



# NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE

**Best Practices Case Studies  
from the Tennessee Regions' Roundtable Network**

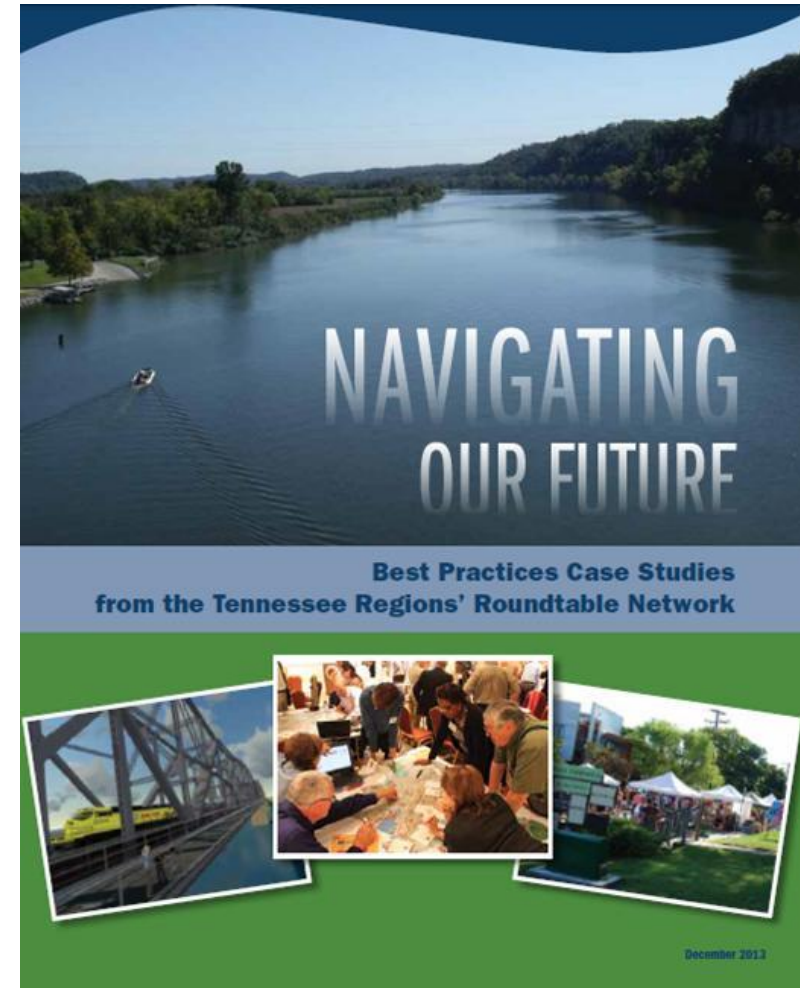
Wednesday, April 16, 2014  
2:00-3:30 Eastern / 1:00-2:30 Central

# *Navigating Our Future Case Studies Publication*

Over twenty case studies throughout the state demonstrating a wide range of projects in urban, suburban, and rural Tennessee, including regional initiatives, neighborhood and corridor revitalization, historic preservation, multi-modal transportation investments, entrepreneurship and small business development initiatives, tourism strategies, and others.

Supported in part by funding to the NADO Research Foundation under awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Highway Administration

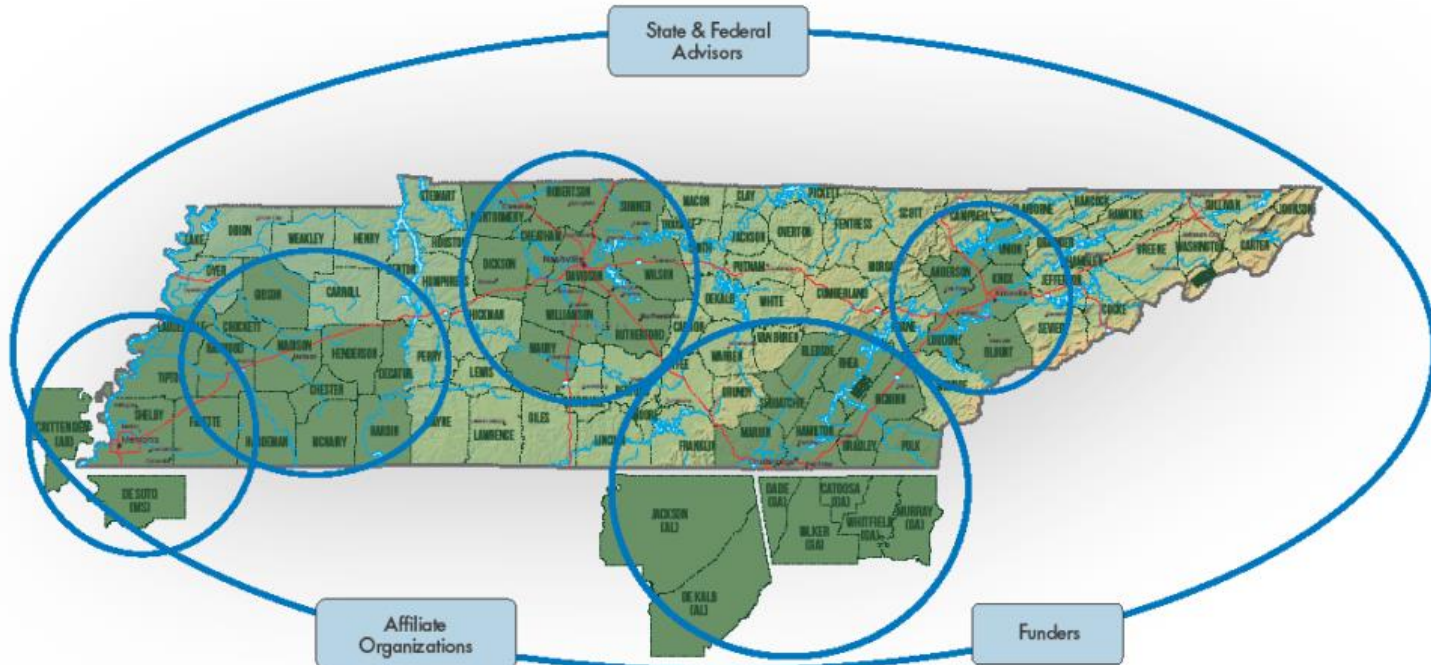
Download a free copy at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org) or [www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](http://www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org)



