

Chairman Bobby Compton will convene a meeting of the Centralina Executive Board on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Time	Item	Presenter
5:00 p.m.	Call to Order	Bobby Compton
	Roll Call	
	Moment of Silence	
	Amendments to the Agenda (if any)	
Consent Items: Consent agenda items may be considered in one motion and without discussion except for those items removed by a Board Member.		
Item 1 <i>Pages 4 - 6</i>	Approval of the March 10, 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes The minutes from the March 10, 2021 meeting have been distributed to all members of the Executive Board and should be approved if correct. Action/Recommendation: <i>Motion to approve the March 10, 2021 Executive Board meeting minutes.</i>	Bobby Compton
Regular Business Items:		
5:15 p.m. Item 2 15 minutes <i>Pages 8 - 9</i>	Federal Relations Update Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, will present an update on Centralina's federal relations activities, including a performance report on activities for March 2021. Ms. Mazingo will also provide a briefing on the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and Congressional Community Project Funding. Action/Recommendation: <i>Motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for March through April 2021.</i>	Leslie Mazingo
5:30 p.m. Item 3 10 minutes <i>Pages 11 - 12</i>	FY22 Compensation Recommendations The Executive Board is asked to review and approve the annual proposal for staff salary adjustments for FY22. Action/Recommendation: <i>Motion to approve the FY22 compensation approach which includes a 2% across the board increase with a minimum increase of \$1,000 for eligible employees and a merit increase of between \$500-\$1,500 for eligible employees based on their FY21 performance evaluation scores.</i>	Geraldine Gardner
5:40 p.m. Item 4 10 minutes <i>Pages 14 - 15</i>	Resolution Opposing Proposed Local Government Zoning Reform The Executive Board is asked to consider passing a resolution in opposition to pending state legislation – House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349 – that would mandate changes to local government zoning authority in an effort to increase housing opportunities. Action/Recommendation: <i>Motion to approve a resolution asking the North Carolina General Assembly to not adopt House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349.</i>	Geraldine Gardner



Executive Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
 Zoom Meeting
 Join by computer: <https://zoom.us/j/96648326599>
 Join by phone: Dial 1-929-436-2866 and enter Meeting ID 966 4832 6599

Time	Item	Presenter
5:50 p.m. Item 5 15 minutes <i>Pages 17 - 20</i>	Future Opportunities in Aging, Health and Healthy Communities Centralina staff will conduct a presentation introducing new virtual programs that are being offered around the nine-county region for older adults and caregivers of any age and provide an update on the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging consultant services. Action/Recommendation: <i>Receive as information.</i>	Centralina Area Agency on Aging Staff
6:05 p.m. Item 6 25 minutes <i>Pages 22 - 26</i>	CONNECT Beyond Briefing and Work Session Staff will brief Board Members on the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility initiative project status, upcoming topics, and preview the Board's role in communicating about the plan and the adoption process. Action/Recommendation: <i>Receive as information. Staff will seek input from Board Members on opportunities to share CONNECT Beyond presentations, request assistance on project communications, and determine any communication materials that would help Delegates champion this effort moving forward.</i>	Michelle Nance and Jason Wager
6:30 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff	Board Members and Staff
6:35 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Executive Director	Geraldine Gardner
6:40 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Chair	Bobby Compton
6:45 p.m.	Adjournment	Bobby Compton

Centralina Regional Council complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Regional Council will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Regional Council's programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation, please contact the Clerk to the Board, 9815 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, phone (704) 348-2728. Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: www.centralina.org.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 1



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary William Morgan, Treasurer	Peter Ascitto Deloris Chambers Bill Feather Darrell Hinnant Gene Houpe Corinthia Lewis- Lemon Pedro Morey Christine Poinsette Elaine Powell Troy Selberg Lynn Shue Amelia Stinson- Wesley David Williams	Cathy Davis Larken Egleston Martha Sue Hall Bob Hovis	Geraldine Gardner Mike Manis Sherika Rich Kelly Weston Guests Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order. He welcomed both new and returning Executive Board members for 2021 and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Compton called for a moment of silence.

Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the Senior Community Services Employment Program Sponsor Agreement Amendment with the Center for Workforce Inclusion**
- 2. Approval of the January 13, 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gene Houpe, Iredell County, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Centralina Economic Development District Grant Initiatives Update

Mike Manis, Community Economic Development Director, presented an overview of the Centralina Economic Development District (CEDD). He provided an update on a COVID-19 recovery planning grant the CEDD received from the U.S. Economic Development

Administration (EDA) for developing strategic short-term and long-term economic recovery and resilience assessments to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He also reported on Centralina's disaster resiliency project, funded through an EDA grant the CEDD received in 2020. He noted that the project includes additional staff capacity, emergency management plan assessments, development of a regional disaster resilience master plan, establishing a regional emergency management roundtable, and providing technical assistance to pursue state and federal funding.

Mr. Manis led the Executive Board in a live polling exercise on disaster resiliency.

4. Federal Relations Update

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, presented the performance report of Centralina's federal relations activities for January through February 2021. She reported that the \$1.9 trillion federal COVID-19 relief bill is expected to be signed into law by Friday. She noted that the bill's allocations for local governments can be used for revenue loss replacement. She also reported that a federal infrastructure bill will be a larger, more comprehensive bill extending beyond surface transportation.

Treasurer Morgan made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for January through February 2021. Commissioner Houpe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Centralina Updates and FY22 Outlook

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, forecasted that the Executive Board will discuss the status of convening in-person meetings at its June meeting, adding that the next few meetings will be held virtually. She noted that Centralina is heading into the third and final year of its strategic plan. She also noted that staff is trying to be more targeted with the items brought to the Board for consideration. She presented a forecast of agenda items for the remaining 2021 Executive Board and Board of Delegates meetings.

6. Vice Chairman Installation

Ms. Weston administered the oath of office to Vice Chairman Jay McCosh, Town of McAdenville.

Chairman Compton thanked Vice Chairman McCosh for presiding over the Executive Board and Board of Delegates meetings in his absence.

7. Chairman's At-Large Appointments to the Executive Board

Chairman Compton explained that Centralina's bylaws allow the Chair to appoint up to two elected members of the governing body of any member government to serve on the Executive Board as at-large members. He reported that for 2021, his at-large appointments are Mayor Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury, and Council Member Jennifer Stepp, City of Gastonia.

He expressed his appreciation to Mayor Darrell Hinnant, City of Kannapolis, and Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle for serving as at-large members for 2020, adding that he looked forward to continuing to work with them on the Board of Delegates.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

Vice Chairman McCosh noted that the Town of McAdenville will resume its in-person meetings in May and inquired about other communities' plans for convening meetings.

Ms. Gardner noted that some Centralina staff are included in Phase 3 of the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, though most are not as eligible as elected officials for receiving the vaccine. She added that she will poll the Regional Managers Group at its next meeting to see how their communities are approaching convening meetings.

Comments from the Executive Director

Ms. Gardner noted that the nominations for the Region of Excellence Awards are due March 29th, adding that she would like to see several great nominations for the James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership Award.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton reminded the Board Members to save the date for the April 14th Executive Board meeting, which will be held virtually.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 2



Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2021	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Kelly Weston	Presentation Time:	15 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Leslie Mozingo	Phone Number:	202-255-5760			
		Email:	leslie@strategics.consulting			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-348-2703			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Government Affairs & Member Engagement	Department Head Approval:	Geraldine Gardner			
Description of Agenda Item:						
<p>Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting, will present an update on Centralina's federal relations activities, including a performance report on activities for March 2021. Ms. Mozingo will also provide a briefing on the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and Congressional Community Project Funding.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>Since 2015, the Executive Board has contracted with Strategics Consulting for federal relations consulting services. The Executive Board has requested that Ms. Mozingo present performance metrics reports at each of its meetings.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
<p>Motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for March through April 2021.</p>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	Goals and Activities for Strategics Consulting – March - April 2021 Report					



GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR STRATEGICS CONSULTING MARCH – APRIL 2021 REPORT

- 1. Build, maintain and enhance relationships with Members of Congress and the federal agencies**
 - Tracked movement, passage and signing of American Rescue Plan (ARP), as well as details within and reported on all to Executive Director.
 - Additional updates to congressional contact information with staff changes.
 - Submitted annual appropriations language request to Centralina’s congressional delegation.
 - Participated in Washington Representatives meeting with U.S. Conference of Mayors.

