

CCSP's economic panel updated on 'parkway' project

By THE SIFTINGS HERALD

The economic development subcommittee of the Clark County Strategic Plan heard reports on the aviation program at Henderson State University and on a new university boulevard during its regular meeting Monday night.

Hank Wilson, director of the aviation program at Henderson, told the group there are now 115 students enrolled in the program, but he hopes to expand the program to 200 students.

Fees for use of the facilities at the Dexter Florence Memorial Airport are paid by the students in addition to regular tuition and fees, Wilson said. In order for the program to remain successful, a larger airport is needed. Once a feasibility study is complete, funds for

construction of a new facility can be obtained from the Federal Aviation Administration and the state Aeronautics Department. Wilson told the group that the new construction could be funded up to 95 percent by FAA grants and 5 percent by state grants.

The group decided to seek grants to pay for the study.

Arkadelphia city Manager Jimmy Bolt also reported on the progress of the "university parkway" project. The plan calls for the widening of 10th Street to allow for a tree-lined median to provide a nicer entrance to the city and universities.

In a report from last month's meeting,

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Shelly Loe reported on a meeting she and Phil Baldwin had with officials of AT&T regarding the installation of broadband Internet in Clark County. The project is feasible, but money has to be found to pay for it.

Dr. Wesley Kluck, co-chairman of the Clark County Strategic Plan, reported that he will be in Colorado later this month for a conference. The conference location is near the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which Kluck said he plans to visit in order to learn more about alternative fuels.