

Partnership for Sustainable Communities

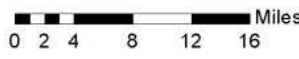
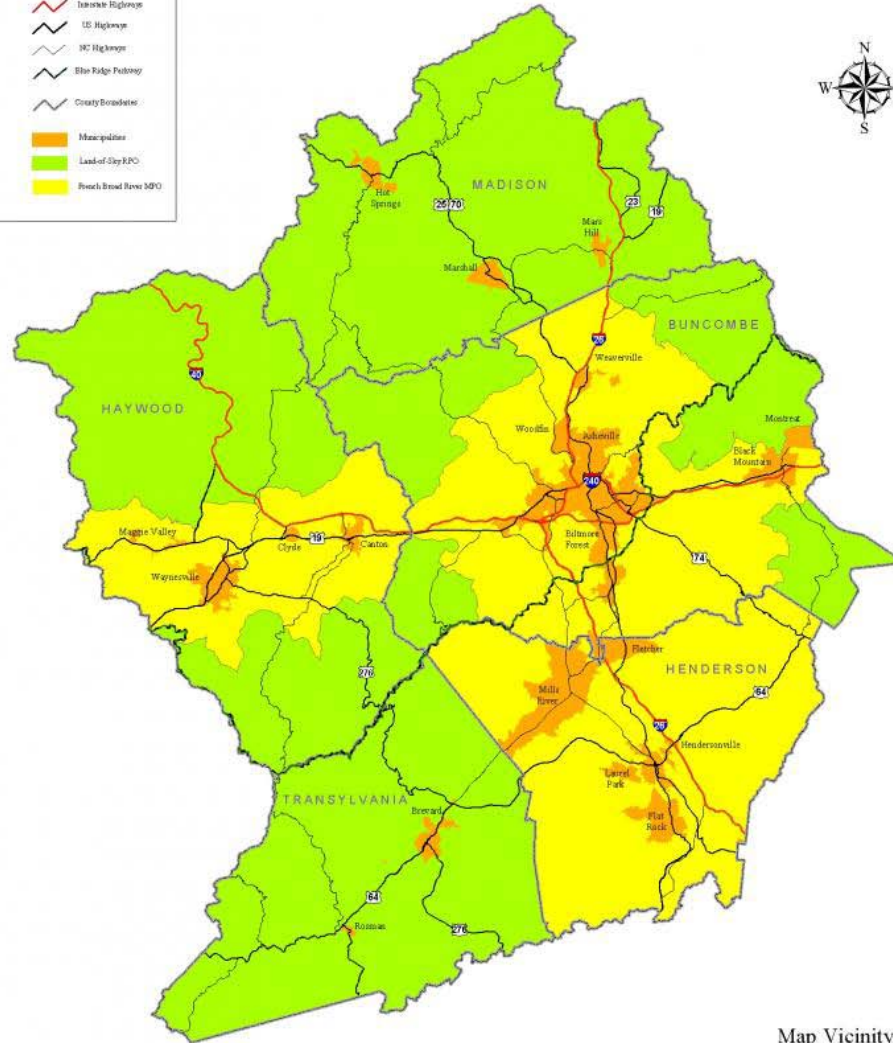
The Asheville, NC Partnership



Working Together in Western North
Carolina to Achieve a Sustainable
Region

Land-of-Sky Regional Council Transportation Planning Area

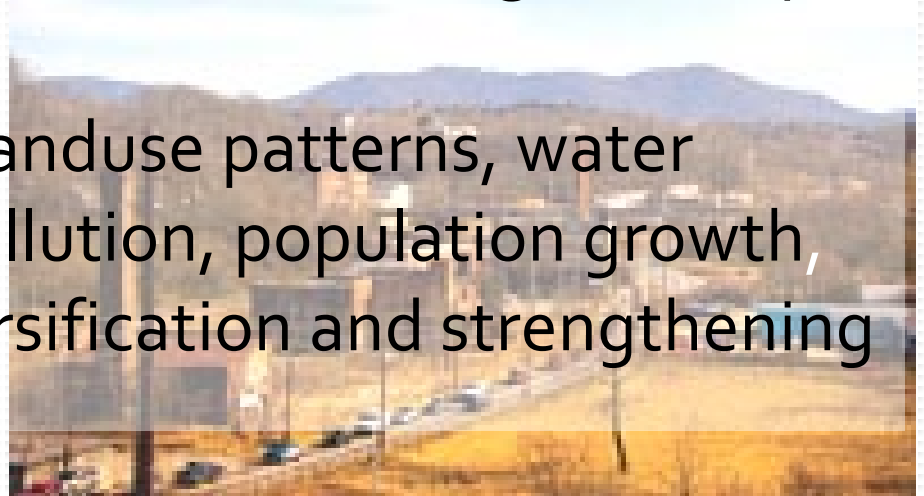
Buncombe Haywood Madison Henderson Transylvania Counties, NC



January 2009

The Region

- Mountainous, Blue Ridge Parkway traverses, French Broad River crosses
- Major cities—Asheville, Brevard and Hendersonville
- Population of 350,000 in about 2000 mi² area
- Economic bases include tourism, farming, forestry, arts
- Challenges to region—landuse patterns, water supply, air and water pollution, population growth, need for economic diversification and strengthening



WNC Livable Communities Consortium

- Land-of-Sky Regional Council
- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
- City of Asheville
- Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties
- State of North Carolina
- The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
- Advantage West
- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Renaissance Computing Institute UNCA
- Asheville Housing Authority
- Asheville-Buncombe Sustainable Communities Initiative of the Asheville Hub
- Asheville Design Center

Local “Livable Communities” Sustainability Initiatives

- Making Lasting Connections
- Heart of Fletcher
- Eagle Market Street
- Energy Efficiency
- Ecusta Project



PSC Interagency Collaboration

- Began as local interest including energy, economics, environment, housing, etc.
- Federal agencies invited to join in June 2009
- Series of meetings/workshops scheduled
- Western North Carolina Livable Communities Initiative established



Federal and State Partners

- HUD
- EPA
- FHWA
- FTA
- USDA
- EDA
- USFS
- USGS
- DOL
- NCDENR
- NCDOT



Federal Goals in Asheville

- Identify local interests, determine how Federal partners could engage
- Identify resources Federal partners could provide
- Promote sustainable outcomes
- Learn approaches through this collaboration that could be used elsewhere
- Strengthen federal partnership through specific engagement

Challenges

- New model for collaboration
- Some regional interactions were challenging
- Maintaining connections and establishing useful communication approach
- Identifying how federal agencies would interact relative to new grants

Successes

- February 2010 EPA Land of Sky awarded Climate Showcase Community grant
- Coalition in June 2010 two-day workshop led by City and LOS
- Brownfields funding for TBA at Eagle Street Market , August 2010
- FTA awarded \$300K for Community Challenge Grant to City of Asheville in October 2010
- HUD awarded LOS \$1.2M Regional Planning Grant, October 2010
- EPA ORD Listening Session for new research program Asheville April 2011 (1 of 6 nationally)

Next Steps

- Continue to identify opportunities for support
- Federal agencies to participate on HUD RPG and FTA planning efforts as part of subcommittee or when needed
- Provide ongoing information to communities about goals and priorities, new programs for federal, state government
- Facilitate resolution of difficulties across agency and regional lines
- Identify best practices and use to help other communities