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Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2017 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments based in Wilson NC has received a 2017 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on behalf of the area’s Regional Brownfields Coalition that includes 3 counties and 15 municipalities.

The Coalition formed in 2010 to provide technical and economic assistance to owners and potential developers of Brownfields properties with the goal of putting these sites back into beneficial use. Brownfields are properties which the redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by real or potential contamination or pollution. To date, the Coalition has received over \$800,000 from the US Environmental Protection Agency to assess contamination on properties and to determine with the State Department of Environmental Quality and owners how to protect public health and the environment during redevelopment and reuse. These funds have helped leverage over \$56 million in documented redevelopment supporting hundreds of new jobs in throughout Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson Counties. Some key projects the public may be familiar with include the Downtown Community Facility and Monk to Mill Trail in Rocky Mount, as well as the Patterson Mill and Sunrise Industrial Sites in Roanoke Rapids. Numerous small-town projects like a public library, local grocery, dry cleaners, and fueling stations have also been assisted over the years.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of regions and local communities.

“The Innovation Awards program is an opportunity to recognize the important work of regional development organizations that are promoting economic development and improving quality of life for local residents,” said 2016-2017 NADO President Lynne Keller Forbes, Executive Director of the South Eastern Council of Governments, located in Sioux Falls, SD. “These projects demonstrate the diversity of work that regional development organizations undertake to benefit the communities and regions that they serve.”

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Ron Townley, Assistant Executive Director, Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments, 252.234.5965 or rtownley@ucpcog.org.



Upper Coastal Plain COG Assistant Executive Director, Ron Townley & NADO President Lynne Keller Forbes

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Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.