



# Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Project

**On October 14th the Piedmont Triad was awarded \$1.6 Million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funds will be used to create a regional plan intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.**

## Why the Piedmont Triad?

**To distinguish the Piedmont Triad from other areas throughout the country the following issues related to Regional Sustainability were identified:**

- Job loss = Economic Hardship
- 95% of region's trips were made by automobile = Addicted to automobiles
- Low residential densities, weak performing town centers and downtowns, disconnected street network = Severe sprawl and farmland loss
- Sedentary auto-oriented lifestyle = Health issues
- ¾'s of regions households spend 45% of income on housing and transportation = Affordability Gap
- Rapid demographic shift and increasing diversity = Marked residential segregation
- 30% of housing stock in rural counties consist of manufactured housing = Lack of housing choices for lower-income residents
- Abandoned manufacturing plants and site ready for redevelopment = Brownfields
- Region's 20 institutions of higher education = Emerging opportunities

## Elements of Sustainability

**Sustainability is the act of balancing the environment, community and economic needs of the built and natural environment for present and future generations.**

### Environment

- Defining the limits of communities giving a true sense of urban and rural settings;
- Taking advantage of abandoned mill sites and brownfields;
- Providing the green infrastructure that binds cities and towns, offering natural resource functions such as aquifer recharge and flood protection;
- Being a component of the local tourism and agricultural economy
- Managing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy consumption.



### Community

- Promoting compact, walkable development featuring infill and community redevelopment to stress compact patterns and minimize pressure on loss of agricultural lands;
- Fostering social equity in housing, employment and transportation choices;
- Meeting the needs for anticipated demographic changes;
- Supporting energy efficiency and lowering greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Reducing the need for automobiles for short trips.

### Economy

- Expanding employment opportunities to meet 21st Century needs;
- Lowering the cost of housing and transportation for low income residents by locating employment centers proximate to transit lines; and
- Continuing to pursue economic development clusters that yield more jobs with higher wages

# Project Implementation

**Measuring Success: Incorporating the principles, goals and recommendations of the Regional Plan into local plans, policies, programs and ordinances.**

## Public Outreach That...

Is Accessible, Credible, Believable

Engages economically challenged and ethnic populations

Is Place-based and Enables Citizen-based Leadership

Is Continuous through Public forums, Project Website, Newsletters, Social Media, Media Relations, Plan Charrettes



## Project Schedule

**The project will begin in early 2011. The Alternatives Growth Scenerio will be available 17 months into the project, with the Implementation Strategies available 28 months into the project. Public Outreach will be continuous throughout the project. The project is expected to take 36 months to complete.**

## Guiding Regional Document

### General Contents

- Database and trends
- Issues validation and expansion
- Regional Vision Statement, Goals and Vision Diagram
- Alternative Futures Scenario Planning
- Implementation
  - Return on Investment
  - Sustainable Development Toolbox

### Plan Elements

- Proposed Settlement Pattern
- Community Redevelopment
- Housing
- Mobility System
- Economic/Workforce Development
- Support Systems
- Green Infrastructure
- Healthy Communities
- Climate Change and Resilience
- Energy



## Contact:

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**Project Website...  
Coming Soon!**



**THE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION**  
[www.PARTnc.org](http://www.PARTnc.org)

## Project Consortium

- **Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation**
- **Piedmont Triad Council of Governments**
- **Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments**
- **Piedmont Triad Partnership**
- **Metropolitan Planning Organizations**
  - Burlington-Graham
  - Greensboro
  - High Point
  - Winston-Salem
- **Urban Centers**
  - City of Burlington
  - City of Greensboro
  - City of High Point
  - City of Winston-Salem
- **28 other supporting agencies and local governments**