## **Authors and Contributors**

<i>Sam Warlick</i>	Cumberland Region Tomorrow	<i>Mary Pearce</i>	Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County
<i>Sara Holloway</i>	Cumberland Region Tomorrow	<i>Nancy Williams</i>	Franklin Downtown Association/ Franklin Main Street
<i>Bridget Jones</i>	Cumberland Region Tomorrow	<i>Rick Bernhardt</i>	Metro Nashville Planning Department
<i>Angela Hytry</i>	Birdhouse Creative Factory	<i>Craig Owensby</i>	Metro Nashville Planning Department
<i>Greg Maxted</i>	Harahan Bridge Project	<i>Margot Fosnes</i>	Robertson County Chamber of Commerce
<i>John Zeanah</i>	Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan	<i>Jan Compton</i>	TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices
<i>Anna Holtzclaw</i>	ULI Memphis	<i>Christy Smith</i>	Safe Routes to School National Partnership
<i>Diana Threadgill</i>	Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee	<i>Beth Jones</i>	Southeast Tennessee Development District
<i>Frankie McCord</i>	Ripley Downtown Development District	<i>Chuck Hammonds</i>	Southeast Tennessee Development District
<i>Lisa Hankins</i>	Southwest Tennessee Development District, REDI - Regional Economic Development Initiative	<i>Amy Brooks</i>	PlanET
<i>Richard Quin</i>	Pawpaw Partners	<i>Bridgett Massengill</i>	THRIVE 2055
<i>Trent Ogilvie</i>	Columbia Housing and Redevelopment Corporation	<i>Leigh McClure</i>	Southeast Tennessee Development District
<i>Norman Wright</i>	City of Columbia, Tennessee		

# *Tennessee Regions' Roundtable Network*



Supporting joint actions and successful collaboration through our lead regional organizations, state and federal agency advisors, affiliate partners, and who funders are working together to create an integrated network to catalyze current and future regional implementation across Tennessee.



# *Tennessee Regions' Roundtable Network*



*Leaders*

# Webinar Logistics

Please type any questions you have for the speakers in the question box on the side panel throughout the presentation

The webinar is being recorded and will be posted within a day along with the Powerpoint slides on the NADO website at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org)

1.5 AICP CM credits are available

Please contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org) if you have any questions after the presentation

# Today's Presenters

**John Zeanah**

Program Manager, Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Plan

**Joe Barker**

Executive Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District

**Lisa Hankins**

REDI Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District

**Bridget Jones**

Executive Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow

**Leigh McClure**

Special Projects Coordinator, Southeast Tennessee Development District

**Chuck Hammonds**

Assistant Executive Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District

**Amy Brooks**

Senior Transportation Planner, Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization

**Moderator: Brett Schwartz**

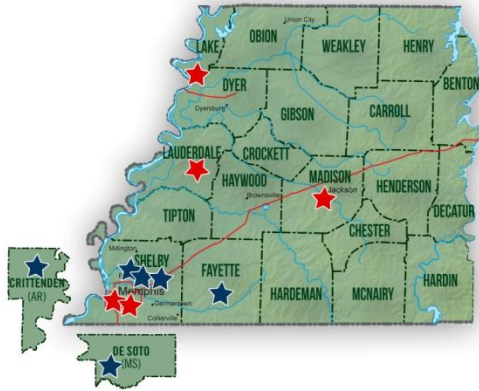
Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation



# Navigating Our Future

## Best Practices Case Studies Tennessee Regions' Roundtable Network

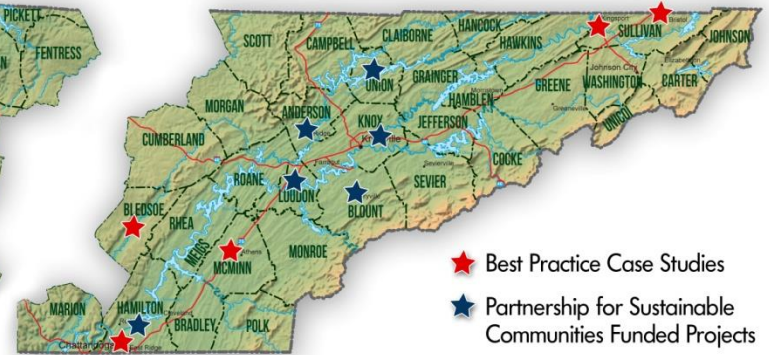
### WEST TENNESSEE



### MIDDLE TENNESSEE



### EAST TENNESSEE



- ★ Best Practice Case Studies
- ★ Partnership for Sustainable Communities Funded Projects





