

CONNECT Our FUTURE



Community Growth Workshops Summary



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The 14-county bi-state region includes: Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina.

Community Growth Workshops Summary

“CONNECT Our Future” is a process in which communities, counties, businesses, educators, non-profits and other organizations work together to grow jobs and the economy, improve quality of life, and control the cost of government. The project will create a regional growth framework developed through extensive community engagement and built on what communities identify as existing conditions, future plans and needs, and potential strategies.

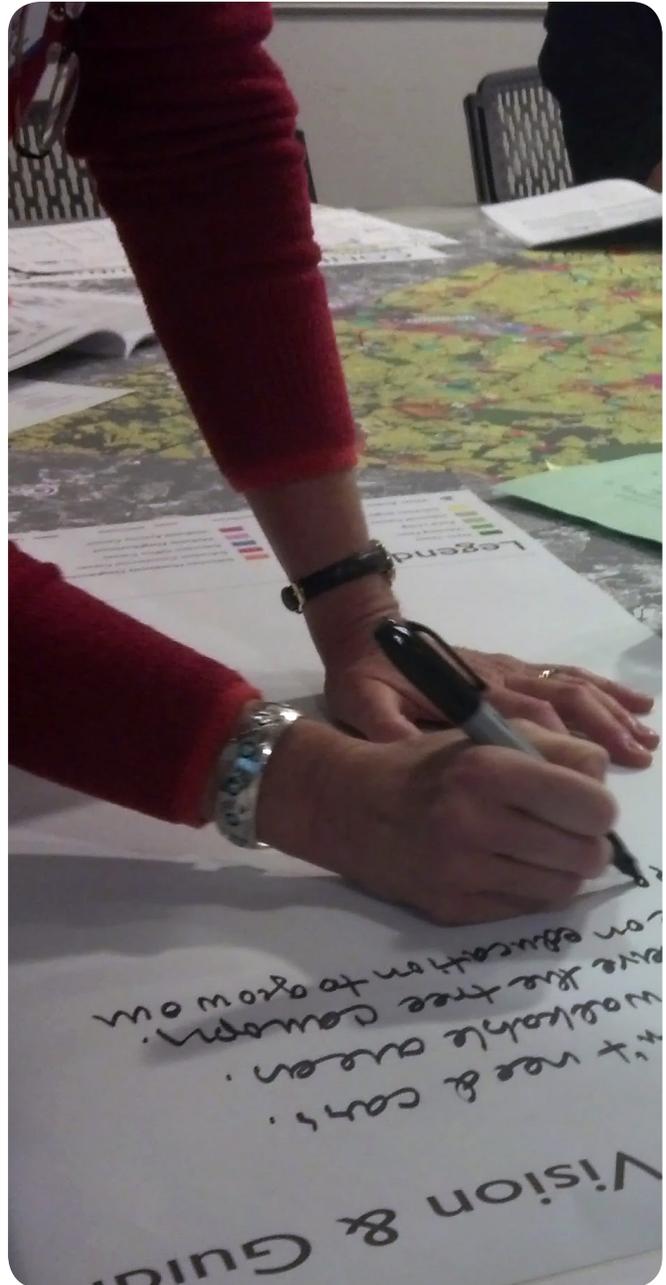
The Community Growth Workshops Summary Document for CONNECT Our Future summarizes what we learned from fifty-seven events held in the fourteen CONNECT counties. It captures participants’ thoughts and ideas about future growth and development in their county; including a list of guiding principles to follow, work maps highlighting where to grow and how to develop, and participants’ comments on the work of others to find consensus in the room.

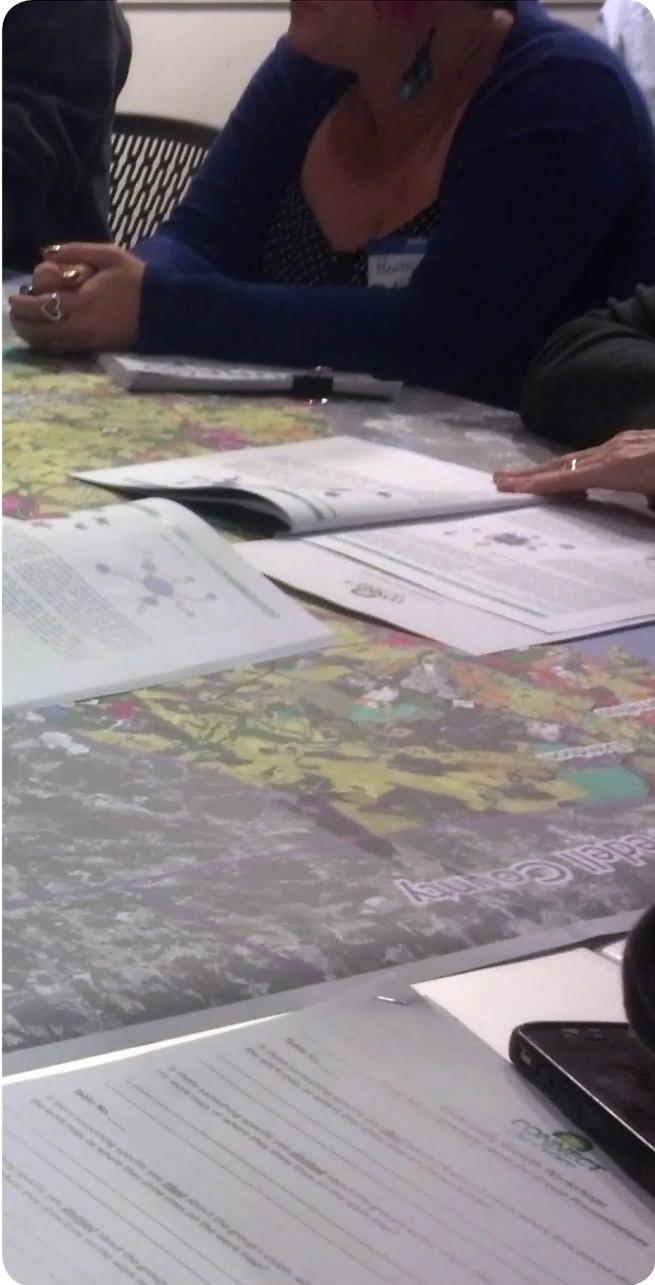
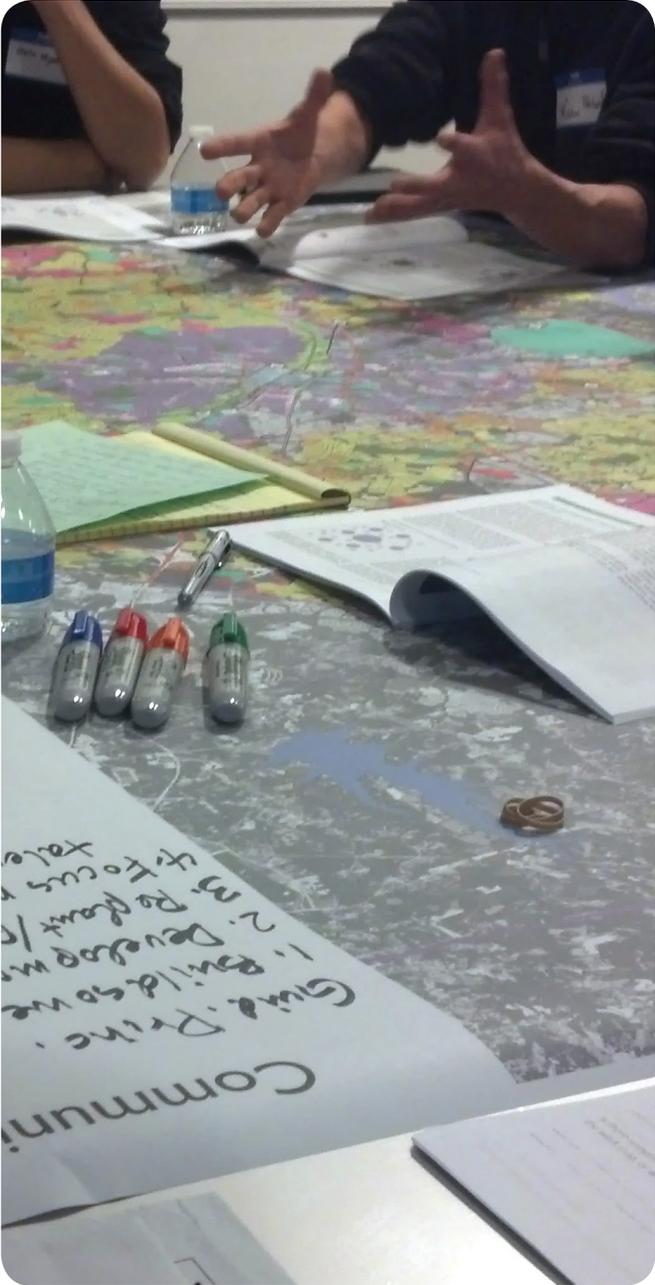
We again thank everyone who attended one of the events!

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

This document was prepared by the Centralina Council of Governments and Catawba Regional Council of Governments in partnership with Seven Hills Town Planning Group, Inc., Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., the Lee Institute, and the Design and Society Research Center at the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

Introduction to the CONNECT Region & Event Details





Introduction

CONNECT Our Future is a three-year program (2012 – 2014) aimed at bringing together communities, counties, states, businesses, educators, non-profit organizations and the general public across fourteen counties in North and South Carolina to develop a shared, long-term vision for the future of the region. It builds on the CONNECT Vision completed in 2008, and continues the region's focus on well-managed growth, a safe and healthy environment, a strong and diverse economy, high quality education opportunities, enhanced social equity, and increased collaboration among jurisdictions. The program is supported by a \$4.9 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant and \$3.0 million in local public and private resources.

Fifty-seven Community Growth Workshops were held in the fourteen counties to support the scenario planning initiative for CONNECT Our Future. They captured participants' thoughts and ideas about future growth and development in their county; including a list of guiding principles to follow, work maps highlighting where to grow and how to develop, and participants' comments on the work of others to find consensus in the room. Each event started with the same question from the project team:

As growth continues in the county, on what terms are you willing to accept it, where does it need to go, and what does it need to look like for a bright future?

Small groups working with meeting facilitators and the hands-on resources of the development chip game were able to apply (and react to) their vision for a 2050 planning horizon, and adjust their recommendations during the event until the group felt confident their county was heading in the right direction. Data and themes collected from the workshop events are the focus of the Community Growth Workshop Summary Document.

Information gathered from the Community Growth Workshops will be used for developing alternative growth scenarios to test using CommunityViz software. Results from the scenario planning initiative will be shared with the public in March and April 2014, and their comments will help leaders in the CONNECT Region begin the process to identify a framework of common goals and key partnerships for meeting the challenges and opportunities associated with future development in the region.

Other resource documents that support the CONNECT Our Future process are available on the project's website (www.ConnectOurFuture.org).

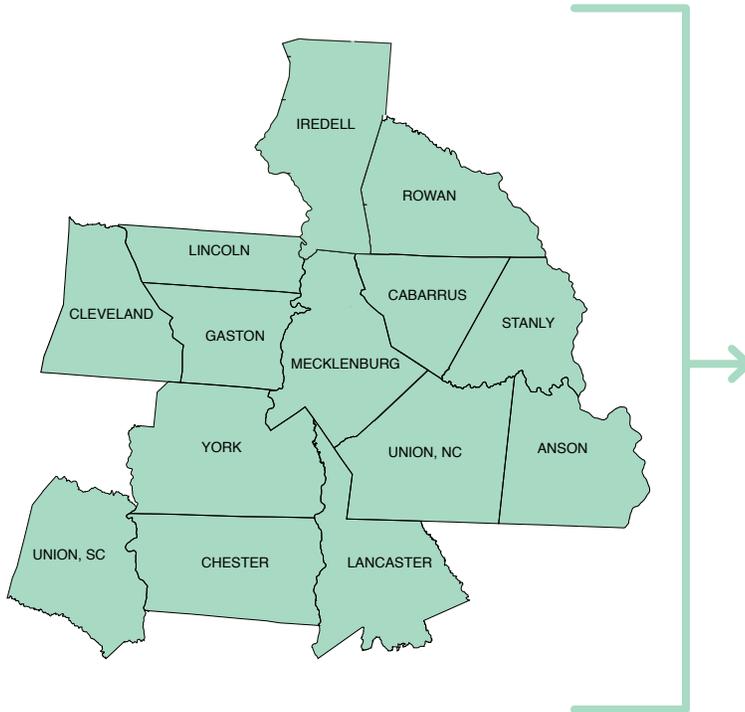
CONNECT Region

The CONNECT Region is expansive, covering 7,100 square miles and 1.127 million parcels of real estate, two states, and fourteen counties. It includes 120 local communities and countless special districts such as fire districts, school districts, soil and water conservation districts, transportation divisions, etc. Cities and towns in the region range from large metropolitan centers to rural crossroads. Environmental features, such as water basins, prime agriculture soils, and air quality, bind the region together and blur city, town, county, and state boundaries.

Together, the CONNECT Region represents a land area larger than the State of Connecticut and a population greater than fifteen US States (US Census Bureau, 2010). US Census data indicates the CONNECT Region was the fastest growing region over one million in the United States between 2000 and 2010, and projections indicate the population could nearly double in four decades (2050).

The region is home to the world headquarters for eight Fortune 500 companies, as well as other major employers in medical, manufacturing, energy, financial, and transportation business sectors. Over half of the region's workforce lives in one county and works in another, which reinforces the need for more coordinated decision-making processes in housing, transportation, economic development, and other supporting infrastructure.

Map of the CONNECT Region:



Physical Characteristics of the CONNECT Region:

- 7,100 square miles
- 1.127 million parcels
- 2 states
- 14 counties
- 3 major water basins
- 3 councils of government
- 4 metropolitan planning organizations
- 120 local communities

Population in the CONNECT Region:

2010: 2,431,500

2050*: 4,241,000

* Projected Numbers



Employment in the CONNECT Region:

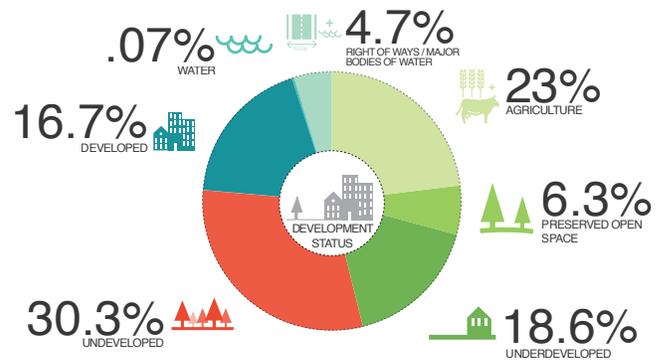
2010: 1,313,995

2050*: 2,177,255

* Projected Numbers



Development Status in the CONNECT Region:



Underdeveloped: Developed land with a significant portion still available for future development (under-utilized lots or parcels), or developed land with buildings or structures in need of redevelopment.

Who Attended the Event?

1,195 people attended one of the fifty-seven Community Growth Workshops held between September and November 2013 to support CONNECT Our Future. A demographic profile of workshop attendees prepared by the Lee Institute is provided on the following pages.



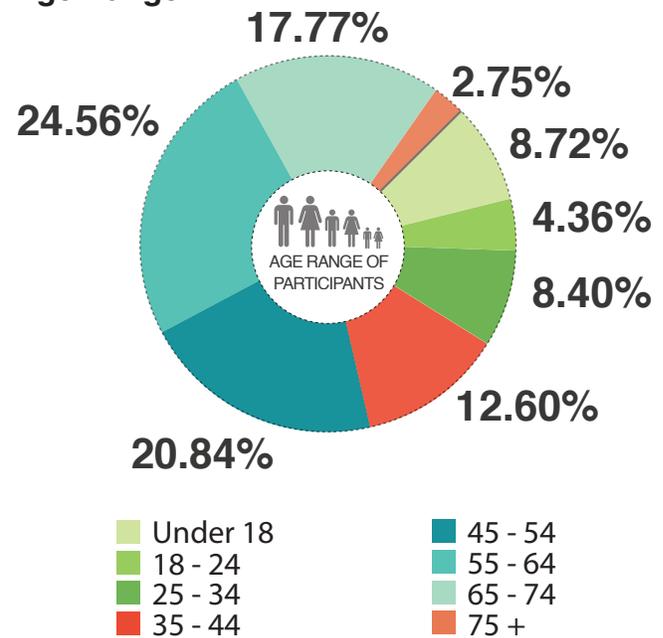
1,195

total participants in the regional workshops, including 80 youth participants, 97 Latino participants, and 21 low income participants.

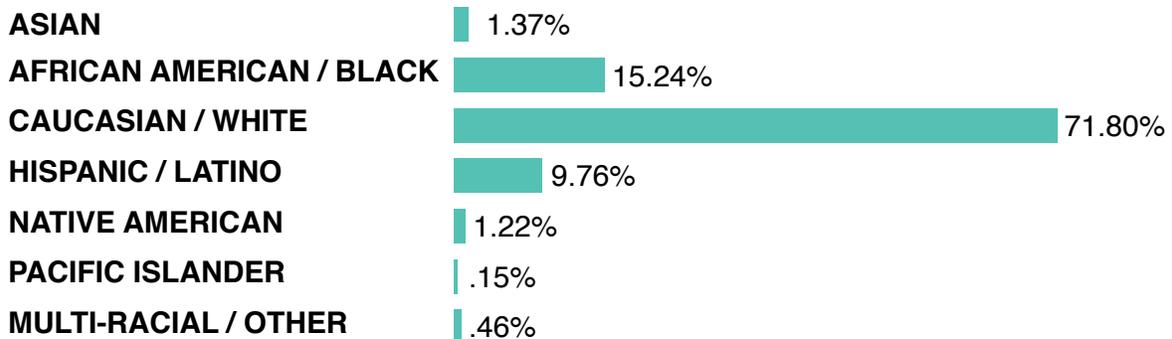
9%

participants who listed English as their second language compared to the regional average 6.91%.

Age Range:



Race / Ethnicity:



Participant Employment Status:

| Sector | Total | Percentage |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| UNEMPLOYED | 47 | 6.78% |
| EMPLOYED PART-TIME | 54 | 7.79% |
| TEMPORARY OR CONTRACT WORK | 17 | 2.45% |
| EMPLOYED FULL-TIME | 316 | 45.60% |
| SELF-EMPLOYED | 76 | 10.97% |
| HOMEMAKER OR STUDENT | 59 | 8.51% |
| RETIRED | 117 | 16.89% |
| UNABLE TO WORK | 3 | .43% |
| OTHER | 4 | .58% |
| Total | 693 | 100% |

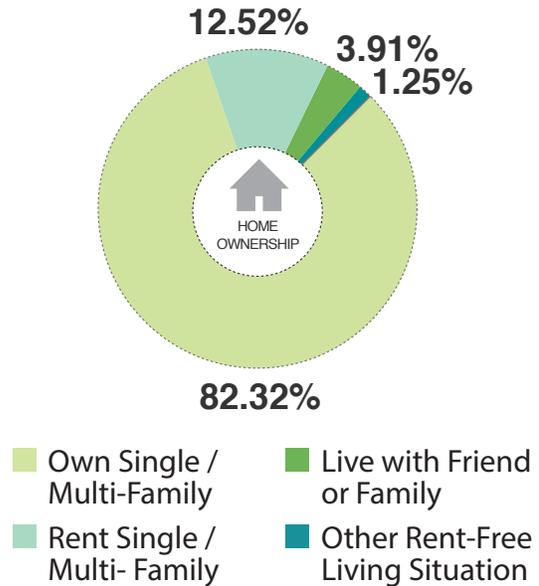
Participant Employment Type:

| Sector | Total | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| FOR-PROFIT | 62 | 11.99% |
| RELIGIOUS/CHARTITABLE | 18 | 3.48% |
| PROFESSIONAL | 84 | 16.25% |
| EDUCATION | 63 | 12.19% |
| GOVERNMENT | 129 | 24.95% |
| OTHER NON-PROFIT | 72 | 13.93% |
| EMPLOYED w/o PAY IN FAMILY BUSINESS | 10 | 1.93% |
| RESEARCH | 10 | 1.93% |
| MEDICAL | 13 | 2.52% |
| SALES | 30 | 5.80% |
| OTHER | 26 | 5.03% |
| Total | 517 | 100% |

30%

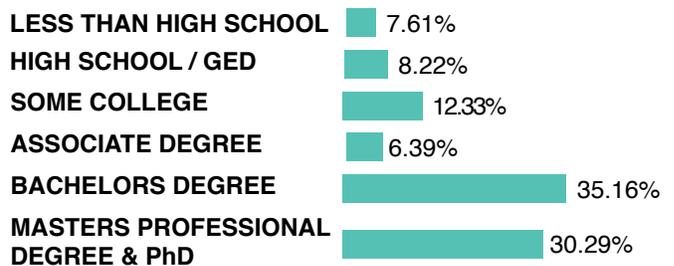
participants who make less than \$50,000 a year.

Participant Home Ownership Status

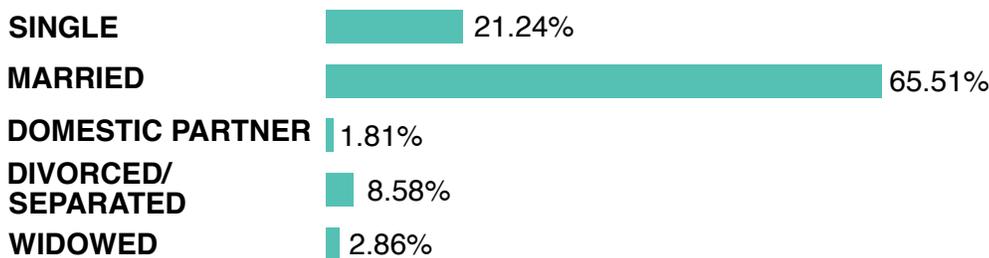


18% attendees who work in a different county than they live

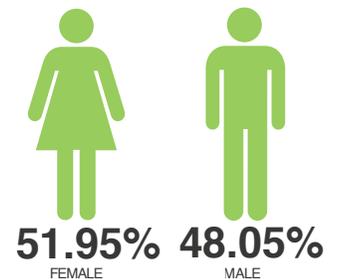
Participant Education Levels:



Participant Current Marital Status:



Participant Gender:



The Participants' Experience

The Community Growth Workshops for CONNECT Our Future were designed so that participants at each workshop would experience a similar event. Participants in all fifty-seven workshops were informed by a participant guide that was distributed prior to each workshop and an agenda developed to ensure everyone started and finished the exercise during the two hour time-frame. Participants worked in groups of 8 to 10 people to take on the challenge of building consensus for a shared vision for growth and conservation over the next 40 years of growth in the county. Each table was provided resource maps, a development chip set packet, markers, and a large, table-size work map for completing their task. A trained facilitator at each table answered questions and kept the group moving through the different activities within the time allotted. A lead facilitator, who also acted as “banker” during the chip game exercise, moved throughout the room answering questions, addressing special issues, and recording observations that will be useful for influencing the alternative growth scenarios developed in subsequent phases of the scenario planning process.

The paragraphs that follow describe some of the key information, decisions, activities, or deliverables associated with the development chip game completed at each table.

Opening Presentation

A lead facilitator for each workshop started the event with a brief presentation, which was used to highlight current conditions in the county, summarize growth trends anticipated through 2050, provide a synopsis of earlier input for the CONNECT project, and review workshop instructions for completing the exercise. Questions were answered from the large group so that everyone felt comfortable with the table top exercise that followed.

Set Vision & Establish Guiding Principles

At each table, a facilitator worked with participants in their group create a vision for growth and conservation in the county supported by a set of guiding principles that could implement key aspects of the vision. Guiding principles addressed a number of issues important to growth and conservation, including business development, transportation, utility



infrastructure, farmland protection, schools, expectations for the type and pattern of future development (e.g., rural vs. suburban vs. walkable development), general growth policies, and environmental stewardship. Each group's table facilitator recorded their vision and guiding principles directly on the work map and referred to them often throughout the exercise to ensure the group stayed focused on achieving their image of the county in 40 years.



Decide Where Not to Grow

For the next part of the workshop, table facilitators asked participants to use the markers and resource maps to identify areas “off the table” for accommodating future development. Participants marked directly on the work map (in black marker) areas off limits to meet their vision for the county; including parks, protected open space, areas not served by utilities, or active farmland. Participants' notes were captured on the work map near the areas identified as off limits to explain why areas marked in black should be protected.

Identify Priority Growth Areas

After identifying areas where participants did not want to see growth, table facilitators asked participants to again use the markers and resource maps to indicate priority growth areas for accommodating future development.



These areas benefited from good geography, available infrastructure, local policies that support future development or redevelopment, or the group's consensus for other reasons. Participants marked directly on the work map (in orange marker) areas where future development should be encouraged; including downtowns, major transportation corridors, or the wedges in between.

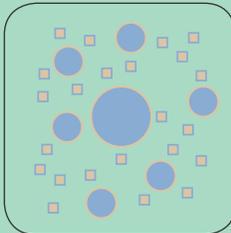


Their notes were placed on the work map near the areas identified for future growth to explain why areas marked in orange should be targeted for future development.

Select a Starting Chip Packet

Four distinct development patterns were identified during ULI's Reality Check 2050 for meeting the demands of future growth, and these general themes served as the launching point for the development chip games that were part of the Community Growth Workshops. Development themes from the ULI event were translated into starting chip packets for the different workshops by identifying a unique combination of community types (stickers representing preferred land uses, densities, and patterns of development) to accommodate future growth forecasted in each of the fourteen counties. Community types available for the different chip packets included rural living, industrial center, suburban single-family neighborhood, suburban multifamily neighborhood, suburban commercial center, suburban office center, walkable neighborhood, walkable activity center, transit activity center, urban center, and metropolitan center. Facilitators at each table worked with participants to select one chip packet that best represented their vision and guiding principles for growth and conservation in the county. The other three packets were returned to the lead facilitator.

The four development themes represented by starting chip packets for the development chip games included: dispersed growth, compact urban, multiple centers, and major corridors. A description of each from the Community Growth Workshop Participant Guide follows:

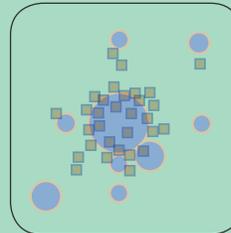


Dispersed Growth

The dispersed growth pattern favors single-use, low-density development that is generally isolated. Expanding into surrounding rural areas generally

requires outward expansion of public utilities, and the physical distance between complementary uses such as home to work, home to shopping, or home to school promotes automobile travel. Many families with children enjoy the home and lot sizes available in low-density suburban neighborhoods, and the affordability is often cited as an acceptable trade-off for longer commute times.

Community types prevalent in the dispersed growth pattern include: suburban single-family neighborhood, suburban multifamily neighborhood, suburban commercial center, suburban office center, and industrial center.

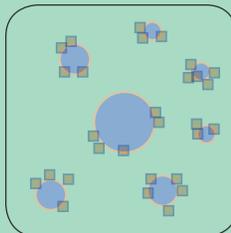


Compact Urban

The dispersed growth pattern favors single-use, low-density development that is generally isolated. Expanding into surrounding rural areas generally

requires outward expansion of public utilities, and the physical distance between complementary uses such as home to work, home to shopping, or home to school promotes automobile travel. Many families with children enjoy the home and lot sizes available in low-density suburban neighborhoods, and the affordability is often cited as an acceptable trade-off for longer commute times.

Community types prevalent in the dispersed growth pattern include: suburban single-family neighborhood, suburban multifamily neighborhood, suburban commercial center, suburban office center, and industrial center.

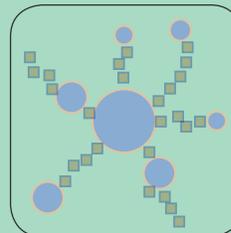


Multiple Centers

The multiple centers growth pattern focuses development into compact communities with nearby opportunities to live, work, shop, and entertainment. Development in each center could vary in scale,

use, and intensity throughout the region and represent a diverse array of development such as rural living, community centers, employment centers, or town centers. Housing choice and job opportunities among the different growth centers make them attractive to young adults, families, and retirees. Areas outside the growth centers would be reserved for open space or agriculture uses under the development theme.

Community types prevalent in the multiple centers growth pattern include: walkable neighborhood, walkable activity center, transit activity center, and urban center.



Major Corridors

The major corridors growth pattern concentrates development along existing or potential new transportation corridors in the region, including road and rail corridors. The

mix of uses and development intensities vary based the surrounding development context — urban, suburban, or rural — with defined activity nodes spaced appropriately. Some corridors could support multiple modes of transportation to satisfy daily travel needs such as work, shopping, and school.

Community types prevalent in the major corridors growth pattern include: suburban single-family neighborhood, suburban multifamily neighborhood, suburban commercial center, suburban office center, industrial center, walkable neighborhood, walkable activity center, and urban center.

Arrange Chips on the Map

After selecting a chip packet, participants arranged their chips on the work map to realize the group’s vision and guiding principles for growth and conservation in the county. Participants tested ideas as the chips moved around the work map, experimenting with different themes or alternatives to accommodate all of the projected growth. Some groups traded chips in their starting chip packet with the “banker” (the lead facilitator) to better represent the development types, patterns, and intensities associated with their vision for growth and conservation. Rules for trading chips were defined prior to the Community Growth Workshops and consistently used to ensure the same amount of growth for each county (population and employees) was represented on all the work maps.

After a ten-minute warning, participants at each table peeled the backing from all their chips (stickers) and affixed them to the work map. Additional notes were added to the work map to explain the group’s thinking associated with placement of stickers on the map.

Draw New Infrastructure

Once chips were affixed to the map, facilitators asked participants to identify new or improved roads, transit corridors, or greenways needed to support the group’s vision for growth and conservation in the county. Participants marked directly on the work map (in blue marker) the location and type of new roads needed to support the vision. New transit corridors (using a red marker) and greenways (using a green marker) were also added to the map to support the vision. Participants’ notes were placed on the work map near the identified improvements to explain key issues or considerations associated with the proposed improvement.

Group Presentations

At the conclusion of the chip game exercise, each table group was given a few minutes to summarize their experience; presenting thoughts around their vision for growth and conservation in the county, guiding principles to support the vision, preferred development patterns and intensities, new infrastructure needs, and closing remarks.



Other groups listened to the presentations and used a form provided by the meeting facilitators to record their thoughts, comments, or concerns with the vision or work map presented.



Closing Remarks

A lead facilitator for each event thanked participants for their input and briefly outlined next steps in the scenario planning initiative for CONNECT Our Future.

What Did We Do With the Data?

A tremendous amount of information was collected from the fifty-seven Community Growth Workshops, which will be added to other feedback collected throughout all phases of CONNECT Our Future to develop alternative growth scenarios for testing in CommunityViz software. The type of data collected from the workshop events is summarized below. County-level data generated at the workshop events is presented in the next section of the document.

Guiding Principles

Meeting facilitators recorded the vision and guiding principles on the work maps (see Image 1 to the right), and the project team for CONNECT Our Future summarized information for each event using relevant themes that emerged based on the data. Guiding principles are presented by county and by theme in the next section of the summary document.

Starting Chip Packet

The project team for CONNECT Our Future recorded the chip packet selections at each event to gauge where most groups started the game. This information is summarized by county in the next section of the summary document.

Where to Grow?

The project team for CONNECT Our Future transferred the black and orange marker line data from each of the county work maps to a single county composite map using a clear acetate overlay (see Image 2 to the right). The team then looked for areas of agreement represented by locations on the composite map marked repeatedly after transferring data from the underlying work maps. Boundaries for ‘where to grow’ or ‘where not to grow’ in each county were best fit for the maps presented in the next section of the summary document based on the various lines depicted on the composite maps

How to Grow?

The project team for CONNECT Our Future transferred sticker data from each of the county work maps to a single county composite map using a clear acetate overlay (see Image 3 to the right). Every sticker placed on the work maps, organized by sticker location and sticker type, was recorded on the county-level composite maps presented in the next section of the document.

Supporting Infrastructure

The project team for CONNECT Our Future transferred the blue, red, and green marker line data from each of the county work maps to a single county composite map for each infrastructure category (three maps total per county) using a clear acetate overlay. The team then looked for areas of agreement represented by locations on the composite maps marked repeatedly after transferring data from the underlying work maps. All lines representing new or improved roads, transit service, or greenways were recorded on the county-level composite maps presented in the next section of the document. Areas of agreement between the county work maps are highlighted in yellow on the same composite maps.

Group Presentations

Forms were collected and summarized by the project team for CONNECT Our Future. Direct quotes from the comment forms are presented by county in the next section of the summary document.

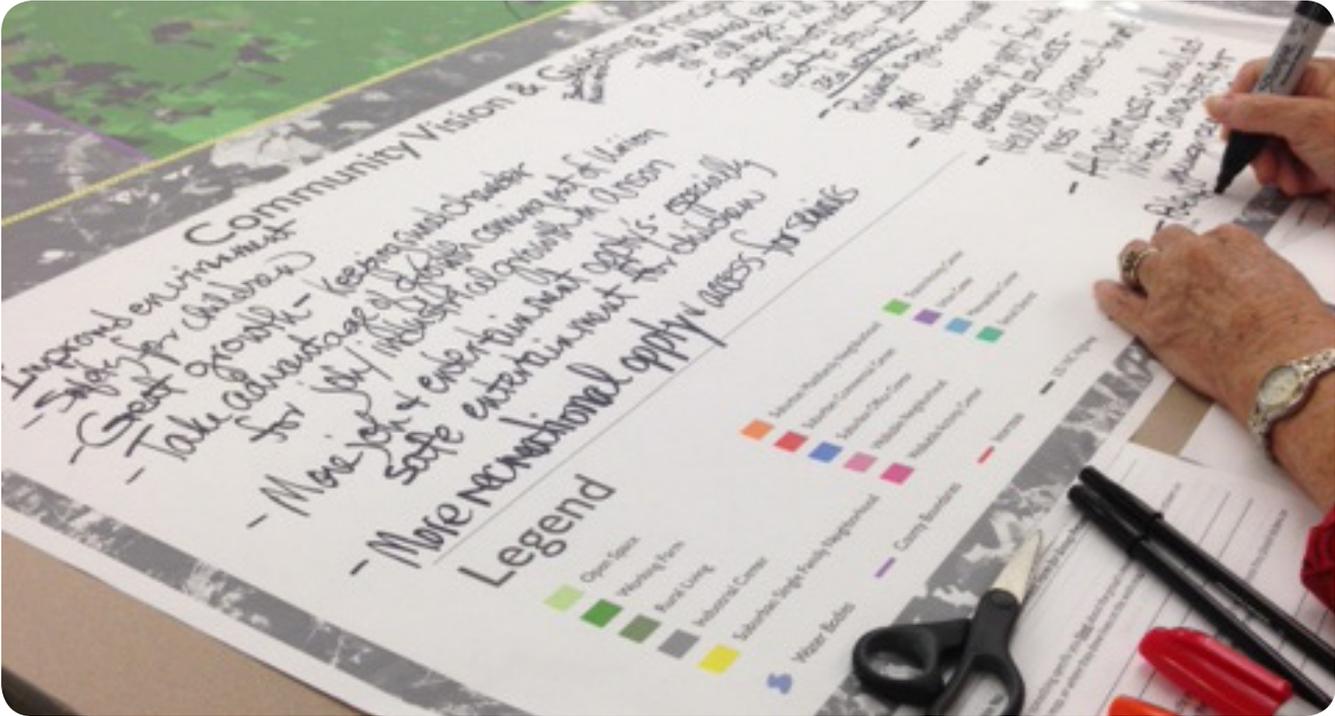


Image 1

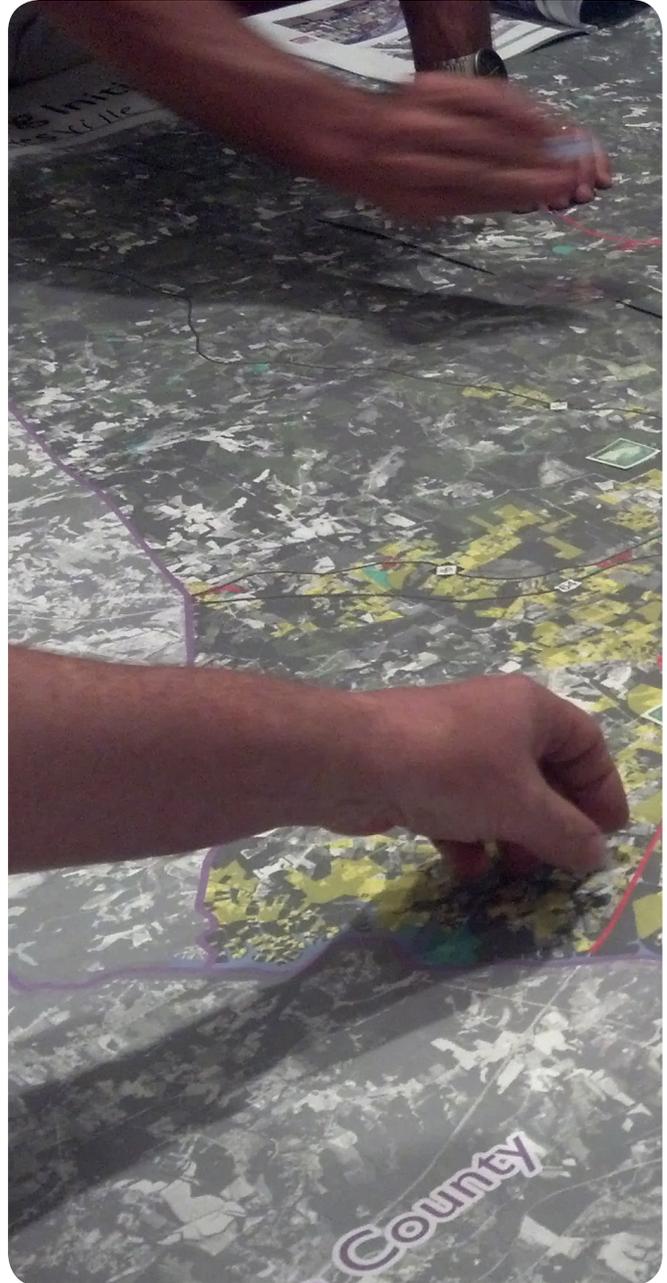


Image 2



Image 3

Community Growth Workshops





“We want Anson County to grow!”

“We have an image problem.”

“Everyone had pretty much the same vision for the county.”

“Let us live and work in the same county.”

“I was really surprised by how similar our communities’ desires and goals were for jobs, development patterns, and transportation.”

“Give us opportunities to grow.”

“Need more, better transit options.”

“Give us a reason for our children to stay here.”



