



Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

Memorandum of Understanding

For CONNECT Consortium Membership for The Rocky River Rural Planning Organization

WHEREAS, over 50 jurisdictions serving 70% of the CONNECT region's (as defined on page A-4 of the attached Exhibit A) population have adopted the CONNECT Regional Vision (as defined on page A-4 of the attached Exhibit A), based on a set of Core Values (as defined on page A-4 of the attached Exhibit A) compiled from adopted local policies, plans and programs, and

WHEREAS, those jurisdictions and other non-profit and private sector partners identified the development of a strategic regional framework for implementing these Core Values as the "next step" to achieve this community-based vision; and

WHEREAS, the federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (the Program) operated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of the US Department of Transportation, US Environmental Protection Agency, and HUD, incorporates Livability Principles (as defined in the Program documents) that align closely with CONNECT's Core Values, and provides a funding source for development of CONNECT's needed regional strategic framework for effectively and efficiently addressing growth and community economic revitalization; and

WHEREAS, the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) and the Catawba Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) established the CONNECT Consortium, as defined on page A-3 of the attached Exhibit A, as a representative body to develop a grant application based on the CONNECT Vision to HUD for Program funds, and to support local governments, non-profits, academic institutions and other groups representing the region's diversity, in their work to further sound growth, regional and local economies built to last, vibrant communities, and inclusive public engagement and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, CCOG as Lead Applicant submitted the application to the Program on behalf of the Consortium on October 5th, 2011, was notified of grant approval on November 21, 2011, and entered into a Cooperative Agreement with HUD to carry out the work of the application with an effective date of February 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, CCOG, CRCOG, and the Consortium will continue this collaborative approach to carry out the work funded in the application to move the CONNECT Core Values into a community-based, regionally-inclusive strategic framework for action to help communities address economic growth, quality of life, and fiscal stability now, and to create better prospects for our children and grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, the ROCKY RIVER RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (the Rocky River RPO) agrees to the following by signing this memorandum of understanding:

