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***Foothills Regional Commission is Honored with   
2025 Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations***

# **July 22, 2025 –** Foothills Regional Commission based in Rutherfordton, NC, has recently been recognized with a 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for their Regional Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The CTP is a long-range, needs-based plan developed in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). Designed to guide transportation improvements over the next 25 to 30 years, the CTP identifies multimodal needs and fosters a unified vision for future infrastructure across jurisdictions. The Foothills (McDowell, Polk and Rutherford Counties) and Davie-Surry-Yadkin (Counties) Regional CTPs were piloted to encourage multi-jurisdictional collaboration and communication on major statewide and regional projects.

Presented annually, the [NADO Impact Awards](https://www.nado.org/2025impactawards/) honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies.

This year’s cohort included 90 impactful projects led by 79 organizations across 24 states. These award-winning efforts will be recognized during [NADO’s 2025 Annual Training Conference](https://www.nado.org/2025atc/), held this coming October in Salt Lake City, Utah. All selected projects are featured in an interactive StoryMap that showcases summaries, images, and key partners. The map is available at [www.nado.org/2025impactawards/](http://www.nado.org/2025impactawards/).

“This award is a testament to the collaboration and long-range vision of our member counties,” said Magnolia Long, RPO Director at Foothills Regional Commission. “By working across jurisdictional lines, we’re planning a more connected, accessible, and resilient future for our region’s transportation network.”

“The Impact Awards are an annual reminder of the creativity and commitment that regional development organizations bring to their communities,” said 2024-2025 NADO President Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director of the Region XII Council of Governments in Iowa. “This year’s awardees show how local and regional partnerships, driven by vision and collaboration, can lead to lasting positive change across our country.”

For more information, contact Magnolia Long at mlong@frcnc.gov.

**About Foothills Regional Commission**

Foothills Regional Commission (FRC) includes Cleveland, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford Counties and the municipal governments within those counties. FRC serves its members and their citizens by fostering regional collaboration through providing professional and technical expertise in the areas of economic, community, and workforce development, as well as aging, housing and transportation planning.

**About NADO**

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation’s regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org).