# West Tennessee Region



*Jackson, Tennessee*

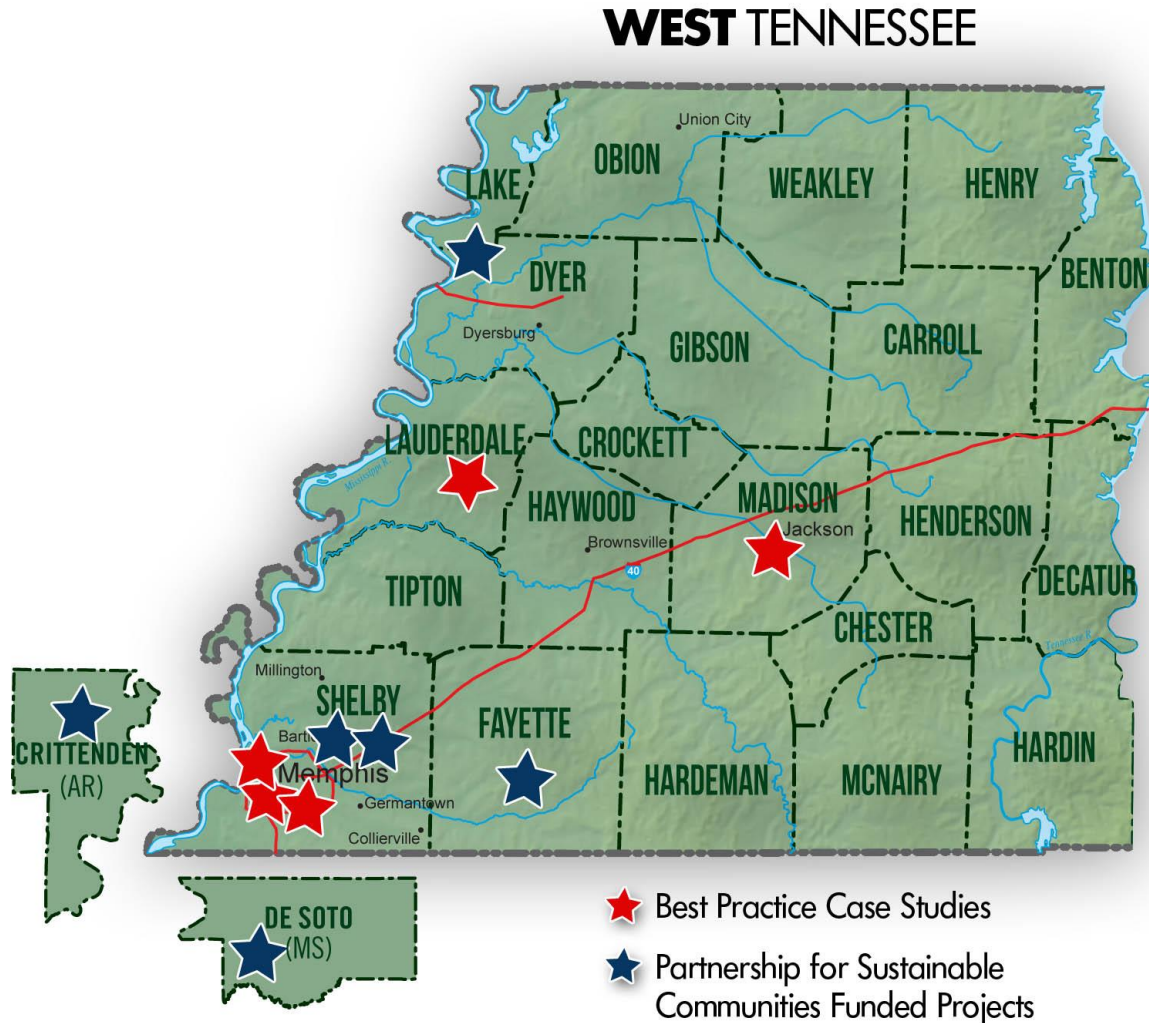


*Memphis, Tennessee*





# West Tennessee Region



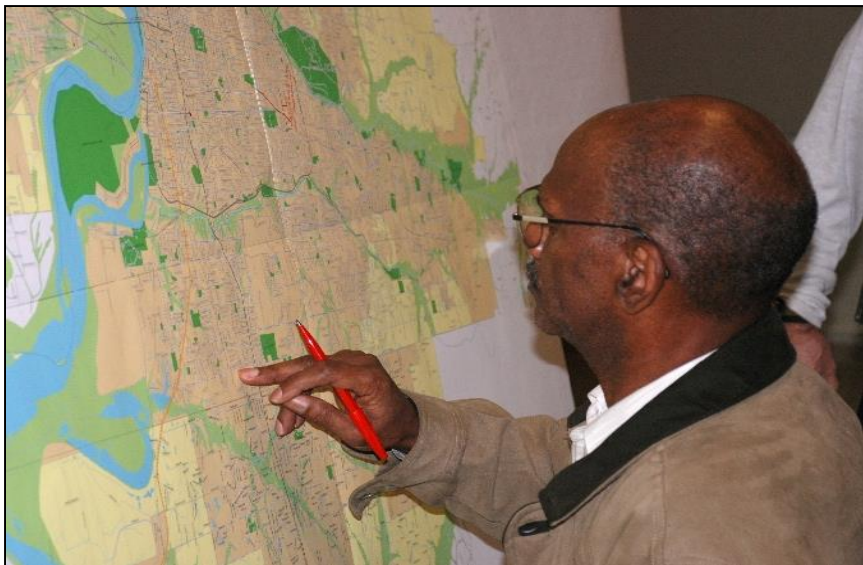
# West Tennessee Regional Initiative

★ *Partnership for Sustainable Communities Project*



## Mid-South Regional Greenprint Memphis, Tennessee/Mid-South Region *HUD Regional Planning Grant*

The Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan seeks to unify parts of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi in developing a regional vision for a network of green spaces connecting four counties in three states.



The goal of the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan is to create a unified regional vision and implementation strategy for a network of regional green spaces that improves quality of life and economic opportunities.



# Regional Connectivity and Economic Development

★ *Best Practices Case Study* • ★ *Partnership for Sustainable Communities Projects*



## Harahan Bridge/Memphis Aerotropolis

Memphis, Tennessee/Mid-South Region

*TIGER IV Grant/HUD Community Challenge Grant*

**The Harahan Bridge Project** is a new 10-foot-wide, 1-mile-long bike/pedestrian crossing build along the existing roadways of the 1916 Harahan Rail bridge from Memphis to Arkansas.



