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City of York, SC and Catawba Regional Council of Governments Receive National Association of Development Organizations 2021 Impact Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The City of York, SC and the Catawba Regional Council of Governments have received a 2021 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the City of York 2021 Strategic Plan.

The City, with assistance from the Catawba Regional COG and resident focus groups, developed the 2021 Strategic Plan to foster growth, address aging infrastructure, and strengthen the community. Through a shared, comprehensive vision, city staff now have a “playbook” comprised of strategies and goals that reflect a collaborative direction for the future. The city has implemented a number of new initiatives from the plan, including developing a comprehensive civic and wayfinding signage program, initiating work on an Impact Fee Study to use new growth to pay for the expansion of services and infrastructure, and a renewed commitment to community policing strategies.

Catawba Regional COG provided planning and consulting services to the City of York. Community partners in the project included York County Economic Development, York County Convention and Visitors Bureau, York School District One, Local photographers – Charlie Cox and CC Photography, Jessica Turner Photography, and Tim Cooper.

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

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO's 2021 Annual Training Conference, held in Portland, OR on October 16-19. The 2021 class of award recipients consists of 102 projects from 70 organizations spanning 24 states. These projects are presented in an interactive "Story Map" developed by NADO that includes project summaries, partners, and images. The Story Map is available online at: https://www.nado.org/2021_impactawards/

"During the past 20 months, regional development organizations across the country have shown just how valuable they are in supporting the local communities they serve," said 2019-2021 NADO President Kevin Byrd, executive director of the New River Valley Regional Commission, located in Radford, VA. "From COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives, to workforce and economic development projects, to social services programs and much more, the 2021 NADO Impact Awardees highlight the many ways our members work on the ground every day to improve quality of life in their regions."

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck who was NADO's first executive director and served 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Steve Allen at Catawba Regional (sallen@catawbacog.org) or Seth Duncan at the City of York (sduncan@yorksc.gov).

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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.