Anson County

Workshop: Wadesboro, NC

September 17, 2013

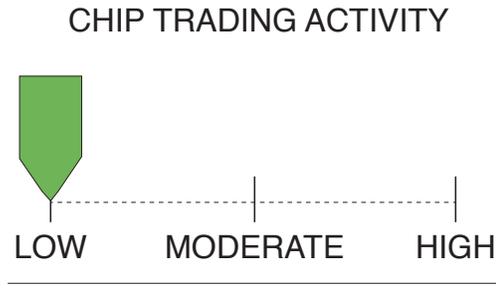
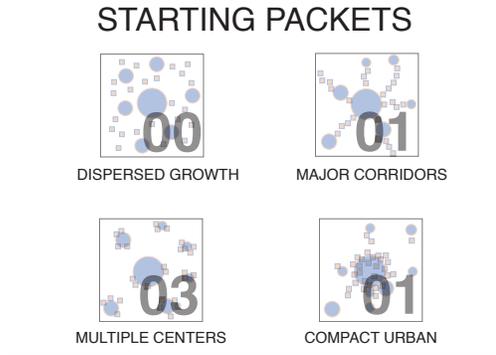
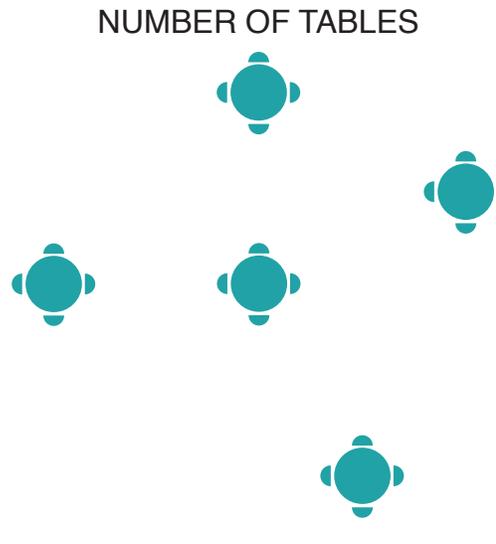
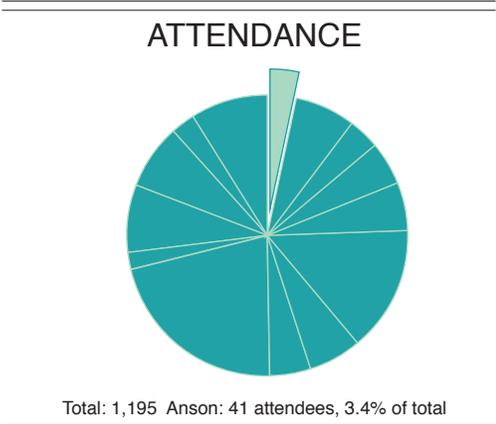
AM, Noon, PM

Anson County Information

The Community Growth Workshop for Anson County was held on September 17, 2013, at the South Piedmont Community College in Wadesboro. Forty-one people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Five tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Anson County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Anson County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Anson County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

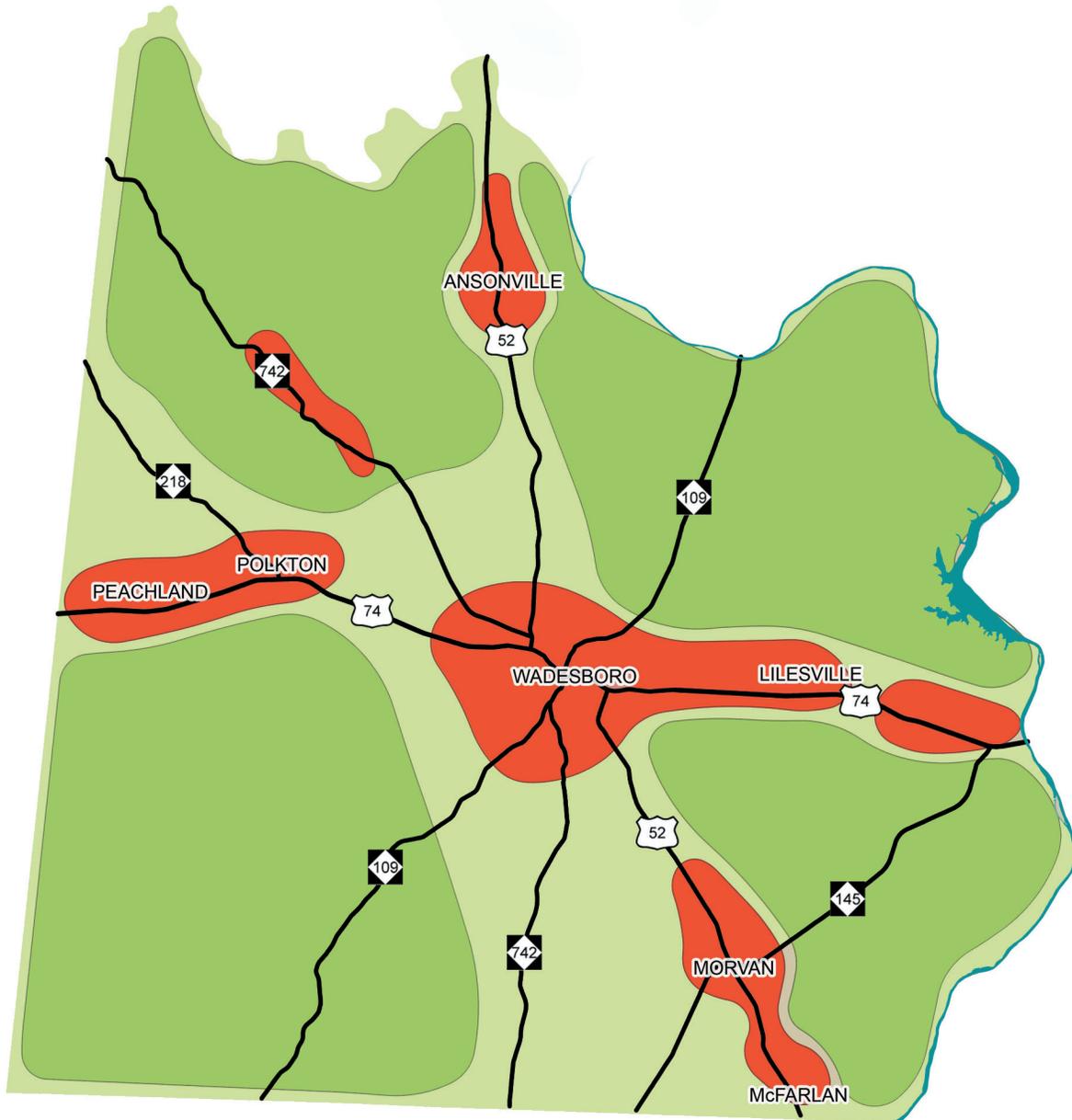


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

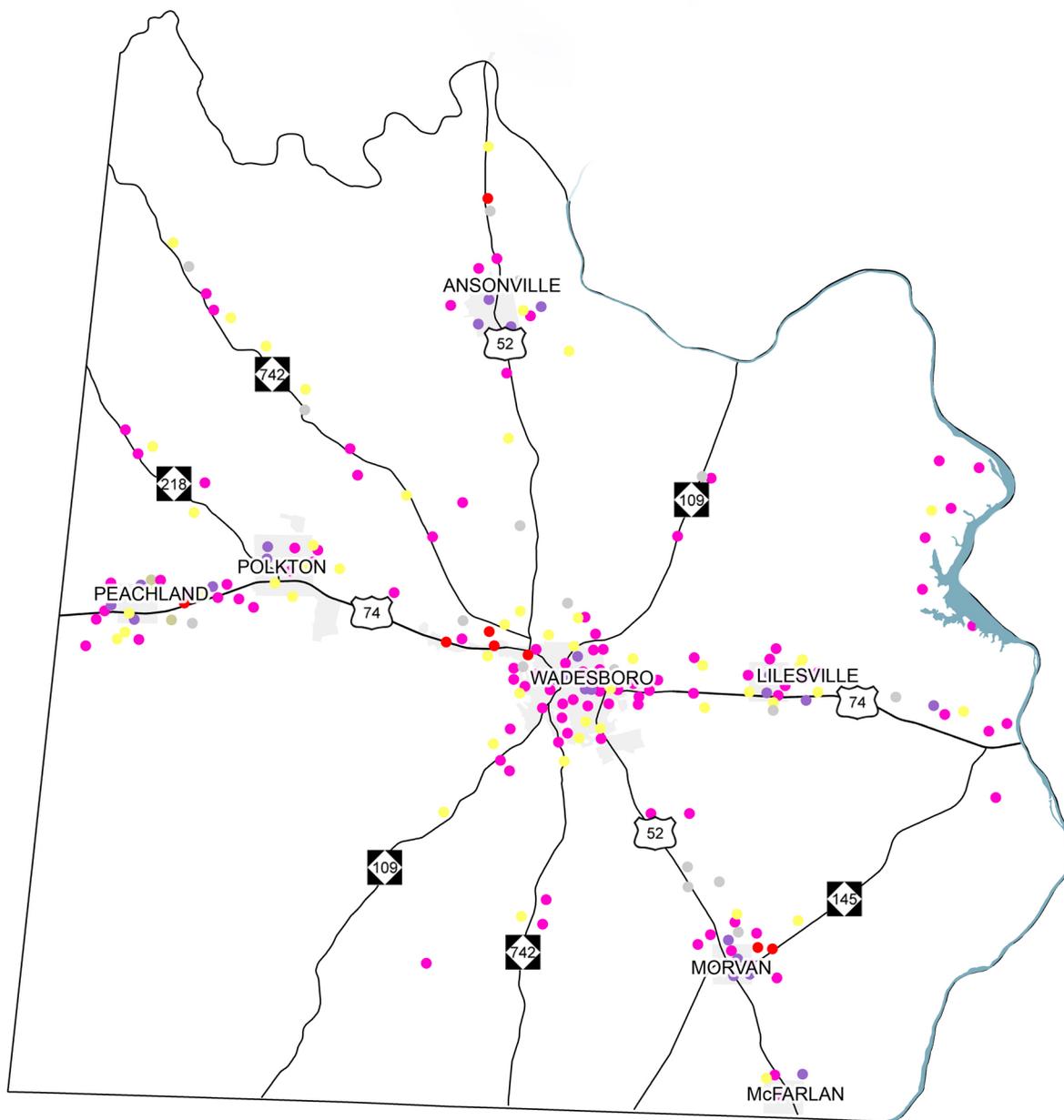


General Areas in the County to Preserve



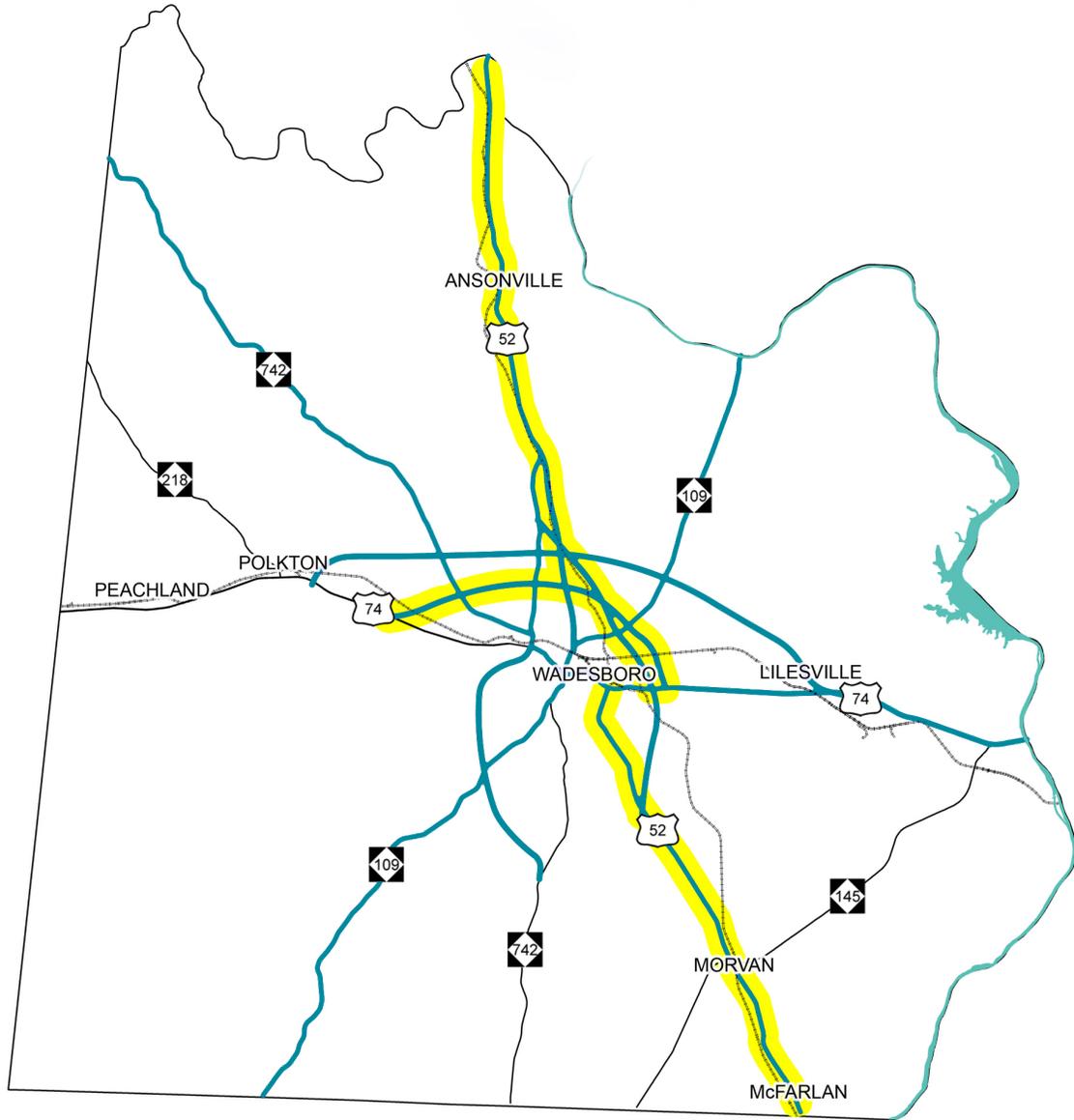
General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

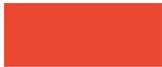
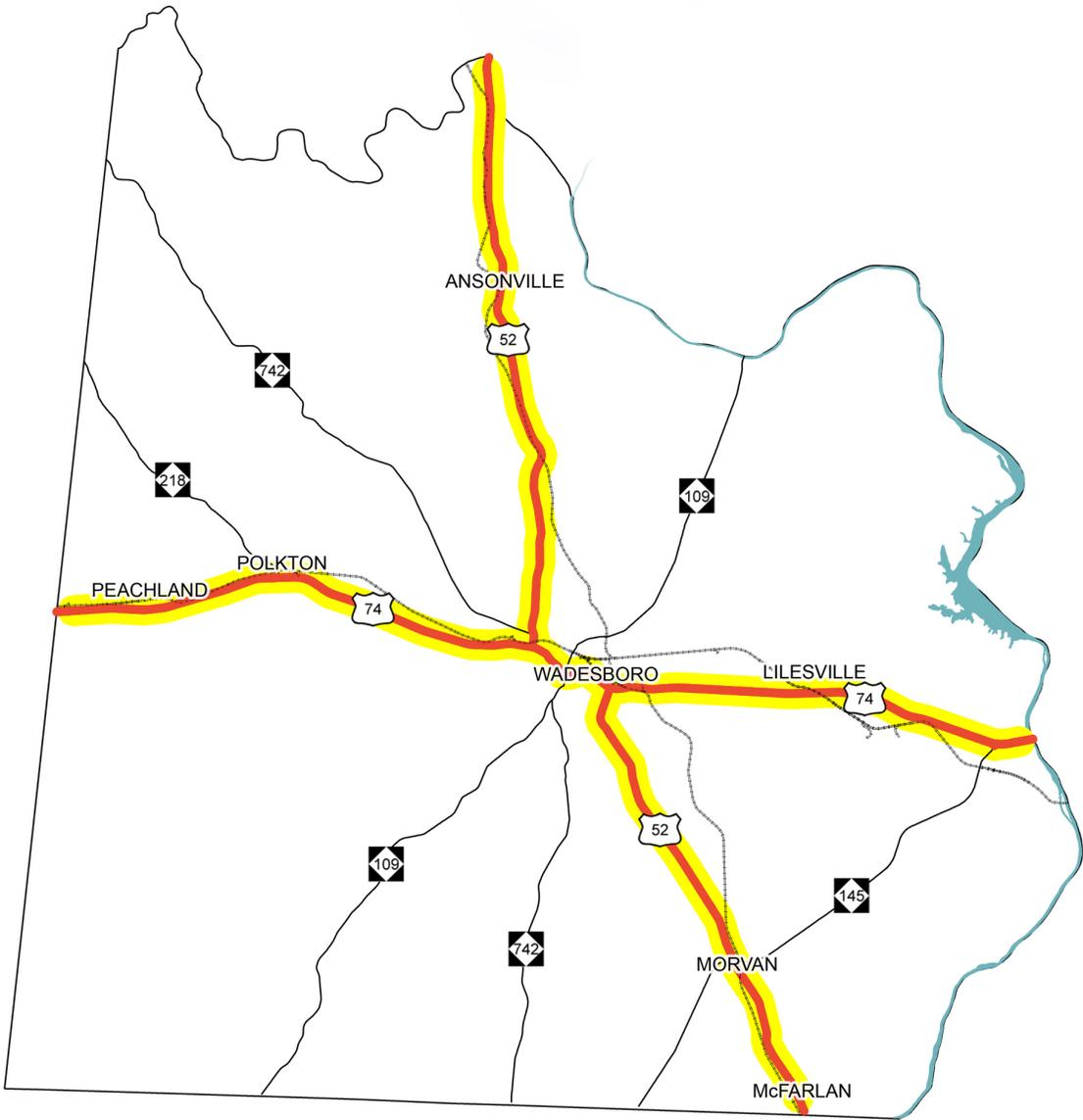


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

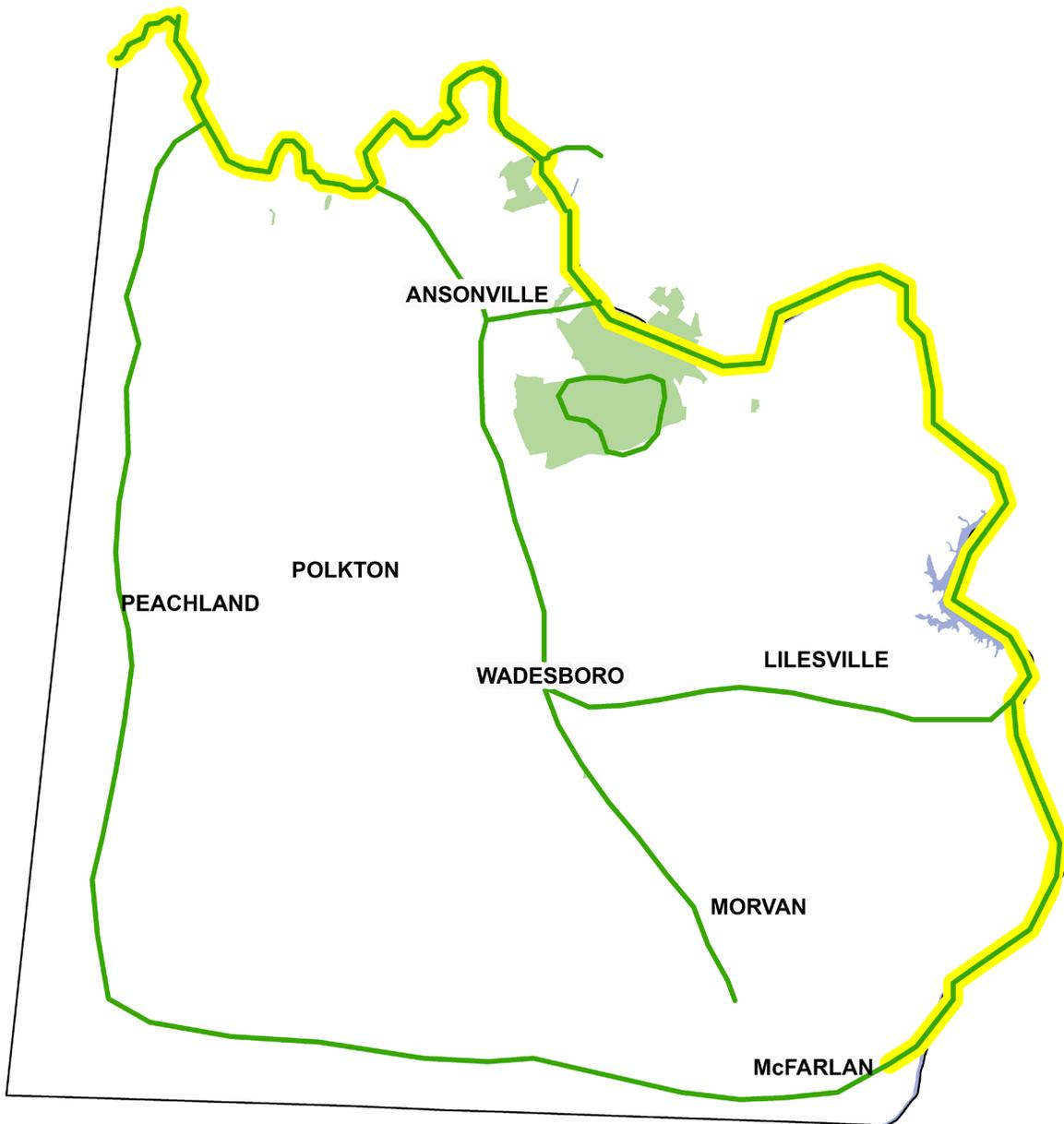


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



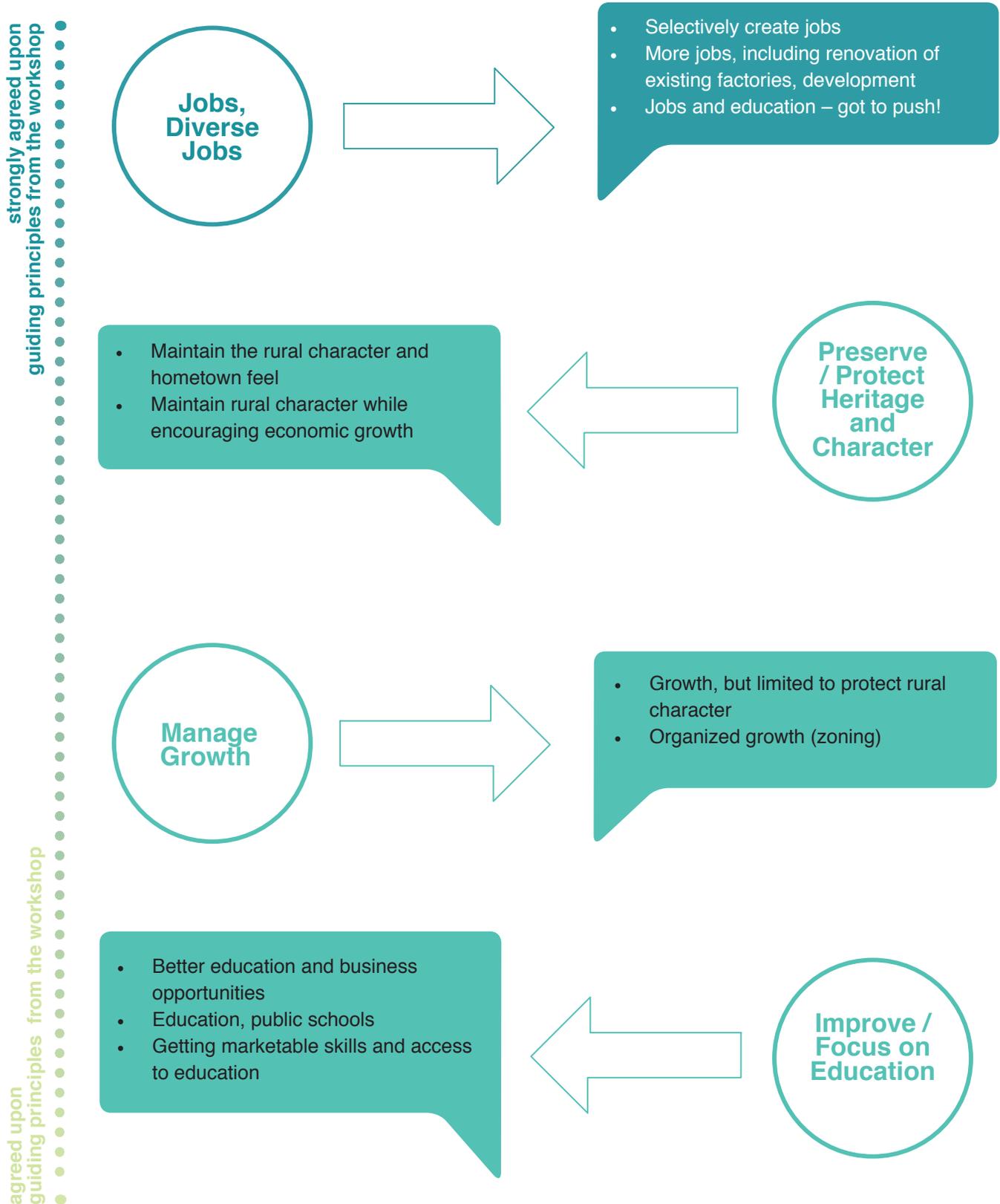
Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

Anson County Guiding Principles:



“Preserve farmland in the eastern half of the county.”

“Walkable neighborhoods.”

“Focus on our city centers.”

“Vibrant communities.”

“El lago nuevo.”

“We need good schools, roads, and jobs!”

“Yes, there were some disagreements at our table about how to plan our future.”

“I like the feel of farms & rural areas in the county.”



Cabarrus County

Workshop: Concord, NC

September 24, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Workshop: Kannapolis, NC

October 29, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Cabarrus County Information

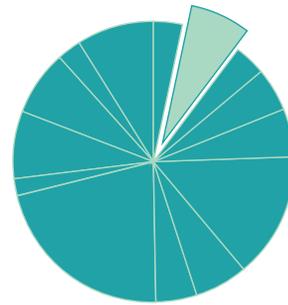
Two Community Growth Workshops were held for Cabarrus County. The first was on September 24, 2013, at the Concord First Assembly Church in Concord. The second was on October 29, 2013, at the St. James Greater Catholic Church in Kannapolis. Ninety-four people attended one of the four identical sessions held during the two events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Twelve tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Cabarrus County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Cabarrus County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Cabarrus County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

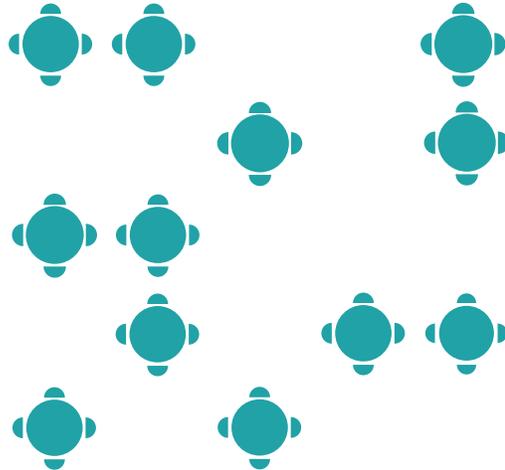


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Cabarrus: 94 attendees, 7.8% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS

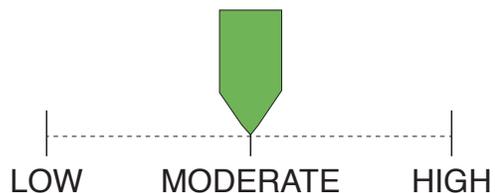


MULTIPLE CENTERS



COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

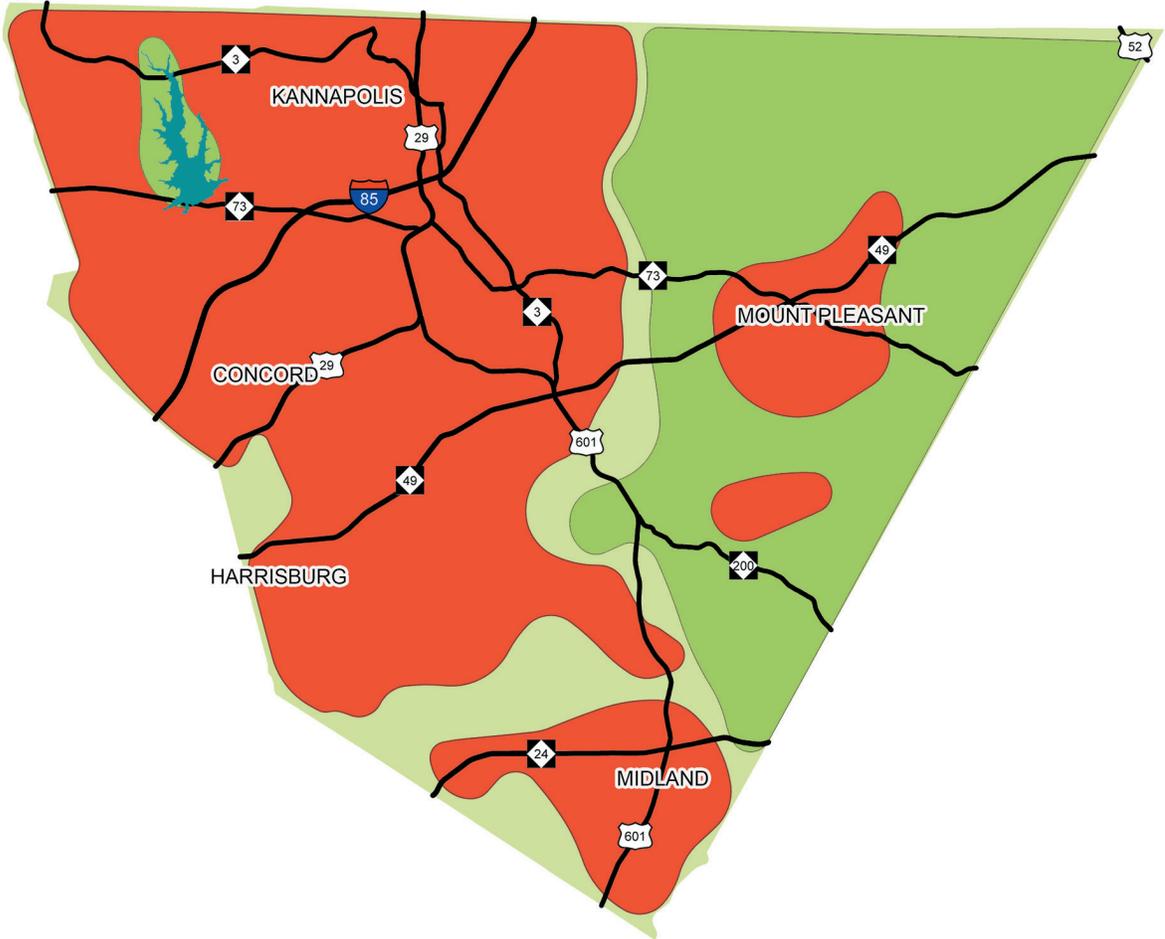


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

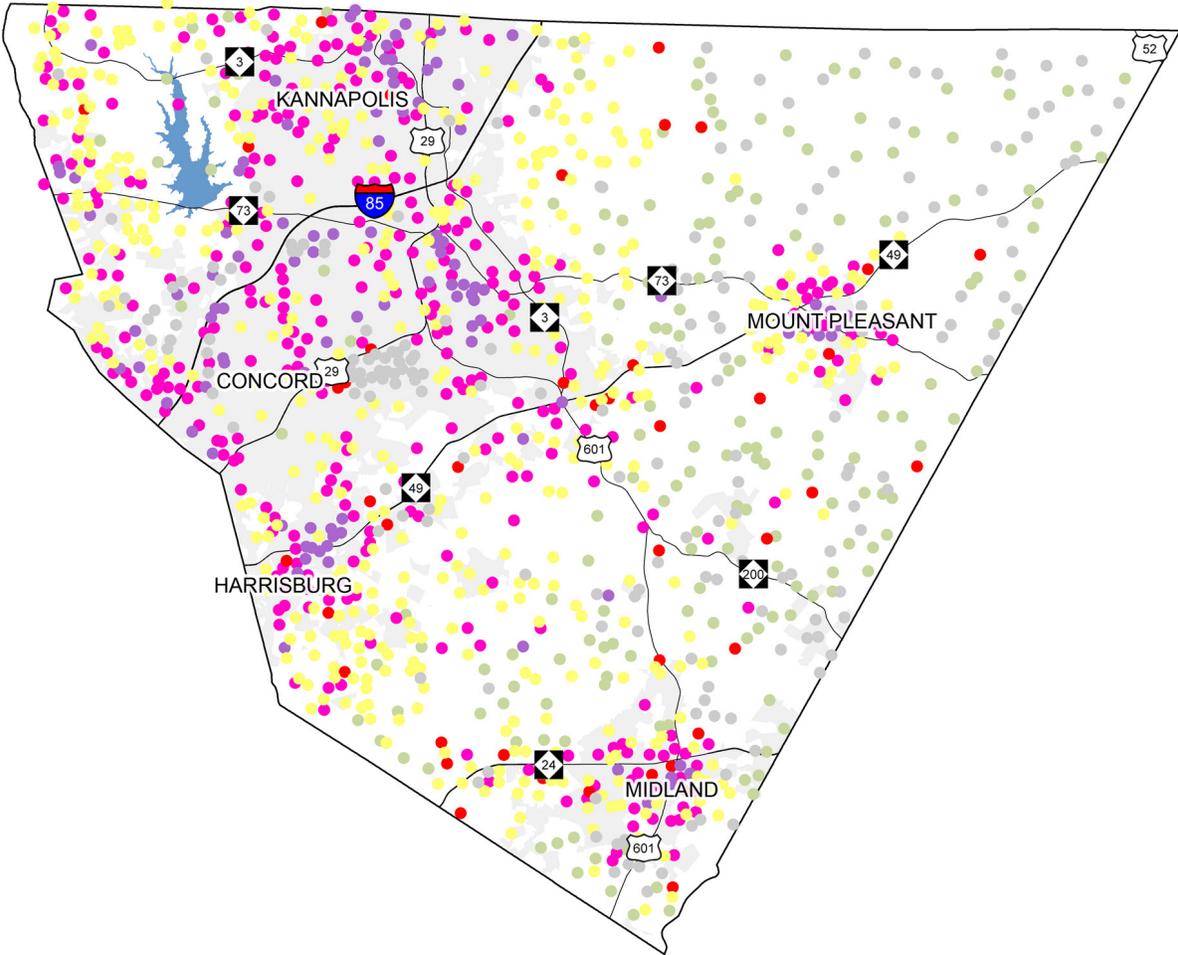


Where Should We Grow?



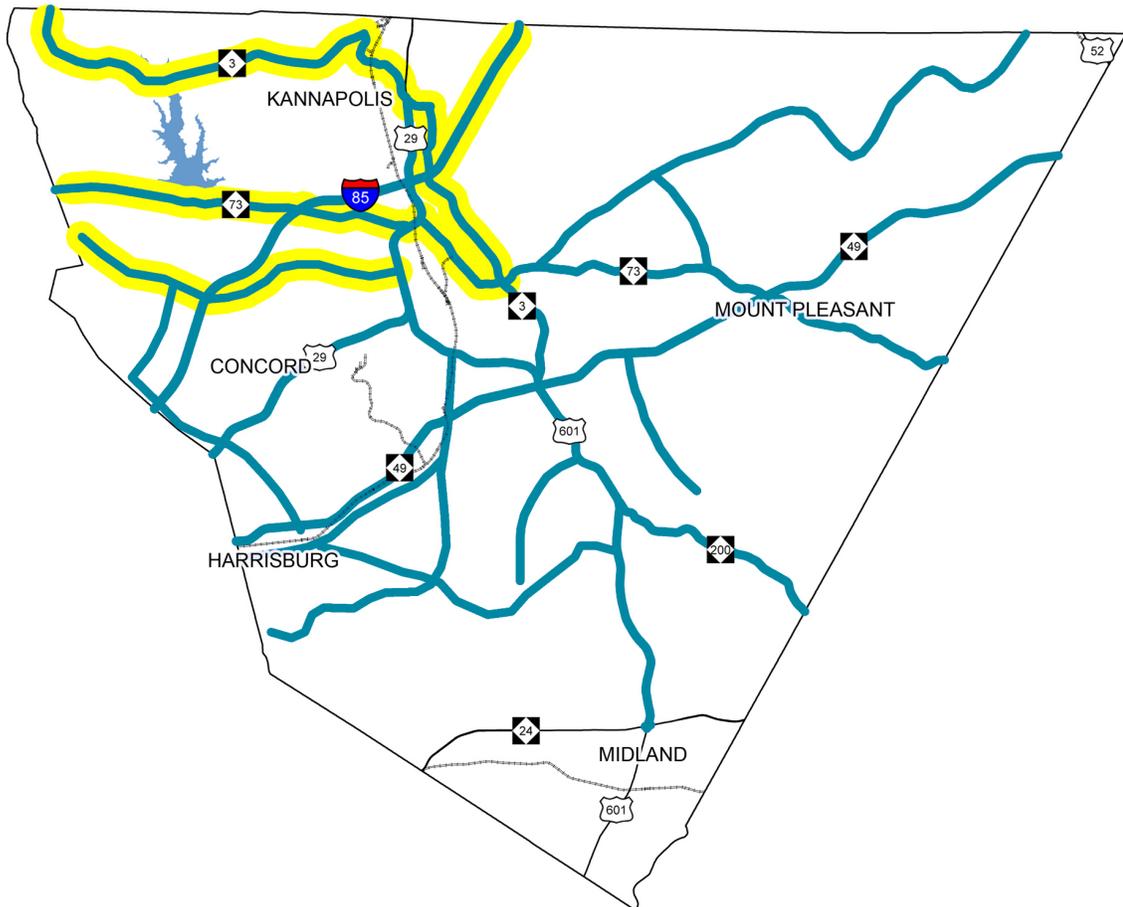
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