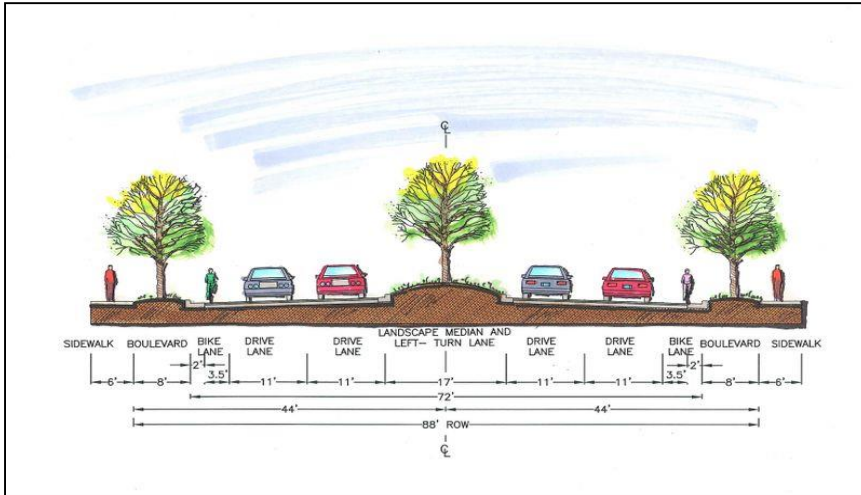
**The Memphis Aerotropolis** initiative will focus on economic development efforts that will retain and expand the number of commercial and industrial jobs in existing employment centers focused around the region's nationally leading shipping sector.





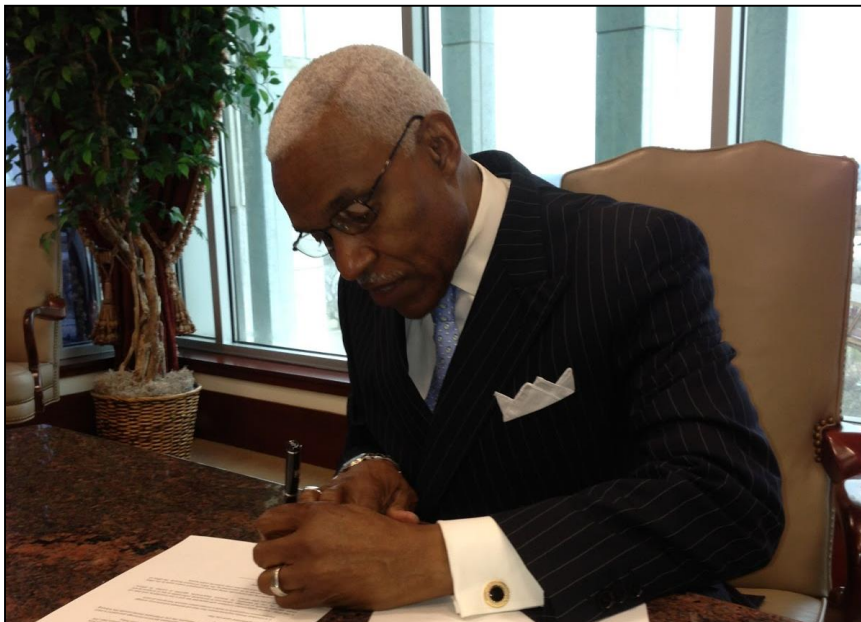
# Complete Streets Policy Development

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Memphis /Shelby County Complete Streets Policy Development Project Memphis, Tennessee/Shelby County

This project was designed to provide safe, attractive, and comfortable access to roadways for all users, regardless of the choice of mode.



From the start, policy development was meant to be a proactive and positive effort, and to be locally informed and relevant.

The next step is the creation and adoption of the Complete Streets Technical Design manual to aid in implementation across Memphis.

# Southwest Tennessee Regional Initiative

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## REDI — Regional Economic Development Initiative Southwest Tennessee Development District

The **REDI Program** has four areas of concentration: Education/Workforce Development, Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Capacity Building.

**REDI's College Access Program** was created to meet the needs of youth and adults wanting to pursue post-secondary education to improve the region's workforce.

**The REDI Digital Factory** is a co-working center that provides office space, shared broadband connection, and training/work rooms to connect candidates and remote employers.





# Courthouse Square Revitalization

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Ripley Courthouse Square Project Ripley, Tennessee

Ripley developed a comprehensive downtown revitalization plan that includes a return to community self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding of traditional business districts based on unique assets.



Ripley has emphasized its distinctive architecture, pedestrian-friendly environments, and local ownership as assets in the redevelopment process.



Committed to the future of rural communities.



# National Scenic Byway Development

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Mississippi River Corridor Tennessee Inc. West Tennessee/Mississippi River

The Mississippi River Corridor — Tennessee Inc. has received three FHWA National Scenic Byways Program grants that are successfully advancing economic and natural resource conservation along the Great River Road Region of West Tennessee.



The organization is led by a robust Board of Directors and serves as a model for regional engagement and a facilitator for important strategic partnerships from government, private, and philanthropic sectors that are supporting successful implementation projects in each county.





