

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date: August 21, 2012**

**Agenda Item:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE LAND-OF-SKY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

**Background Information:**

Buncombe County participates in both the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO). Both organizations are comprised of local governments who work cooperatively with the N.C. Department of Transportation and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for urban (MPO) and rural (RPO) areas in our region. A map of the RPO planning area is included as additional information.

The 2010 census resulted in a new urbanized area boundary for the area that includes the greater portions of Buncombe and Haywood Counties; and both counties have the option of choosing to continue their participation in both the RPO and MPO, or only participate in the MPO since the largest portion of each county is within the urbanized area. If the Land-of-Sky RPO falls below the 50,000 population or a four-county threshold, the RPO could lose transportation planning funds and local RPO prioritization points which are used in the NCDOT's strategic prioritization process for the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Staff recommends that Buncombe County continue to participate in the RPO in order to facilitate and coordinate collaborative transportation planning in concert with rural governmental entities across our region.

**Funds/Staff Requested:**

Not applicable.

**Request submitted by:** Jon E. Creighton, Assistant County Manager

**Date Submitted:** August 13, 2013