- 2. Develop advocacy strategies around the approved Federal Action Plan on regional priorities and implement in coordination with Centralina’s management**
 - Summarized guidelines and deadlines for Senate Surface Transportation Reauthorization requests and House Community Projects Funding.
 - Communicated with Centralina’s Congressional Delegation regarding plans for submitting requests.
 - Submitted line item requests for Centralina.
 - Participated in Regional Managers presentation on ARP.
 - Wrote monthly Capital Corner entries to update membership on federal advocacy actions.
 - Monitored and reported on developments related to possible new sources of federal funding in the infrastructure package in addition to regular competitive grants.
 - Participated in regularly scheduled strategy calls with Executive Director.
 - Provided update on federal funding opportunities to Executive Board.

- 3. Provide information and support related to federal grant opportunities in coordination with Centralina staff**
 - Provided Grants Alerts, which are prepared more frequently now to keep up with the number of new announcements coming out each week.
 - Sent individual notices on grant opportunities when appropriate.

- 4. Respond to trouble shooting requests from members and Centralina on federal issues**
 - More communications with two members on specific grants.
 - Prepared federal grants analysis for County member.
 - Finished and delivered research on UASI for Town member.
 - Reviewed and provided feedback to staff on immigration letter.
 - Answered questions from members on ARP uses, grants, guidance, etc.

For more information, contact Leslie Mozingo at (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 3

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2021	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Geraldine Gardner	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Venecia Rock White	Phone Number:				
		Email:	vrock@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Admin/Executive	Department Head Approval:				
Description of Agenda Item:						
The Executive Board is asked to review and approve the annual proposal for staff salary adjustments for FY22.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>It has been our practice to receive authorization for implementation of salary increases from the Executive Board each year. For the last 8 years, a salary adjustment of 2.0 – 2.5% has been approved and implemented. The adjustments have been made either based on an across-the-board increase (e.g. approved FY21 approach) or employee performance (e.g. approved FY20 approach). For the fiscal year 2022, we are recommending a hybrid approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 2% across the board increase with a minimum increase of \$1,000 for eligible employees in appreciation of their commitment, increase in cost of living and to maintain market compatibility; and • a merit or performance-based increase of between \$500-\$1,500 for eligible employees based on their final FY21 evaluation scores in Centralina’s performance system, Trakstar. <p>The total incremental cost of the 2% across the board salary increase and associated benefits (LGERs, 401K and employer taxes) is approximately \$51,500. Of this over half will be charged to federal grants with the remainder to other revenue sources such as technical assistance contracts, direct/indirect cost allocation and membership dues. The fiscal impact of the additional merit increase for eligible employees will be known by June 18th which is the closing date of the evaluation period. For estimation purposes if all 43 employees received a merit increase the cost ranges between \$21,500- \$64,500, again with over half being charged to federal grants.</p> <p>The hybrid compensation recommendation may appear higher than recent proposals to the Board, but the across-the-board increase is consistent with previous approaches. Also, in FY21 we had initially proposed to award performance bonuses but were not able proceed due to additional changes that needed to be made to the Trakstar evaluation system to ensure consistency across the organization. In this light, our recommendation for FY22 is consistent with what the Executive Board approved last year. We’re confident that based on the revenue projections for next fiscal year, we can absorb the salary increases proposed.</p>						

Requested Action / Recommendation:	
Motion to approve the FY22 compensation approach which includes a 2% across the board increase with a minimum increase of \$1,000 for eligible employees and a merit increase of between \$500-\$1,500 for eligible employees based on their FY21 performance evaluation scores.	
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Approval needed to inform FY22 budgeting and FY21 performance review process.
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Ranges between \$51,500 - \$116,000
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	None



