

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2015 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE AS A US52 CORRIDOR BROWNFIELD COALITION PARTNER IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: *J. Dudley Watts, Jr.* DATE: October 21, 2015
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A LETTER OF COMMITMENT
TO PARTICIPATE AS A US52 CORRIDOR BROWNFIELD COALITION PARTNER
IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) BROWNFIELD
ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) is seeking municipal and county US52 Corridor Brownfield Coalition Partners, to participate in a proposed three-year, \$600,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant; and

WHEREAS, the grant will enable PTRC to continue building a regional brownfields assessment and redevelopment program for communities throughout the Piedmont Triad, in partnership with its local government members, the NC Brownfields Program and EPA; and

WHEREAS, PTRC is in the process of writing the grant proposal, and invites proposed initial partners within the US52 Corridor to provide a letter of commitment to participate in the coalition; and

WHEREAS, if the region's application is approved, funding will begin October 1, 2016 and PTRC will manage and administer the program as it has done over the past two years with its current coalition assessment grant for communities in the Business 85 (29/70) Corridor from Lexington to Greensboro resulting in several projects receiving letters of intent to purchase and redevelop upon completion of the assessment and clean-up planning; most projects receiving membership in the NC Brownfields Program and becoming eligible to receive assistance in development of a letter of agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to remove liability from non-contributing prospective developers and returning brownfield properties to productive use;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes submission of a letter of commitment to participate as a US52 Corridor Brownfield Coalition Partner in a proposed three-year Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$600,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman, County Manager, City/County Planning and Development Director, and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, the attached letter of commitment to participate as a US52 Corridor Brownfield Coalition Partner in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant, subject to a pre-audit certificate by the County Chief Financial Officer, if applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this 26th day of October 2015.

October __, 2015

Paul M. Kron, Regional Planning Director
Piedmont Triad Regional Council
1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive
Kernersville, NC 27284

Dear Mr. Kron:

Forsyth County is committed to improving and protecting the health of our citizens, to encouraging the sustainable redevelopment and re-use of brownfield sites that will strengthen our local economy, and to restoring and protecting the natural environment and ecological systems of our county. Therefore, on behalf of Forsyth County, the City/County Planning and Development Services Department, and the City-County MapForsyth office, I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment in support of the proposed Brownfield Assessment Coalition. The County strongly supports PTRC's request for \$600,000 in federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant Funds to assess and plan for the clean-up of brownfield sites in Forsyth County and other coalition communities.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning and Development Services Department will actively participate in the coalition and will provide available staff support to help the coalition identify, assess, prioritize and plan for the clean-up and redevelopment of abandoned and under-utilized brownfield sites in our county. Our Planning and Development Services Department's staff support may include assistance with community outreach meetings; gathering public input; participating in project development meetings; and assistance with any zoning, rezoning, or local permitting needs. The City-County MapForsyth office will be able to accommodate any mapping needs for projects in Forsyth County using County GIS data.

Thank you for the opportunity for Forsyth County to participate in this coalition.

Sincerely,

Forsyth County Manager

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, Chairman



PIEDMONT TRIAD BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

The Ask

The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) is seeking municipal and county US52 Corridor Coalition Partners, to participate in a proposed 3-year, \$600,000 Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant. The grant will enable PTRC to continue building a regional brownfields assessment and redevelopment program for the Piedmont Triad, in partnership with its local government members, the NC Brownfields Program and EPA.

What's a Brownfield?

Any real property - the expansion, reuse or redevelopment of which - may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination.

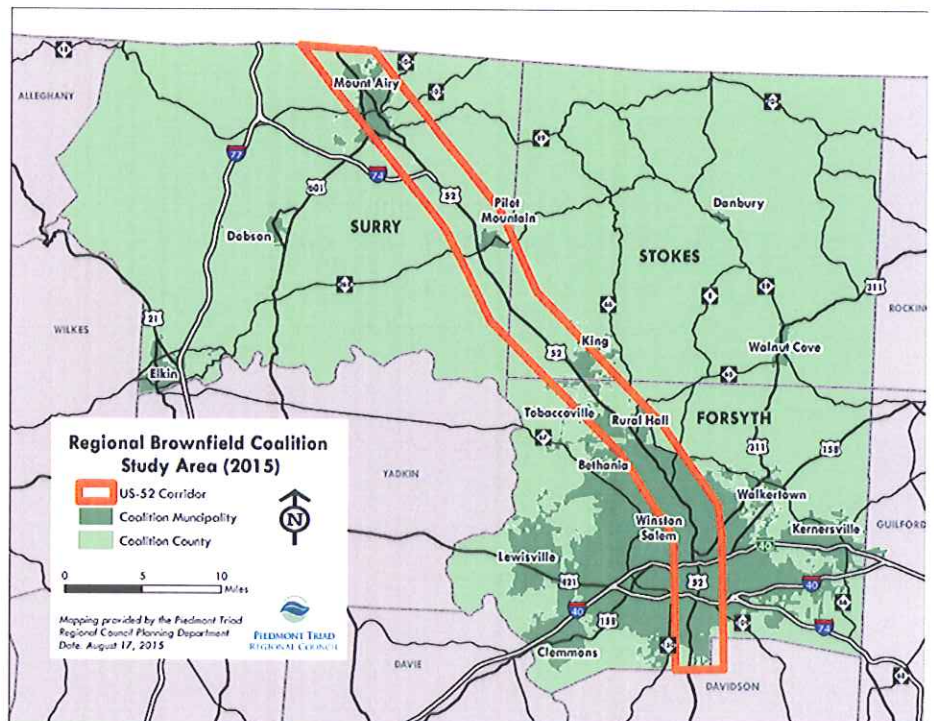
The Purpose

The PTRC Brownfields Program facilitates the assessment and cleanup planning of idled or underused sites and provides strategic investments to stimulate the redevelopment of mills, gas stations, vehicle repair facilities, dry cleaners, and other potential brownfield sites. Catalyst projects are intended to improve quality of life, increase tax base and create jobs while protecting public

health and the environment. Emphasis will be given to areas posing the most risk to human health and the environment, yet with the most potential for redevelopment and reuse.

The Process

Initial program efforts will be focused on identifying brownfield sites in communities along the US52 corridor in Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, King, Tobaccoville, Rural Hall and Winston-Salem - and the 3 Counties in which they are located - Surry, Stokes and Forsyth. Top priority sites may be eligible to receive funding for Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments. Sites with the greatest potential for redevelopment may also receive funding for assistance with clean-up and re-use planning, membership in the NC Brownfields Program, and the development of a Letter of Agreement with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to remove liability from non-contributing prospective developers.



Contact Information

For more information about this exciting regional initiative contact Paul M. Kron, PTRC Regional Planning Director - pkron@ptrc.org - 336.904.0300 - www.ptrc.org/brownfields