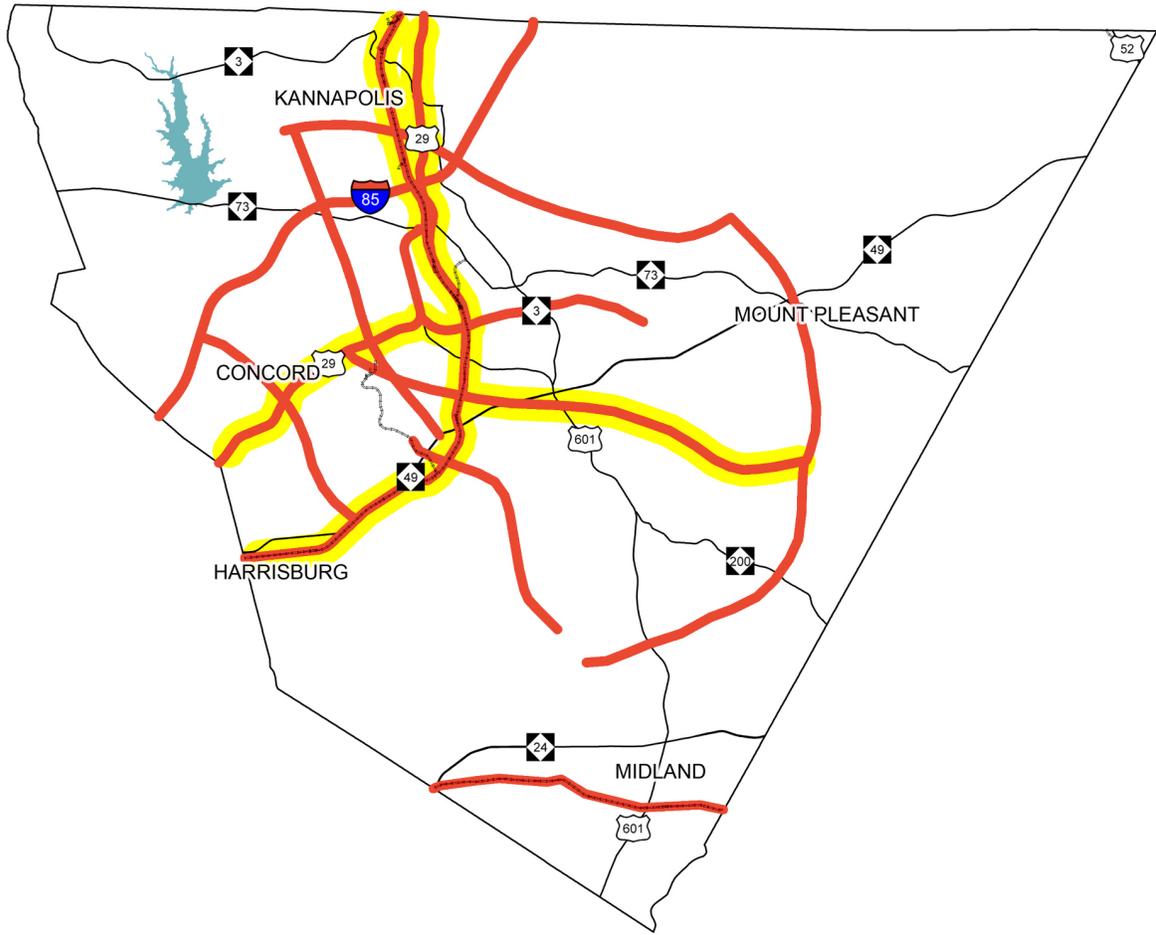


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

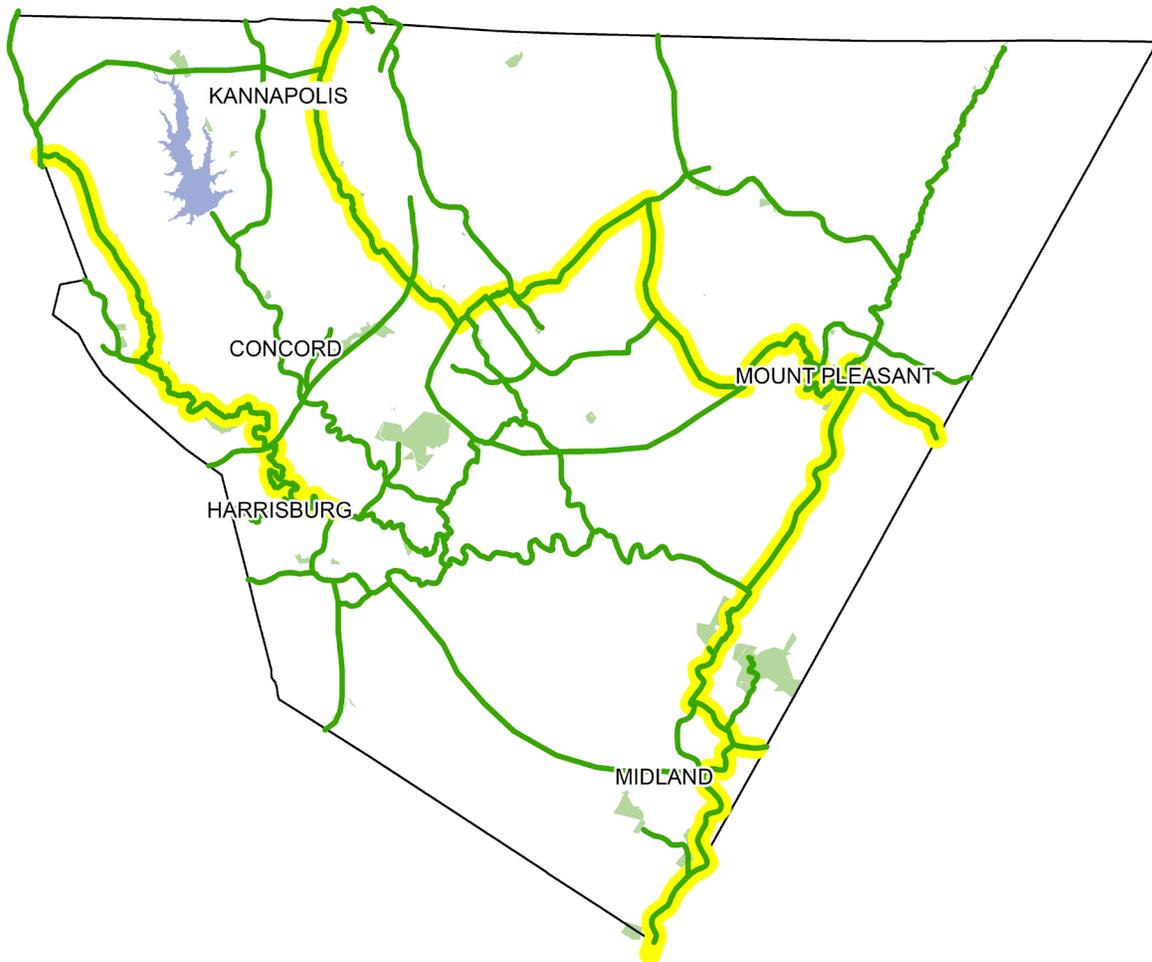


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



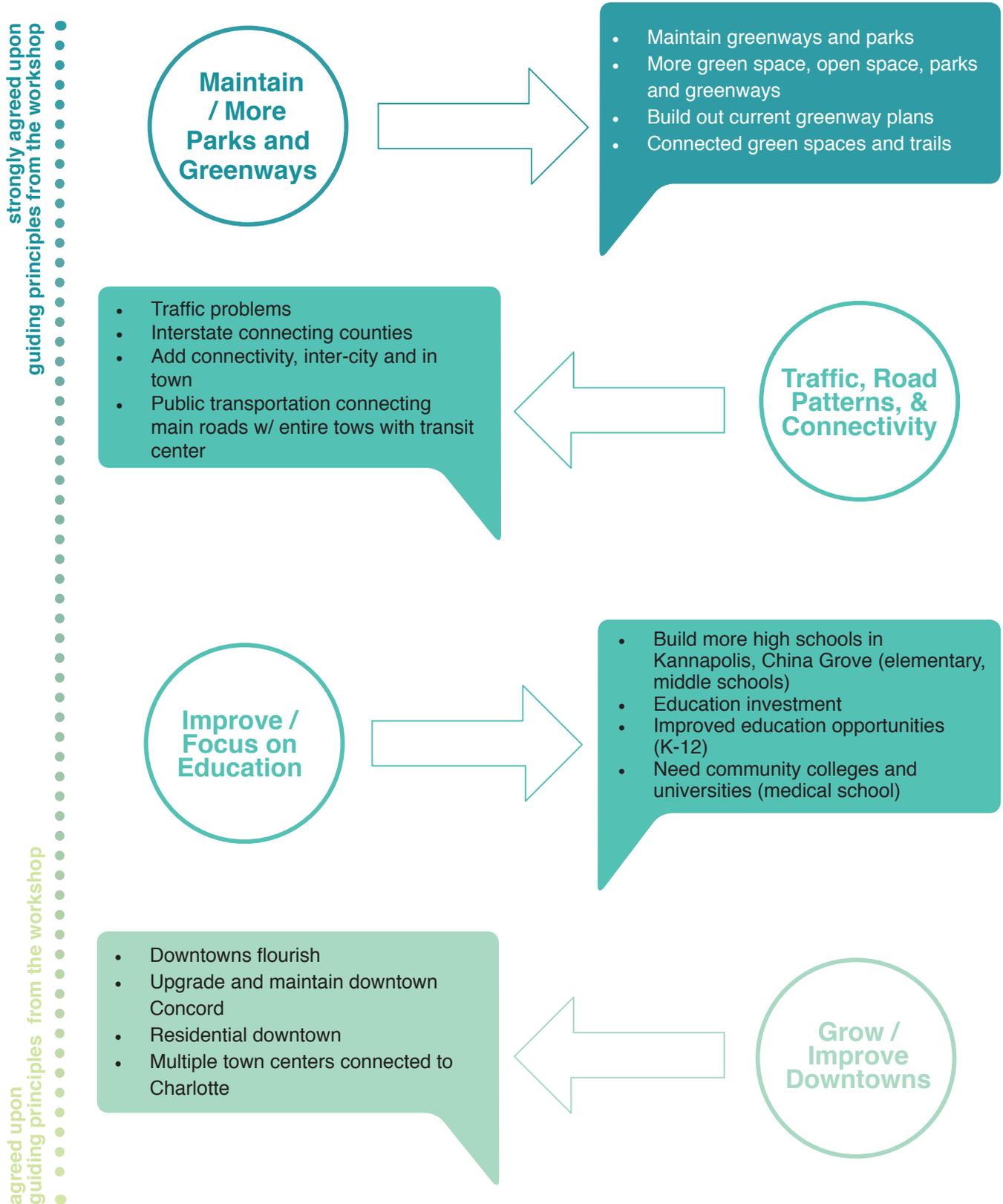
Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

Cabarrus County Guiding Principles:



**“There is not enough growth
in the downtowns.”**

*“Keep the commercial and industrial
away from residential.”*

“Improve our interstates.”

**“This county will die unless
we get more jobs.”**

*“I was extremely impressed with the
quality of the workshops and the
number of people who attended.”*

“I don’t like walkable development.”

*“Water and sewer service control
growth of our county.”*

“Single-family homes do not support the tax base. They cost more to provide services than they bring in.”



Chester County

Workshop: Richburg, SC

October 1, 2013

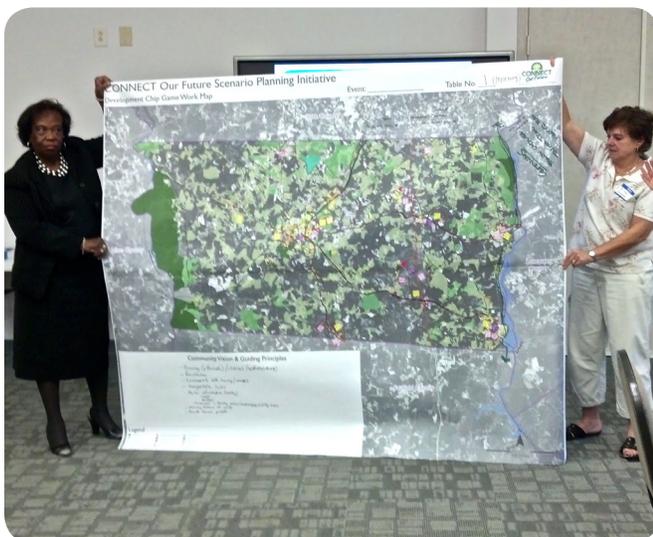
AM, Noon, PM

Chester County Information

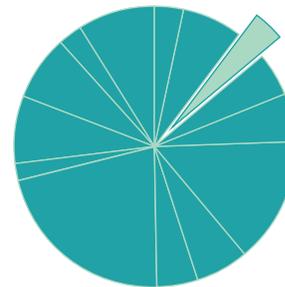
The Community Growth Workshop for Chester County was held on October 1, 2013, at the Conference Center at the Gateway in Richburg. Forty-four people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Six tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Chester County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Chester County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Chester County should be directed to Cole McKinney, Regional Initiatives Director, Catawba Regional COG at cmckinney@catawbacog.org or 803-327-9041.

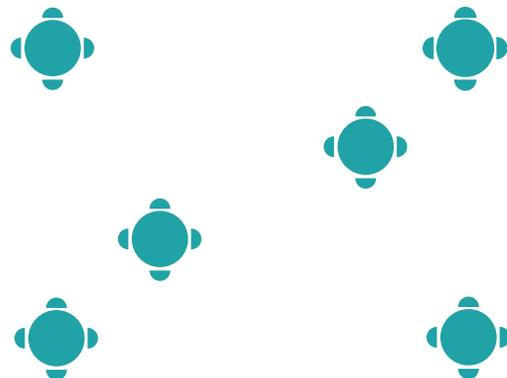


ATTENDANCE

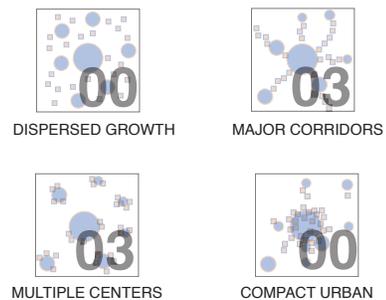


Total: 1,195 Chester: 44 attendees, 3.6% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



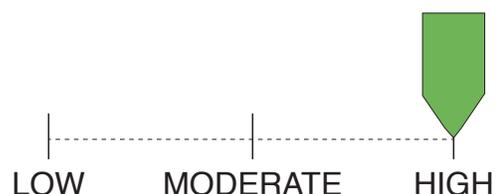
DISPERSED GROWTH

MAJOR CORRIDORS

MULTIPLE CENTERS

COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

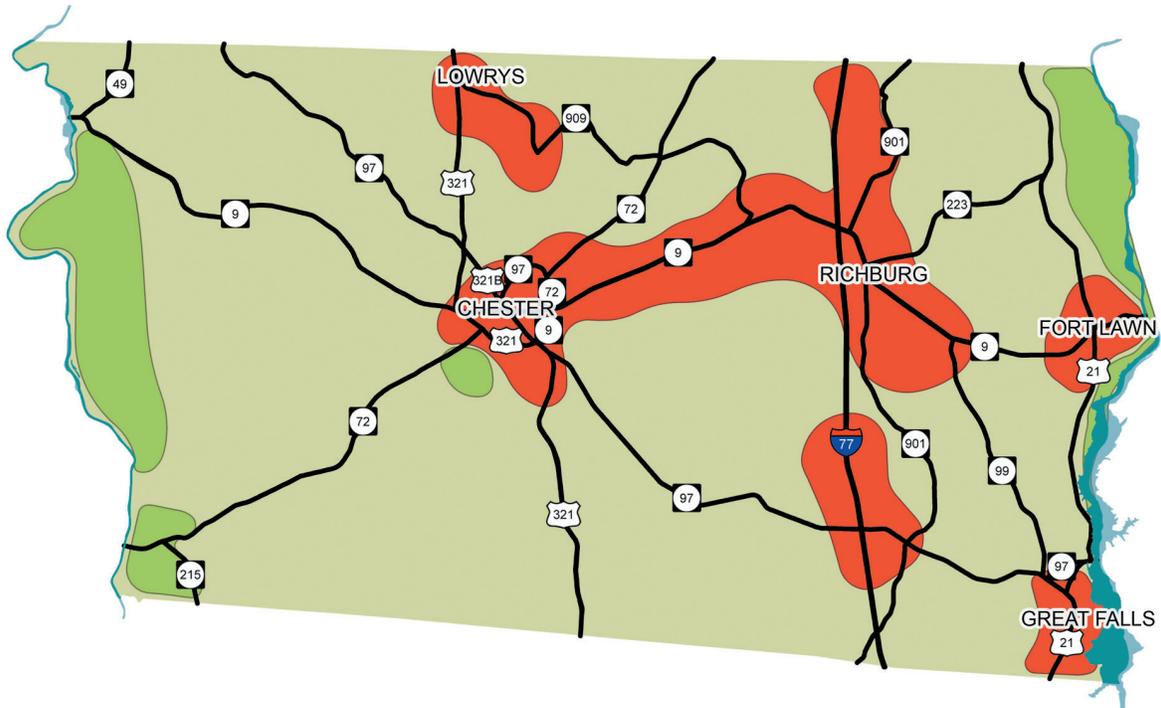


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

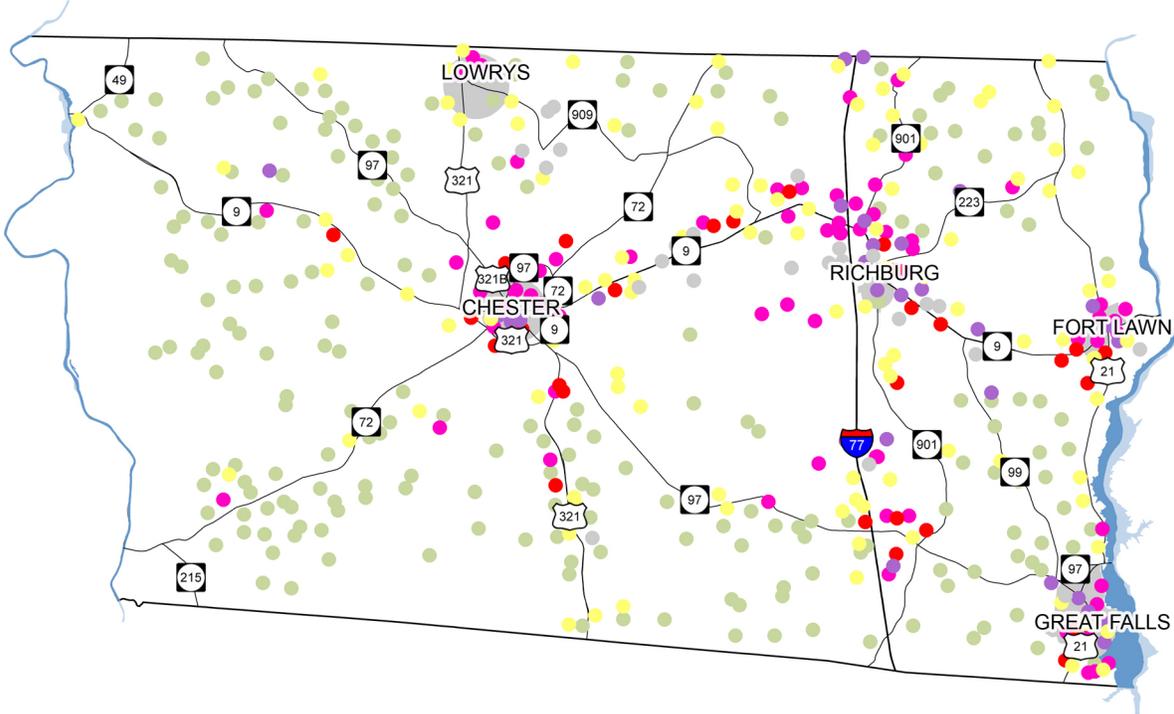


General Areas in the County to Preserve



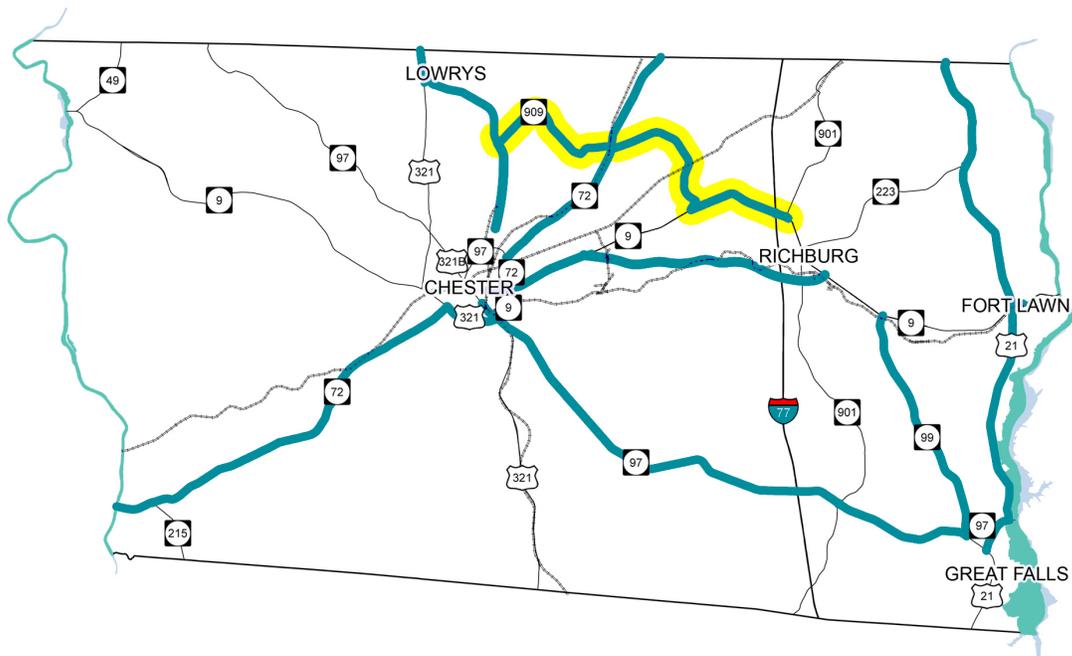
General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

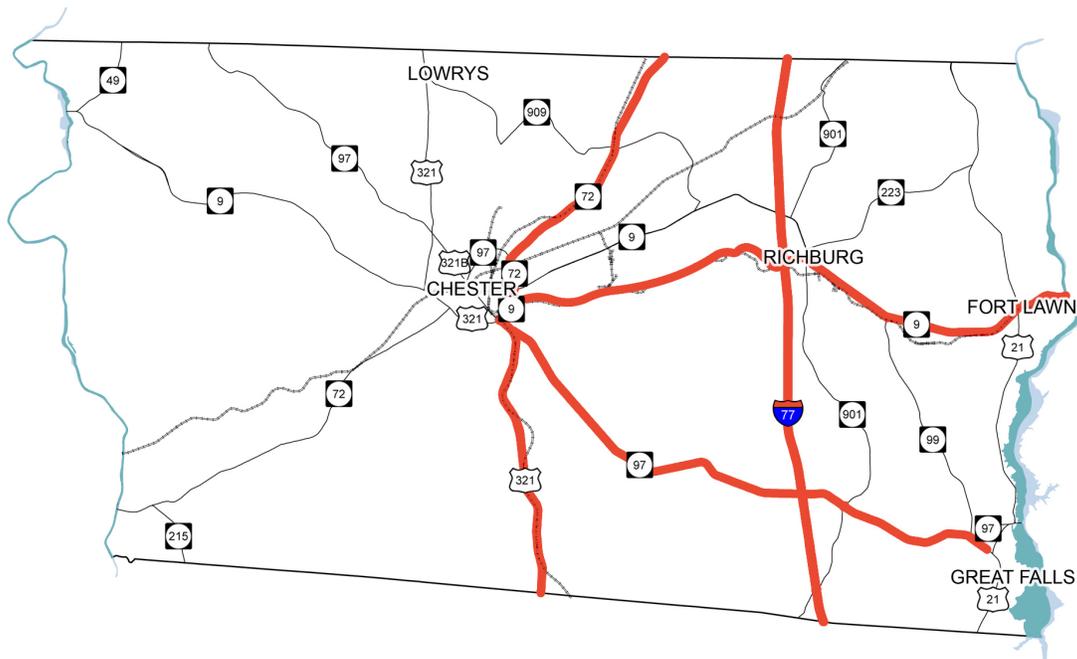


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

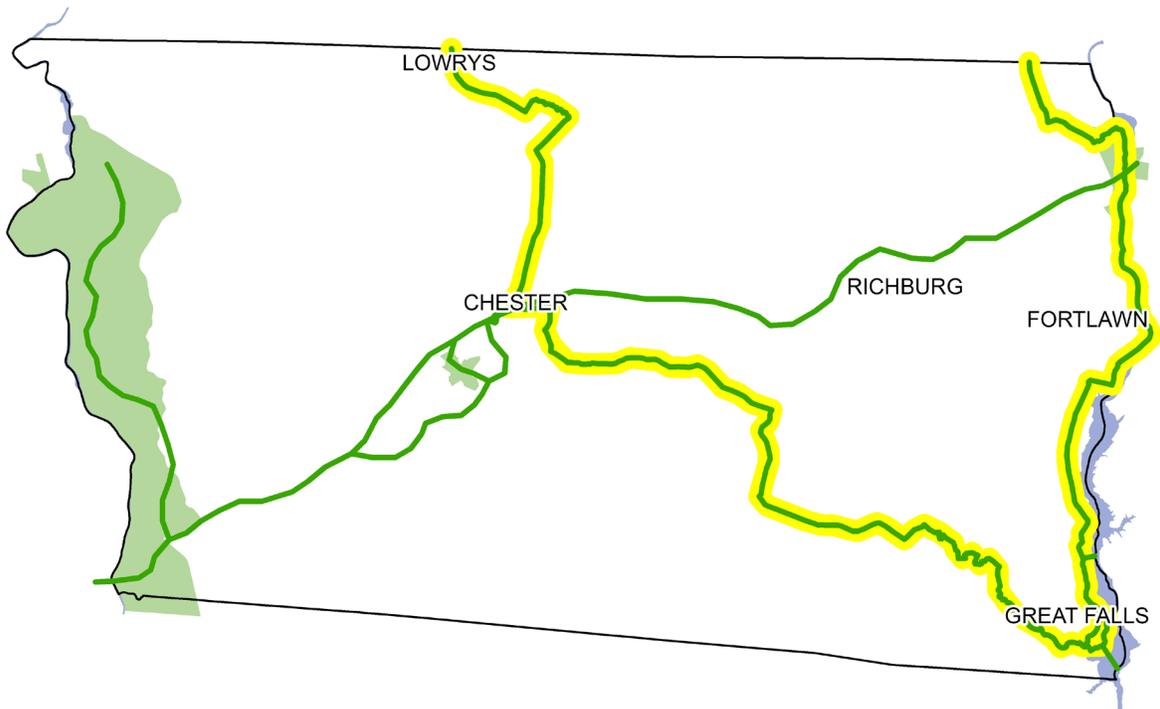


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

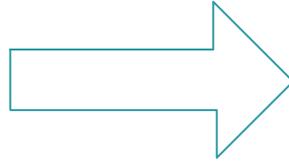
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



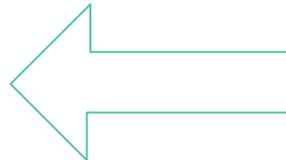
-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

Chester County Guiding Principles:

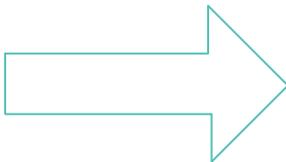
strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



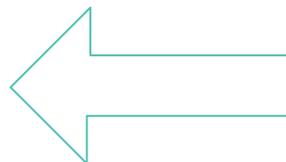
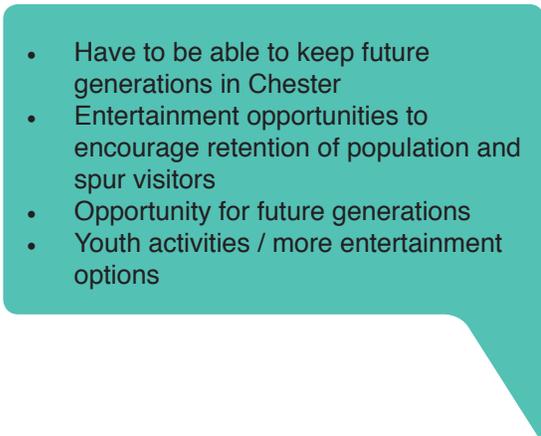
- Create an environment that values education / desires knowledge
- Better retention / opportunity of high school (can't do it like we always have)
- Keep improving education
- Higher-ed opportunities expanded



agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Infrastructure to support growth
- Infrastructure: water / sewer, airport (existing)
- Maintain infrastructure (existing) roads, buildings
- Technology infrastructure to support industry



“We need our young adults to stay in the county!”

“We had a real consensus at our table for multiple centers.”

“Preserve more green space throughout the county.”

“We need to get serious about local food programs.”

“We need walkable activities in all our major cities”

“We don’t want sprawl anywhere in the county.”

“Let’s not build just for the sake of building. Let’s plan for something.”



Cleveland County

Workshop: Shelby, NC

October 16, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Cleveland County Information

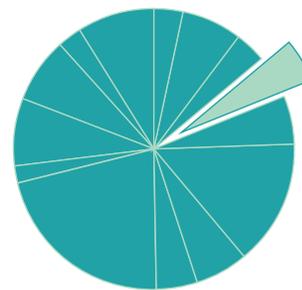
The Community Growth Workshop for Cleveland County was held on October 16, 2013, at the Don Gibson Theater in Shelby. Fifty-eight people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Seven tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Cleveland County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Cleveland County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Cleveland County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

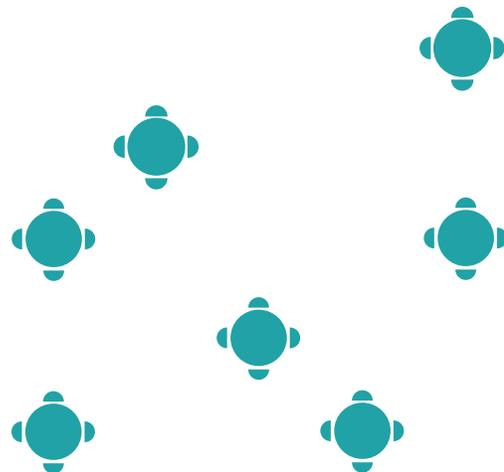


ATTENDANCE

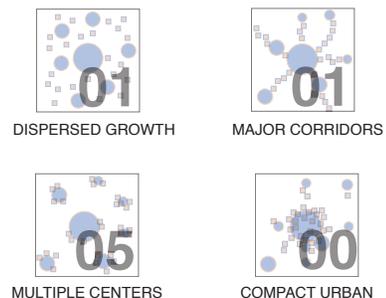


Total: 1,195 Cleveland: 58 attendees, 4.8% of total

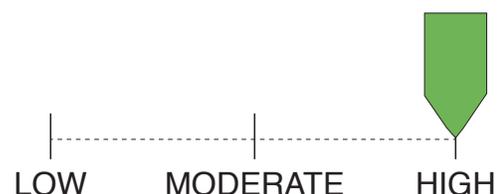
NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

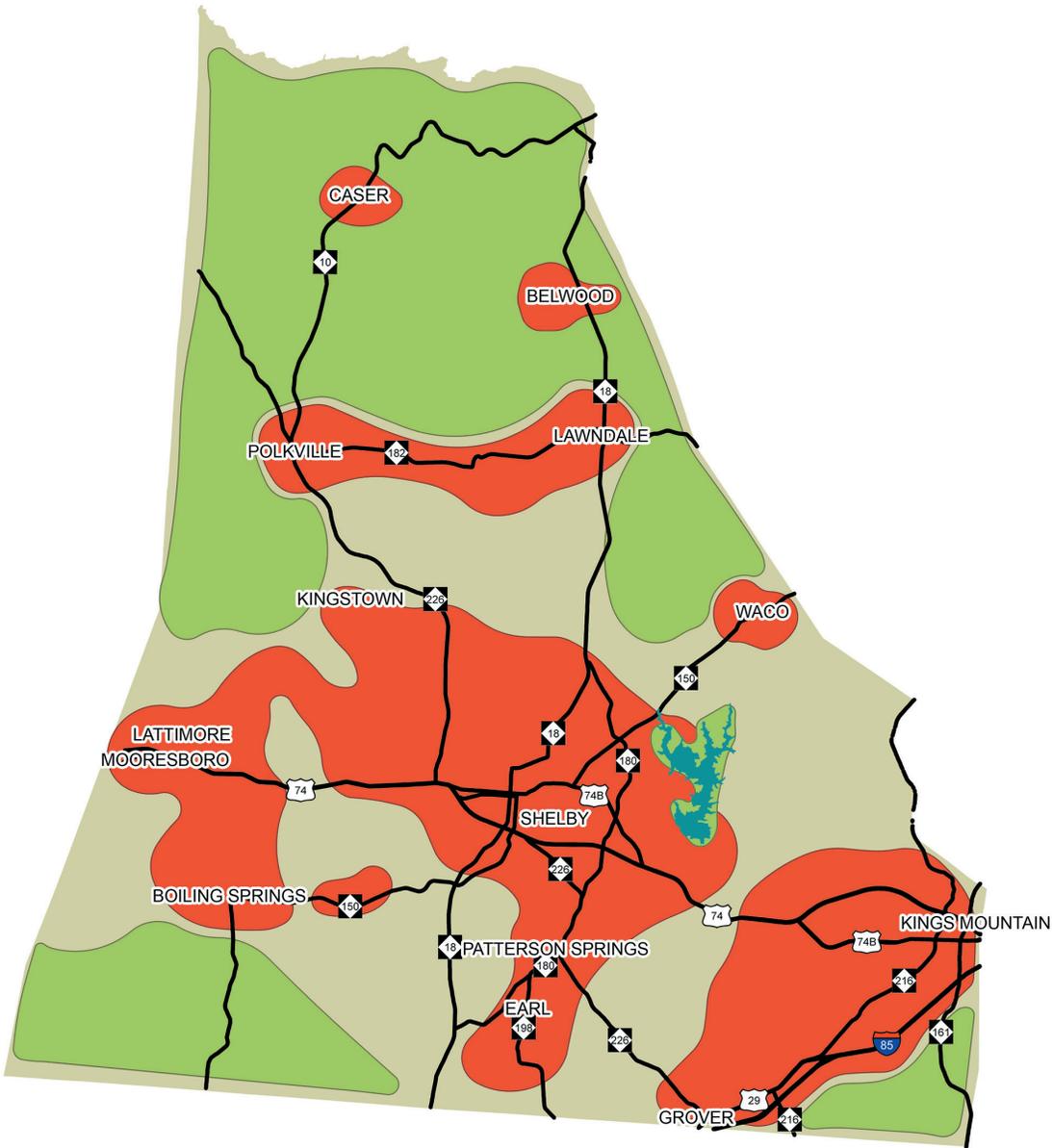


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?

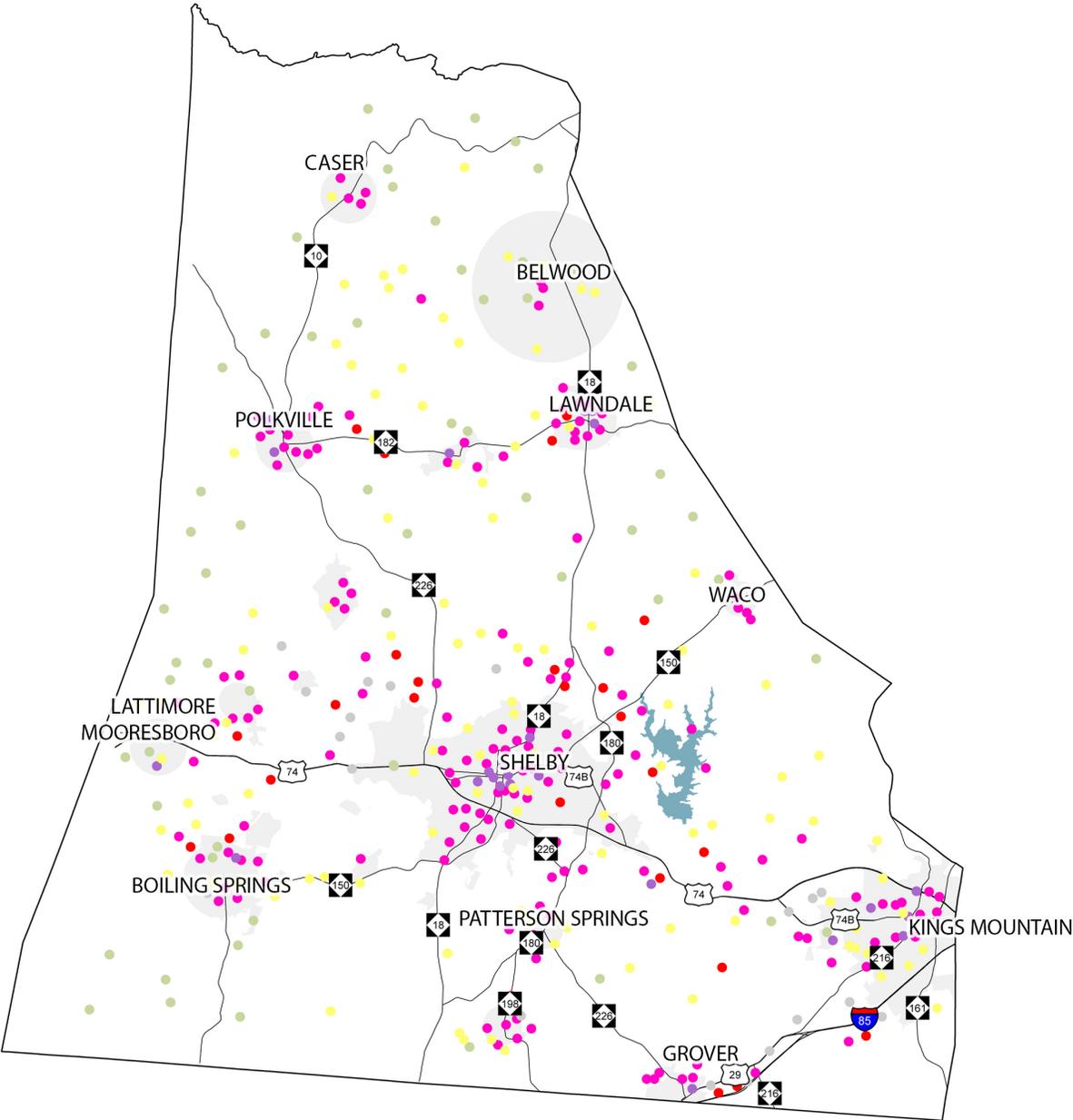


General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

General Areas in the County to Preserve

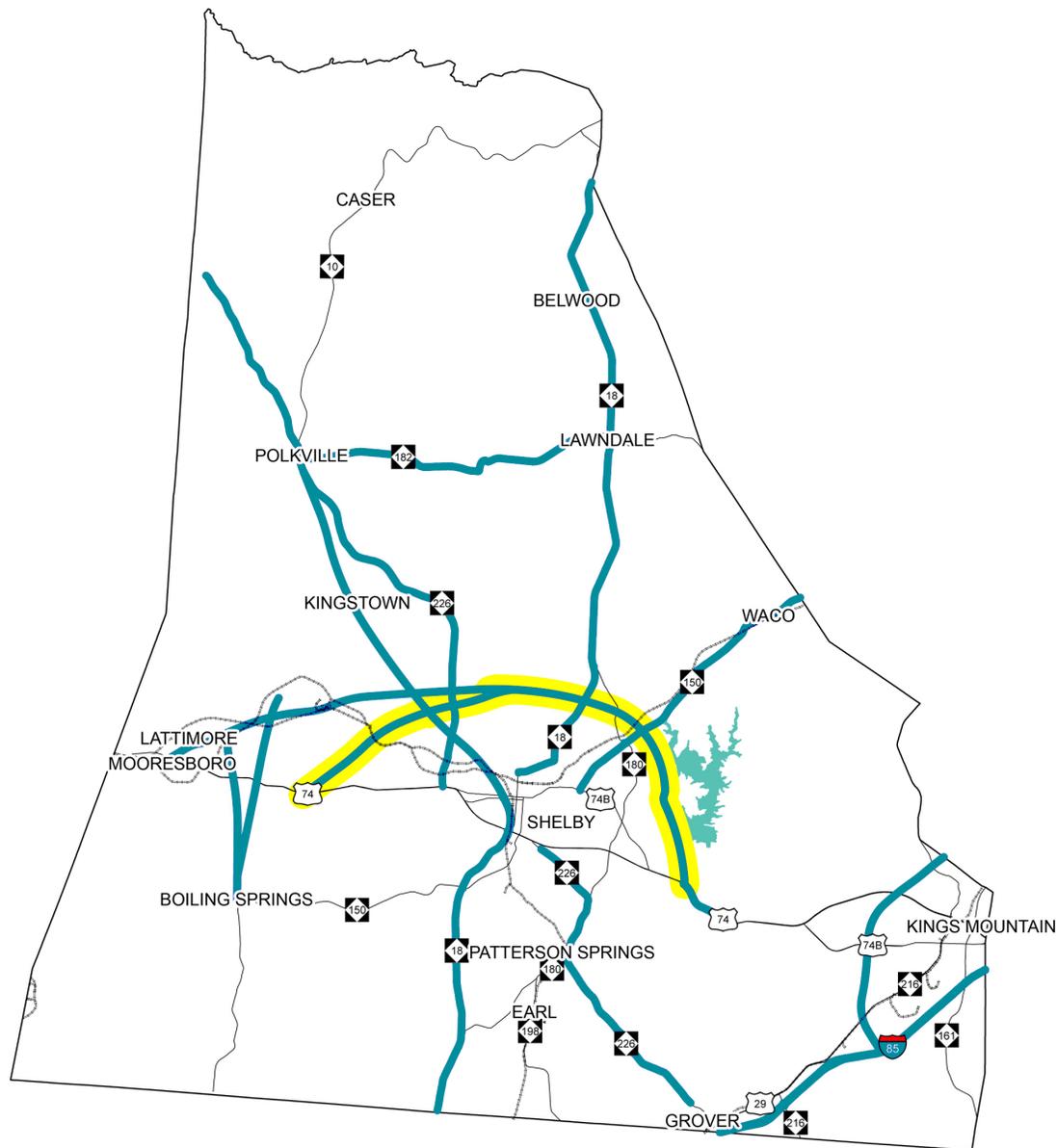
General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

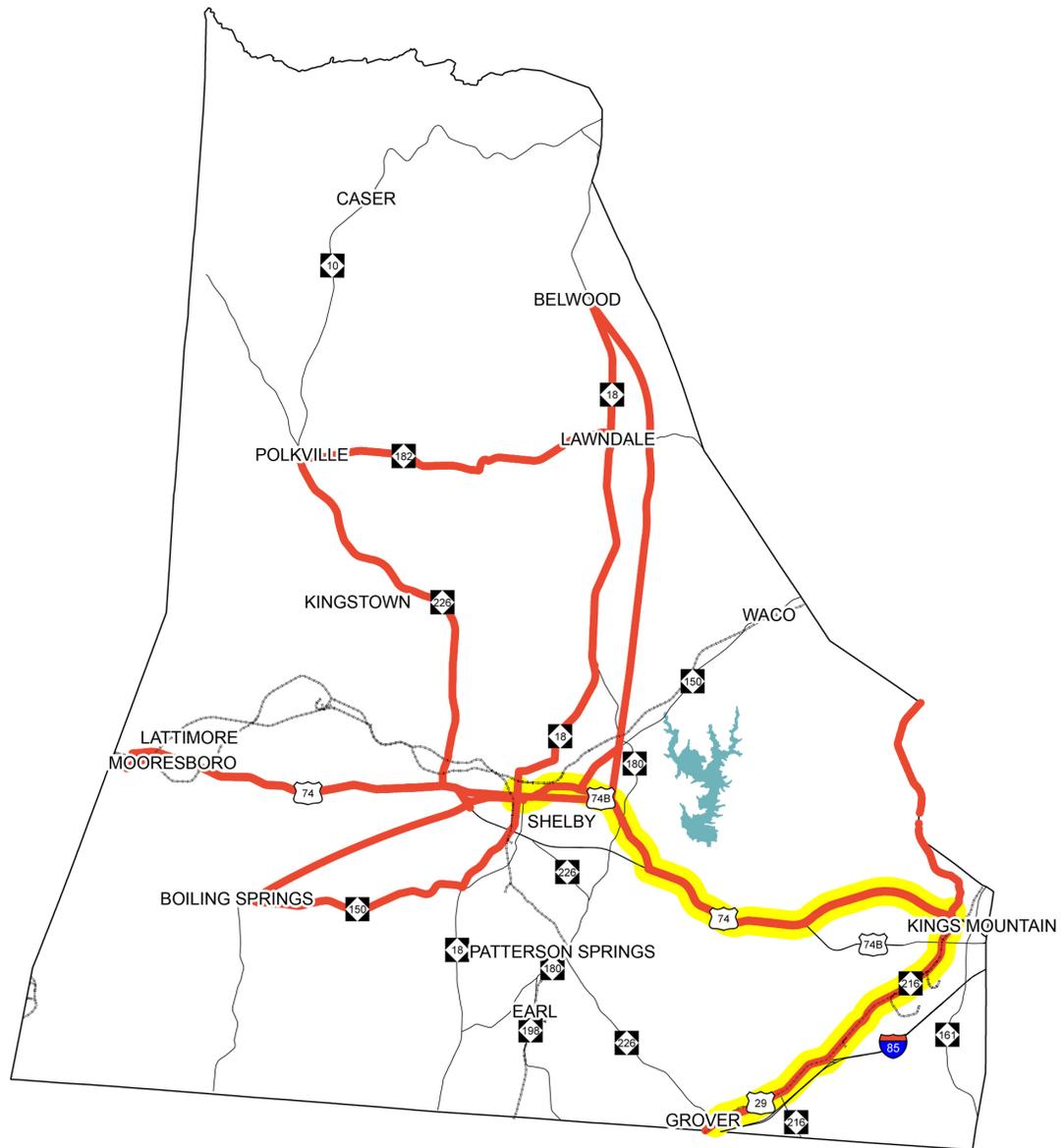


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?



