesel engine.

Alabama has been moving forward on several fronts in the past 2-3 years promoting alternative energy/fuels. Some of those of those projects have included:

- \* City of Hoover is operating 85% of its vehicles on alternative fuels;
- \* "Grease to Biodiesel" programs implemented in Hoover, Montgomery, Daphne, and Gadsden;
- \* City of Auburn's 250 diesel vehicle fleet now uses biodiesel;
- \* Gulf Coast Energy opens and produces ethanol at their first cellulosic ethanol demonstration plant in Livingston, Alabama.

To learn more about the I-65 Biofuels Corridor and projects throughout Alabama, visit <http://www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org>.

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