

RESOLUTION

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

- WHEREAS, the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is a voluntary organization of local governments working cooperatively with the N.C. Department of Transportation and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for rural areas in our region; and
- WHEREAS, member governments of the RPO include Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, and Transylvania Counties and the municipalities of Brevard, Hot Springs, Marshall, Mars Hill, and Rosman; and
- WHEREAS, the purpose of the RPO is to develop long-range transportation plans for the region; provide transportation-related information to local governments; develop and prioritize projects for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); and provide a forum for public involvement in the transportation planning process; and
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County also participates in the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which organization carries out transportation planning responsibilities in the urbanized areas of the region; and
- WHEREAS, 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; and
- WHEREAS, 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, more importantly, local RPO prioritization points which are used in the NCDOT's strategic prioritization process for the development of the STIP;
- WHEREAS, because there were rural areas within Buncombe County that could benefit from the planning assistance and funding opportunities available through RPO membership, and to help ensure the RPO met the requirements for contiguous boundaries, Buncombe County has participated in the RPO since it was established on January 15, 2003; and
- WHEREAS, RPOs provide a cooperative, unified voice for member governments to advocate for funding and project needs, and to be meaningfully involved in integrated multi-modal transportation planning and funding processes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of working in partnership with the NCDOT and the Land-of-Sky RPO to facilitate and coordinate collaborative transportation planning in concert with rural governmental entities across our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby elects to continue Buncombe County's participation in the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization.
2. That the participation of Buncombe County will continue until such time as the county is no longer eligible to participate in the RPO, or the RPO can no longer be preserved as a local rural transportation planning organization.
3. That this Resolution is effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this 21st day of August, 2012.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board

By: _____
David Gantt, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Attorney