All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



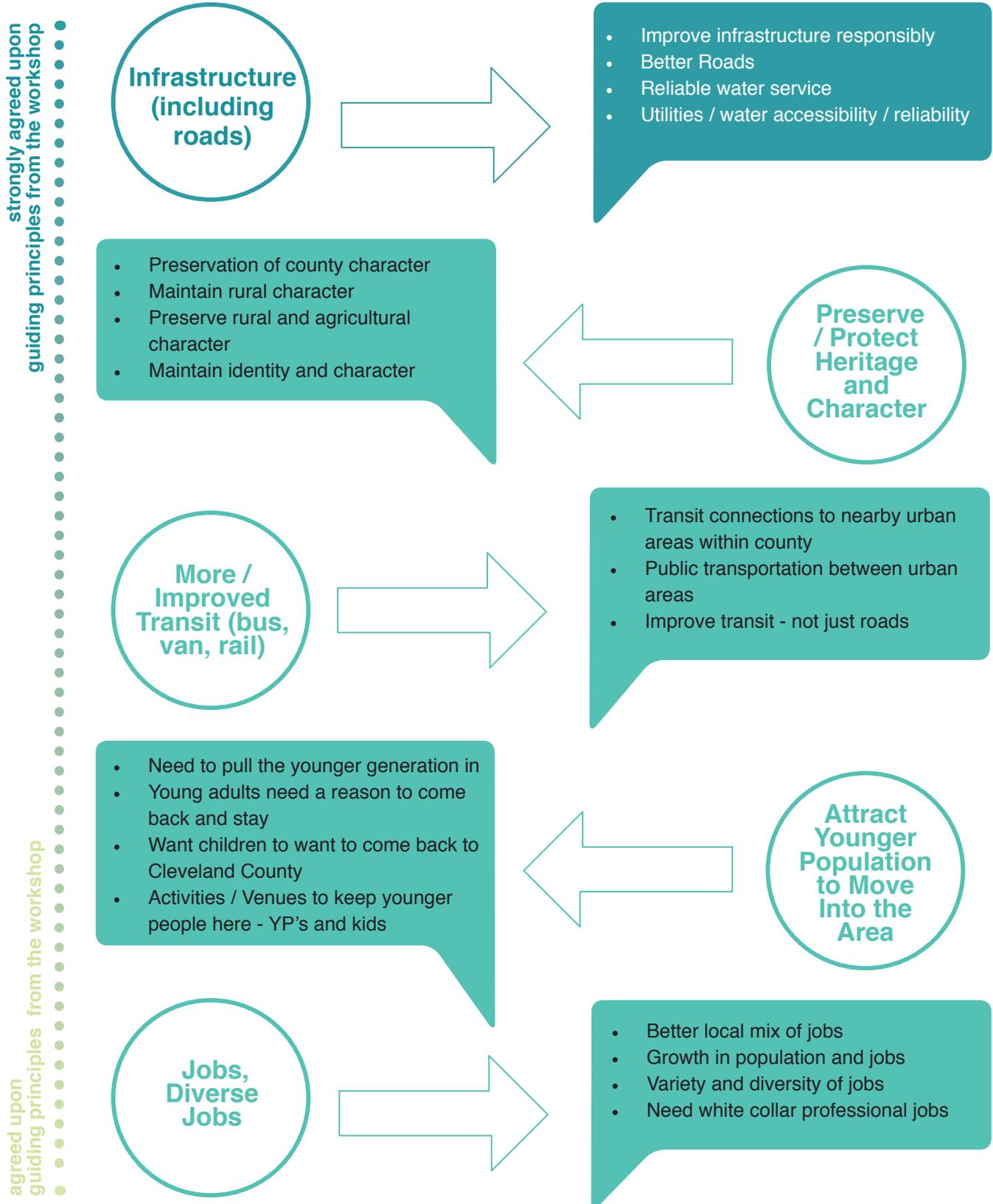
Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

Cleveland County Guiding Principles:



“Strong downtowns.”

“Single-family homes do not support the cost of services.”

“Improve our quality-of-life.”

“We want more walkable communities.”

**“Trabajos cercanos,
transportación para
las ciudades cercanas.
Hacer algo con para los
edificios vacios.”**

“Fix infrastructure.”

**[Me gusta} “mas transporte
publico, ó bien sea un metro.”**

“Need more industrial jobs.”



Gaston County

Workshop: Gastonia, NC

September 16, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

October 14, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Gaston County Information

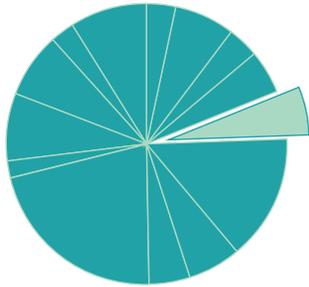
Two Community Growth Workshops were held for Gaston County. The first was on September 16, 2013, at the First United Methodist Church in Gastonia. The second was on October 14, 2013, at the Iglesia Casa de Dios in Gastonia. Sixty-seven people attended one of the four identical sessions held during the two events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Nine tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Gaston County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Gaston County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Gaston County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

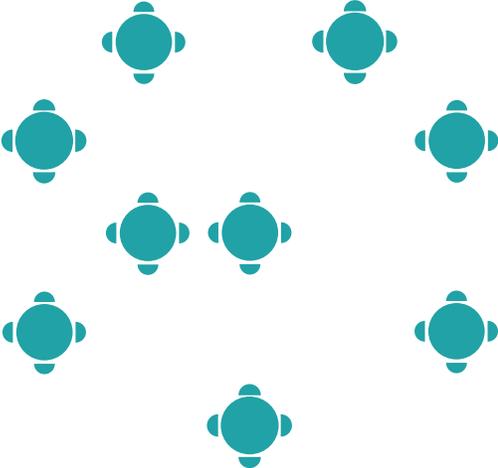


ATTENDANCE

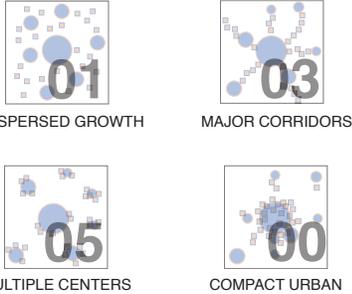


Total: 1,195 Gaston: 67 attendees, 5.6% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

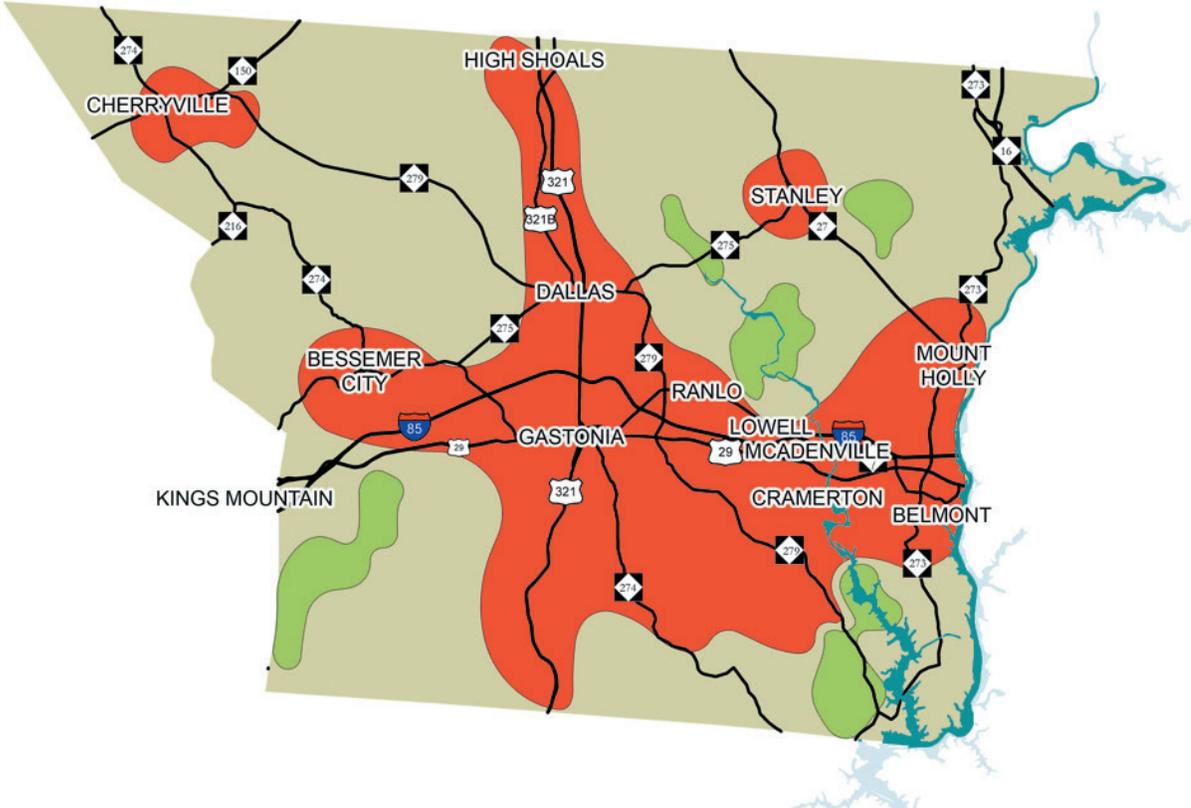


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

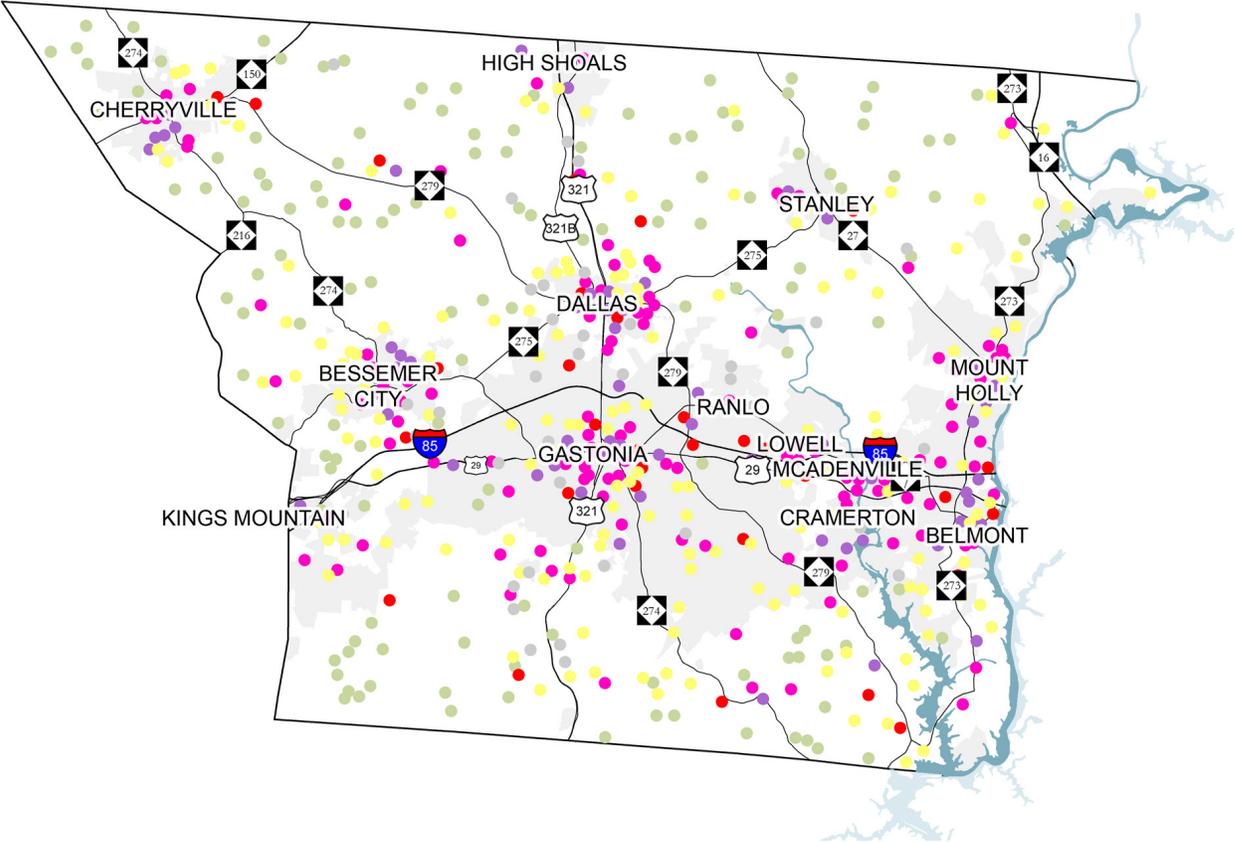


Where Should We Grow?



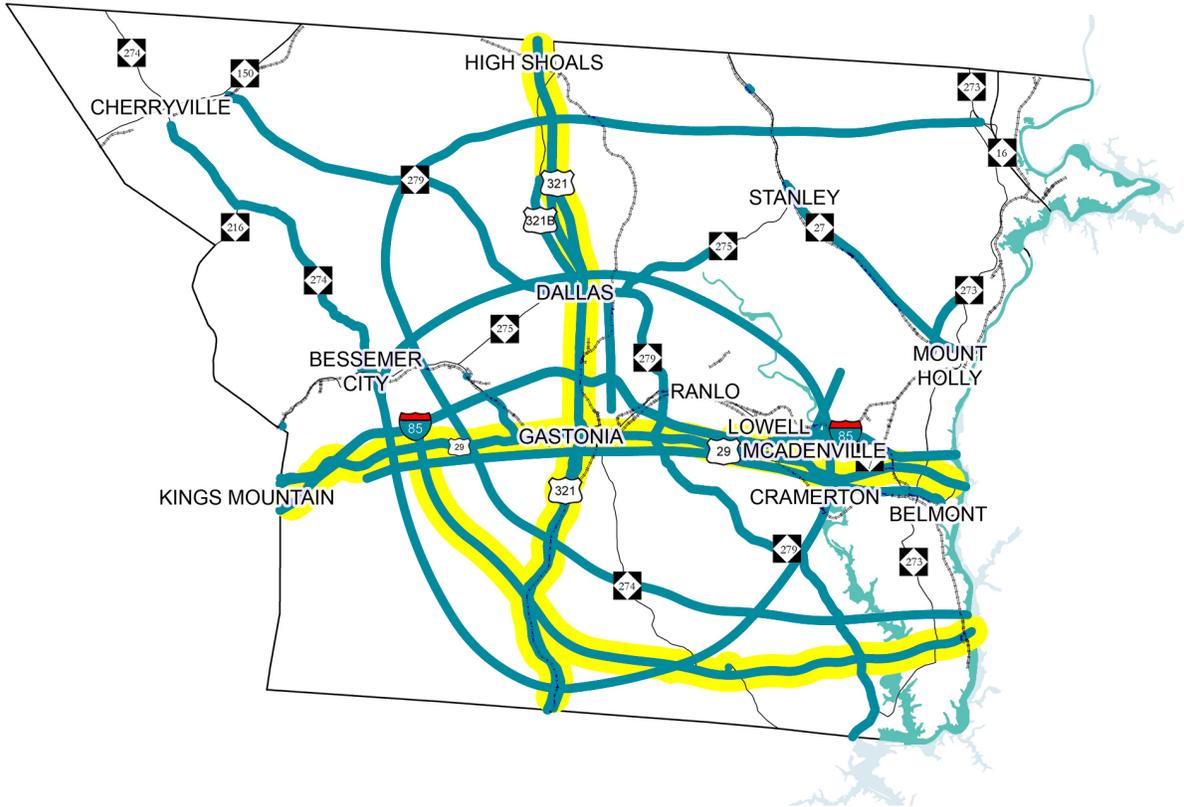
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

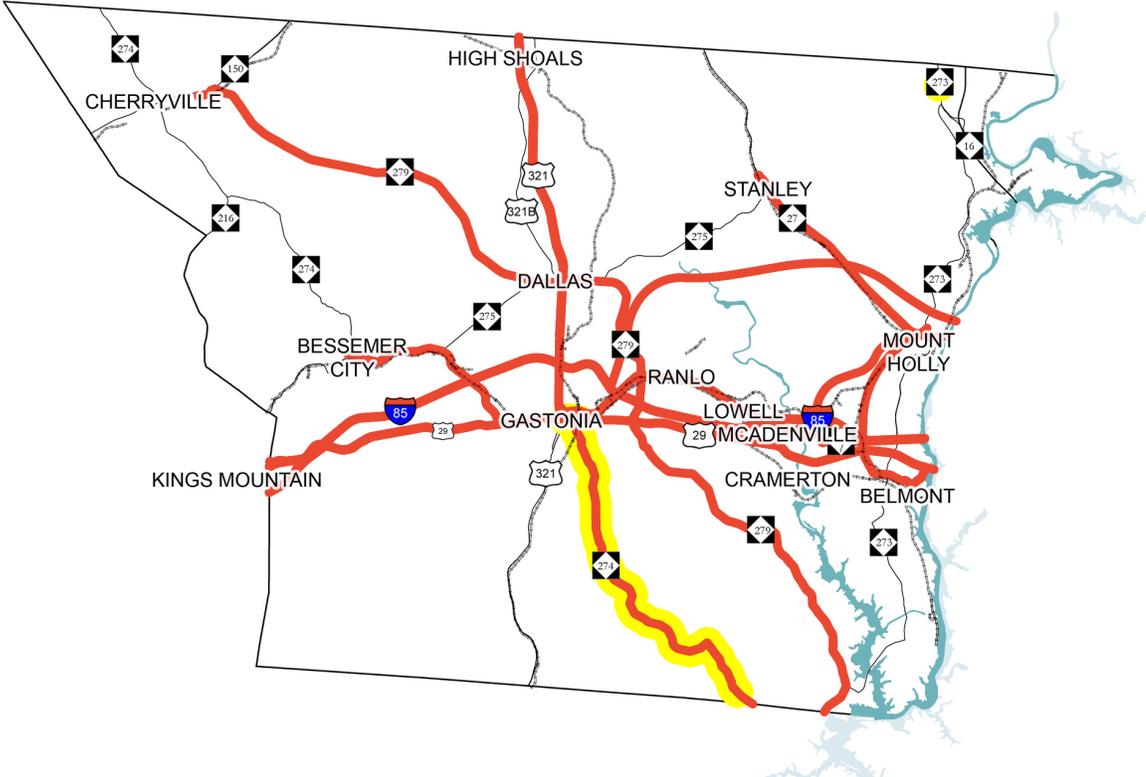


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

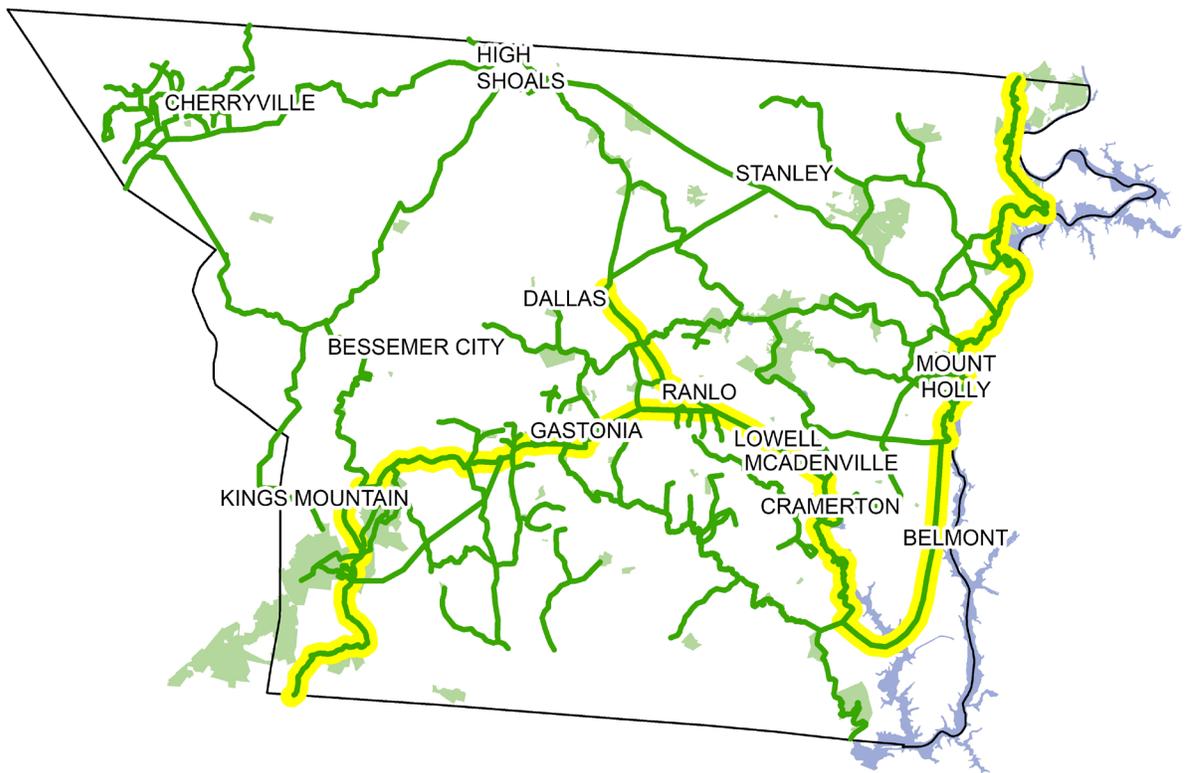


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

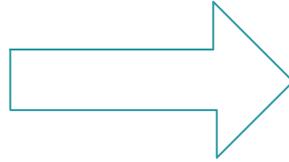
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

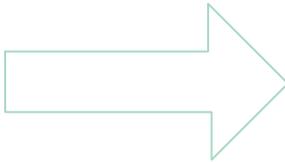
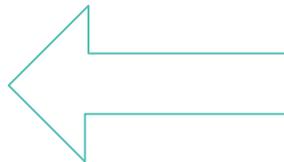
Gaston County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



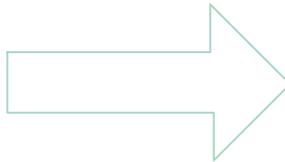
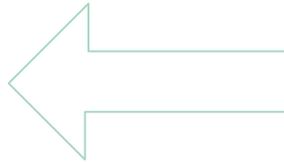
- Improve the sewer service to lower the cost of service
- Develop infrastructure to support balanced growth (multi-centers)
- Make use of existing infrastructure
- Modernized roads (shoulders / sidewalks)

- Take advantage of Catawba River and Parks
- Sports parks - soccer, baseball, basketball
- Parks and places for recreation in Dallas- Rec Center
- Like the recent improvements of the parks



- More schools to teach English
- Support education institutions
- School districts - buildings, older schools, need investment, smaller neighborhood schools
- Better schools, more schools, not overcrowded

- More buses 24/7
- Extended hours on transit- bus on weekends, evenings
- Commuter rail to Charlotte
- Transit connections with in Gaston to Charlotte and airport



- More help centers for the homeless (to improve safety)
- Add free parking lots next to public bus stations
- Translation help at the hospitals and in schools nobody speaks Spanish (long waits at hospital)
- More centers of rehabilitation (AA)

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

“Improve collaboration between municipalities.”

“Balance growth with land preservation.”

“Avoid haphazard growth & development.”

“Create more areas for walking & biking.”

“Reduce congestion.”

“We grew too much, too fast.”

“Keep a small town feel.”

“More jobs, more restaurants, more housing options, more shopping and more parks.”



Iredell County

Workshop: Statesville, NC

September 5, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

October 9, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Iredell County Information

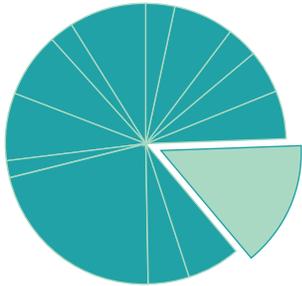
Two Community Growth Workshops were held for Iredell County. The first was on September 5, 2013, at the Statesville Civic Center in Statesville. The second as on October 9, 2013, at Fort Dobbs in Statesville. 172 people attended one of the four identical sessions held during the two events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Twenty tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Iredell County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Iredell County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Iredell County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

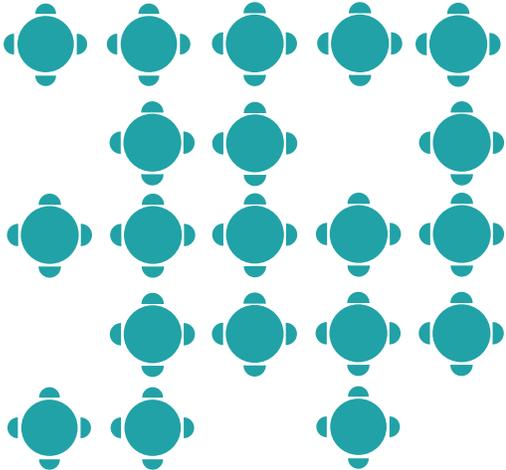


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Iredell: 172 attendees, 14.3% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS



MULTIPLE CENTERS



COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

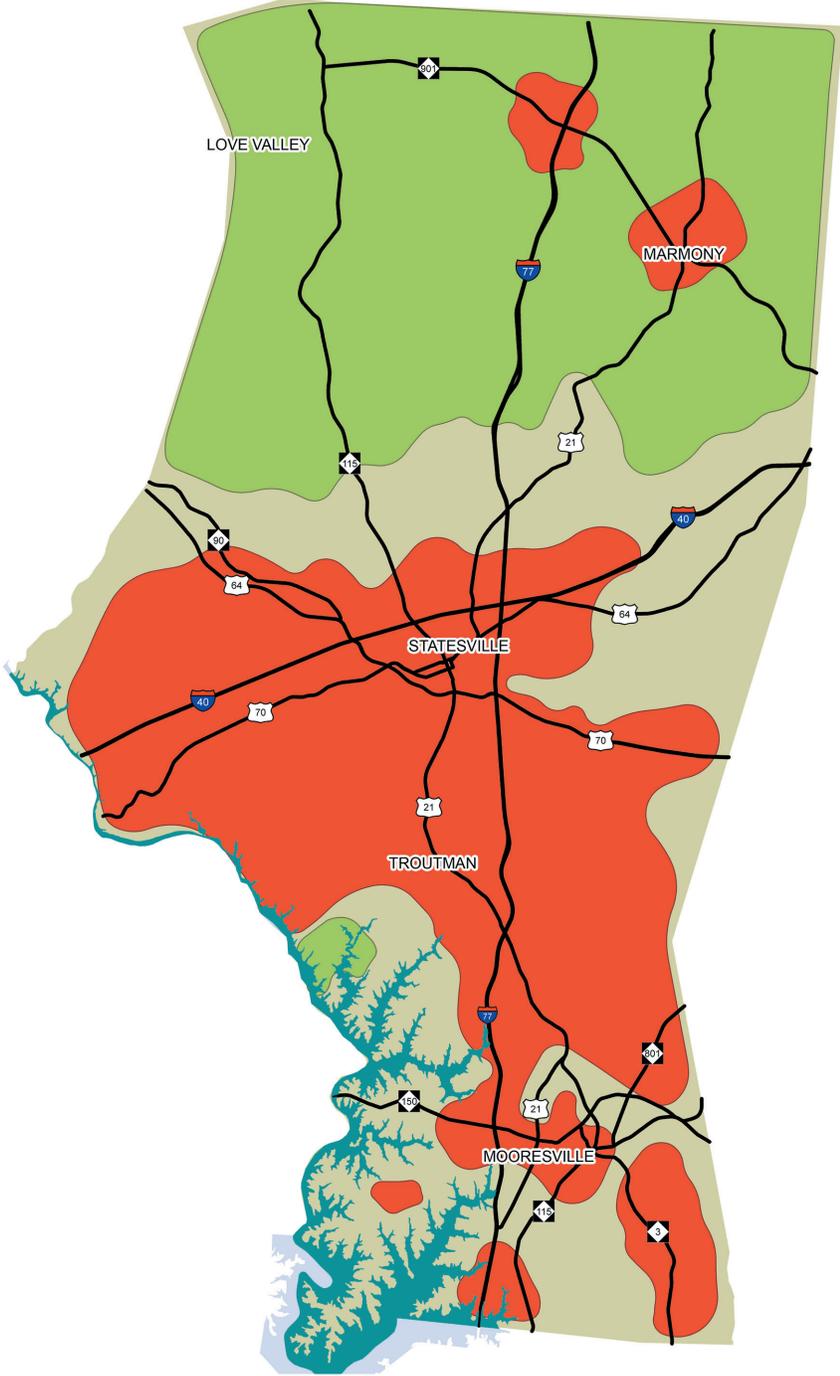


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?

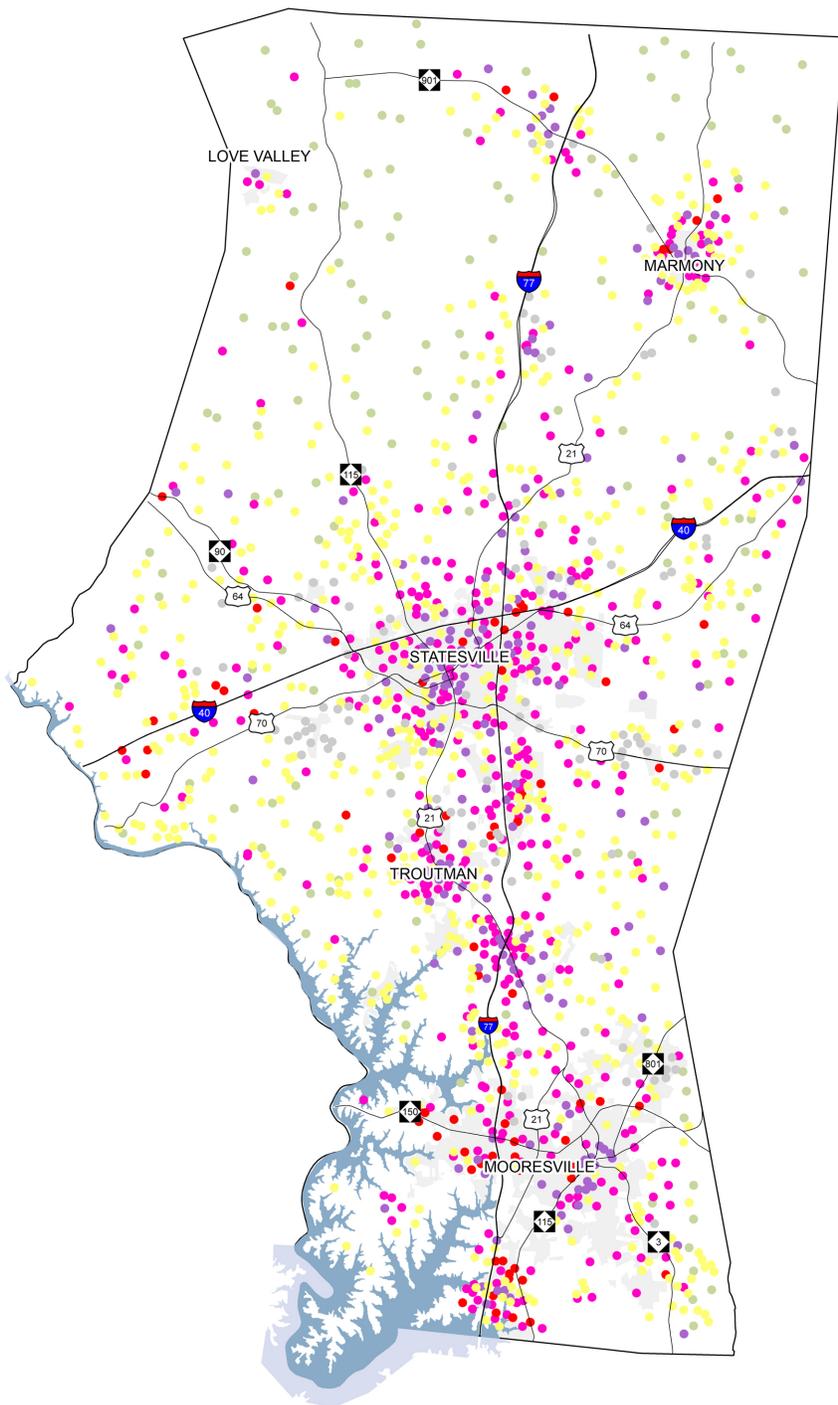


General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

General Areas in the County to Preserve

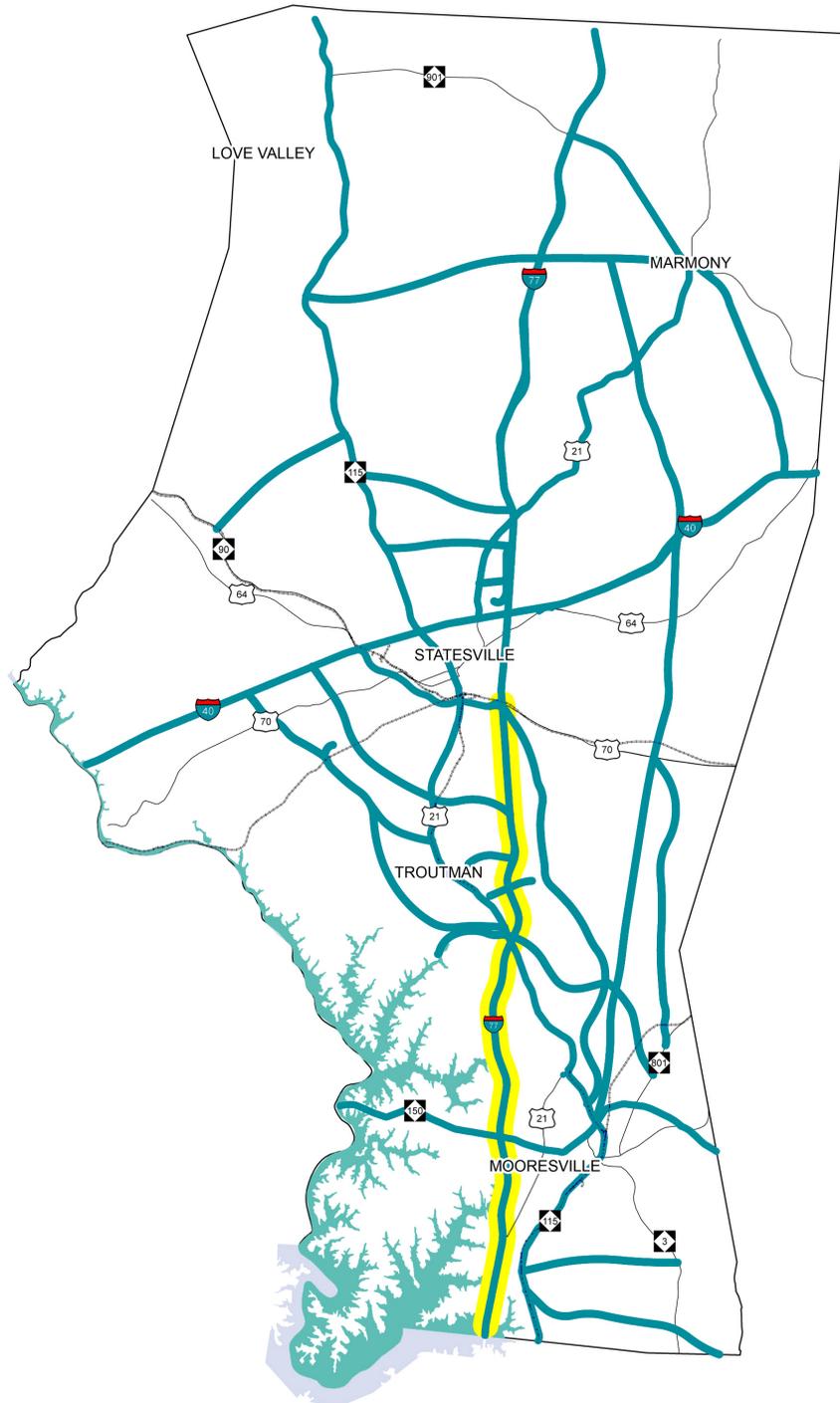
General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