# Middle Tennessee Region



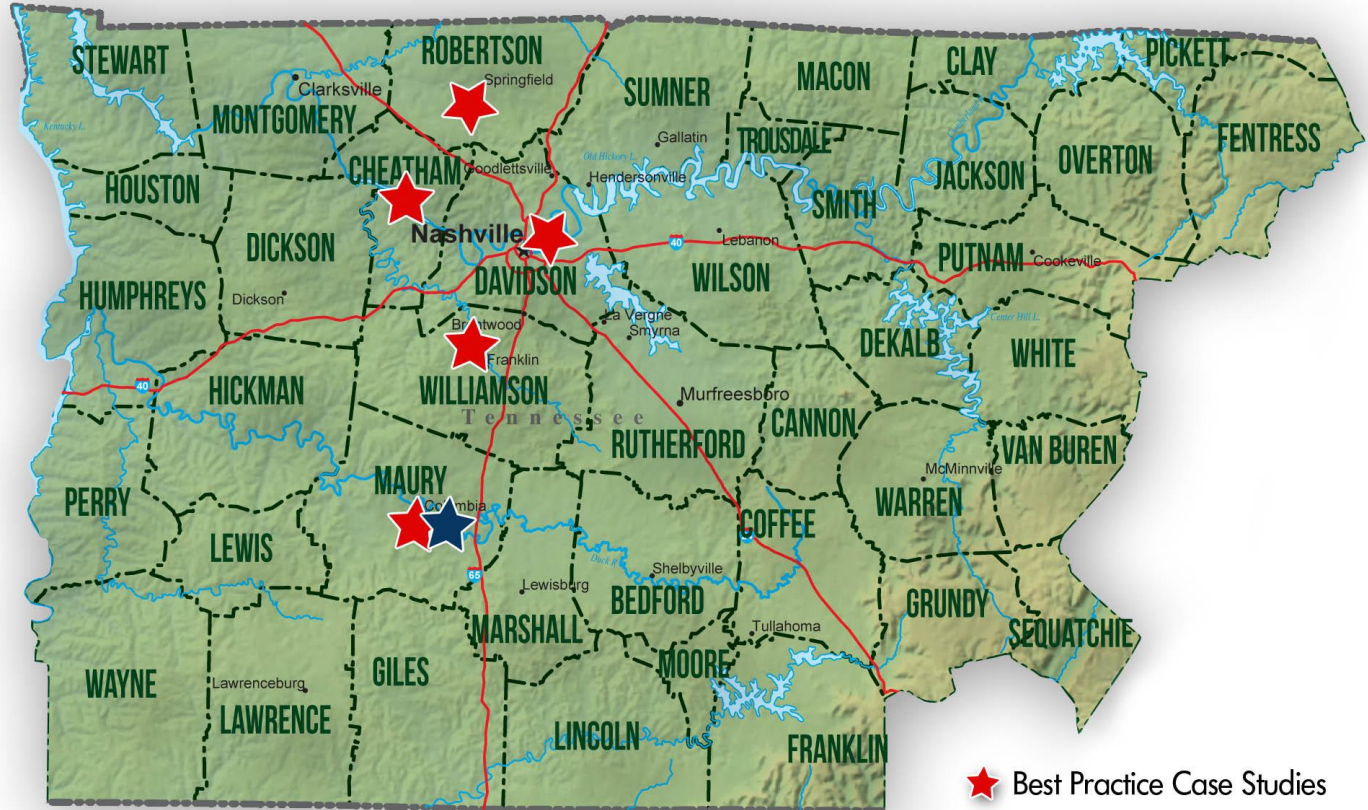
*Nashville, Tennessee*





# Middle Tennessee Region

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE



- ★ Best Practice Case Studies
- ★ Partnership for Sustainable Communities Funded Projects

# Middle Tennessee Regional Initiative

★ *Partnership for Sustainable Communities Preferred Region Status*



## Collaborative Leadership Model

Middle Tennessee Region

*HUD Preferred Region Status*

The Cumberland Region Tomorrow (CRT) Middle Tennessee Region began a collaborative regional visioning, comprehensive planning, and regional implementation process in the early 2000s.

These initiatives have been key in strategic implementation and accomplishing Middle Tennessee's and the state's shared goals of economic competitiveness and job opportunities, quality community development with choices, and wise use of fiscal resources.





# Sustainable Tourism Strategy Implementation

★ *Best Practices Case Study*

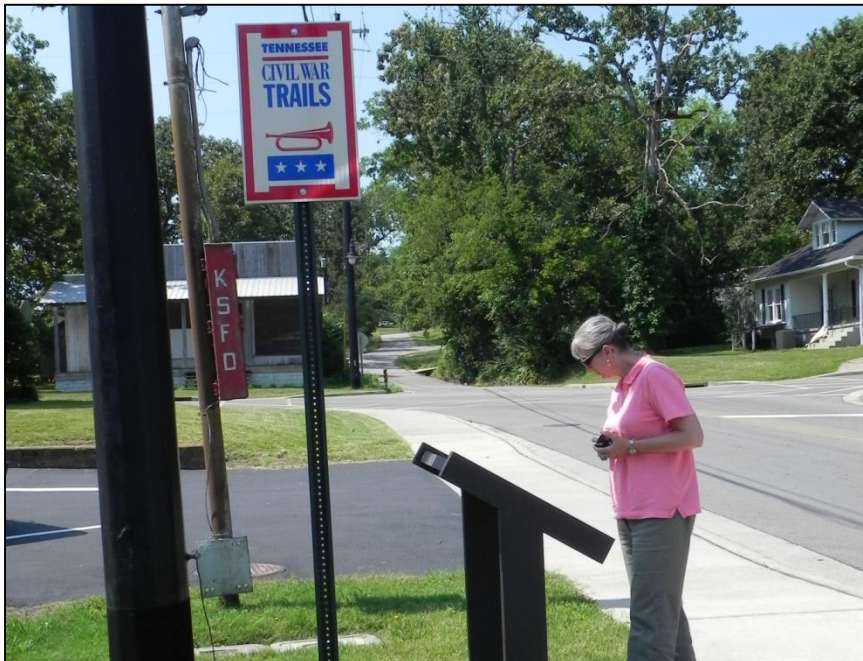


## Cheatham County Sustainable Tourism Plan

Cheatham County, Tennessee

The Cheatham County Sustainable Tourism Plan provides Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development leaders with new marketing tools for the Vision Cheatham Tourism Cluster, along with new watchable wildlife and motorcycle tours, enhanced ecotourism, business recruitment analysis and strategies, and a new arts initiative.

Downtown revitalization, sustainable tourism, and rural economic development actions are underway to support successful implementation.





# Downtown and Neighborhood Revitalization

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Columbia, Tennessee

In response to economic development and livability challenges, Columbia leaders took action and build upon successful downtown and neighborhood revitalization efforts begun in the early 1980s through comprehensive planning and implementation actions.

2008's new Columbia Comprehensive Plan has been a major catalyst in moving Columbia's downtown reinvestment, housing and neighborhood revitalization, and corridor redevelopment goals forward.



