



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Jamie Kritzer
Phone: (919) 715-7357

State task force announces nine grant recipients

RALEIGH – A state task force created by the General Assembly to prepare North Carolina for population growth recently announced the recipients of regional planning grants.

The North Carolina Sustainable Communities Task Force helps North Carolina communities better position themselves to meet the needs of North Carolina's growing population, which is estimated to increase 30 percent by 2030. The task force met last Tuesday at the Archdale Building in Raleigh.

The task force awarded grants that will help municipalities and regions improve planning efforts. The task force awarded:

- Raleigh a \$40,000 grant for proposed work on the Blue Ridge Road corridor, which is identified in the city's 2030 comprehensive plan. This is a focal point in west Raleigh. The area is anchored by nationally recognized institutions including the North Carolina Museum of Art, the N.C. State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the N.C. State Fairgrounds.
- Morrisville a \$40,000 grant for its proposed Transit and Affordable Housing Plan. The plan will study transit-oriented development options as they relate to a proposed regional rail system that would run through Morrisville.
- The Centralina Council of Governments a \$40,000 grant to revitalize 150,000 acres currently zoned for industrial use. The plan aims to reduce housing and transportation costs for residents and local governments. The Centralina Council of Governments serves a nine-county region around Charlotte.
- The Triangle J Council of Governments a \$31,000 grant to study complex infrastructure and population development scenarios in the three-county Research Triangle Park region.
- Durham a \$40,000 grant to further a resident-driven initiative for Northeast Central Durham. The initiative seeks to create and improve access to jobs, affordable housing and transportation options and increase educational opportunities.
- Fuquay-Varina a \$15,000 grant to help establish guidelines that address development at all scales.
- Robbinville a \$15,000 grant to develop a comprehensive master plan that will integrate housing and transportation decisions and increase the capacity to improve land use planning.
- The N.C. Eastern Region Military Regional Growth Task Force a \$13,000 grant to support development of comprehensive regional plans across county lines.
- The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization a \$15,000 grant to incorporate transportation planning activities associated with bicycle, pedestrian and transit initiatives in a four-county region.

Sustainable communities promote economic, human and natural assets to meet the transportation, housing and other needs of residents.

The 13-person task force includes staff from local and regional governments as well as representatives from the state departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, Administration, Environment and Natural Resources, Transportation and the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. More information can be found at: http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/SC_SustainableCommunities.html.

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Diana Kees, Communications Director
Phone: (919) 715-4112

diana.kees@ncdenr.gov

<http://www.facebook.com/ncdenr>

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