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 4

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2021	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Geraldine Gardner	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-348-2703			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Michelle Nance	Phone Number:	704-348-2709			
		Email:	mnance@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Regional Planning & GAME	Department Head Approval:	Geraldine Gardner			
Description of Agenda Item:						
<p>The Executive Board is asked to consider passing a resolution in opposition to pending state legislation, the Increase Housing Opportunities Bill (House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349) that would mandate changes to local government zoning authority and decrease local control over certain land use decisions.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>The Increase Housing Opportunities Bill (House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349) will require local governments to allow duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and townhomes in areas zoned for residential use, specifically including zoned areas that allow for the development of detached, single-family dwellings, among other components. This bill, if enacted, would limit the control that local governments have to shape the type of development in their communities based on established zoning, land use regulations and community context. The bill was introduced with bi-partisan support and is intended to increase the supply of housing and affordable housing across the state. Centralina's CONNECT Our Future regional growth strategy established "Increase Housing Choices" as a priority. Centralina staff agree with the intention of the Increase Housing Opportunities Bill, however, we believe that the proposed mechanisms for achieving the goals require further refinement.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
<p>Motion to approve a resolution asking the North Carolina General Assembly to not adopt House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349.</p>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC League of Municipalities Fact Sheet • Links to Increase Housing Opportunities Bill – House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349 <p>A draft resolution will be distributed in advance of the April 14th meeting.</p>					

Oppose SB 349/HB 401 Increase Housing Opportunities

LOCAL ZONING AND LAND USE CONTROLS PROTECT EXISTING HOME VALUES

SB 349/HB 401 Increase Housing Opportunities represents a radical, one-size-fits-all approach to zoning and land use, in the guise of increasing affordable housing. It would usurp local control, undermine the rights of existing property owners and damage existing home values. The legislation would do so by eliminating single-family zoning statewide and wipe out other aspects of local zoning, further eroding the rights of local property owners and the decisions of their locally elected officials to determine how development should occur in their communities and neighborhoods.

BY OPPOSING SB 349, KNOW THAT:

- ❑ While Oregon has adopted similar radical measures, even its state legislature did not go so far as to eliminate single-family zoning and other forms of zoning to the degree that this legislation proposes.
- ❑ From start to finish, SB 349 represents a broad and comprehensive attack on local land-use decision-making and the ability of local property owners to weigh in on what is and is not appropriate development in their neighborhoods and communities.
- ❑ SB 349 would obstruct the ability of locally elected officials to consider all interests when making land-use decisions, including those of existing homeowners and property owners, who stand to lose the most when incompatible uses are allowed adjacent to their property.
- ❑ Many North Carolina cities have led the way when it comes to making investments and policy changes designed to encourage affordable housing options, but have done so with community involvement and neighborhood-appropriate measures. This bill is a blunt instrument that does neither.



SB 349/HB 401 Increase Housing Opportunities is the latest effort by development interests – now cloaked in the language of affordable housing – to extinguish local authority when it comes to determining how growth and development proceed. **Please oppose SB 349/HB 401, and work with cities and towns and their representatives to find real ways that advance affordable and workforce housing opportunities.**



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 5



Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2021	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Linda Miller	Presentation Time:	10-15 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Centralina AAA Staff	Phone Number:	704-779-7139			
		Email:	lmiller@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Debi Lee	Phone Number:	704-779-7140			
		Email:	dlee@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Aging	Department Head Approval:	<i>Linda H. Miller</i>			
Description of Agenda Item:						
<p>During the pandemic, Aging Services changed in many ways. To continue reaching older and disabled adults as they remained quarantined over the past year, virtual programming became a vital option to assist with maintaining health and wellness, and in combating loneliness and isolation. In that same vein, delivering services in different ways and assessing how Area Agencies on Aging will continue to respond to events such as the pandemic and the continually changing needs of older adults has also become more crucial than ever. Through the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), Centralina will be contracting with a consultant to review services and programming, provide recommendations and facilitate development of new opportunities particularly in the field of healthcare.</p> <p>The Centralina staff will conduct a presentation introducing new virtual programs that are being offered around the nine-county region for older adults and caregivers of any age and provide an update on the N4A consultant services.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>The Center for Disease Control describes loneliness and social isolation as “serious public health risks” and states that 1 in 4 adults aged 65 and over are considered socially isolated and 1 out of 3 adults over 45 feel lonely. Social isolation increases the chance of premature death and rivals the risks of smoking, obesity, and inactivity.</p> <p>As the population ages, many older adults find themselves socially isolated, which often creates harmful consequences. Older adults as a group also lag behind the rest of the community with the means and the ability to access the Internet. As older adults sheltered in place during the pandemic both issues were key factors with negative outcomes in our communities. Those caring for older adults also expressed feelings of isolation, being overwhelmed and caregiver burnout.</p> <p>In order to provide new tools for older adults and caregivers during the pandemic, Centralina Area Agency on Aging has introduced multiple programs able to be conducted virtually that can assist with combating social isolation and which have positive impacts on health and wellness. These programs are available to any residents of the Centralina region at no cost to them.</p>						