# Sustainable Downtown and Corridor Revitalization

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Franklin, Tennessee

For almost thirty years, Franklin has been a pioneer of downtown, community, and economic development both within Tennessee and on a national stage.

Franklin has continued to explore new models for reinvestment and emerging best practices to keep the community on the cutting edge.



Projects like **the Columbia Avenue corridor** show Franklin's outstanding capacity for integrating its long-standing downtown redevelopment efforts with new technologies and practices like the principles of Complete Streets design.



NATIONAL  
COMPLETE STREETS  
COALITION





# Neighborhood and Business District Revitalization

★ Best Practices Case Study

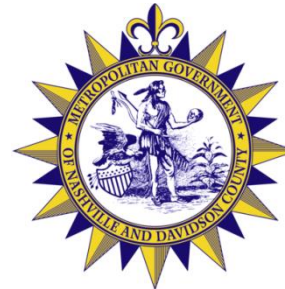


## East Nashville, Tennessee

East Nashville's tornado recovery process spurred one of the largest urban revitalization projects in Nashville's history.

The final plan, titled *Rediscovery: A Plan for East Nashville*, encouraged business district development, neighborhood connectivity, and improved mobility.

Today, the Five Points business district is considered the business and activity center of the East Nashville community, home to an array of business including boutiques and shops, restaurants and bars, and a veterinary clinic.



The American Institute of Architects  
Middle Tennessee Chapter

# Rural Economic Development

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## ***Realizing Robertson Comprehensive Growth and Development Plan*** **Robertson County, Tennessee**

Currently in its implementation phase, the Robertson County Comprehensive Growth and Development Plan will provide an integrated framework for decisions related to growth, development, infrastructure, community services, and conservation of natural resources.

The plan is designed for mutual support with the Realizing Robertson's Future economic development strategy, recognizing that both plans commit to transportation and land use planning to maintain and enhance the county's quality of life and robust agricultural economy.



Committed to the future of rural communities.