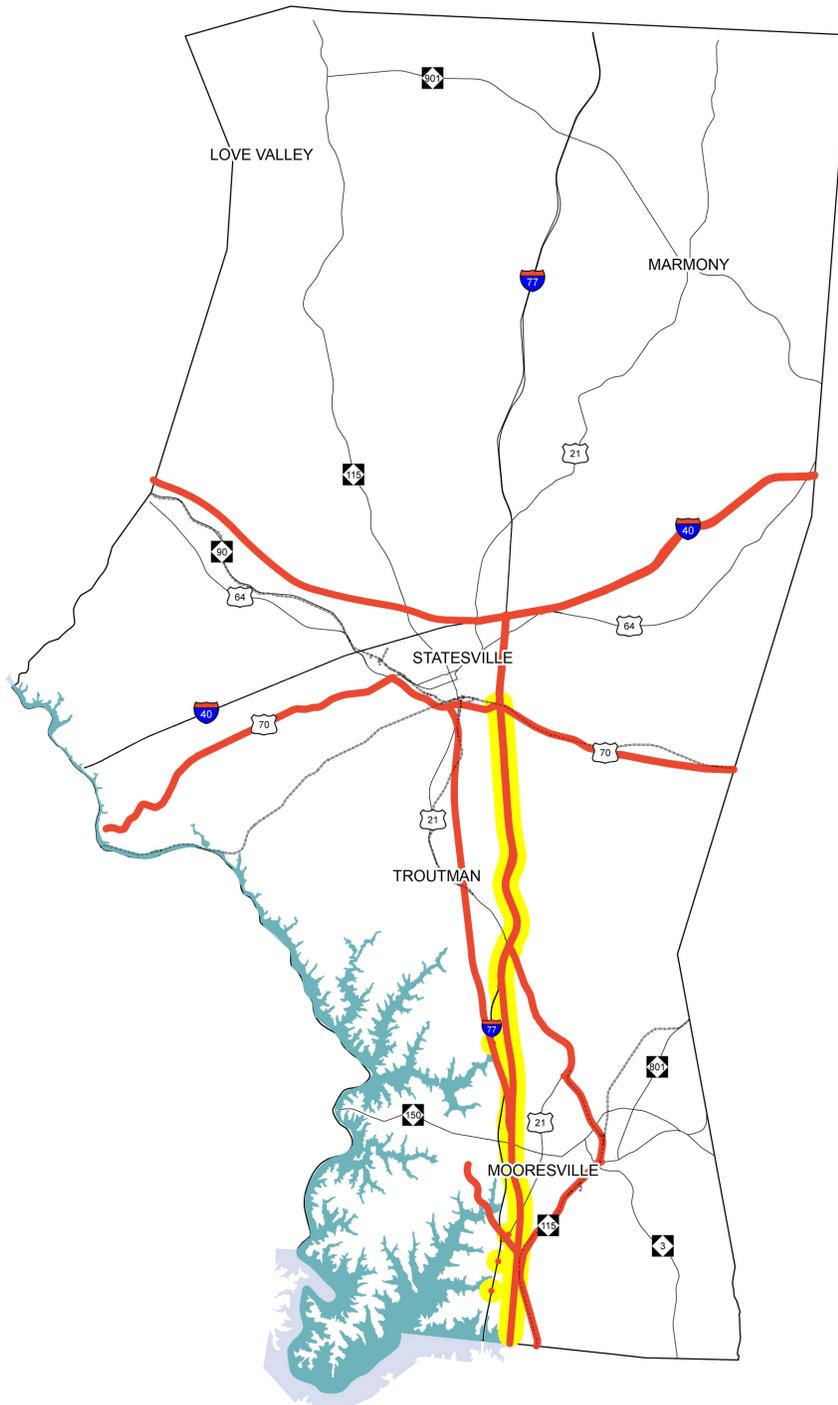


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

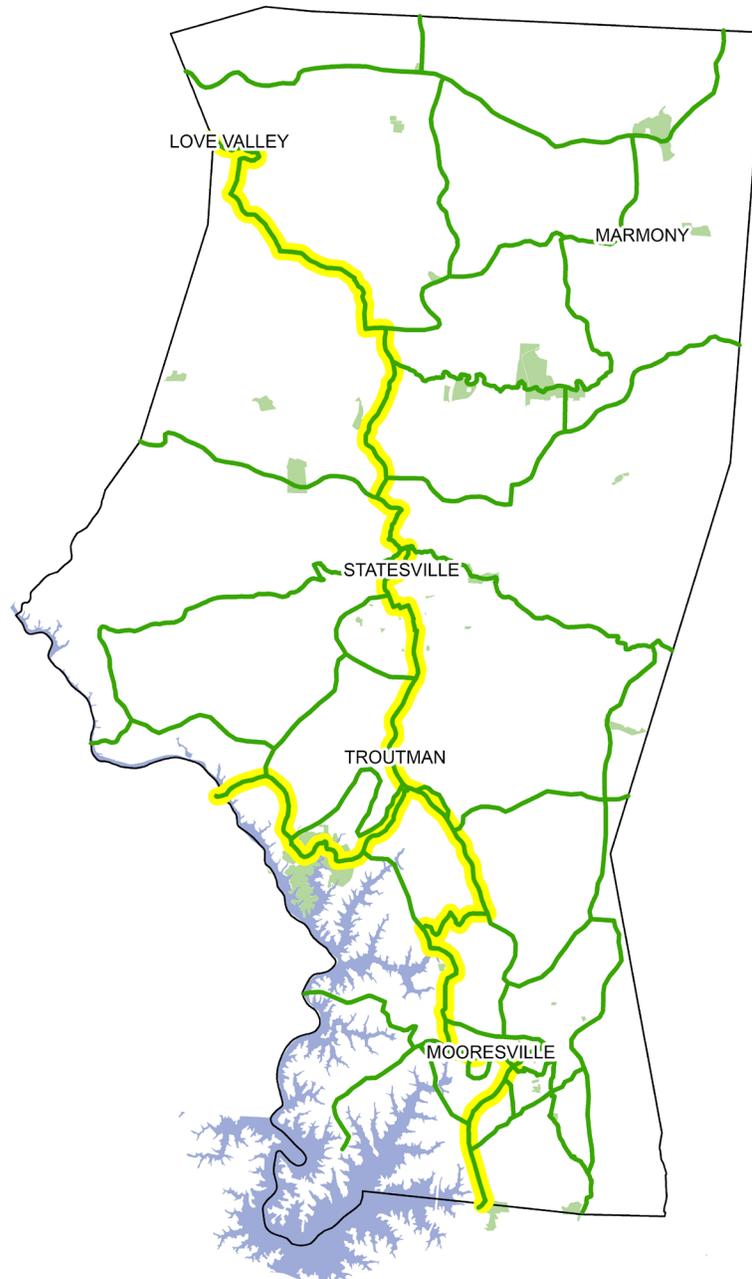


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

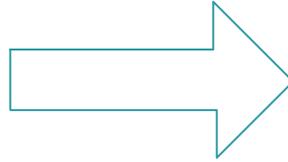
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

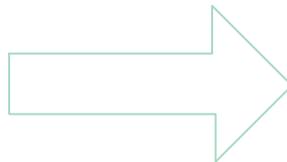
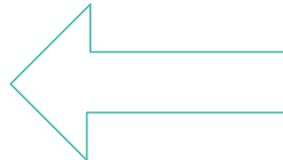
Iredell County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



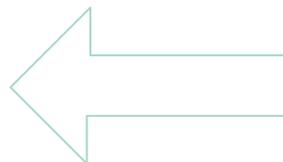
- Lack of popular shopping opportunities
- More retail in Statesville
- A good mall- more / better shopping
- More restaurants - not fast food

- The ability to increase employment
- Increase employment in community/ jobs
- More industrial jobs, agribusiness
- Lack of jobs in Statesville



- Agriculture- preserve in the North and leverage farms
- Retain / support agriculture/ wineries
- Keep agriculture that we have
- Steady growth throughout county but still preserve farmland

- Access to natural / recreational resources is a plus for this area
- Preserve natural assets
- Trees, flowers, etc.
- Beautiful trees- TREES!



agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

“Be sensitive to our agriculture uses.”

*“Build homes near our schools
(or vice versa).”*

“Give us a town center!”

“Take advantage of the Catawba River.”

“Let the entire county grow.”

“More housing, better schools.”

“Extend Dave Lyle Boulevard to Lancaster County.”

“There was no mention for how to fund these ideas. Nothing will really change unless federal or state tax structure changes.”



Lancaster County

Workshop: Lancaster, SC

October 3, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Lancaster County Information

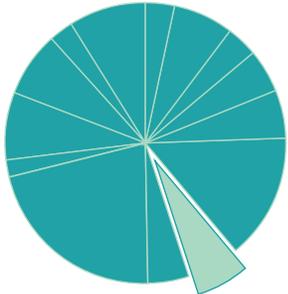
The Community Growth Workshop for Lancaster County was held on October 3, 2013, at the USC Lancaster Campus in Lancaster. Seventy-five people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Ten tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Lancaster County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Lancaster County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Lancaster County should be directed to Cole McKinney, Regional Initiatives Director, Catawba Regional COG at cmckinney@catawbacog.org or 803-327-9041.

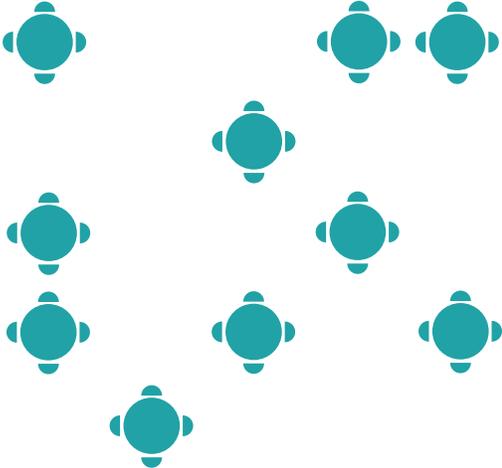


ATTENDANCE

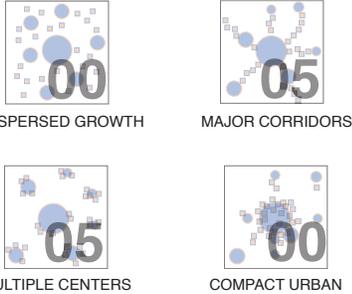


Total: 1,195 Lancaster: 75 attendees, 6.2% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



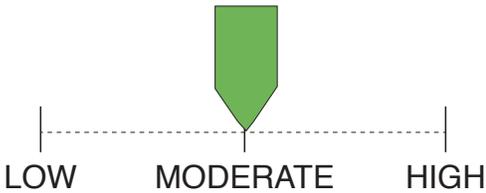
DISPERSED GROWTH

MAJOR CORRIDORS

MULTIPLE CENTERS

COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

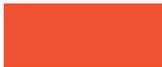
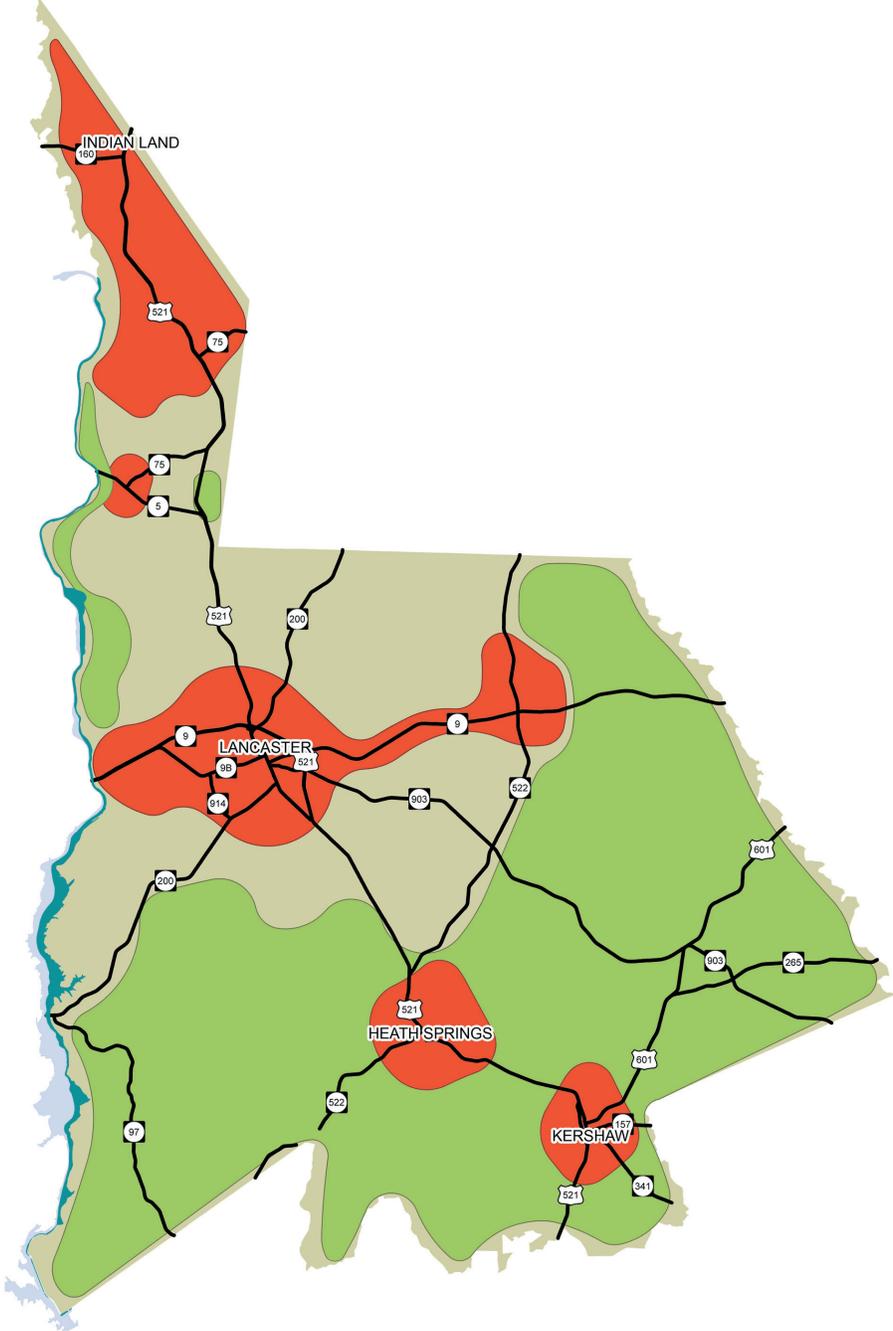


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

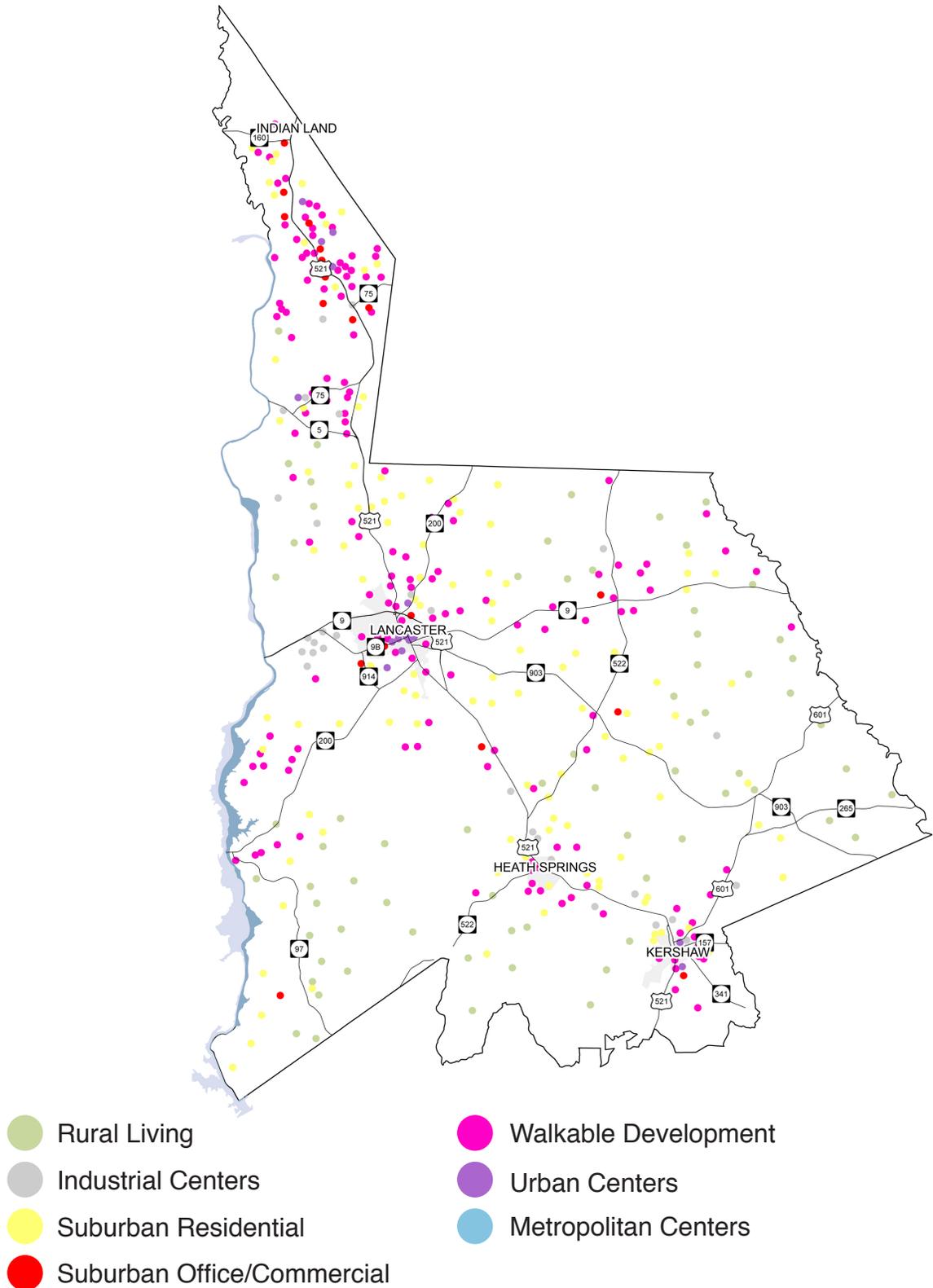


General Areas in the County to Preserve

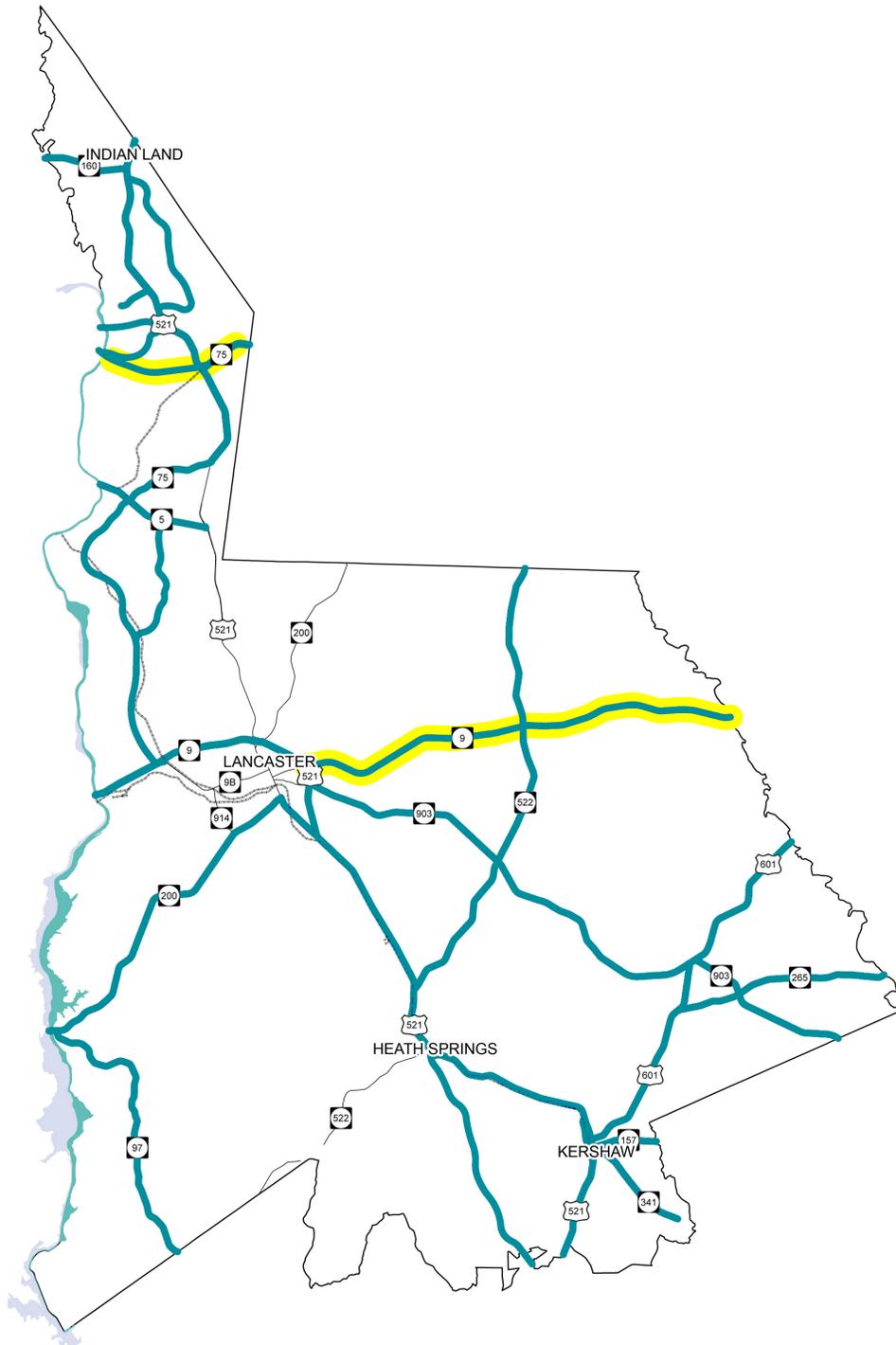


General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



Where Should We Build Roads?

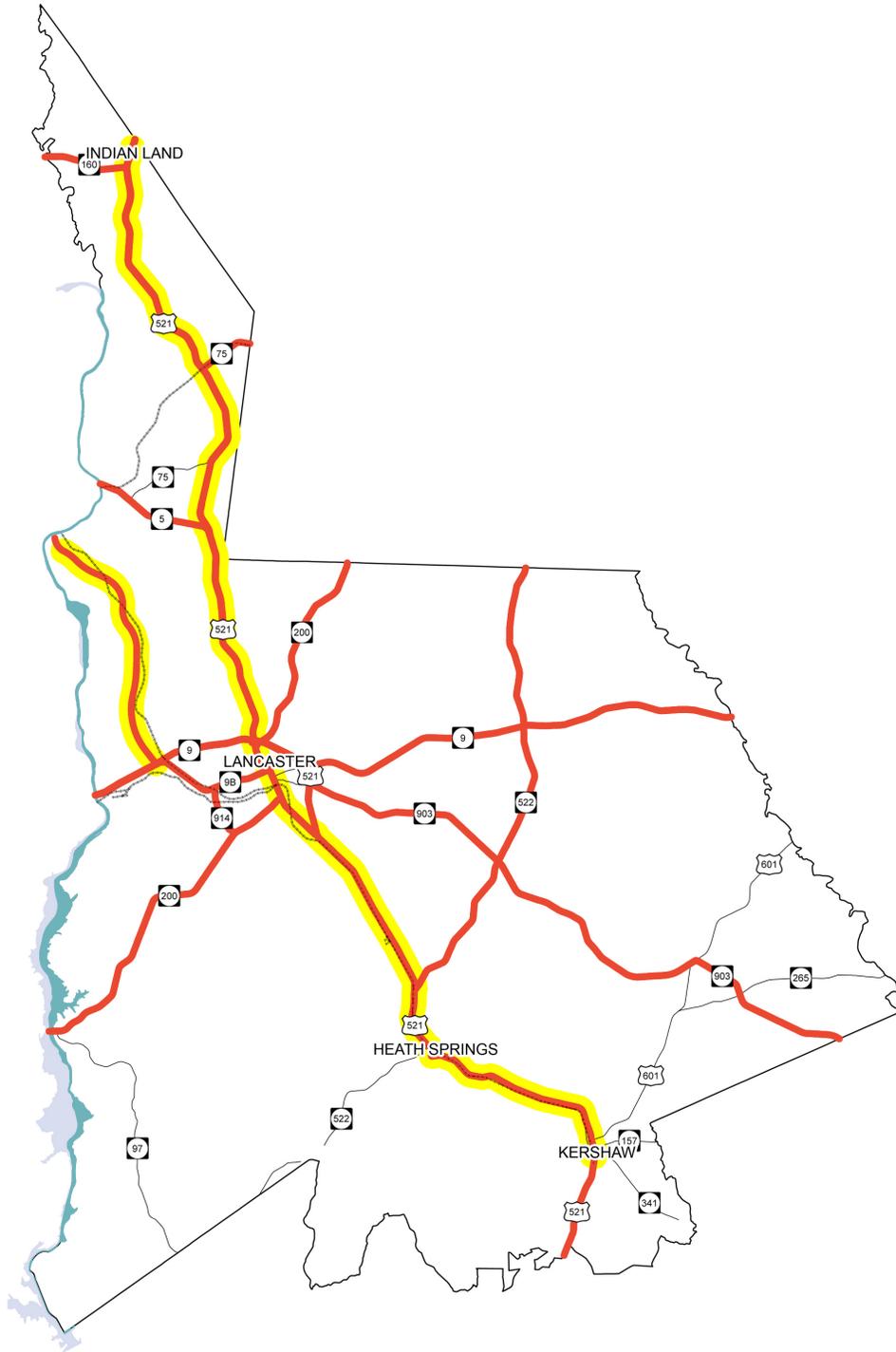


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?



All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



Preserved Open Space in the County



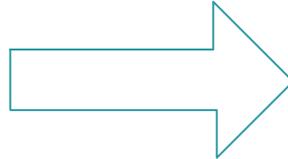
All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

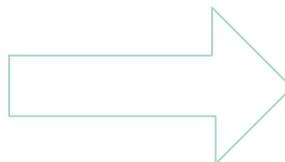
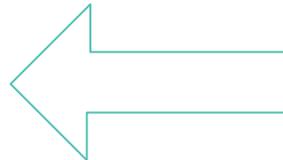
Lancaster County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Roads in Riverside / Elgin area need repair
- Improvement to roads and infrastructure (accessibility and effectiveness)
- Improve existing roads/ better lighting

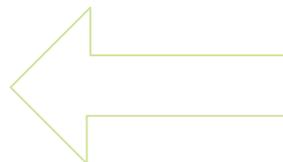
- Growth in Indian Land is inevitable but need to preserve green space
- Need to protect Catawba River through buffers, greenways, etc (Protect R.A.W. infrastructure)
- Preserve natural resources- river, air quality
- Ensure developer retain green space/ trees



- Where growth is going, manage growth government buildings should be in Indian Land
- Need balance in growth across the county - not all in Indian Land
- Expanding growth county wide
- Need better planning for development / better controls over development in panhandle through zoning /policy

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Schools - think more about capacity issues
- School system - important buildings more schools
- Education and training (vocational training) is key
- Expand college - full blown college



“Too much attention in one area of the county.”

“Manage growth.”

“Rail service to Charlotte.”

“Todos los beneficios que necesitan los niños, adolescente[s], adulto[s] y 3ra edad.”

“Celebrate the Lake (Norman).”

“Increase employment opportunities: office & industrial.”

“Consider existing growth patterns when planning the future.”



Lincoln County

Workshop: Lincolnton, NC

September 23, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

October 12, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Lincoln County Information

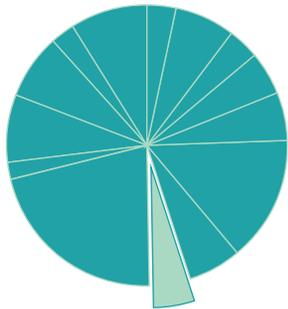
Two Community Growth Workshops were held for Lincoln County. The first was on September 23, 2013, at the Lincoln County Senior Center in Lincolnton. The second as on October 12, 2013, at the Iglesia Taller de Dios in Lincolnton. Fifty-five people attended one of the four identical sessions held during the two events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Four tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Lincoln County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Lincoln County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Lincoln County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

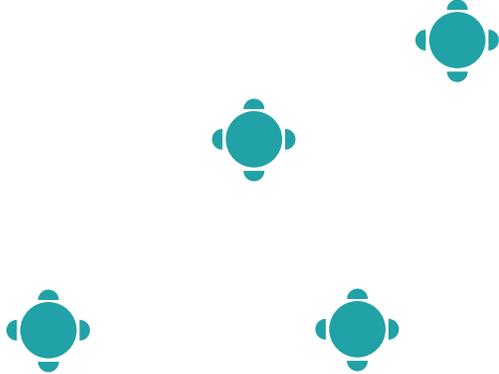


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Lincoln: 55 attendees, 4.6% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS

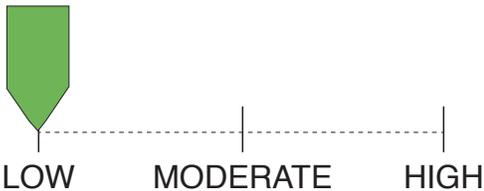


MULTIPLE CENTERS

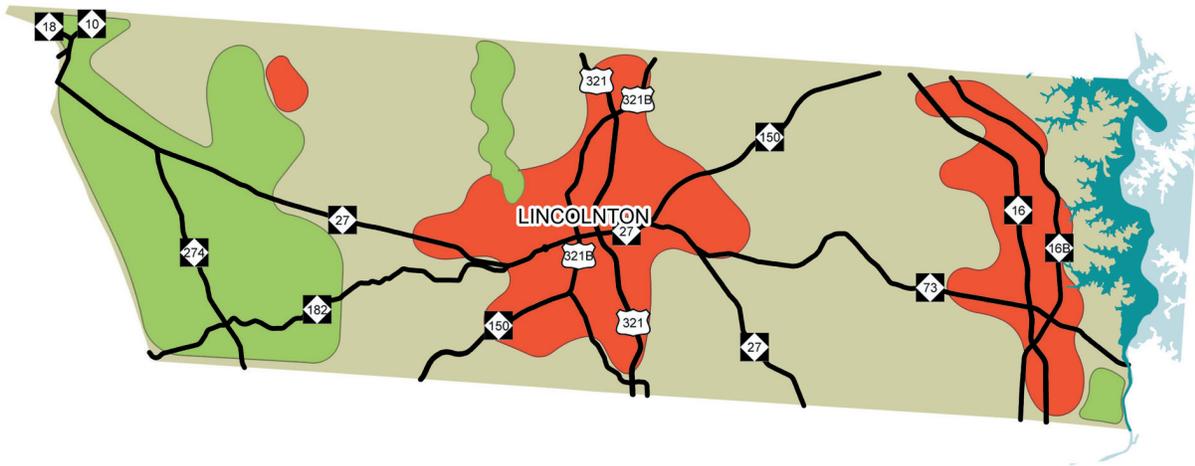


COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

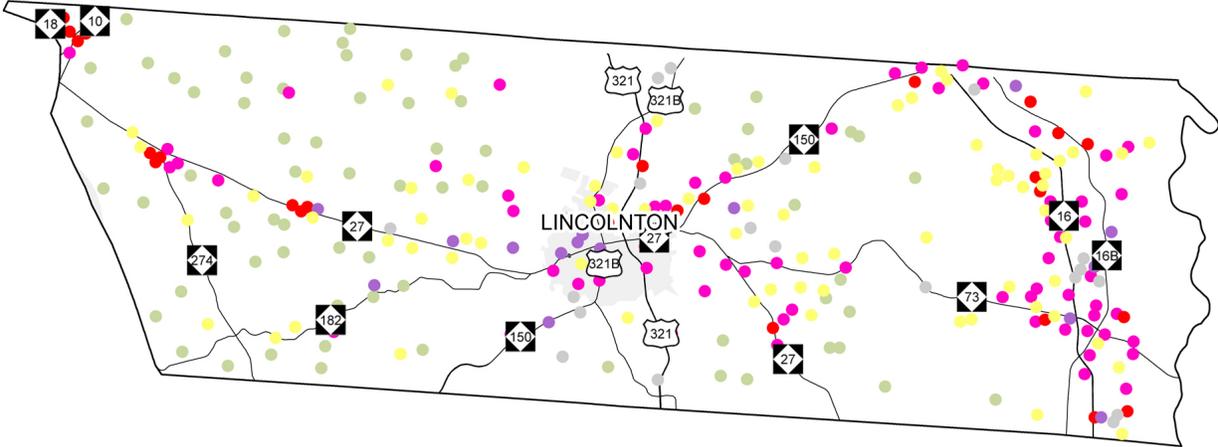


Where Should We Grow?



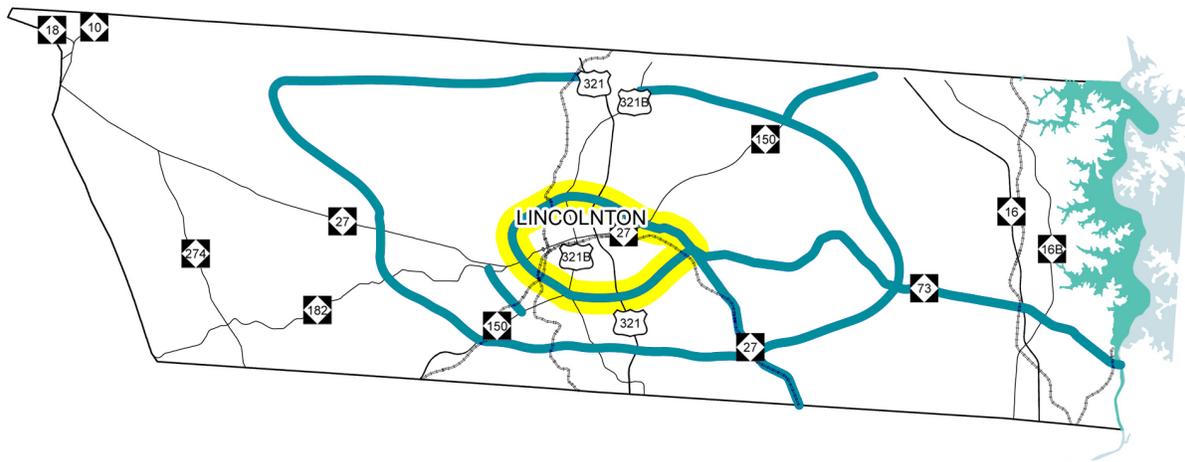
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

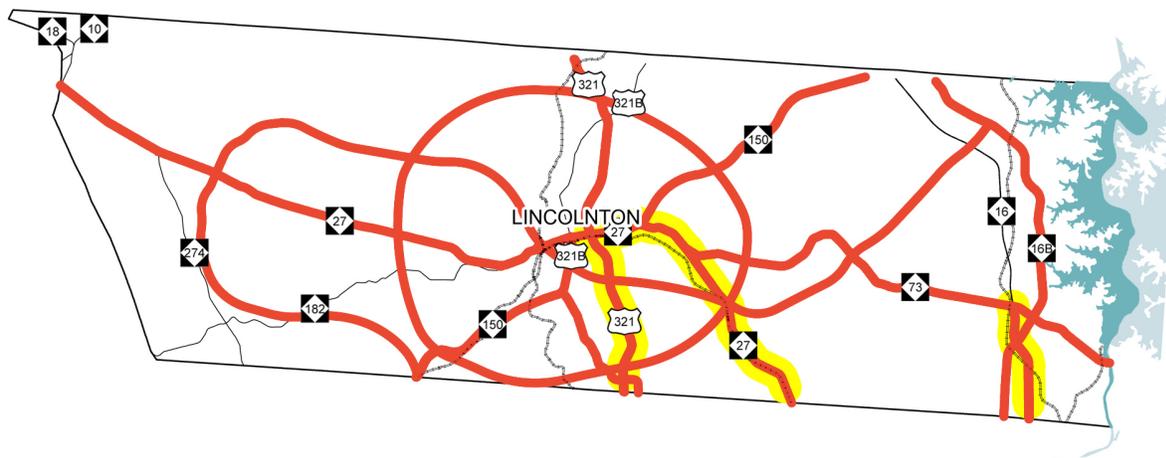


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

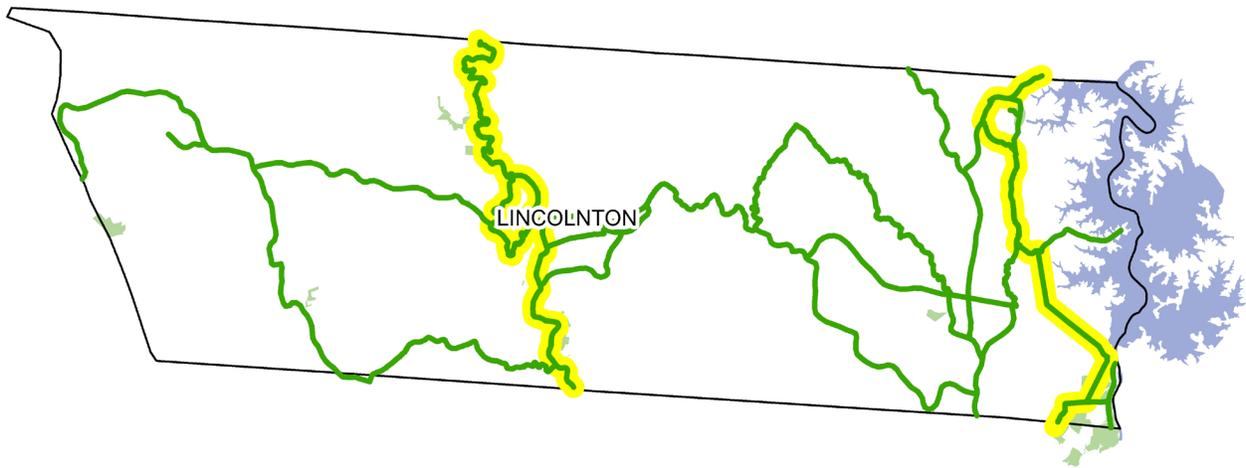


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

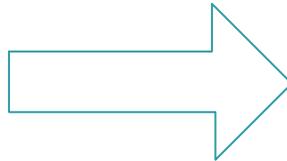
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

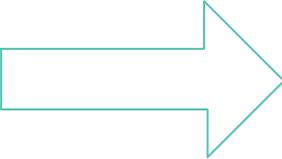
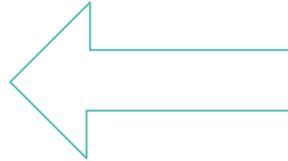
Lincoln County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



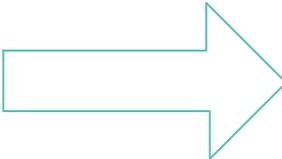
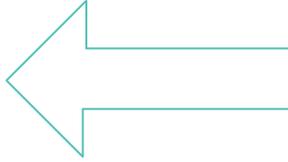
- Public recreation important (camping)
- More Parks

- Redevelopment of sites (Lincolnton downtown)
- Infill, redevelopment
- Rebuild schools and redevelop housing



- Education (charter)
- Vocational schools

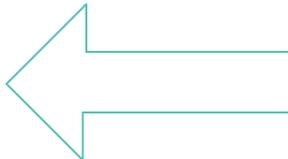
- Keep with growth/ jobs to sustain residents - jobs need to fit with labor force- opportunity
- Economic development- more jobs help to single parents



- Farmland preservation (way of life - balanced growth)
- Preserving farms

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Access to services in and outside of Lincoln County
- More Safety- police officers
- Community services places



“We should be planning around our watersheds.”

“Too much emphasis on new roads.”

“Too many people for our roads. Move us further toward transit.”

“I hope you had as much fun as our table did.”

“Give us opportunities to grow.”

“Too much industrial development anticipated for Mecklenburg County.”

“The county is largely built out. New growth should focus on infill and (re)development opportunities. Need to become even more urban.”



