

NC Regional Councils of Government release NC Tomorrow – Statewide Strategic Economic Prosperity Plan.

“A blueprint for common sense development and growth that will create jobs for our citizens while protecting the natural resources that make North Carolina the special place it has always been; a place where business can thrive and families want to live”

Regional councils across the state have revealed a plan they hope will elevate rural areas through business collaboration, infrastructure boosting and strengthening the work force talent pool.

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government presented its 2014 Report: North Carolina Regional and Statewide Strategies for Comprehensive and Economic Development to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) today.

It's intended to serve as a blueprint to build on each region's competitive advantages while leveraging the marketplace and it may be the first of its kind in the nation.

During the past three years, the citizens and leaders of Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson Counties that comprise the Mid-Carolina Region, participated in facilitated focus groups to offer their opinion on how best to revive our sagging economy and grow their Region. Their input was woven into a comprehensive economic development strategy for the Mid-Carolina Region, and then blended with the same input from the 15 other state designated lead regional councils to produce the composite NC Tomorrow document delivered to NC Commerce June 4. The Mid-Carolina COG plans to begin the implementation phase that will begin the identified action items in reality.

According to [Joe C. McKinney](#), executive director of the National Association of Development Organizations based in Washington, D.C., this report and the work done to accomplish it over more than 18 months of statewide collaboration is a national model.

That's just one example of how the plan aims to help policy makers elevate rural areas. According to Dept. of Commerce Secretary [Sharon Decker](#), the plan echoes Gov. [Pat McCrory](#)'s recent jobs plan.