



For Immediate Release

Contact Tim Brown at 850-267-1955 with any questions.

Each year the American Planning Association (APA), County Planning Division (CPD) and its sister organization, the National Association of County Planners (NACP) give out County Planning Project Awards. There are two types of national awards, Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit. This year, Transylvania County, NC is the recipient of an **Award of Merit** in the Comprehensive Plan for Small Jurisdictions category.

The *2025 Transylvania County Comprehensive Plan* was produced in-house following an extensive two-year collaborative planning process involving the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners, Transylvania County Planning Board, Transylvania County Planning Department and over 60 volunteers or “community advocates” representing a broad spectrum of individuals, community organizations, religious institutions, economic and business interests, and many different geographical areas of the County. Public participation was significant and involved receiving input from approximately 10% of the County’s population.

The County went beyond the traditional comprehensive plan that focuses on land use and physical development to create a more modern plan by engaging the community and addressing resilience, health, equity, quality of life and plan implementation. Transylvania County Planning and Community Development staff collected baseline data on the current conditions for land use, economic trends, natural resources, population, housing and community services. The data was portrayed in narrative, images and maps to help the Planning Board, the Board of Commissioners and the public access and interpret the information. The resulting Plan, unanimously approved by the Planning Board and subsequently the Board of Commissioners, synthesized diverse community feedback into narrative and action steps that intentionally represents the County’s many different needs and values.

Only one Award of Excellence and one Award of Merit are granted each year. This year’s awards will be presented on Monday, April 23, 2018 from at the County Planning Division’s Annual Business Meeting conducted at the APA National Conference in New Orleans, LA.