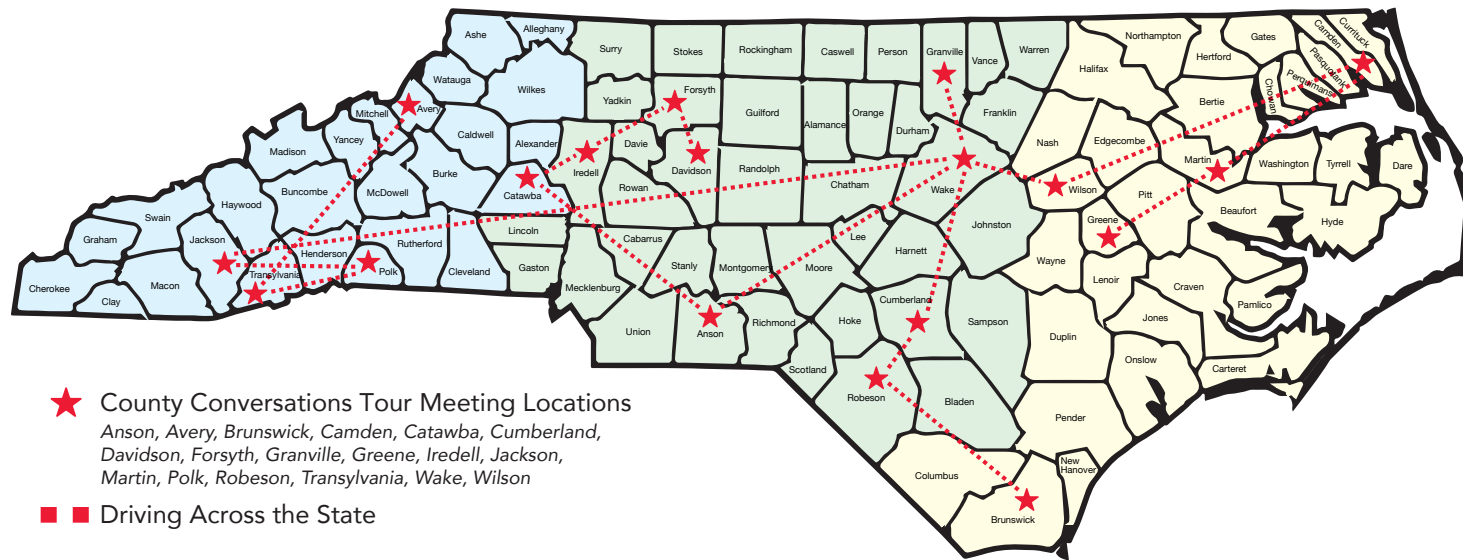




A ROAD MAP OF THE 2024 COUNTY CONVERSATIONS TOUR

BY ABBEY THAYER, NCACC BOARD CLERK AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Over the course of five months, NCACC Executive Director Kevin Leonard drove across the state to visit all 18 NCACC county districts. County commissioners and staff attended the meetings to discuss their challenges and accomplishments, share ideas with one another, and talk to Kevin directly. Below is a map of just how far he traveled!



A STATEWIDE GLANCE

TOP CHALLENGES

The points below are some of the challenges that counties across the state brought to light at the meetings.

- Employee attraction and retention
- Affordable housing
- Mental health in jails
- School funding
- Broadband
- Water and sewer infrastructure

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The points below are some of the accomplishments that counties across the state brought to light at the meetings.

- Economic development
- EMS service improvements
- New parks and recreation areas
- Utilizing ARPA and opioid settlement funding

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

Every week, the NCACC sends out the *Weekly Update* email to more than 2,500 recipients detailing past and upcoming Association events and important county headlines from the week. If you would like to share your county accomplishments to be featured in the County News section, please email communications@ncacc.org.

When dividing each county across the state into regional categories, we noticed some similarities in challenges and accomplishments that counties of a certain region faced. In some instances, one county's challenge was another county's accomplishment. At the district meetings, commissioners and staff from different counties took time to discuss what had or had not worked during their projects. The points listed below were the top two most mentioned challenges and accomplishments across the western, central, and eastern regions.

WESTERN	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road conditions • Childcare options 	ACCOMPLISHMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture land preservation • Trash and recycling centers
CENTRAL	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast population growth • Inflation 	ACCOMPLISHMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid committees and overdose response teams • Water plant and industrial park revitalization
EASTERN	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population loss • Reverse osmosis plants 	ACCOMPLISHMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board's teamwork and county collaboration • Upgrading software programs

NCACC RESOURCES

At the NCACC, we are committed to providing direct assistance and helpful resources to all 100 counties. It was very beneficial for us to hear, firsthand, what counties may be struggling with and are most proud of as public servants. The items listed below are only some of the services and resources that the Association offers to our member counties. Learn more about the Association at www.ncacc.org.

CONNECTING COUNTIES PLAYBOOK

The Connecting Counties Playbook is a product of NCACC Past President and Washington County Commissioner Tracey Johnson's presidential initiative that aims to expand broadband access across North Carolina counties. This playbook is both a toolkit and collection of resources available for county leaders to learn more about broadband expansion. To view the playbook, visit www.ncacc.org/playbook.

ARPA RESOURCE LIBRARY

The NCACC Strategic Member Services (SMS) team released the ARPA Resource Library that highlights six distinct sections of ARPA resources and strategies. This resource is a compilation of guidance, templates, and information that is useful to all counties. To view the library, visit www.ncacc.org/arparesourcelibrary.

STRATEGIC MEMBER SERVICES

NCACC Strategic Member Services (SMS) was established to offer a variety of assistance to counties, including building a pipeline of future county government professionals and bridging the gap between graduate programs and county government. SMS includes ARPA technical assistance, opioid settlement assistance, outreach services, and direct county assistance from its cohort of strategic project coordinators. For more information about SMS, visit www.ncacc.org/sms.