Mecklenburg County

Workshop: Charlotte, NC

Sept. 25, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

October 19, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

October 24, 2013: PM

November 5, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

November 12, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

Workshop: Pineville, NC

October 2, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

Workshop: Davidson, NC

October 14, 2013: AM, Noon, PM

Mecklenburg County Information

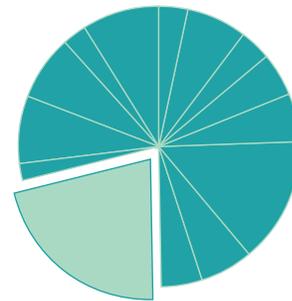
Seven Community Growth Workshops were held for Mecklenburg County: East Stonewall AME Zion Church on September 25, 2013 (Charlotte), The Hut on October 2, 2013 (Pineville), Davidson College Presbyterian Church on October 14, 2013 (Davidson), Levine Museum of the New South on October 19, 2013 (Charlotte), Mahlon Adams Pavilion in Freedom Park on October 24, 2013 (Charlotte), Crisis Assistance Ministry on November 5, 2013 (Charlotte), and the Generation Nation Office on November 12, 2013 (Charlotte). 258 people attended one of the thirteen identical sessions held during the seven events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Thirty-two tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Mecklenburg County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Mecklenburg County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Mecklenburg County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

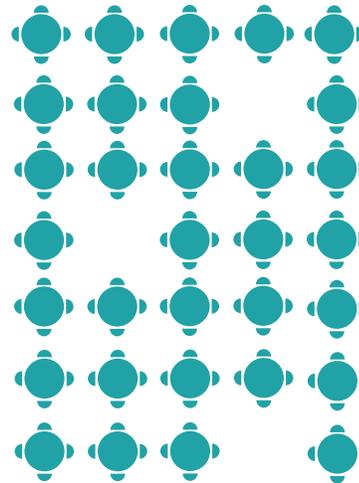


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Mecklenburg: 258 attendees, 21.5% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



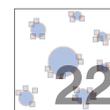
STARTING PACKETS



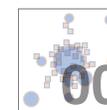
DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS

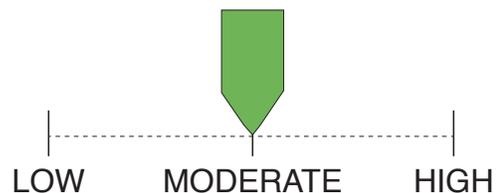


MULTIPLE CENTERS



COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

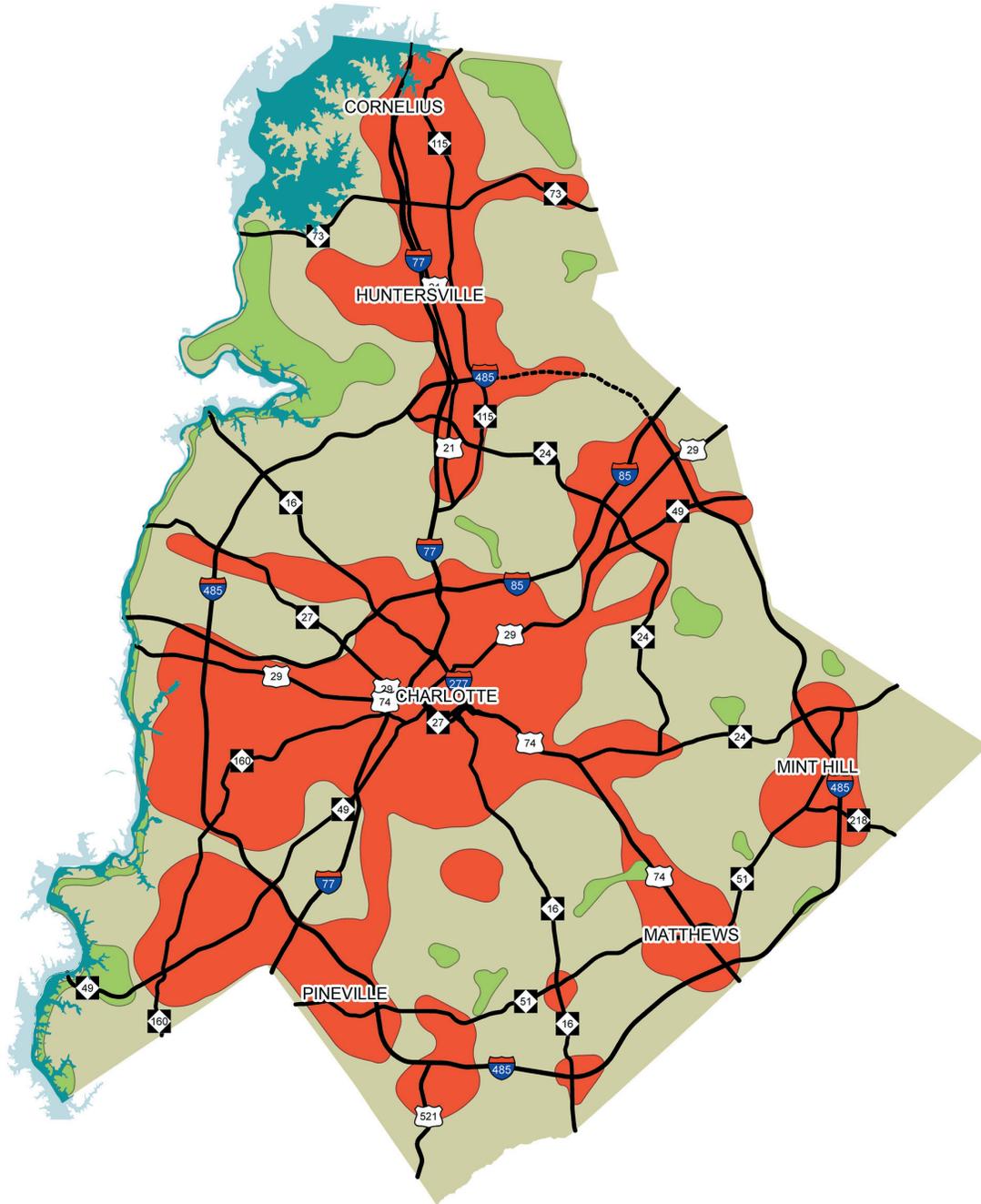


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

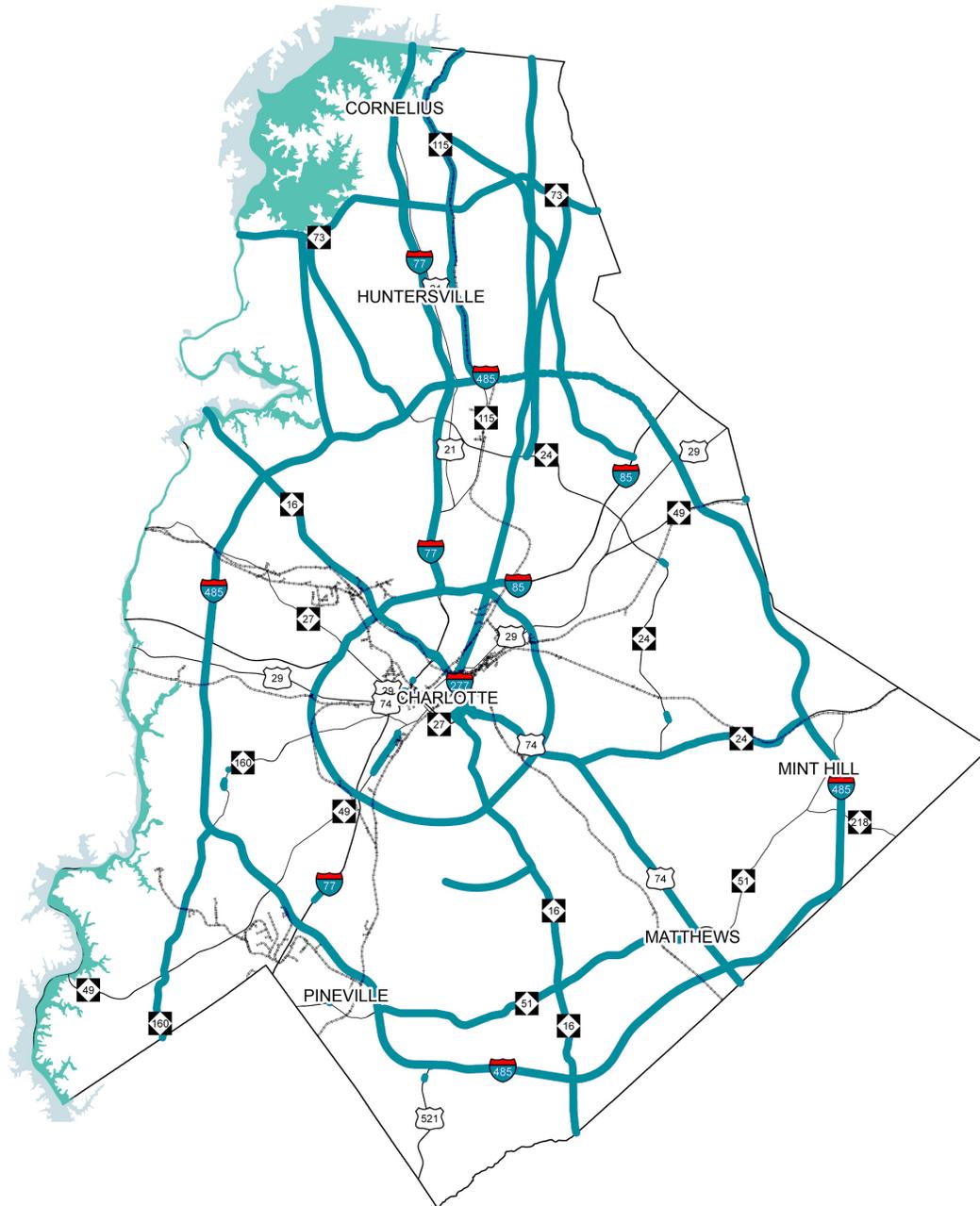


General Areas in the County to Preserve



General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

Where Should We Build Roads?



All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

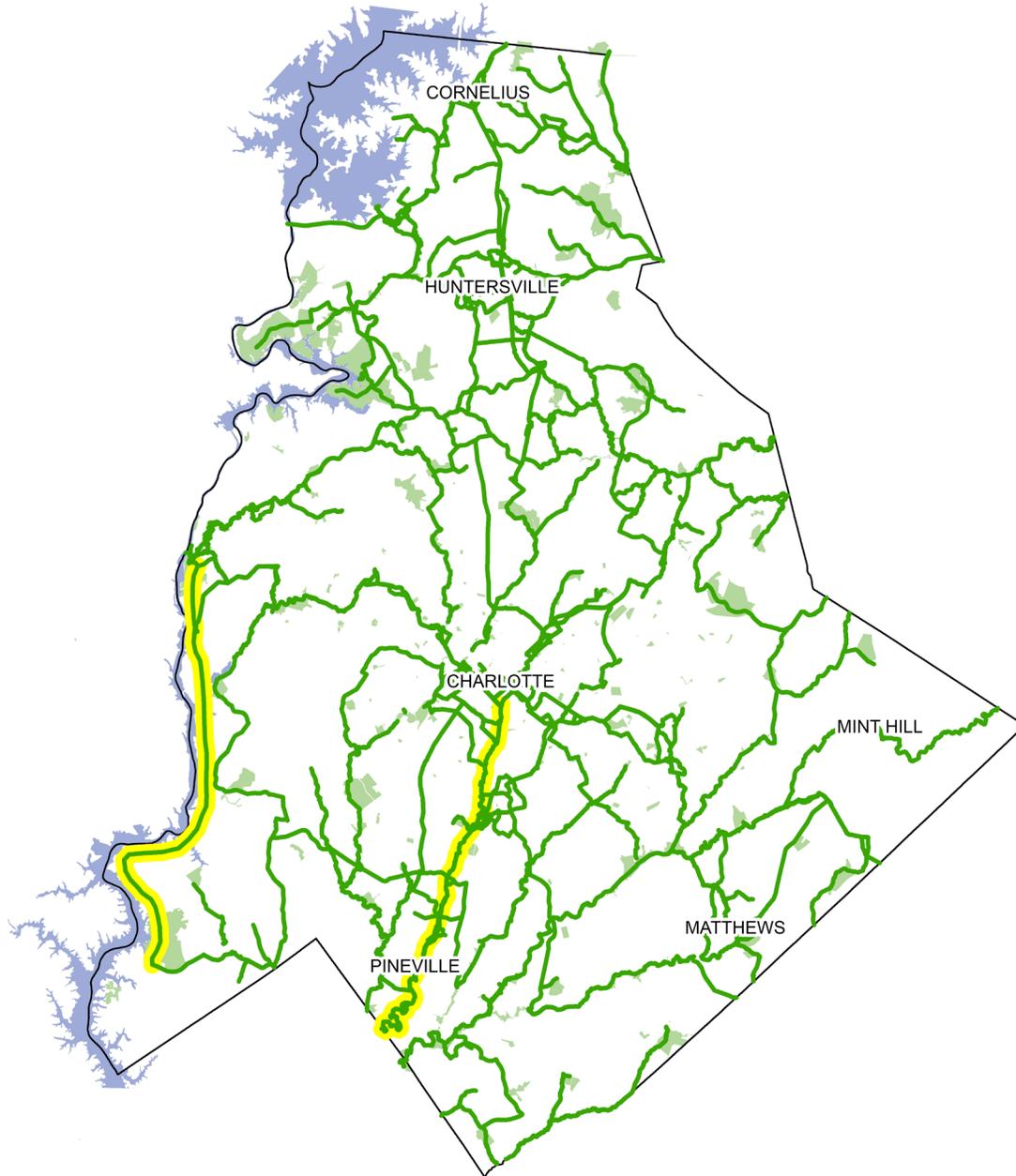


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



Preserved Open Space in the County



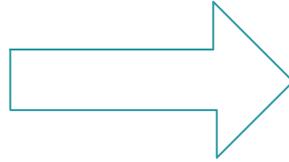
All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

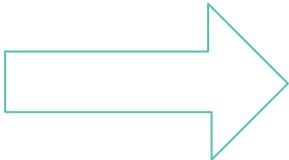
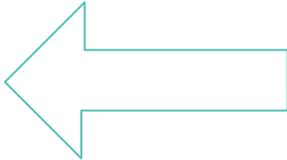
Mecklenburg County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Street Car!
- A grid system for buses - not so round-about
- Better metro system - more connections
- Transportation (light rail / bus) to connect with live and work

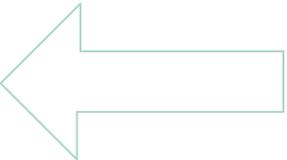
- Walkability- add sidewalks at bus stops and high density neighborhoods
- Don't want Charlotte to look like Atlanta, want to keep small city feel/ walkability
- More walkability cross-walks, more pedestrian friendly you should be able to walk to work
- Walkability - and bike-ability: lanes and paths



- Consider greenways along light rail
- Need a new regional park for northern part of the county
- Integrate surrounding county thread trail and city greenways
- More parks and recreation- that you don't have to drive to

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Not be like Atlanta, too much traffic
- Better traffic control
- Better traffic around major commercial centers
- Need to study traffic patterns



**“Jobs-education-leadership.
Those are our priorities.”**

“Their vision was idealistic, not real.”

“Develop in developed areas.”

*“Water and sewer are big
drivers here.”*

**“We are turning into planners
here.”**

*“No thoughts about jobs
for those without college
degrees.”*

**“ I like the discussion in our
group. I would like to see it
continue.”**

“If you’re not growing,
you’re dying.”



Rowan County

Workshop: Salisbury, NC

October 15, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Rowan County Information

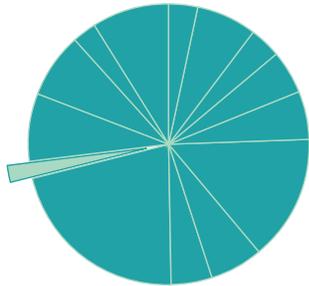
The Community Growth Workshop for Rowan County was held on October 15, 2013, at the Salisbury Civic Center in Salisbury. Twenty-three people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Four tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Rowan County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Rowan County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Rowan County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

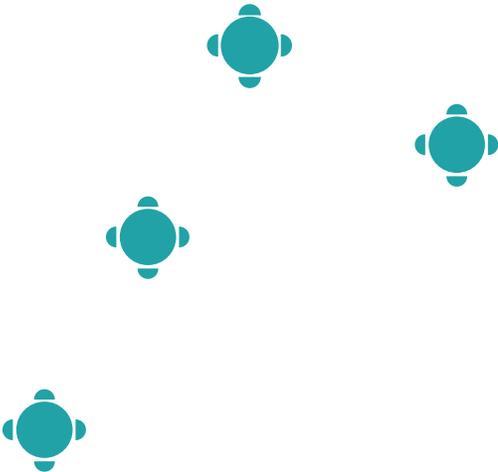


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Rowan: 23 attendees, 1.9% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS

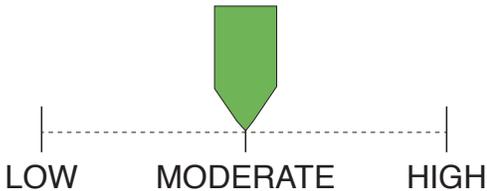


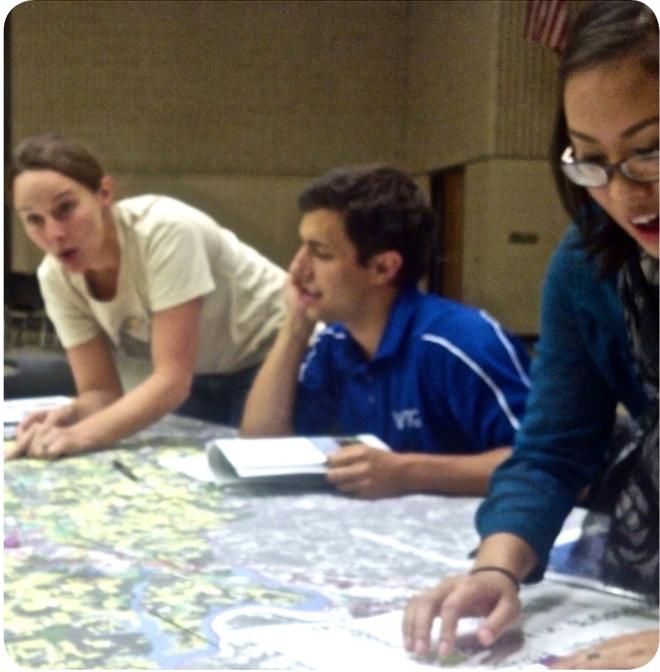
MULTIPLE CENTERS



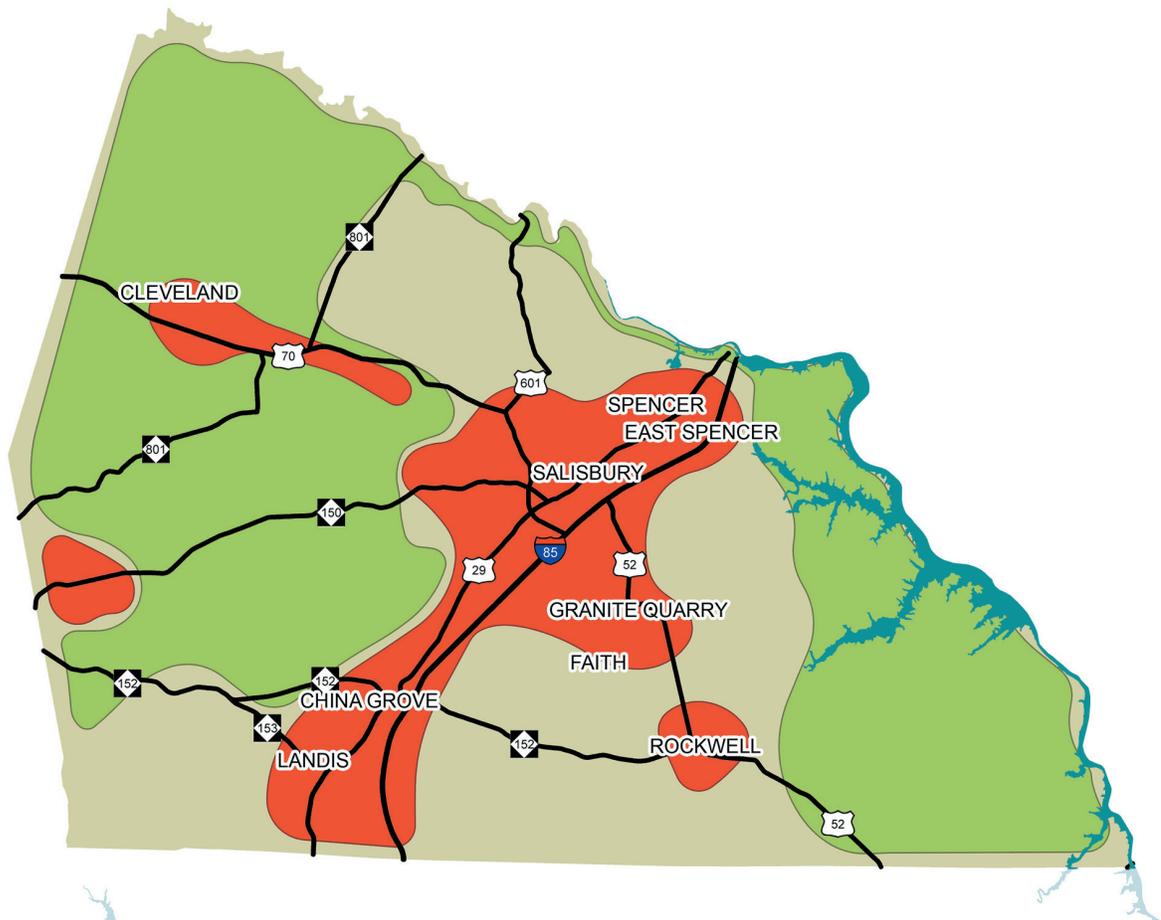
COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY



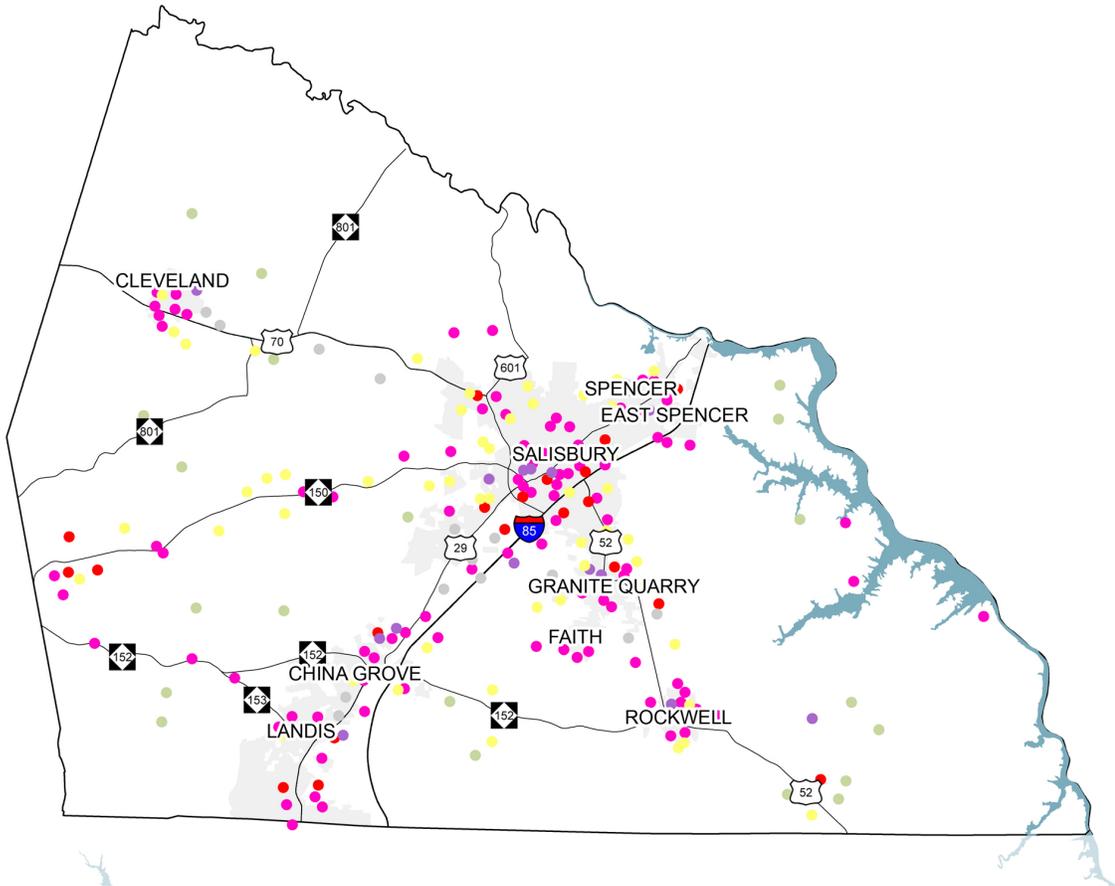


Where Should We Grow?



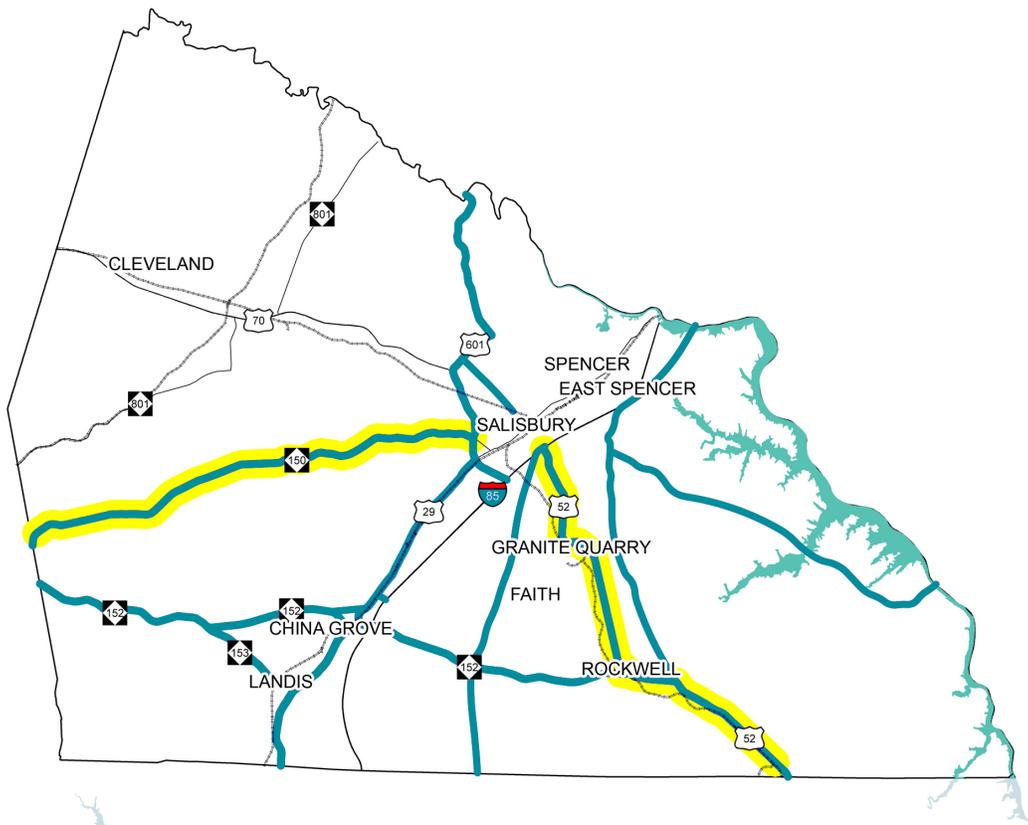
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

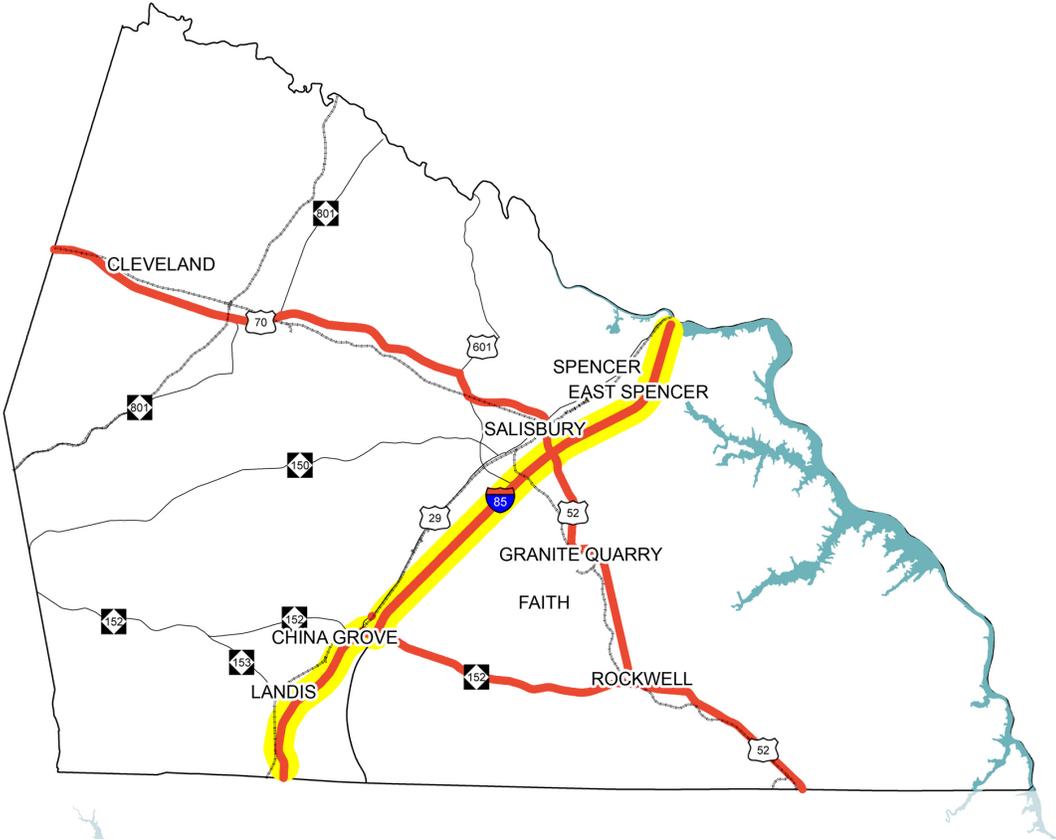


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

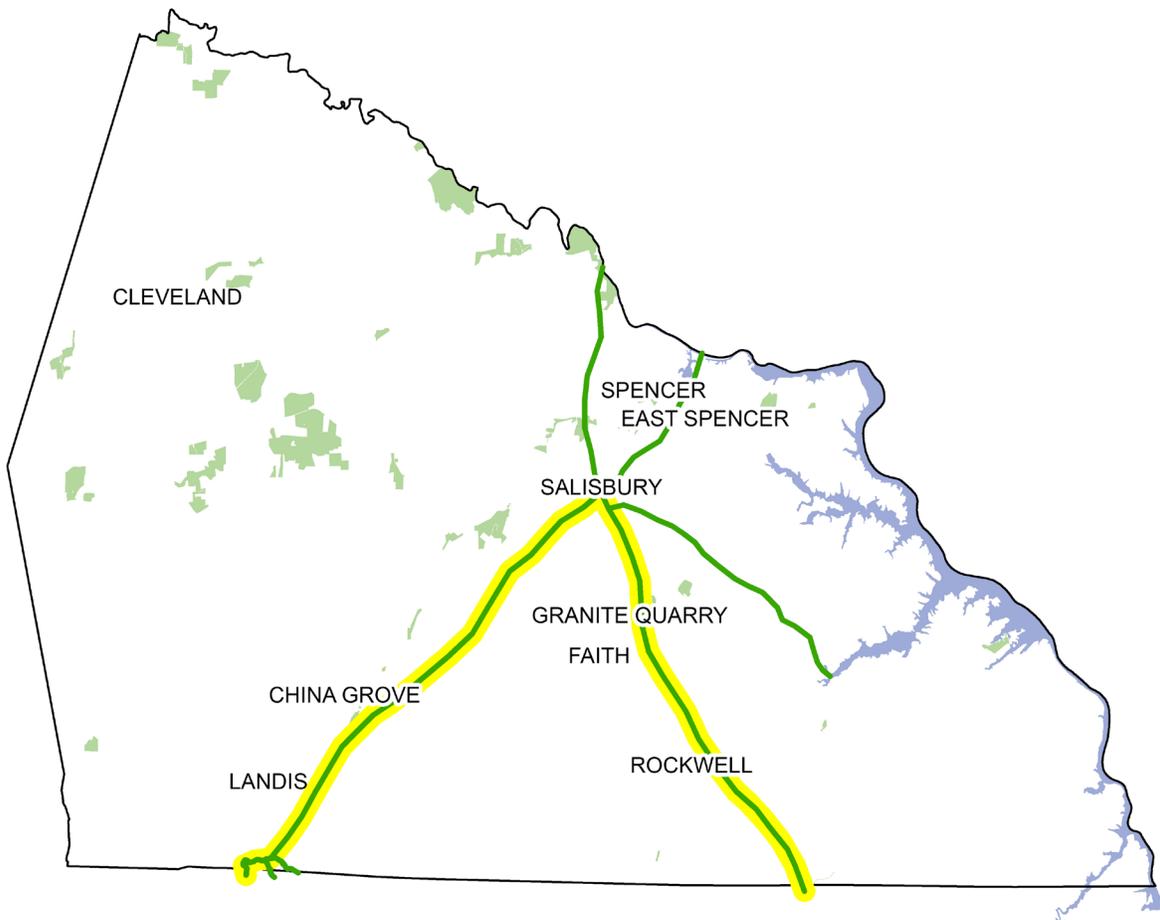


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

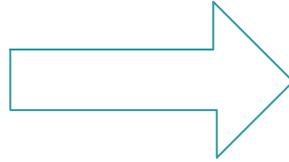
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

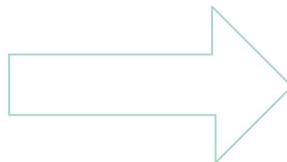
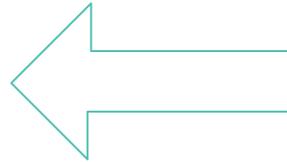
Rowan County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Farmland Preservation
- Farmland - active farming community

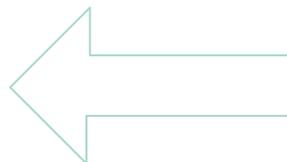
- Better educated workforce and jobs
- Economic power base- the potential for Kannapolis / Landis / China Grove



- Education and opportunities to keep folks here
- Education and higher education

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Stronger links eastward (Greensboro)
- 8 lanes for I-85
- Interchanges (Beatties Ford Rd) improved, interchange between China Grove and Landis



“Keep our river areas well-managed.”

“Preserve our rural character.”

“Preserve our farmland.”

“Greater sense of community.”

“I enjoyed hearing different opinions and viewpoints.”

“Greater jobs-housing balance.”

“How do we implement?”

“We need better cooperation among the cities and towns.”



