

Report offers valuable information (Ingram)

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By

If you ever wondered about the readership of the Mobile Press-Register's columnists, just let K.A. Turner write something about you. Since her recent Sunday article on the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance's strategic planning process and my probable retirement within two years, I have received dozens of calls not only from lower Alabama, but from all over Alabama and much of the South!

You have quite a following K.A.

In a regional meeting held recently with Bill Taylor, the CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, several of his outstanding EDPA executive staff members and other allies, we got our first look at a draft of the "Collaborative and Regional Framework for Renewal of the Alabama Gulf Coast" report.

The information developed and the regional targets identified within provided proof of several things we thought were true, revealed gaps in knowledge in other areas and provided a framework that local economic development organizations can use to bring the regional data down to the county level.

Some of the transportation models developed will be extremely useful for future road infrastructure planning. Great job, EDPA and partners.

At the meeting discussed above, Troy Wayman, vice president of economic development for the Mobile chamber, made a hilarious but profound statement about one of the new tools identified.

Troy basically said that the idea would work great in the real world but would never work in theory.

Just the opposite of the dozens of theoretically score-lowering golf gimmicks I have bought over the years, to keep from having to practice. But when I do retire, I'll have lots more time to find gimmicks that actually work.

That's my theory anyway.



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Robert Ingram is president and CEO of the **Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.**

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