**The Mid-East Commission seeks public input on the update of the Mid-East Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

September 22, 2022

BEAUFORT, BERTIE, HERTFORD, MARTIN, AND PITT COUNTIES INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES

In Fall 2021, the Mid-East Commission formed an Advisory Committee of public and private sector representatives from across the region to conduct a five-year major update of the Mid-East Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Mid-East Commission is now inviting the public to attend an open house to discuss the plan. The meetings will be drop-in style. Stop by anytime during the meeting timeframe. Your input will help us better understand community priorities as we work to improve economic development in our five-county region. A meal will be provided at the in-person meetings.

**In-Person Public Open Houses – Meal Provided!**

* Tuesday, October 11, 2022 – Bertie County Community Space, 102 Lancaster Avenue, Windsor, NC 27983, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
* Tuesday. October 18, 2022 – Washington Civic Center, 110 Gladden Avenue, Washington, NC 27889, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The public may drop-in any time during meeting hours. There will be no formal presentation. The same information will be covered at both meetings.

**Virtual Public Open House**

* Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – Virtual Open House, Go to: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), Click: Join A Meeting, Meeting ID: 646 627 9358, Meeting Passcode: 123, Call-In Option: +1 301 715 859, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

The public may drop-in any time during meeting hours. There will be no formal presentation. The virtual open house will provide the same information as the in-person public meetings.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) contributes to effective economic development in America’s communities and regions through a locally based, regionally driven economic development planning process. Economic development planning – as implemented through the CEDS – is not only a cornerstone of the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) programs, but successfully serves as a means to engage community leaders, leverage the involvement of the private sector, and establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration. Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. In addition, a CEDS is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD).

The current Mid-East Region CEDS may be viewed/downloaded from the Mid-East Commission website at <http://www.mideastcom.org/>. Scroll down and click the blue button that says, “Click here for the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update (CEDS)”.

For questions about the public open houses, contact Jamie Heath, Mid-East Commission, at (252) 296-1656 or jheath@mideastcom.org.