# East Tennessee Region



*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

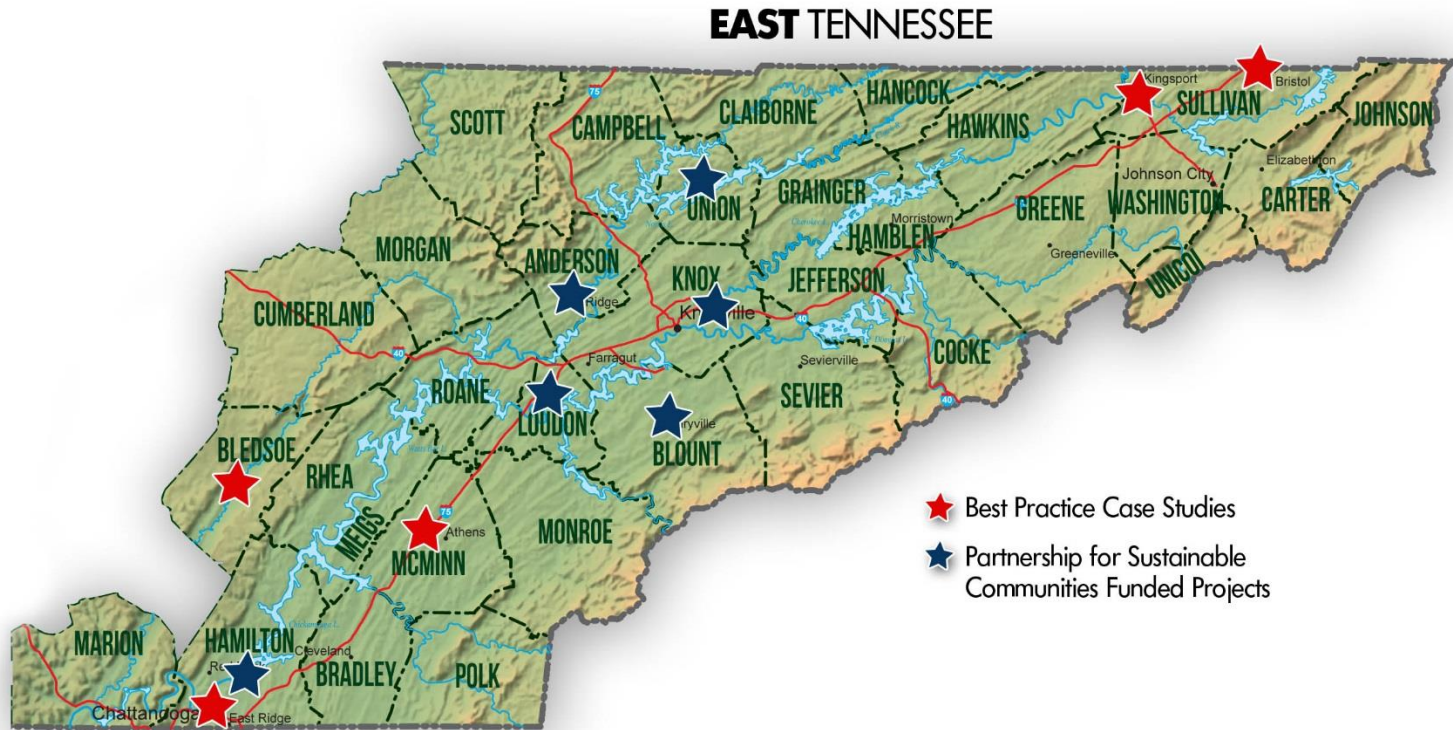


*Knoxville, Tennessee*





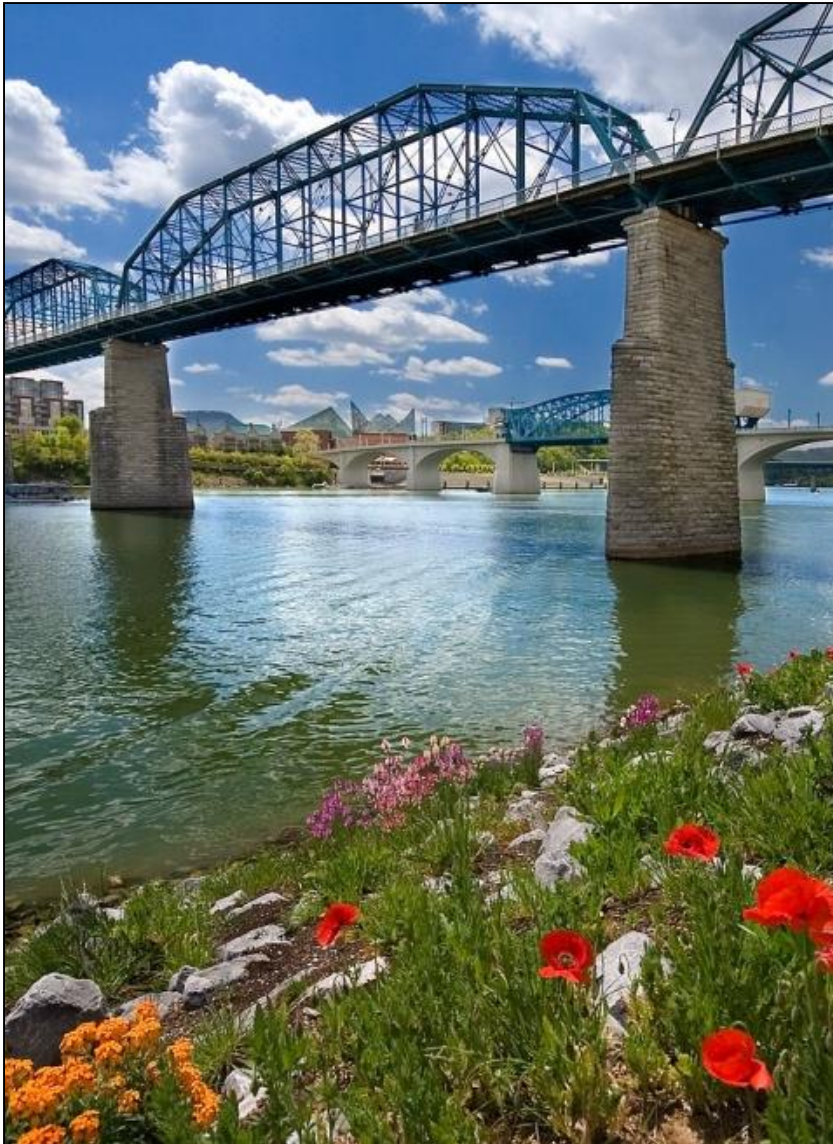
# East Tennessee Region





# Southeast Tennessee Regional Initiatives

★ *Partnership for Sustainable Communities Preferred Region Status*



## Thrive 2055

**Southeast Tennessee Region**  
*HUD Preferred Region Status*

As the Thrive 2055 project enters its second year, efforts will focus on visioning and creating possibilities around local values and key issues that will help guide the region into the next 40 years.

Thrive 2055 was established and funded by a wide array of businesses, foundations, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The initiative is citizen-led through working groups and a volunteer coordinating committee, assisted by a local project manager, a team of professional staff from partner agencies, and a consulting team.



# Strategic Broadband Infrastructure Investment

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



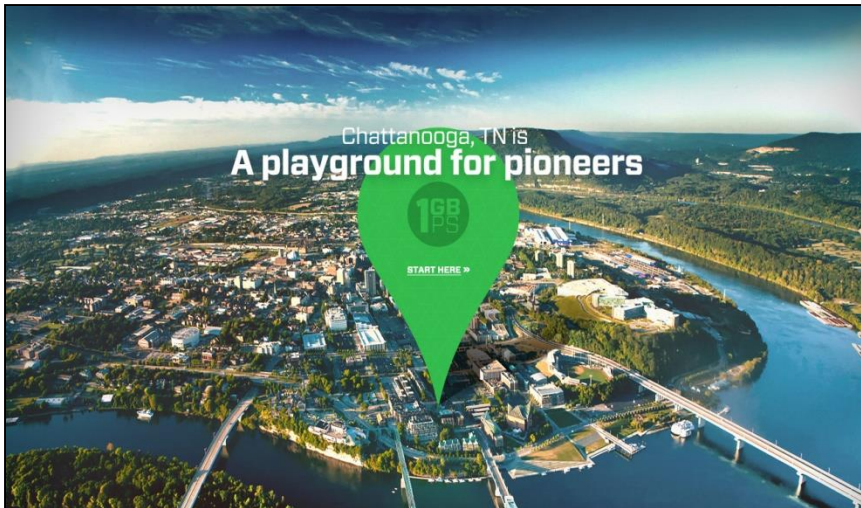
## Chattanooga Gig City

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Thanks to the contributions of countless local and regional partners, Chattanooga boasts the fastest municipal Internet grid in the entire Western hemisphere.

Chattanooga's fiber optic network also serves as the backbone for a superfast wireless infrastructure system.

The Gig City project has been a major engine driving economic, educational, and sustainable development within Chattanooga.





# Rural Community and Corridor Revitalization

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Pikeville, Tennessee

In an effort to revitalize the downtown and recoup tourism revenues, city leaders began an aggressive project to re-shape the central business district.

Thanks to progressive community leadership and the efforts of its partners, Pikeville, Tennessee is reinvesting in Main Street, supporting anchor businesses, making downtown an attractive place to stroll and shop, creating new tourism revenues, and reversing past development setbacks that threatened the community's character.