Stanly County

Workshop: Albemarle, NC

September 10, 2013

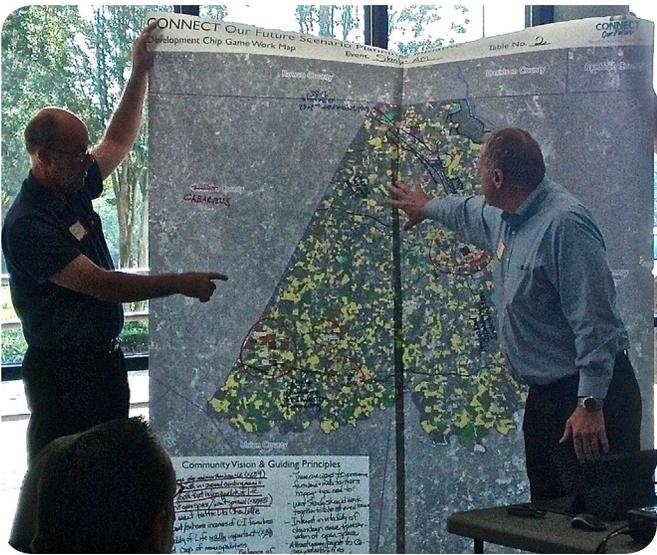
AM, Noon, PM

Stanly County Information

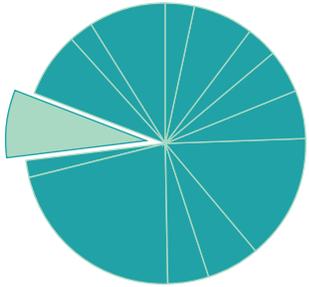
The Community Growth Workshop for Stanly County was held on September 10, 2013, at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center in Albemarle. Ninety-three people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Eleven tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Stanly County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Stanly County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Stanly County should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

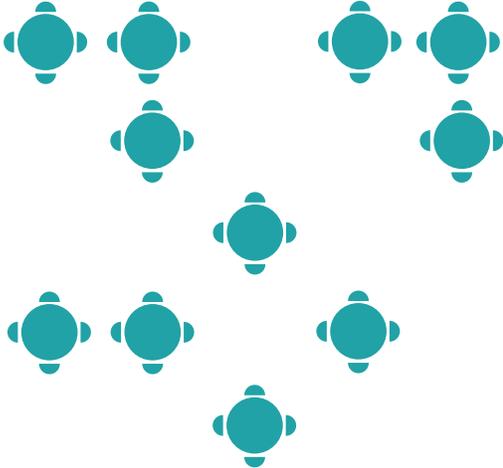


ATTENDANCE

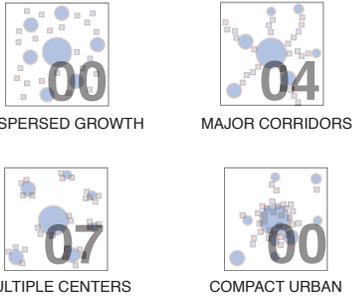


Total: 1,195 Stanly: 93 attendees, 7.7% of total

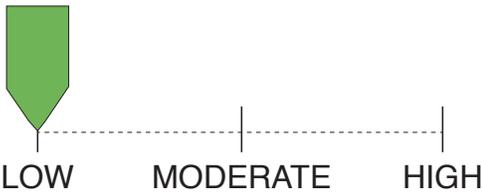
NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

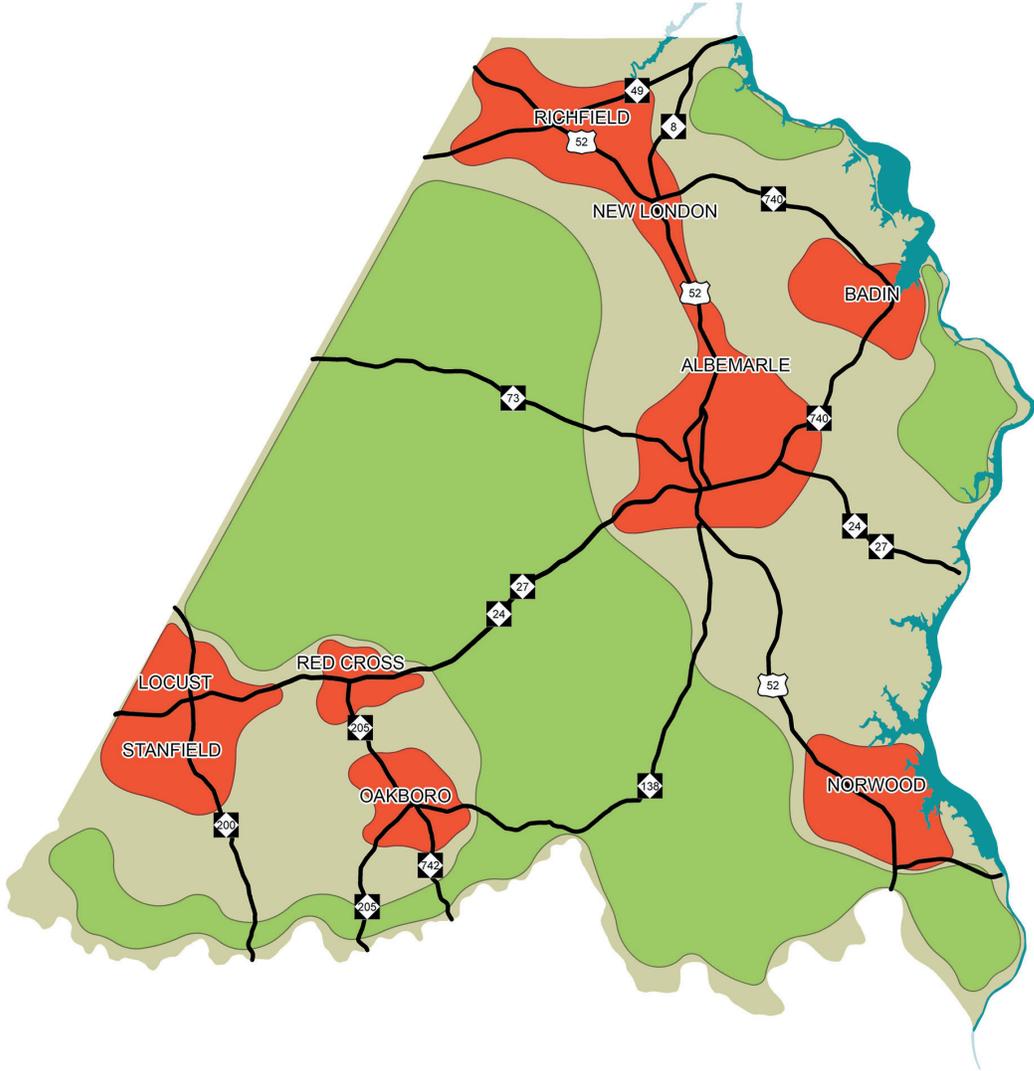


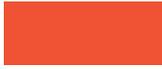
CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

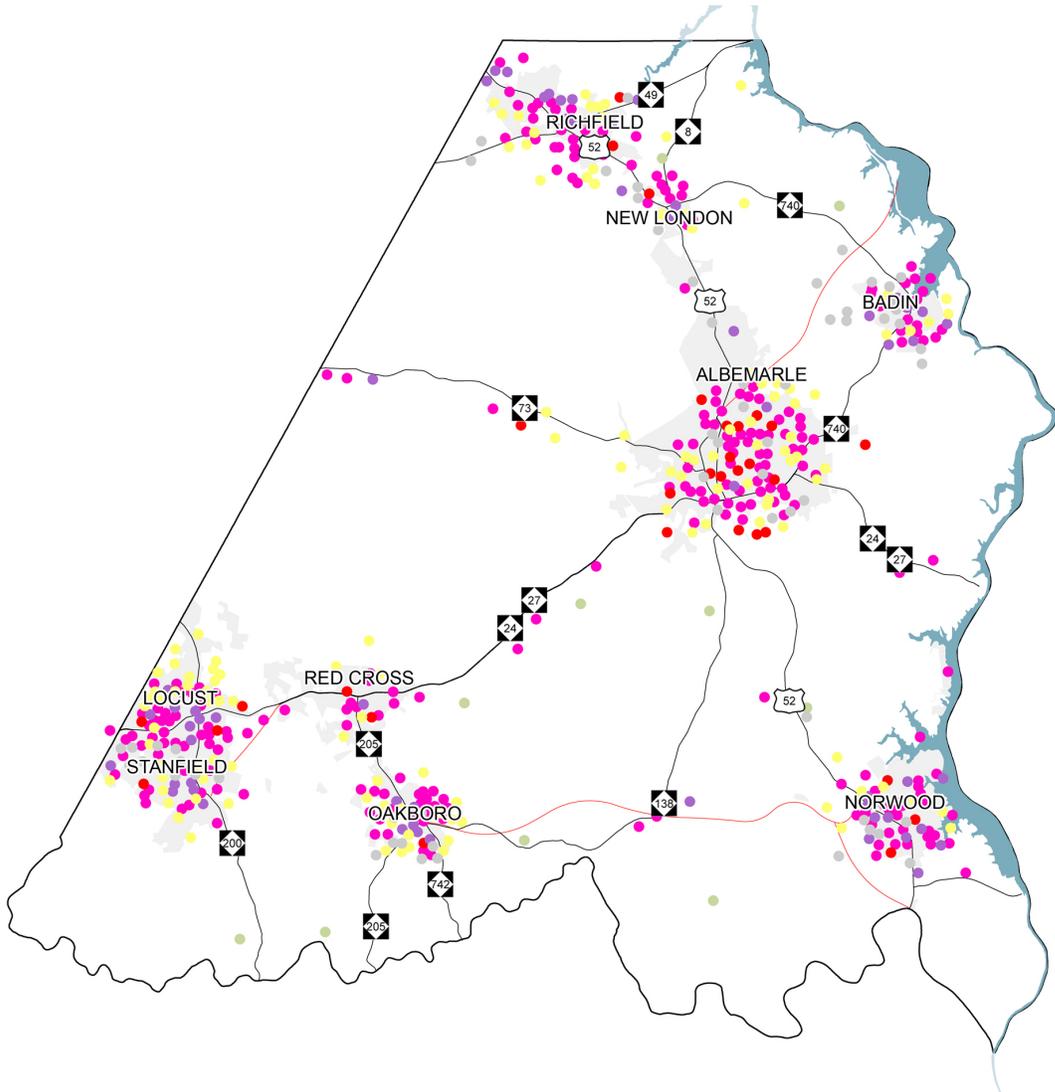


Where Should We Grow?



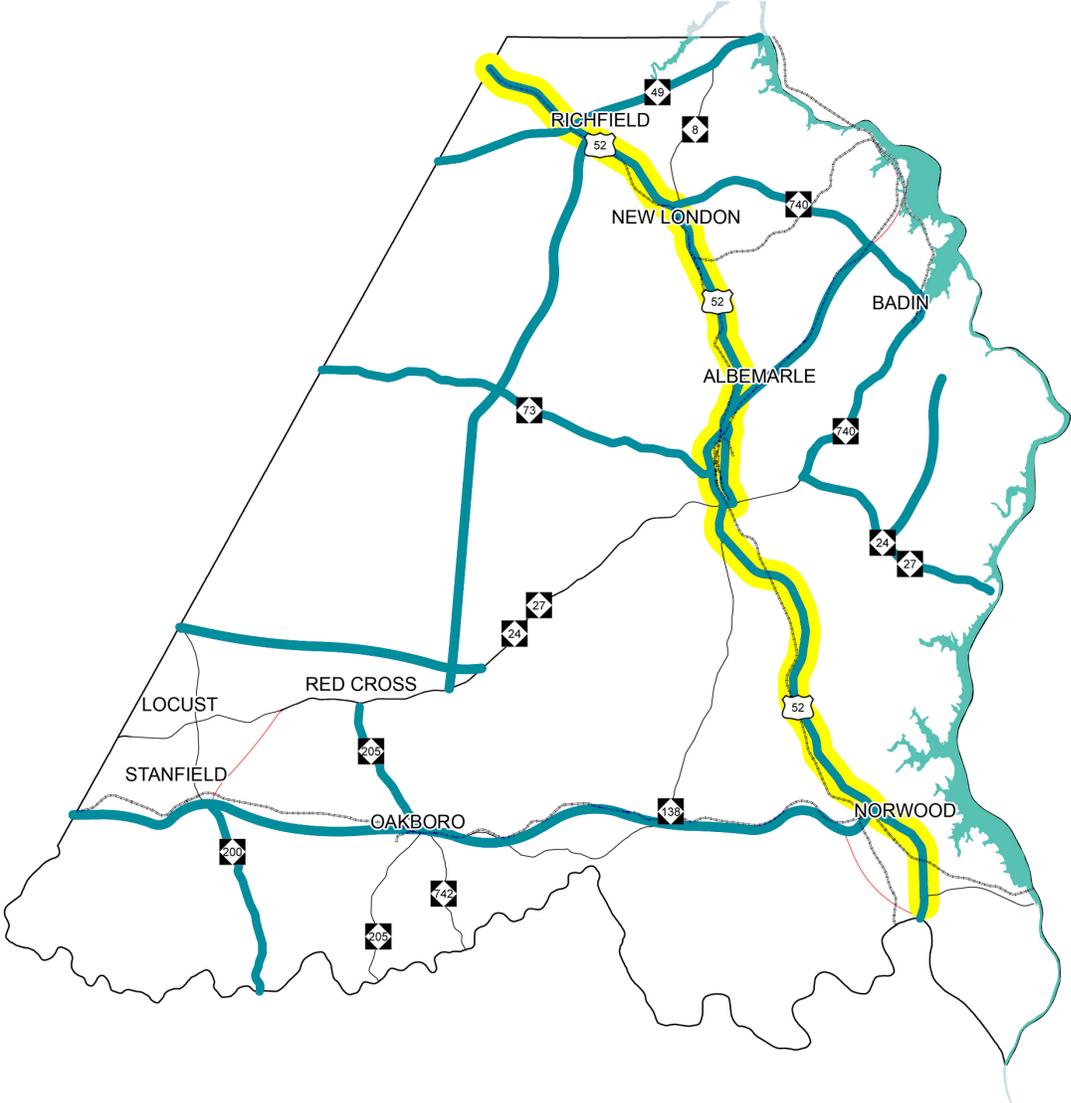
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

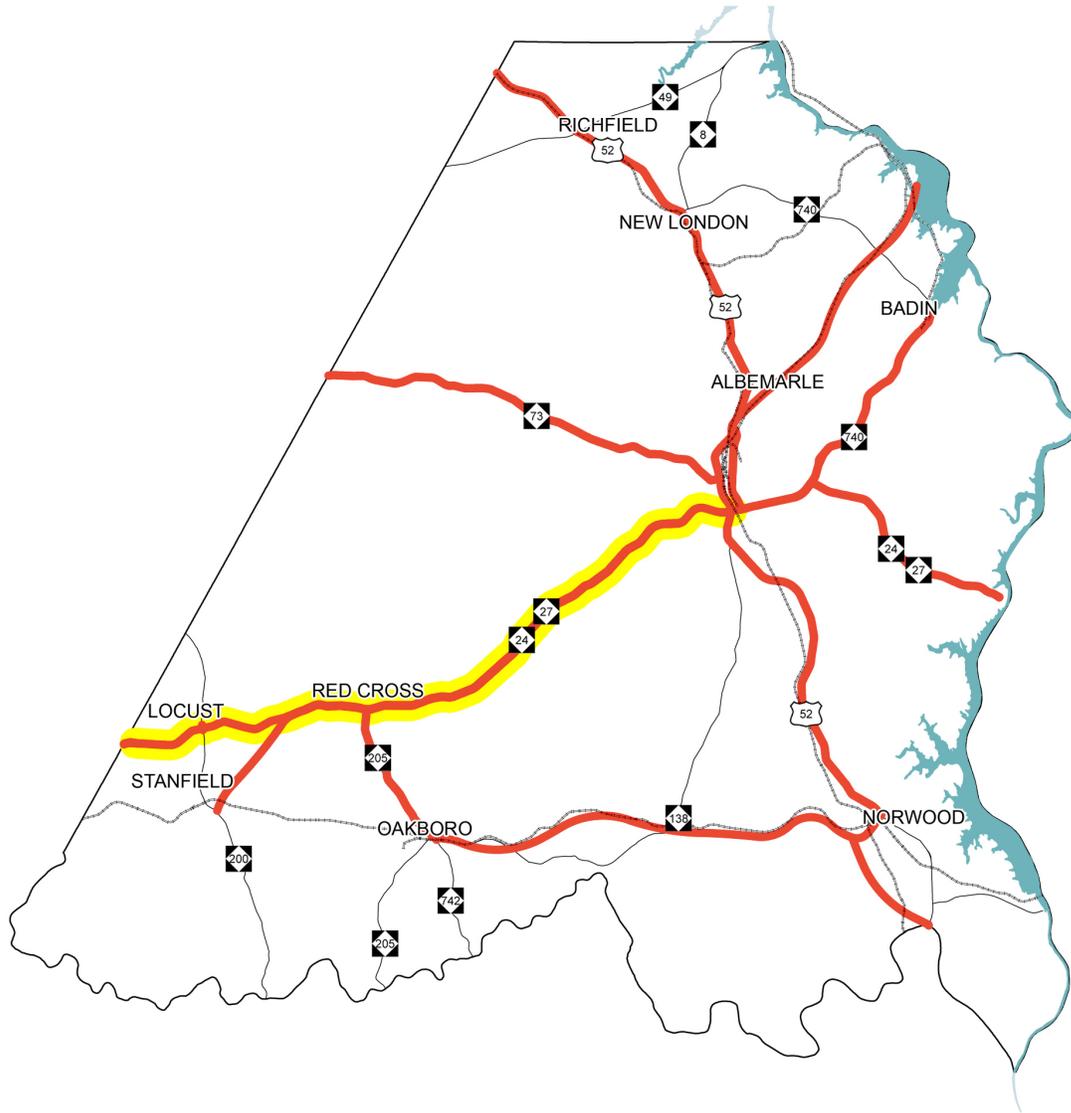


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

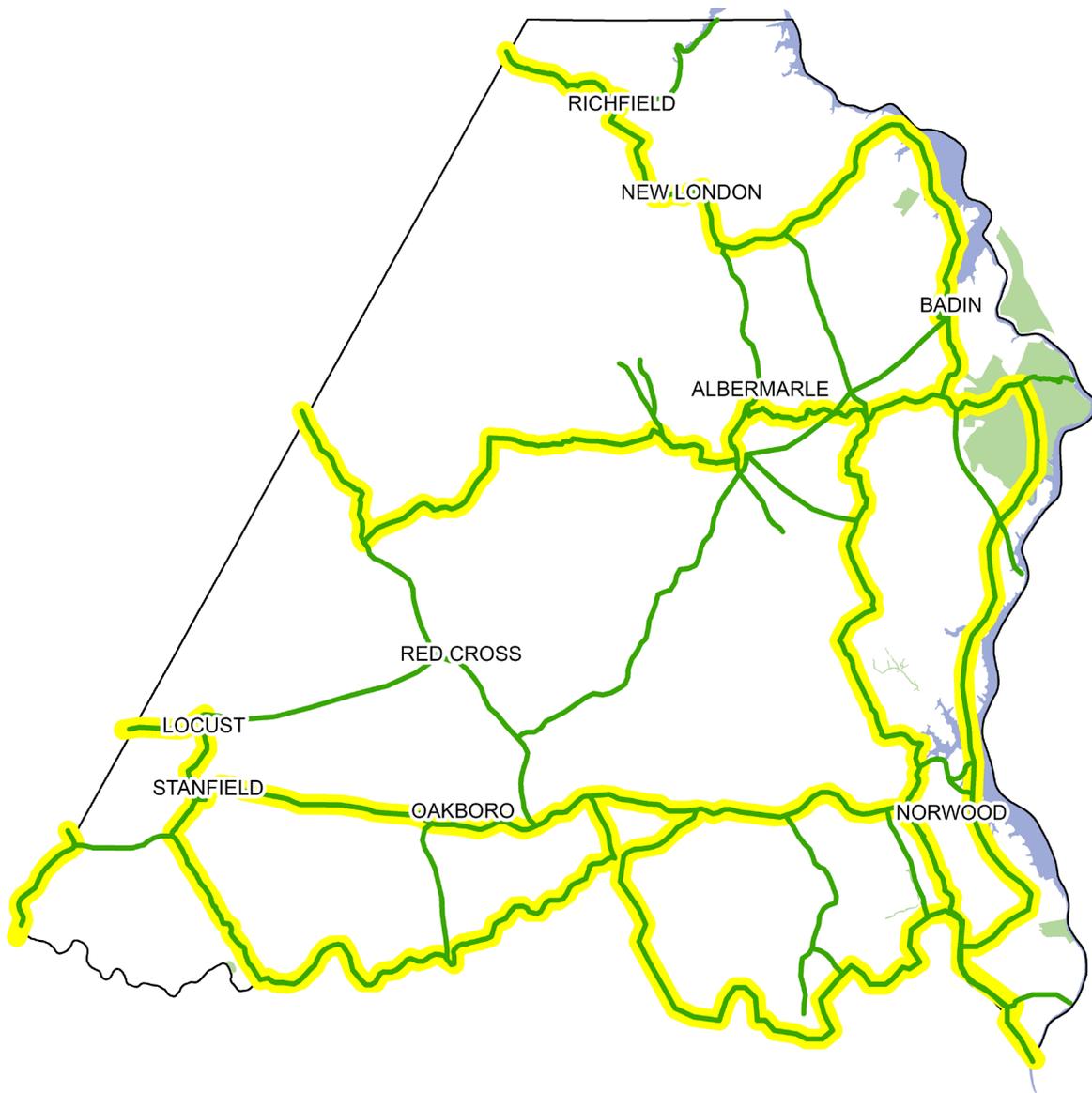


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

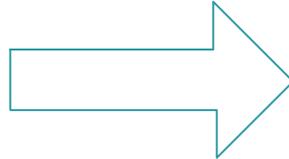
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

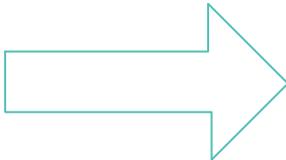
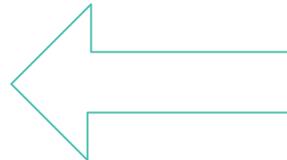
Stanly County Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Add diversity to education system and link with colleges
- Education / keeping kids in school
- World class school system
- Quality education operations

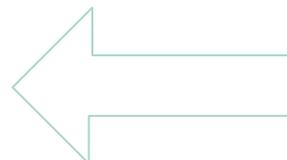
- Encourage jobs - need more than hospitals
- Job growth / industry for all sectors (trades or college)
- Right kind of jobs
- Attract quality businesses and decrease need for commuting



- Natural resources - use for economic growth
- Preserve natural areas
- Preserve natural resources (forestry, water, farms) biking/ kayak
- River and other natural resources

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Improved infrastructure (highways and utilities)
- More county access to sewer and water
- Strengthen infrastructure
- Roads- access to interstate



“Balance rural living with investments in infrastructure.”

“Improve air quality and water quality in the region.”

“Save our farms!”

“Too much growth in Western Union County.”

“Build the bypass.”

“Too many suburban subdivisions.”

“Don’t build the bypass.”

“Work-Live-Play in Union County.”



Union County, NC

Workshop: Monroe, NC

October 17, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

October 19, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

Union County, NC Information

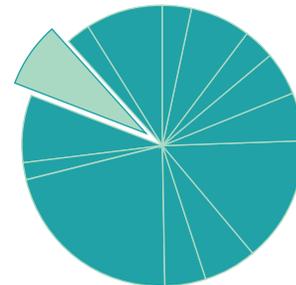
Two Community Growth Workshops were held for Union County, NC. The first was on October 17, 2013, at the First Baptist Church in Monroe. The second was on October 19, 2013, at the Walkup Avenue Church in Monroe. Eighty-nine people attended one of the four identical sessions held during the two events to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Ten tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Union County, NC. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the events for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the events are summarized by general theme at the end of the Union County, NC summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshops in Union County, NC should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

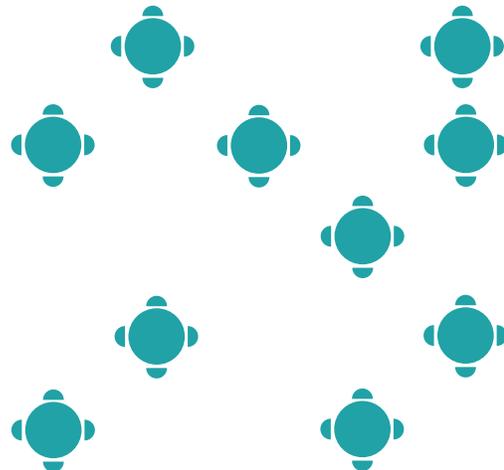


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 Union, NC: 89 attendees, 7.4% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS



DISPERSED GROWTH



MAJOR CORRIDORS

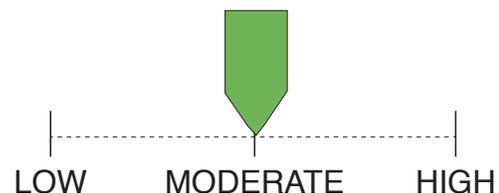


MULTIPLE CENTERS



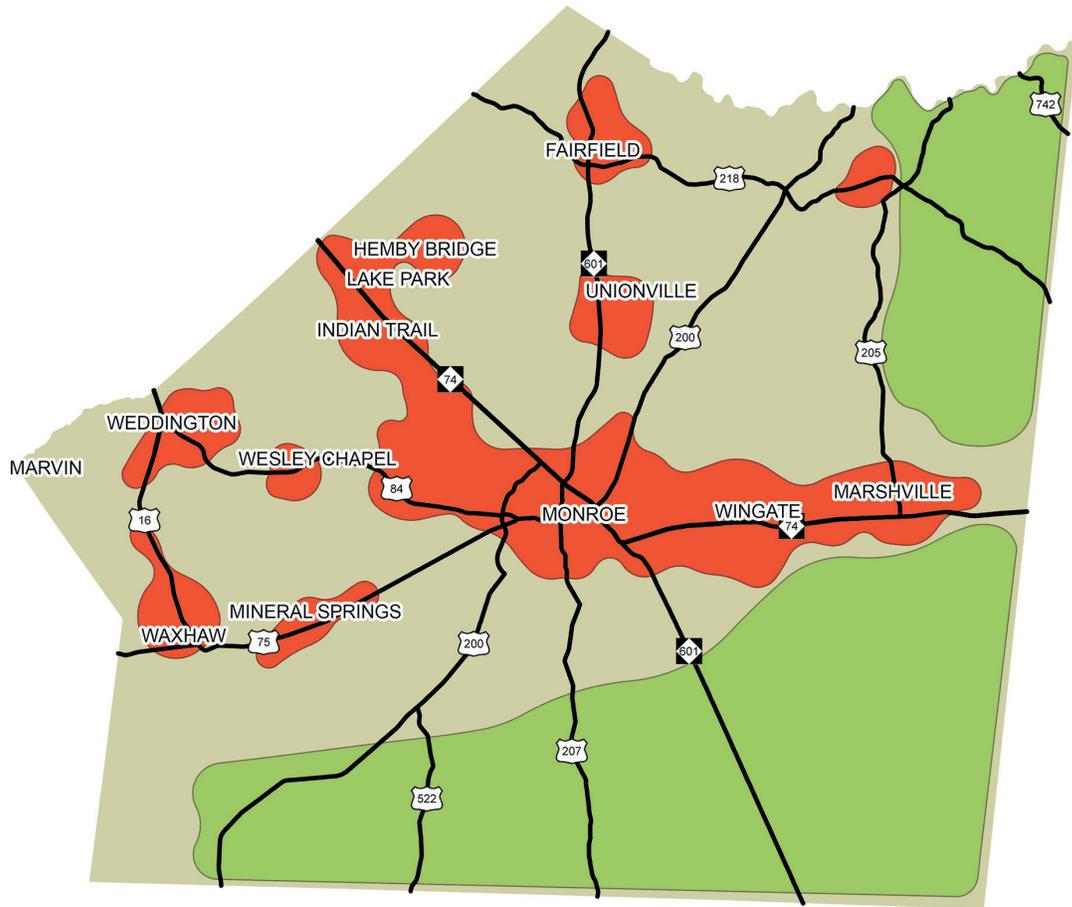
COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY



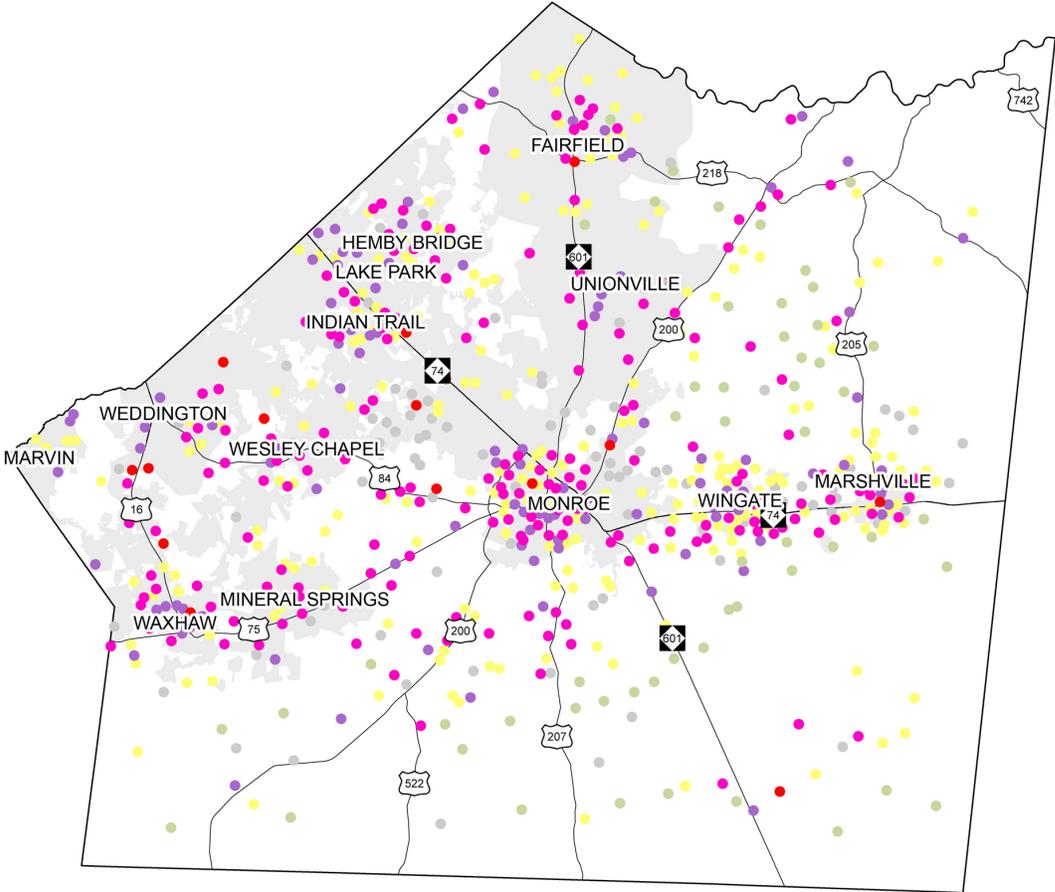


Where Should We Grow?



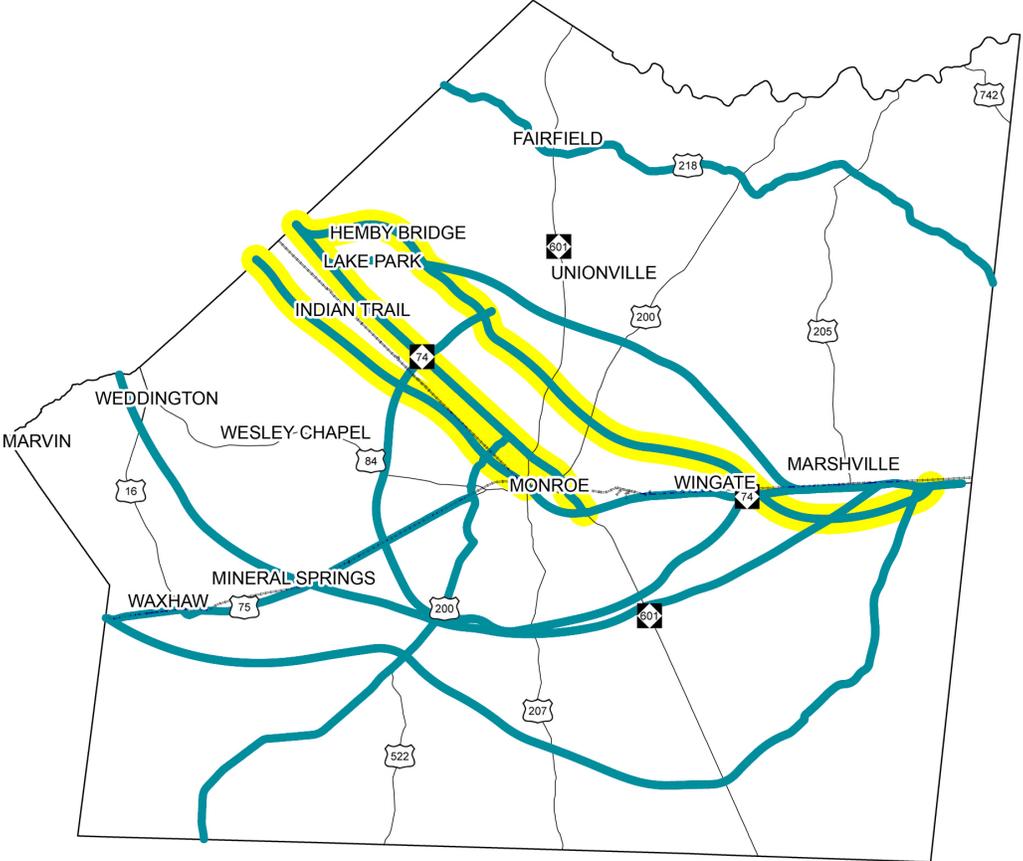
-  General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development
-  General Areas in the County to Preserve
-  General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
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- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

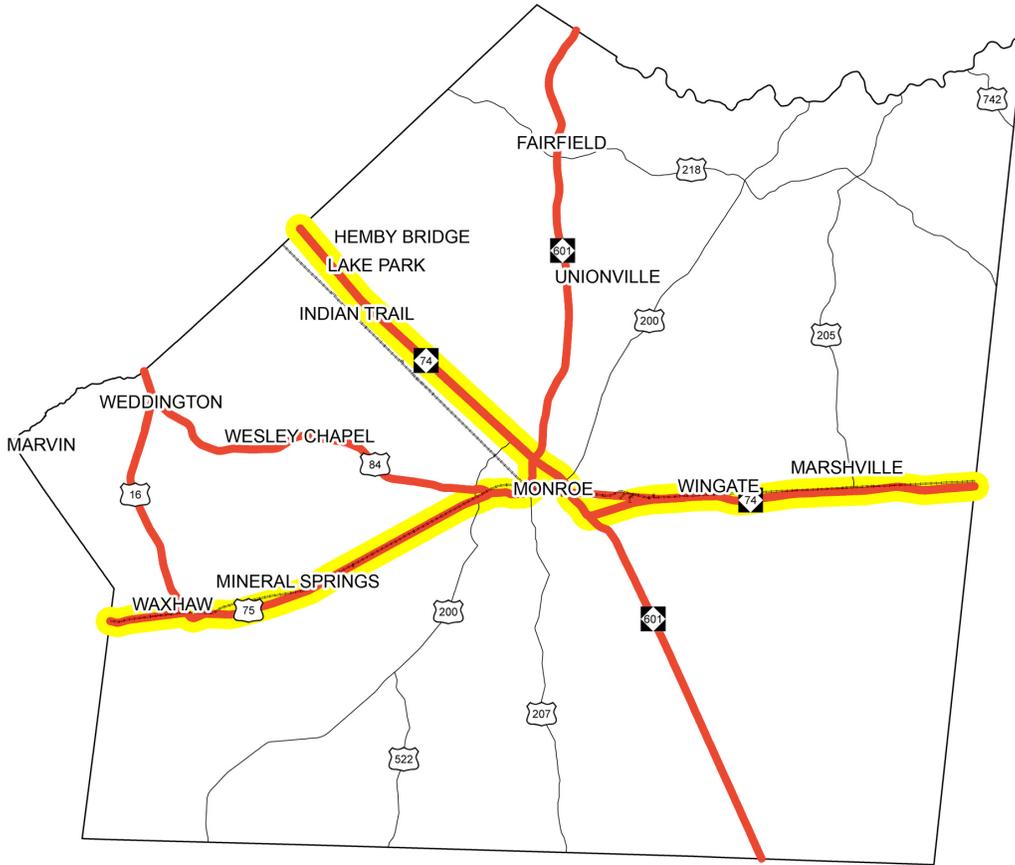


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

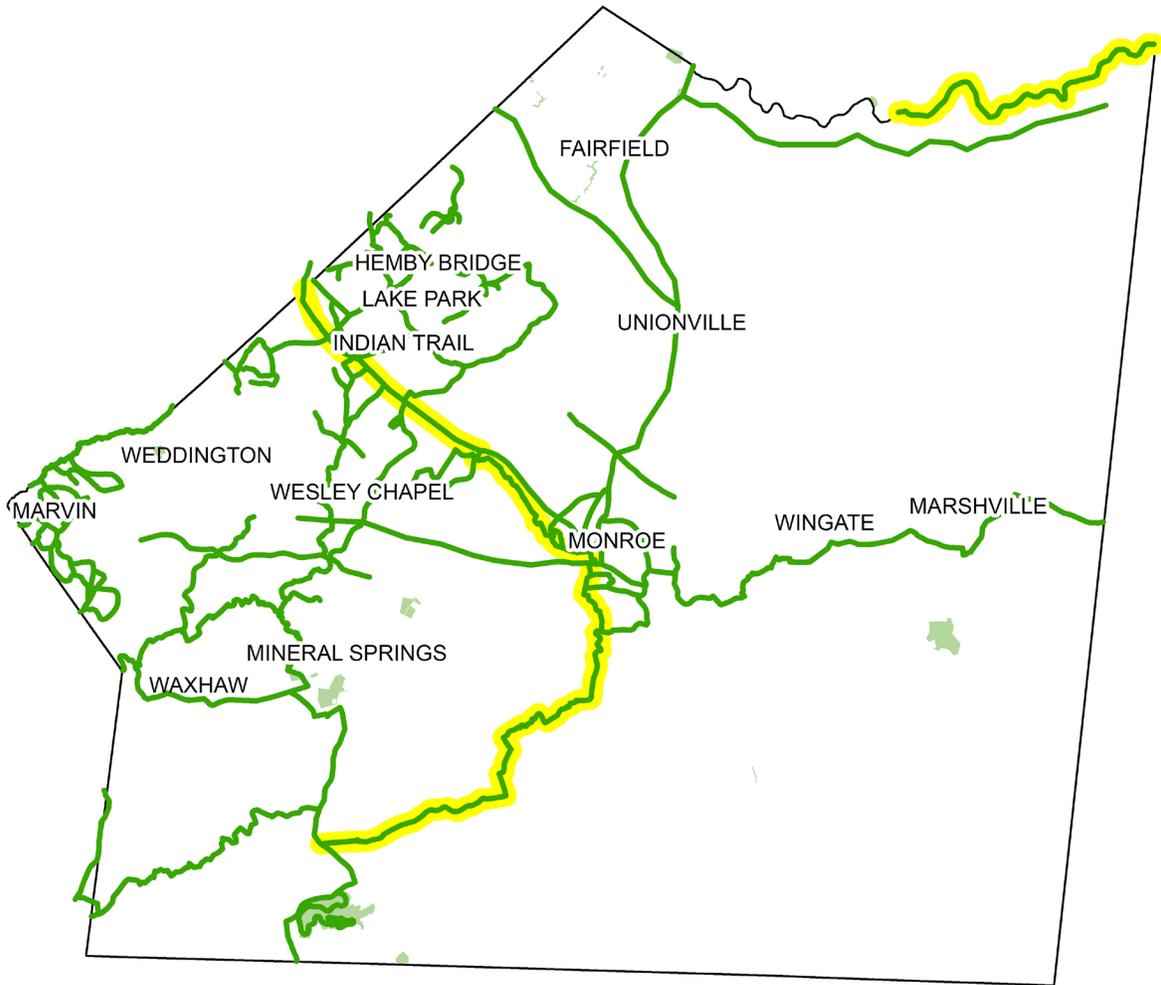


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



Preserved Open Space in the County



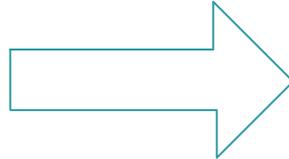
All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

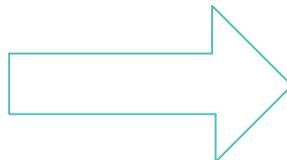
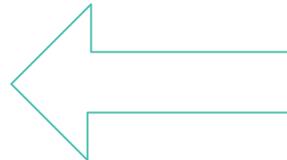
Union County, NC Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- More aggressive park development program
- More parks / greenways
- Parks preservation

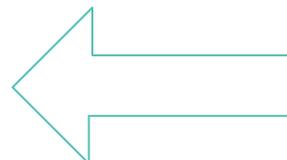
- Vibrant downtown / core- build on it!
- Vibrant urban centers / municipalities
- Preserve downtown
- Revive downtown



- Industry that pairs with agriculture
- Balance of rural with business / industry
- More business / entertainment (movie theaters)
- More commercial buildings

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- “Effective smart growth”... on eastern side of county
- Balanced land use



“Our cost-of-living gives us a competitive advantage.”

“Forty years for planning is too far out. We are not even prepared for tomorrow.”

“We get things done working as a community.”

“Most of our opportunities will come from the Spartanburg area.”

“I am concerned about the entire county.”

“Our region is a cluster with a dangle. Remember those at the extremes of the region (especially the dangle that is Union County, SC) when thinking about the region.”

“Let us live and work in the same county.”



Union County, SC

Workshop: Union County

October 8, 2013

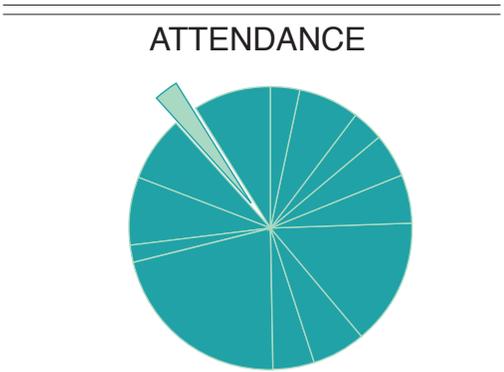
AM

Union County, SC Information

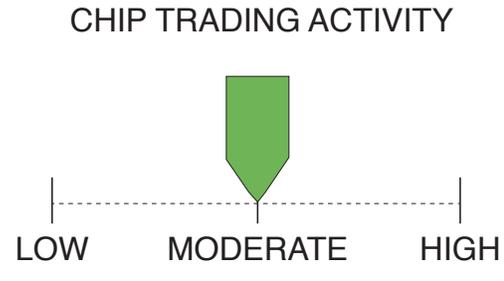
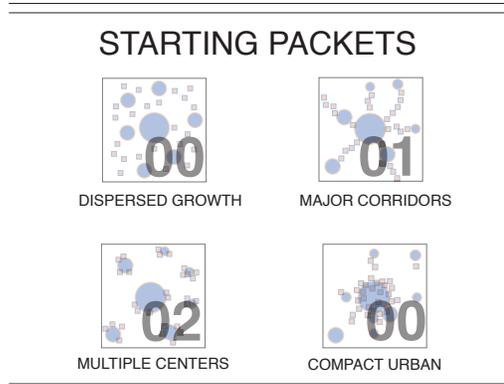
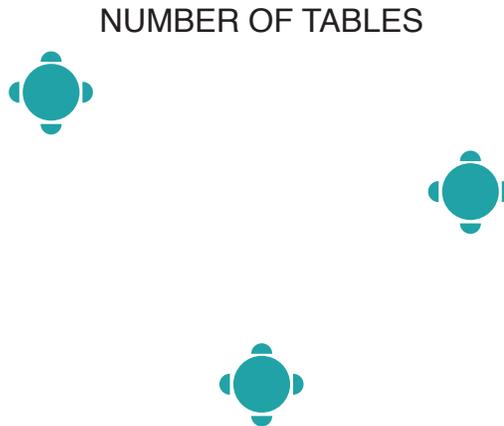
The Community Growth Workshop for Union County, SC was held on October 8, 2013, at the Union County Advanced Technology Center in Union. Thirty-one people attended the event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Three tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in Union County, SC. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the Union County, SC summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in Union County, SC should be directed to Cole McKinney, Regional Initiatives Director, Catawba Regional COG at cmckinney@catawbacog.org or 803-327-9041.