- Education on health issues such as nutrition, exercise, falls prevention, chronic conditions, and more are offered virtually as well as phone workshops. All programs offered are evidence-based and have proven outcomes to help day to day management of their health and stay active as long as possible.
- Caregiver education and support is available through the Trualta platform which allows caregivers to learn at their own pace and customize education to their needs.
- GetSetUp is an online platform for older adults to take classes on using technology, health issues, and general interest sessions.

The Centralina Area Agency on Aging has also retained the use of national consultants through N4A to expand opportunities related to health and healthy communities that align with the broader Centralina Regional Council’s strategic initiatives as well as those of the Older American’s Act.

Requested Action / Recommendation:

Receive as information.

Time Sensitivity:
(none or explain)

None

Budget Impact:
(none or explain)

None

Attachments:
(none or list)

1. Trualta flyer
2. GetSetUp flyer



TRUALTA



CENTRALINA
Area Agency on Aging

Caring for your loved one but
don't know where to start?



Start with Trualta.

Trualta provides the training you
need to care for your loved one, and
will help you feel more prepared.

Contact: Kballard@centralina.org
(704)-499-6392

Try a FREE Online Class Today!

Learn Anytime, Anywhere



Centralina Area Agency on Aging has partnered with GetSetUp to provide *FREE* virtual classes for older adults. Whether you are looking to get better at using technology, or have a specific project in mind, whatever your background or experience level, there is something for you.

Enjoy a safe, social and interactive learning environment specially designed for older adults where you can make friends, learn new things and have fun. For more information, visit www.getsetup.io/partner/Centralina.

Take Internet-based classes from the comfort of your home.



Computer



iPad/Tablet



Smartphone

Choose from over 170 classes, including:

Basics of Zoom

Photos

Fitness & More!

Recipe Swap

Meditating Together

Photos

Vaccine Information



CENTRALINA
Area Agency on Aging



GetSetUp



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 6

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2021	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Michelle Nance/ Jason Wager	Presentation Time:	25 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Michelle Nance/ Jason Wager	Phone Number:	704-348-2709			
		Email:	mnance@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Jason Wager	Phone Number:	704-591-9308			
		Email:	jwager@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Planning	Department Head Approval:				
Description of Agenda Item:						
<p>CONNECT Beyond will define a bold regional transit vision and plan that provides real mobility solutions and opportunities for residents and visitors across two states and 12 counties. The project is at the mid-point and set to wrap up this summer, with draft recommendations presented in July. Staff will brief Board members on the project status, upcoming topics, and preview the Board's role in communicating about the plan and the adoption process.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>Two state departments of transportation, four metropolitan planning organizations, and seventeen transit agencies are coordinating on this unprecedented effort. The plan is guided by three advisory committees made up of elected officials, the private sector, transportation and land use technical staff, and community leaders from across the region representing sectors such as economic development, education, workforce, and health. High-Capacity Transit and Mobility Corridors were presented to the region in January as a foundation for additional "layers of mobility." In March the committees focused on building a better cross-jurisdictional bus network. This spring and summer additional topics will include funding and partnerships, transportation technology trends, connecting rural and urban communities, identifying regional mobility hubs and exploring how land use policy can support transportation choice.</p> <p>Centralina Board members are critical champions for this initiative and ultimately will play a significant role in adopting recommendations later this year and ensuring momentum for CONNECT Beyond outcomes well after this phase of work is complete.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Staff will seek input from Board members on opportunities to share CONNECT Beyond presentations, request assistance on project communications, and determine any communication materials that would help delegates champion this effort moving forward.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	CONNECT Beyond Overview Fact Sheet Video for Meeting: https://hdr.wistia.com/medias/mbhq9luzgs					



CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative



CONNECT Beyond will...

DEFINE

a single coordinated regional transit vision

IDENTIFY

regional high capacity transit corridors

STRATEGIZE

multimodal and regional coordination

DEVELOP

action-oriented implementation approaches that support:

- Improved mobility and access
- Effective, regionally coordinated transit investments
- Coordinated and resilient transit operations to meet the needs of a growing and changing region
- Environmentally sustainable investments and policies
- Advancement of equitable and community-driven improvements

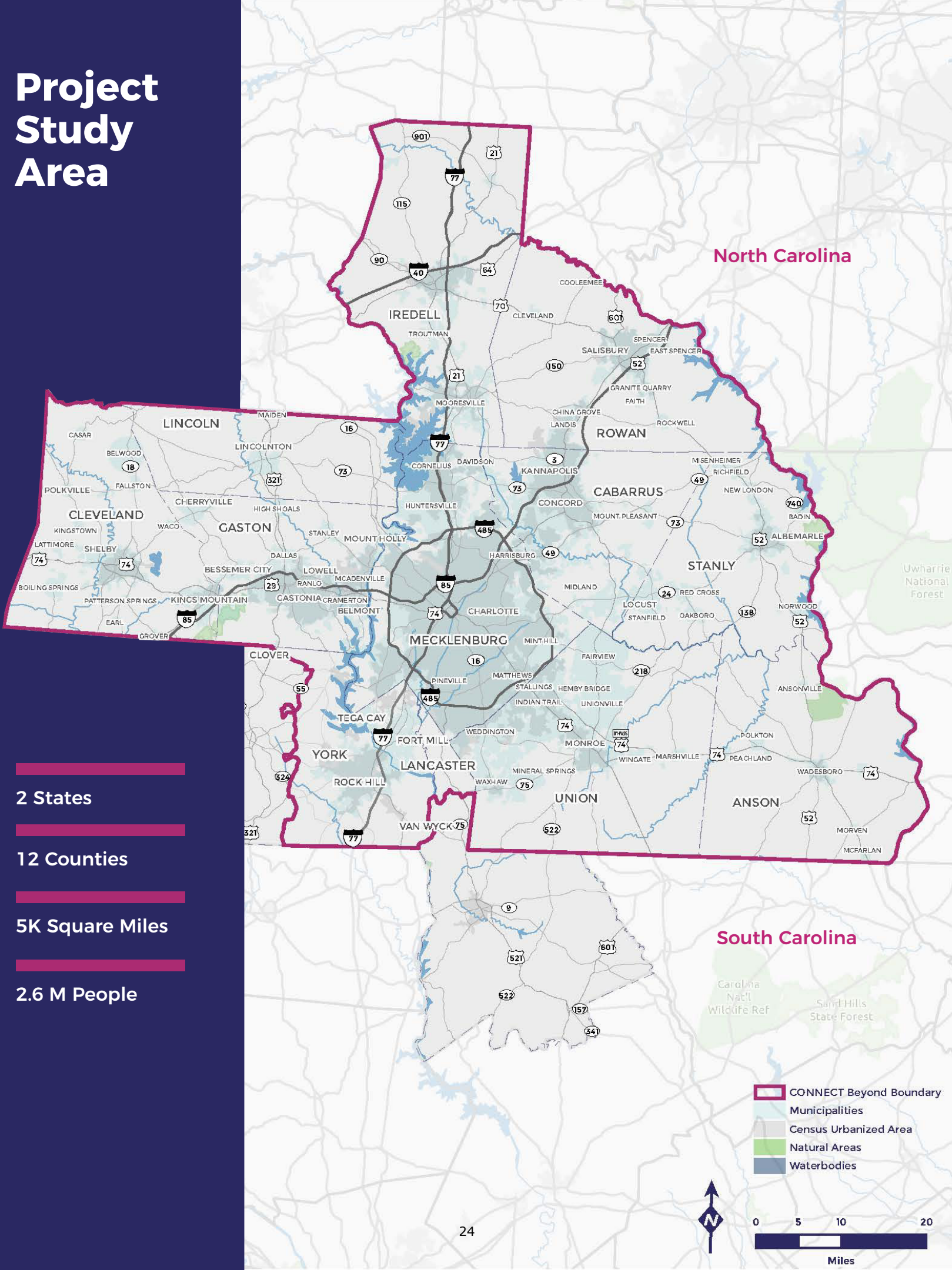
CONNECT Beyond is a two-state, 12 county regional mobility initiative coordinated by the Centralina Regional Council and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to create a unified regional transit vision and plan.