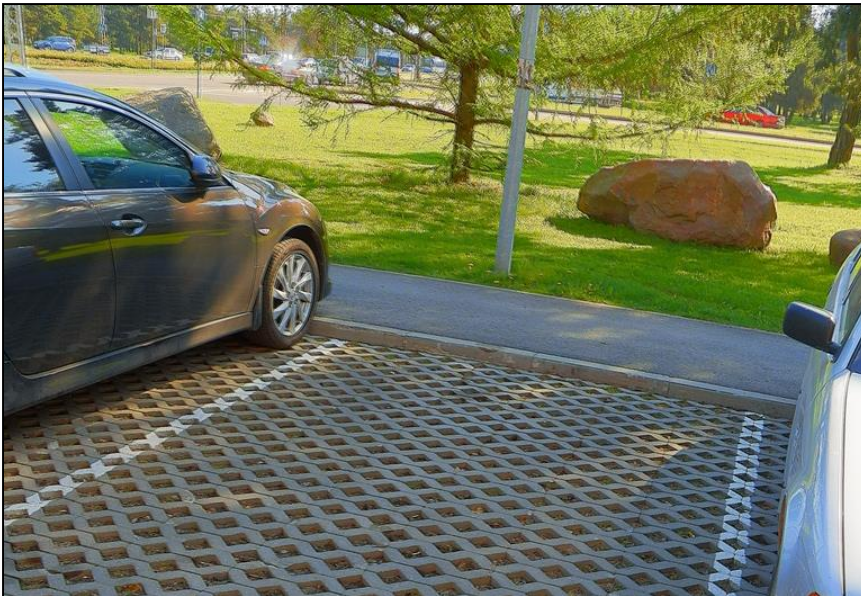


Committed to the future of rural communities.



# Natural Infrastructure Design & Implementation

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Athens, Tennessee

Oostanula Creek, located in historic downtown Athens, is listed on the state's impaired waterway lists. The City of Athens decided to approach these significant issues with three natural infrastructure guiding principles in mind.

The city of Athens has begun an aggressive campaign to construct 250 rain gardens at homes and businesses throughout the city to create expanded natural infrastructure projects and improved environmental outcomes.





# East Tennessee Regional Initiatives

★ *Partnership for Sustainable Communities Project*



## PlanET

### East Tennessee Region

*HUD Regional Planning Grant*

Plan East Tennessee (PlanET) is a regional partnership of communities and organizations seeking ideas to protect the valuable resources and address the region's challenges regarding jobs, education, housing, transportation, a clean environment, and community health.



Funded by a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, PlanET was designed to foster ongoing citizen involvement in planning for the region's future, develop a regional "blueprint" to guide decision making, and increase local capacity for dialogue, collaboration, and action.



# Healthy Communities and Aging in Place

## ★ Best Practices Case Study



### Kingsport, Tennessee

With 20% of its population over the age of 65, Kingsport's changing demographics have placed new demands on the city's infrastructure and services and brought changes to its economy and culture.

Actions initiated as a result of the city's AARP Livable Communities Survey and Blue Ribbon Task Force included improving public outreach efforts, enhancing local transit services, developing a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, building more sidewalks, and expanding community centers and recreational opportunities.





# Safe Routes to School and Neighborhood Revitalization

★ *Best Practices Case Study*



## Bristol, Tennessee

The decision to build a new elementary school in the same location as the demolished one demonstrated a commitment to neighborhood and community revitalization.

To support this initiative, Bristol undertook a sidewalk survey to determine where repairs and connections were needed.



The sidewalk sections in disrepair were replaced and new sidewalks were built in places where none had previously existed to create a continuous and safe pedestrian network in the neighborhood district.



# *Thanks for joining us! Any questions?*

## *Please type any questions into the question box on the side panel.*

---

**John Zeanah** ([John.Zeanah@memphistn.gov](mailto:John.Zeanah@memphistn.gov))

Program Manager, Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Plan

**Joe Barker** ([jwbarker@swtdd.org](mailto:jwbarker@swtdd.org))

Executive Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District

**Lisa Hankins** ([lhankins@swtdd.org](mailto:lhankins@swtdd.org))

REDI Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District

**Bridget Jones** ([bridget@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](mailto:bridget@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org))

Executive Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow

**Leigh McClure** ([lmcclore@sedev.org](mailto:lmcclore@sedev.org))

Special Projects Coordinator, Southeast Tennessee Development District

**Chuck Hammonds** ([chammonds@sedev.org](mailto:chammonds@sedev.org))

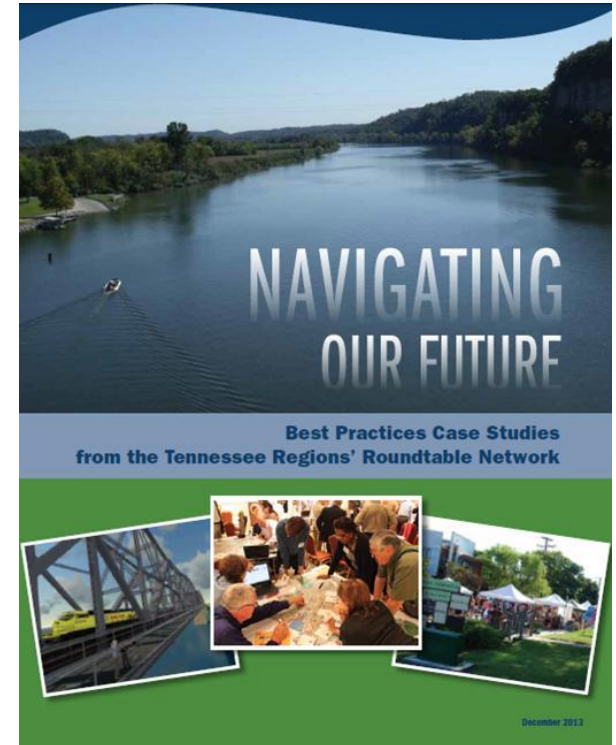
Assistant Executive Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District

**Amy Brooks** ([amy.brooks@knoxtrans.org](mailto:amy.brooks@knoxtrans.org))

Senior Transportation Planner, Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization

**Moderator: Brett Schwartz** ([bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org))

Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation



Download a free copy at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org)  
or [www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](http://www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org)