



CONNECT *Our Future*

Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

What:

Working together to create a regional growth framework that will enable us to promote growing jobs and the economy, improving quality of life and controlling the cost of government. Planning for growth will help ensure healthy growth for our communities and region.

Why:

In the past decade, our region has emerged as America's fastest growing region of any area with a population greater than 1 million people. That rapid growth is expected to continue, with our population growing by 50 percent in the next 20 years and doubling in about 40 years. That's an addition of more than 2 million people.

Who:

Residents from throughout the region, including representatives of local government, education, business, economic development, non-profits and other organizations, will work to create a regional growth framework.

More than 100 local governments and other organizations are participating in this "CONNECT Our Future" initiative.

How:

The regional growth framework will be developed through extensive public engagement – more than 30 open houses throughout the region this year – and it will build on what communities identify as existing conditions, future plans and needs, and potential strategies.

Where:

The 14-county bi-state region includes: Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina.

CONNECT Our Future

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Jobs/Economic Development



Land Use



Transportation



Housing



Energy



Natural Resources



Public Health

CONNECT Our Future is a Sustainable Communities initiative, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Why Is CONNECT Our Future So Important Now?



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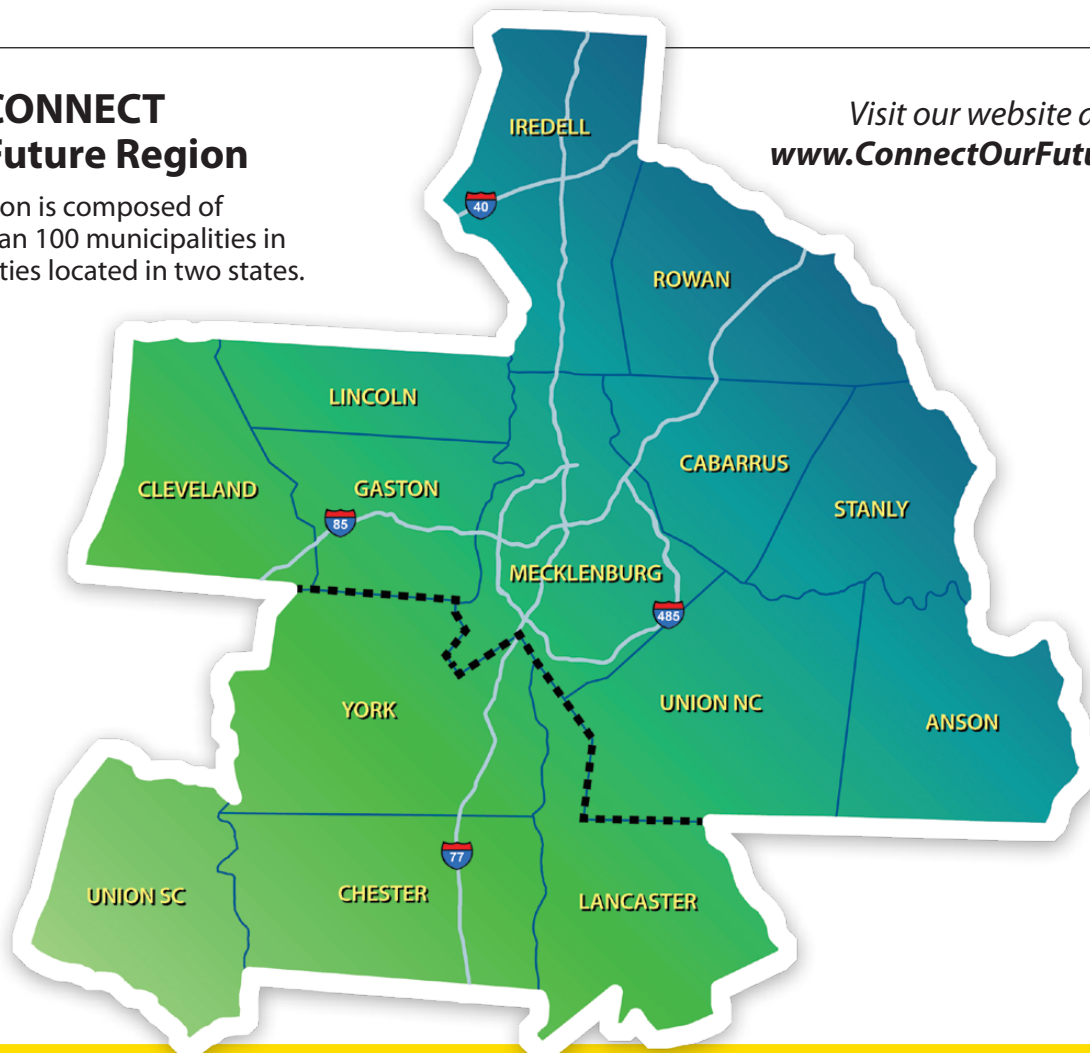
It is critical to consider how best to prepare for the rapid growth of our region —

- How can we best maintain your community's character?
- Where and how will everyone live and work?
- How do we avoid the negative sides of growth?
- How do we encourage quality jobs and strong economic growth?
- How do we build needed infrastructure using limited public funds?

The CONNECT Our Future Region

The region is composed of more than 100 municipalities in 14 counties located in two states.

Visit our website at:
www.ConnectOurFuture.org



How Can I Get Involved?

- Come to your local open house! Open houses are being scheduled in communities throughout the region from November 2012 through February 2013.
- Come and learn more, and tell us what you value about your community and the challenges you see ahead for the region.
- Get involved! Help ensure we can grow healthy, vibrant communities in a robust region for our children and grandchildren.