Total: 1,195 Union, SC: 31 attendees, 2.5% of total

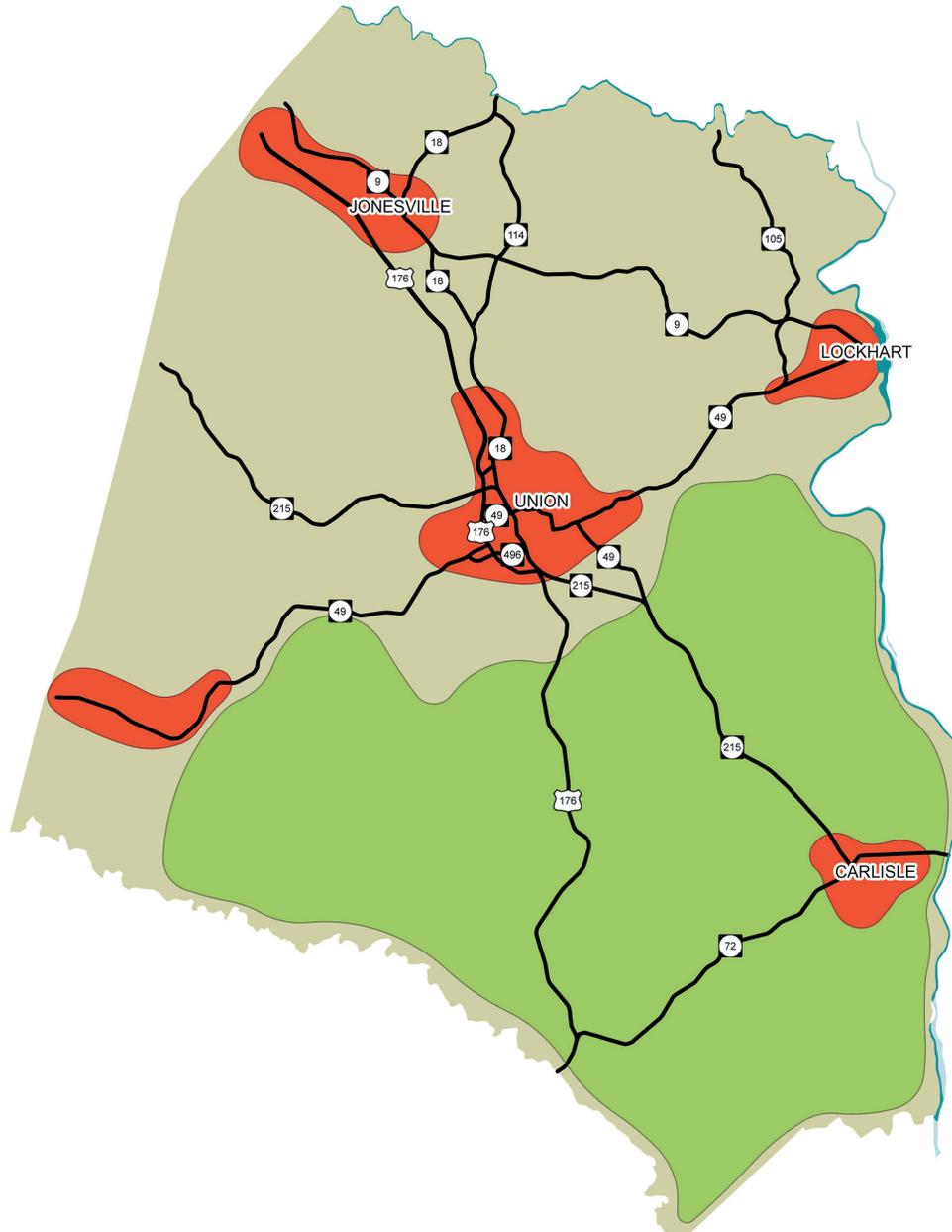


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

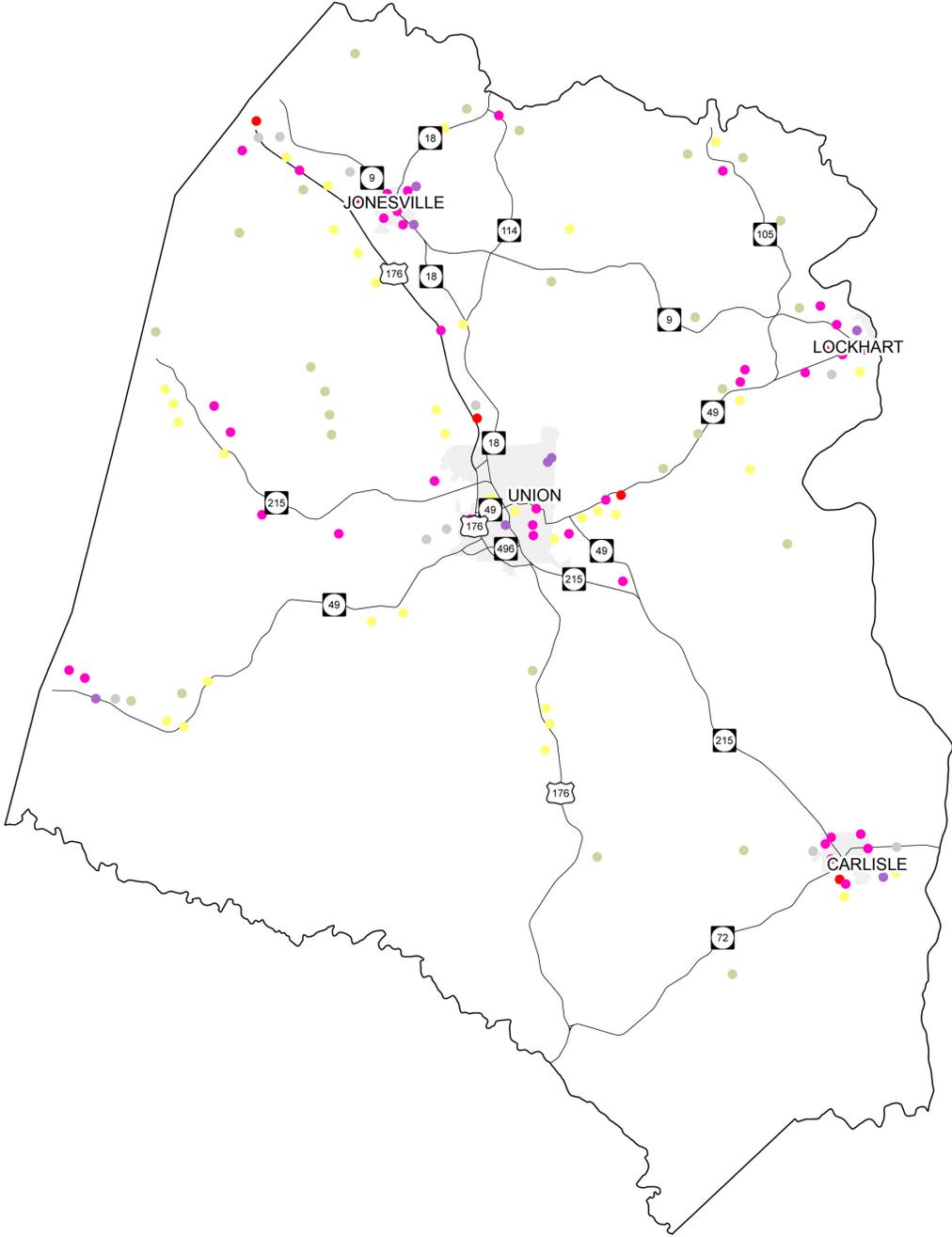


General Areas in the County to Preserve



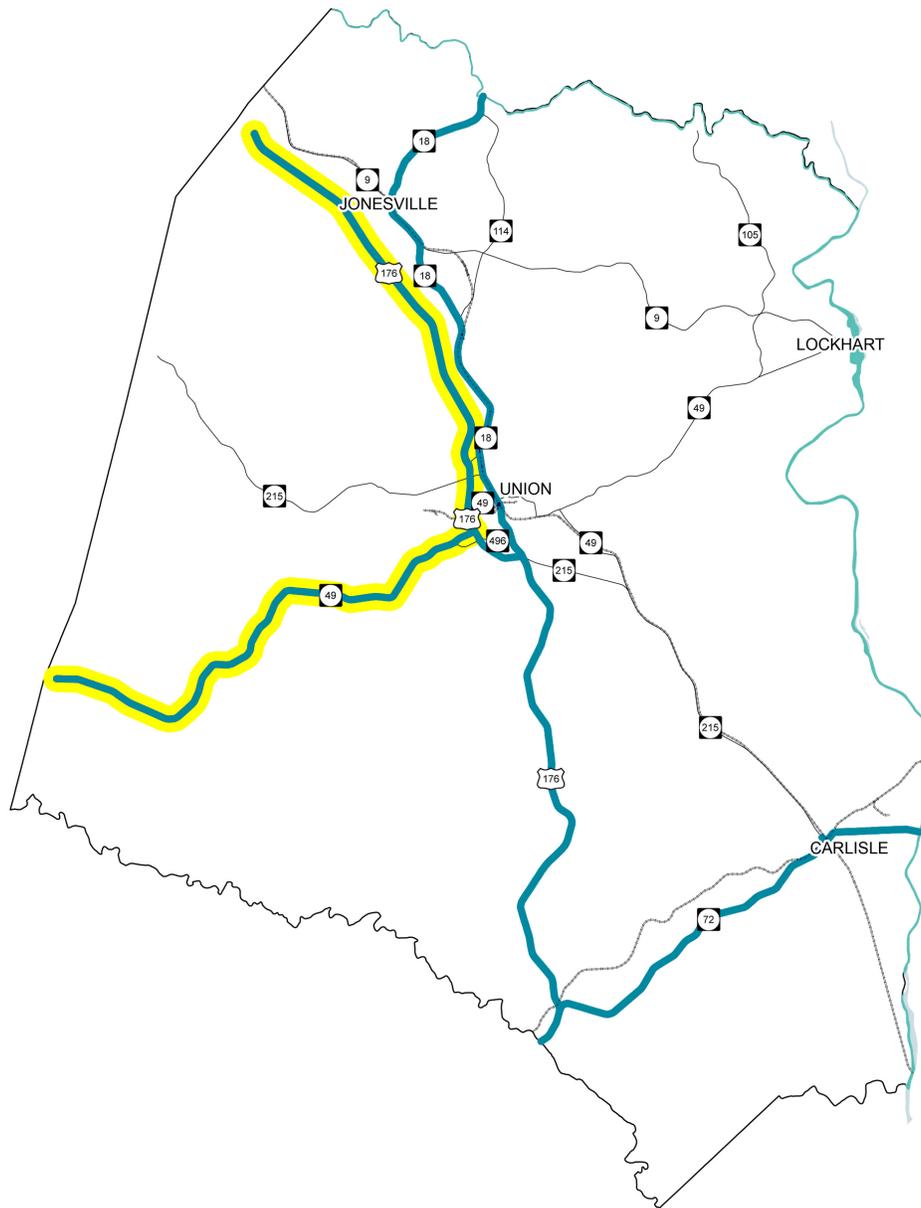
General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

How Should We Grow?



- Rural Living
- Industrial Centers
- Suburban Residential
- Suburban Office/Commercial
- Walkable Development
- Urban Centers
- Metropolitan Centers

Where Should We Build Roads?

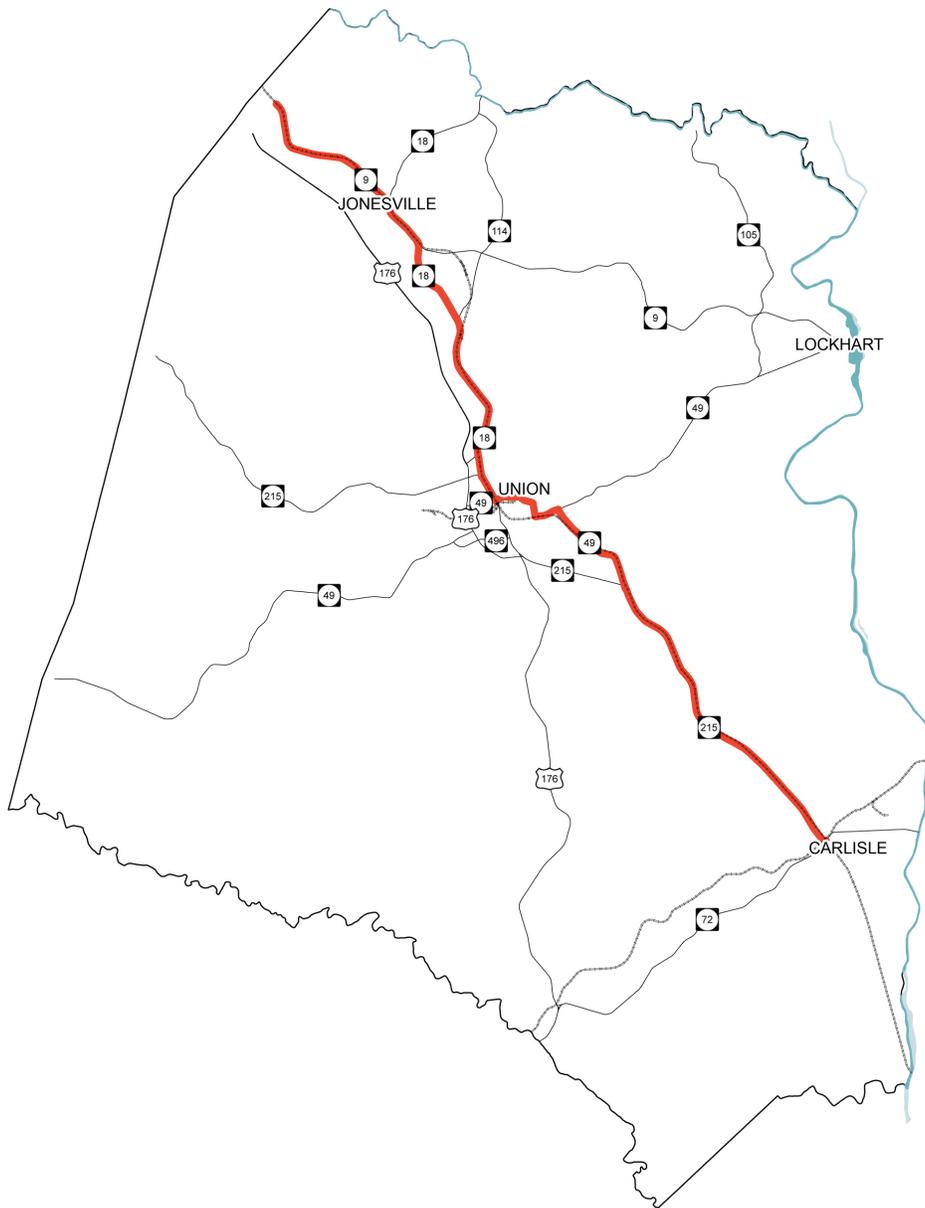


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

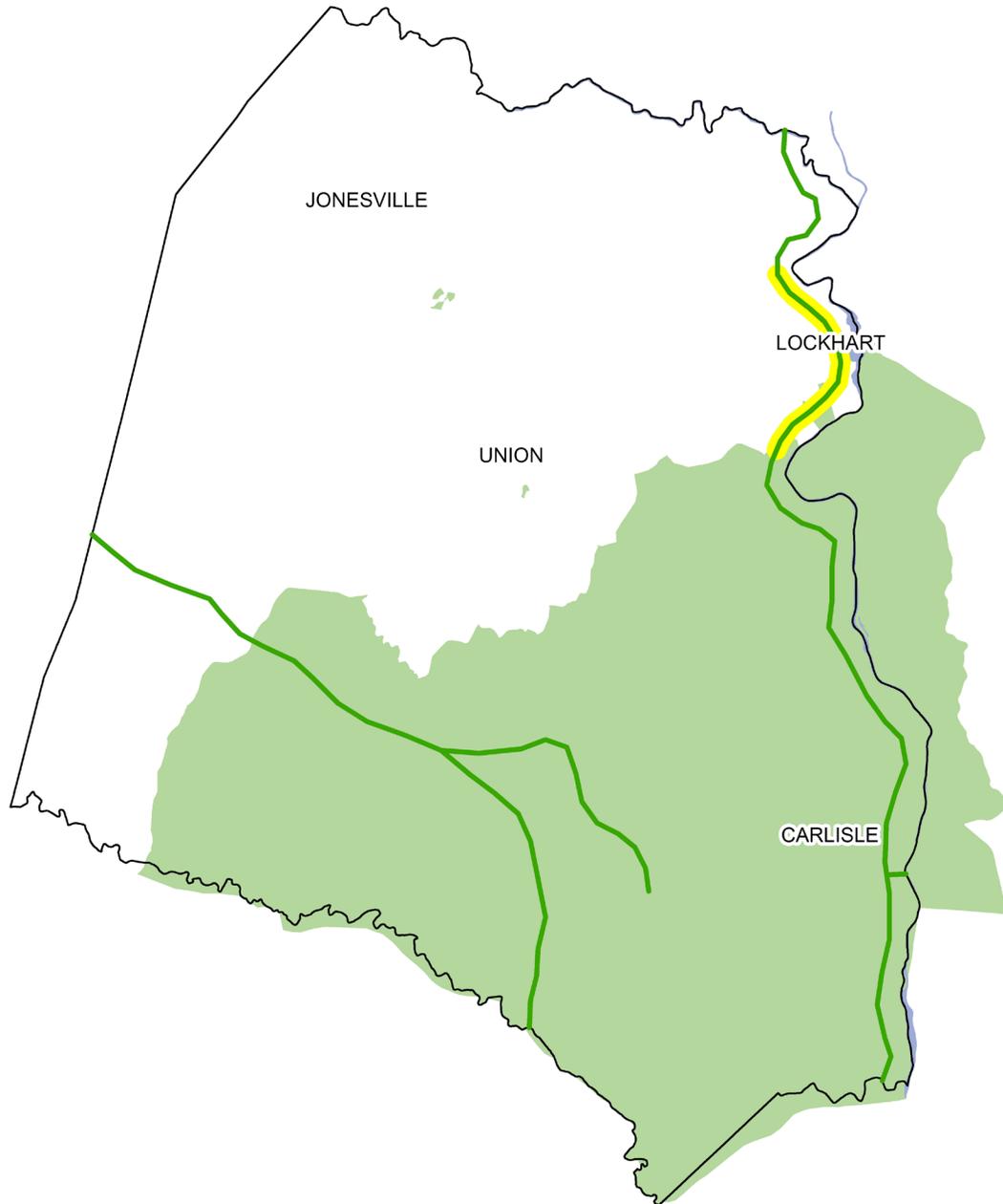


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

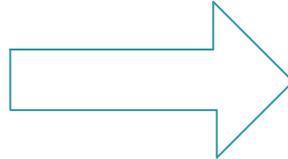
Where Should We Invest in Greenways?



-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

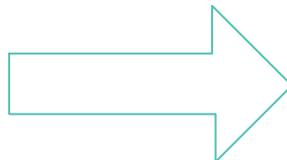
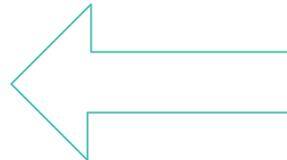
Union County, SC Guiding Principles:

strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop



- Quality of life - let other know good
- Friendly community
- Change social aspects of quality of life

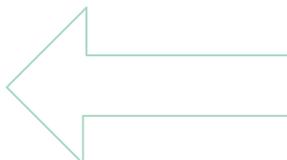
- Job growth
- Green job growth



- Make Union a destination
- More visitors to area
- Attract sustainable growth

agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Education - math skills
- Expand USC - Union Campus
- More education and high-tech training, increase computer literacy



“Too much development. Can we keep these people out?”

“Give us more access to the Lake (Wylie).”

“Protect the Broad River!”

“We need a more diverse tax base.”

“A tree (Charlotte) needs strong roots to grow large (the surrounding communities). Otherwise, it stays a smaller tree.”

“Growth is focused in the most populated areas.”

“Restore towns and rebuild roads.”

“We need to address our aging population. Give seniors more housing options.”



York County

Workshop: Rock Hill, SC

October 10, 2013

AM, Noon, PM

York County Information

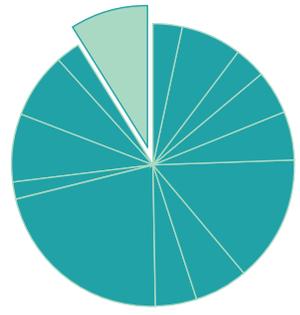
The Community Growth Workshop for York County was held on October 10, 2013, at Manchester Meadows in Rock Hill. 106 people attended one of the three identical sessions held during the day-long event to share their thoughts and ideas about future growth and conservation in the county. Fifteen tables completed the development chip game exercise, which produced guiding principles, work maps, and general comments for influencing the region’s alternative growth scenarios that will be tested using CommunityViz software.

The pages that follow summarize information gathered from workshop participants in York County. Key characteristics of the event — attendance, number of tables, starting chip packet inventory, and chip trading activity level — are presented to the right. Maps for ‘where to grow’ and ‘how to grow’ highlight consensus from the event for areas to develop or preserve in the county. New or improved roads, transit service, or greenways to serve future development patterns and intensities are presented in a series of ‘supporting infrastructure maps’. Guiding principles recorded at the event are summarized by general theme at the end of the York County summary chapter.

Specific questions about the Community Growth Workshop in York County should be directed to Cole McKinney, Regional Initiatives Director, Catawba Regional COG at cmckinney@catawbacog.org or 803-327-9041.

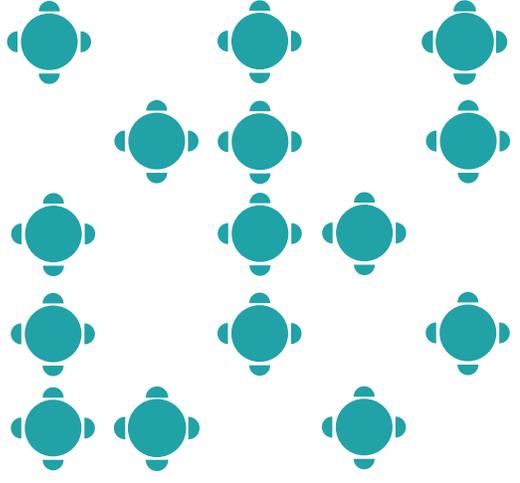


ATTENDANCE



Total: 1,195 York: 106 attendees, 8.8% of total

NUMBER OF TABLES



STARTING PACKETS

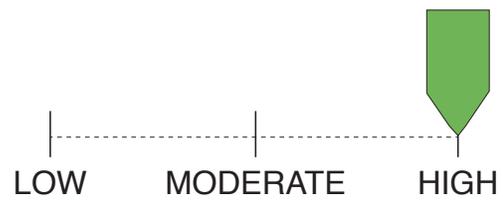


DISPERSED GROWTH MAJOR CORRIDORS



MULTIPLE CENTERS COMPACT URBAN

CHIP TRADING ACTIVITY

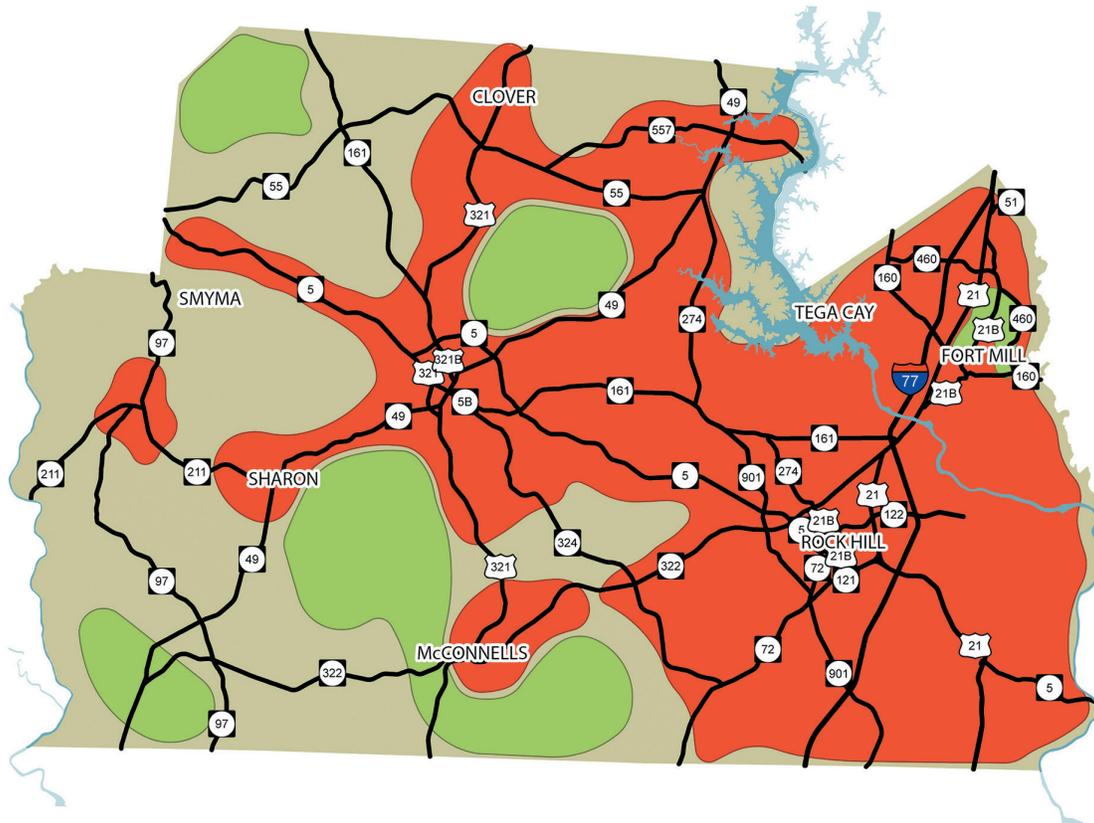


CONNECT Our Future

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region



Where Should We Grow?



General Areas in the County to Focus Future Development

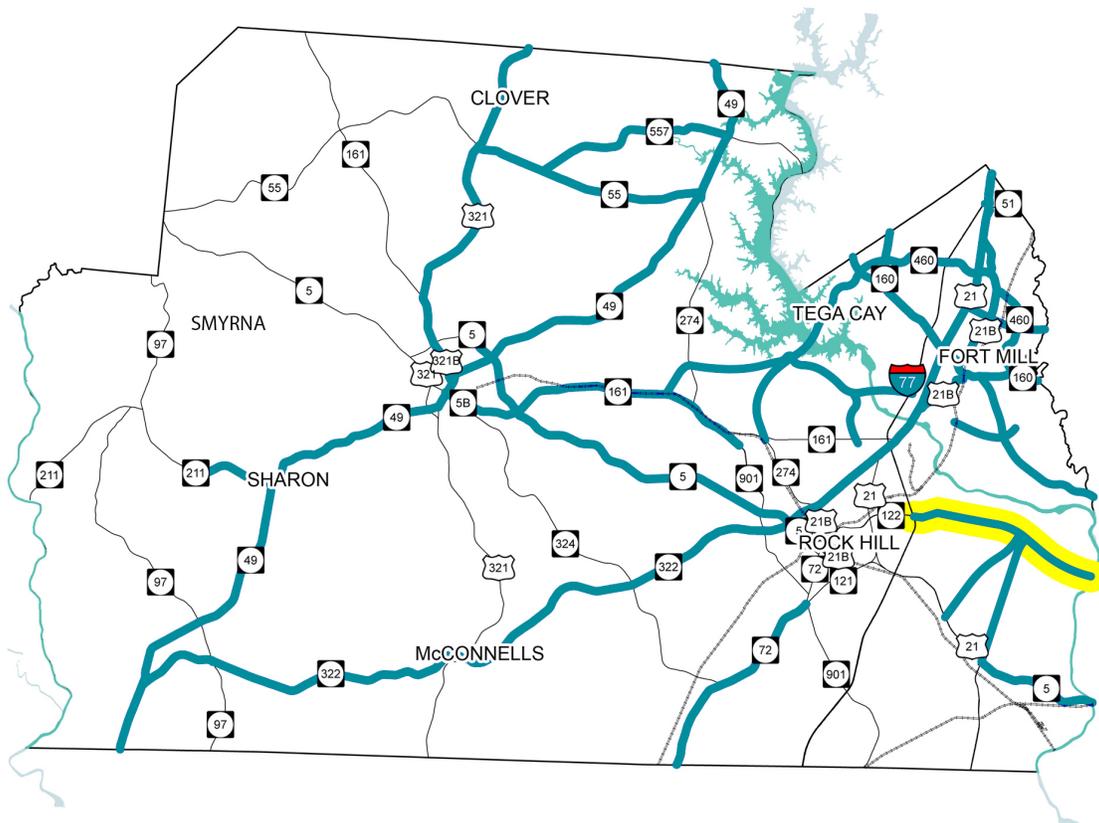


General Areas in the County to Preserve



General Areas in the County to Stay the Same

Where Should We Build Roads?

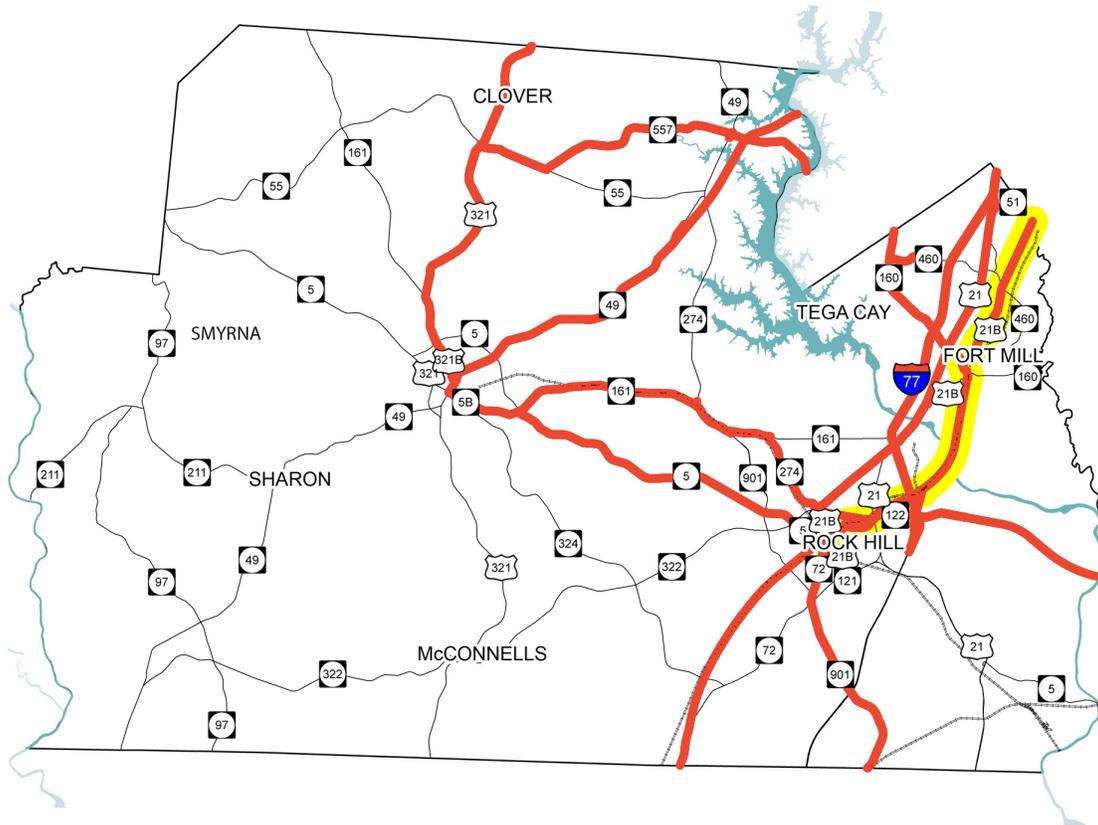


All New or Improved Highway Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Highway Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest In Transit?

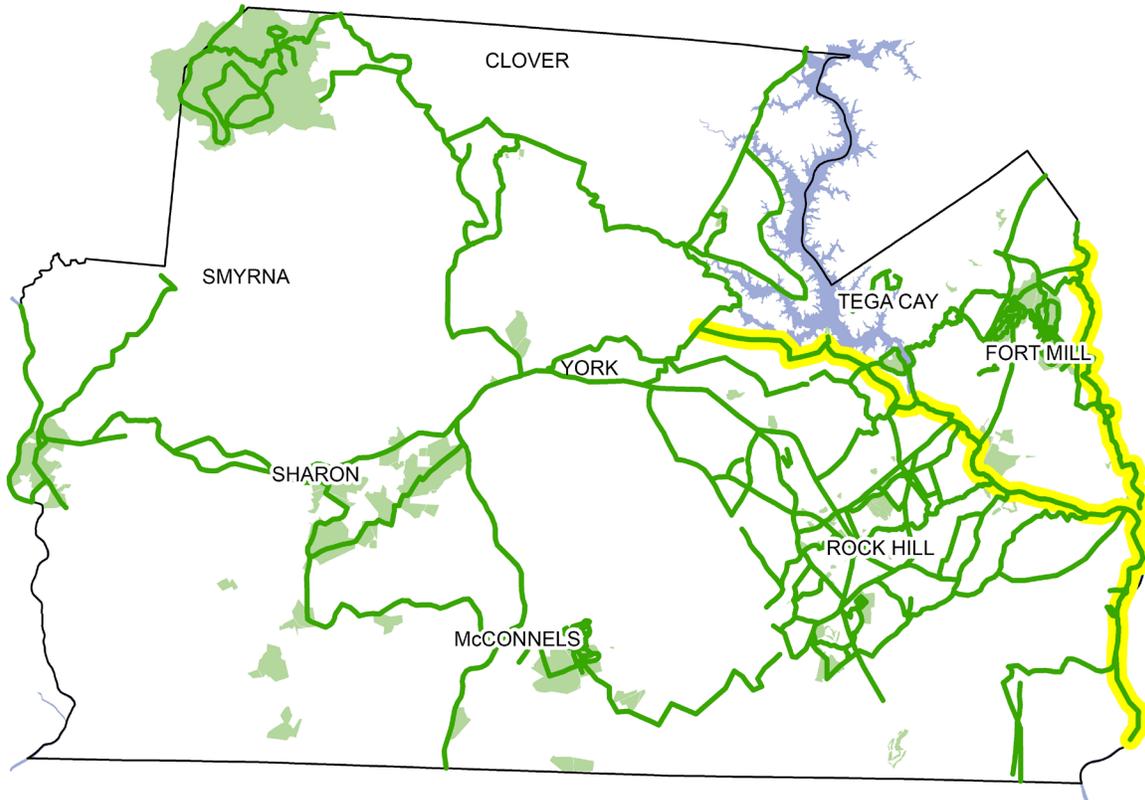


All New or Improved Transit Corridors Suggested at the Event



Recurring Suggestions for New and Improved Transit Corridors at the Event

Where Should We Invest in Greenways?

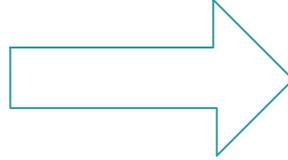


-  Preserved Open Space in the County
-  All New or Improved Greenways Suggested at the Event
-  Recurring Suggestions for New or Improved Greenways

York County Guiding Principles:

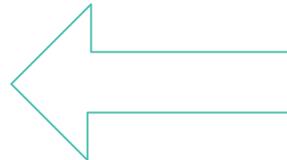
strongly agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

1. Improve Infrastructure (including roads)



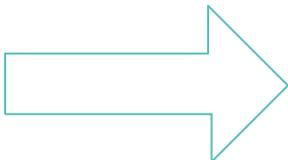
- Road conditions in rural and urban areas
- Pave roads
- Hwy 72 - poor / lack of natural gas and Internet access / cable
- Construct / enhance / improve roads to better facilitate development goals

- Connect growth visions
- Fragmentation and territorialism between communities
- More collaboration between and across York County
- Create common vision while celebrating differences in cities



2 (tie). Coordinated Growth

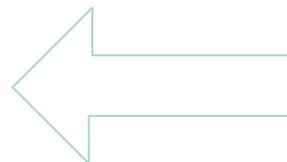
2 (tie). More / Improved Transit (bus, van, rail)



- More transit - would like high speed rail - go to Rock Hill (Light Rail)
- Blue Line - bring here
- Rail transit to Rock Hill (Winthrop)
- Public transportation (poverty needs)

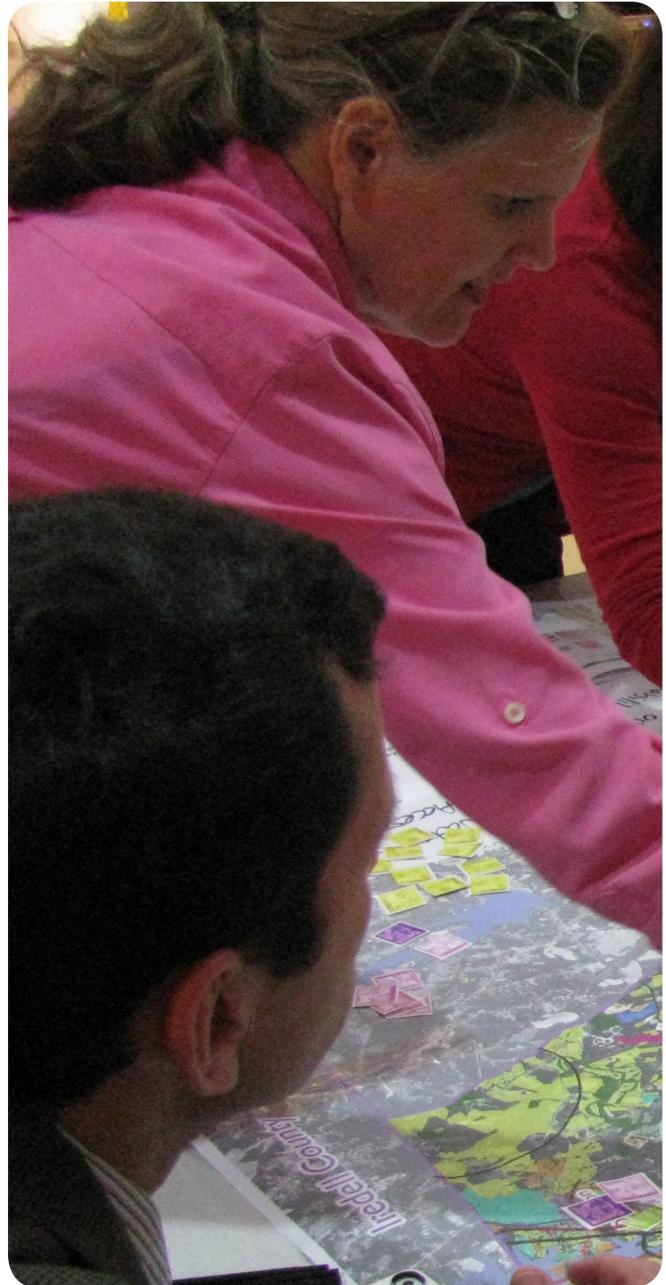
agreed upon
guiding principles from the workshop

- Leave preserved space alone
- Preserve green space - don't squander
- Green space - increase for quality of life & tourism
- Protect green space



3. Protect / Preserve Green Space

Where Do We Go From Here?





Where Do We Go From Here?

Information gathered from the Community Growth Workshops will be added to other ‘big ideas’ collected throughout all phases of CONNECT Our Future to develop alternative growth scenarios for testing in CommunityViz software. Results from the scenario planning initiative will be shared with the public in March and April 2014, and their comments will help leaders in the CONNECT Region begin the process to identify a framework of common goals and key partnerships for meeting the challenges and opportunities associated with future development in the region.

Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or e-newsletter for up-to-date information about next steps in the scenario planning process. Or become a “CONNECT-or” by inviting your neighbors, friends, faith group, book club or family to join you in attending an Open House to review the final alternative growth scenarios this spring!

Specific questions about the project should be directed to Sushil Nepal, Project Manager for CONNECT our Future at snepal@centralina.org or 704-372-2416.

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