

Circumstances for the Request

Attach a summary which clearly states the circumstances for the request of transfer of county(ies)/reorganization.

Rebuilding Mid-Carolina Regional Council

In 2018, leaders in Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson Counties undertook the process of rebuilding Mid-Carolina Regional Council. Local leaders understood that a strong, active, responsive, and accountable regional council was necessary to ensure regional collaboration, leverage assets, and increase the region's overall economic competitiveness. The foundation for the rebuilding of the Council has begun and is set upon four cornerstones:

Regional Engagement – Work to ensure Mid-Carolina Regional Council is fully and proactively engaged with our region's local governments, community partners, and key allies.

Service – Work to develop an ever-expanding menu of service offerings for our local governments and strategic partners.

Capacity – Work to ensure the Council can address regional needs, meet regional challenges, and seize regional opportunities.

Accountability – Work to ensure full accountability to our local governments, regional allies, and funding partners.

Since 2018, steps have been taken to ensure that Mid-Carolina Regional Council, functioning as an arm of our member governments, functions as a multi-county planning, economic development, and human services organization that works across governmental boundaries to provide services that benefit the region's communities and citizens. The Council now emphasizes collaboration in efforts that focus on accelerating our communities' wellbeing while increasing the region's overall economic competitiveness and proactively addresses emerging issues. The Council's workplan now focuses on:

Regional Engagement – Establishing relationships, forming partnerships, and earning trust.

Service – Enhancing and expanding service delivery to towns, cities, and counties in the region. Addressing emerging issues through strategic partnerships.

Capacity Building – Obtaining, improving, and retaining the resources, skills, and knowledge needed for the organization to better serve the region on a day-to-day basis and to better prepare for meeting the region's future challenges.

Accountability – Taking responsibility, as an organization and as individuals, for actions and embracing being judged by outcomes and performance.

Mid-Carolina Workforce Development

As a result of the Council's increased regional engagement, Cumberland County expressed an interest in Mid-Carolina becoming the administrative entity for the County's workforce development program. In June 2021, the County in partnership with the Division of Workforce Solutions transferred administrative entity responsibilities to the Council.

Shortly thereafter, leaders from Harnett and Sampson Counties expressed interest in possibly forming a three-county workforce development area that matched the geographic boundaries of Mid-Carolina Regional Council. The timing of these conversations coincided with conversations concerning the possible dissolution of the Triangle South Workforce Development Area. Based on these factors, Mid-Carolina's three county governments took action to formally note their intent to form a new workforce area.

Regional Justification

Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson County leaders understand that collaboration is key to achieving success in enhancing the overall economic competitiveness of the Mid-Carolina Region. In order to meet the needs of existing employers, future employers, and job seekers in the global economy, the region's elected officials are committed to cooperative action through a regional workforce system that:

Fosters better collaboration and coordination among governmental, economic development, and educational organizations in the region, across central and eastern North Carolina, and statewide.

Improves and enhances services to both employers and job seekers.

Uses local, regional and state financial and human resources more efficiently and effectively,

Aligns regional workforce activities more closely with local, regional, and state economic development activities.