Our region is growing fast. Access to reliable, efficient and well-connected transportation options is one of the most important factors to ensure everyone can benefit. We need to find solutions to promote and harness economic growth, while helping our neighbors and visitors easily get where they want and need to go. This will require collaboration, insight, creativity and a bold vision.

We aim to provide our study partners with transportation solutions that will enhance mobility and access.





For more information, contact our project team at contact@connect-beyond.com or visit www.connect-beyond.com.


Project Study Area



North Carolina

South Carolina

-  2 States
-  12 Counties
-  5K Square Miles
-  2.6 M People

 CONNECT Beyond Boundary
 Municipalities
 Census Urbanized Area
 Natural Areas
 Waterbodies



Funding Project Partners

Centralina	Centralina Regional Council
MTC	Metropolitan Transit Commission
CATS	Charlotte Area Transit System
NCDOT	North Carolina Department of Transportation
CRTPO	Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization
GCLMPO	Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization
RFATS	Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study
CRMPO	Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization
SCDOT	South Carolina Department of Transportation



Project Team

Jason Wager, AICP CEP
CONNECT Beyond Project Manager
Centralina Regional Council

Michelle E. Nance, AICP
Regional Planning Director
Centralina Regional Council

Jason Lawrence
Senior Transportation Planner
Charlotte Area Transit System

Bob Cook, AICP
Assistant Planning Director
Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Advisory Committees

Our project partners and stakeholders will be an integral part of defining the future of mobility for our region. We've invited stakeholders from across our project study area to join advisory committees that will focus on developing key elements of this plan, including major policy decisions, community impacts and technical feasibility. We will also be launching a transit academy to educate, involve and empower civic leaders and community members to spread the word about the importance of a regional transit system, the transit vision and how to implement.

Community

Key regional influencers. Engagement via government, health & human services, economic development, employers, social services, and education.

Policy

Elected officials and policy experts from across the region (NC and SC).

Technical

Staff level technical resources. Land use, transportation, health, economic development, education, etc.

CONNECT Beyond Transit Academy

"Deeper dive" forum for committee members, civic leaders and community members.

Planning Process



1

Evaluate existing transit systems

- > What are we doing well?
- > Where are the gaps and barriers to mobility?

One of the first steps of CONNECT Beyond is to conduct a detailed evaluation of the region's current transit systems, past planning efforts and our partners' previous and current transportation plans. During this time we will also form stakeholder advisory committees and begin our initial public engagement.

2

Identify high capacity transit corridors

- > Which corridors would be good candidates for regional transit connections to best connect people to jobs, housing, medical services, education and other key destinations?

High capacity transit includes light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus, and commuter rail. In this step, we will identify high capacity transit corridors that are extensions of current or new corridors in the region.

3

Envision a Total Mobility Network

- > How can we best expand local services to increase transportation options and increase access to high capacity transit corridors?

In this step we will identify a multimodal transit network that will include a wide variety of transportation solutions, including bus connectors, demand response van networks, bike and pedestrian amenities, integration of ride share companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft, etc.), electric scooters, and other emerging technologies to supplement high capacity transit and commuter rail lines.

4

Develop implementation strategies

- > How can local transit providers and planning agencies use the results of the initiative?

In this step, we will coordinate with regional transportation planning organizations to develop implementation strategies for refining, connecting, and expanding the existing transit network that support the long-term vision and values of our region. These strategies are aimed to complement and support local planning processes such as the Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP).