

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Engage in collaborative networks to sustain and grow the region's economic vitality and median income through business development, job creation, enhancement of the tax base, educational excellence, and cultural and civic diversity, all within a historic place rich in recreational opportunity and natural beauty.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Strafford Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy collaborators is to create a community of private, nonprofit and public entities that cherishes the diversity of the region and works to maximize its potential through shared actions.

The Strafford region supplies a multitude of work, living and learning environments that present choices for residents, businesses and visitors. The Strafford Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy collaborators strive to enhance the best the region has to offer through a linked effort of continuous improvements.

Through these efforts, the Strafford Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy collaborators will:

Build a business climate that encourages sustainable expansion of current employers and attracts diverse enterprises and entrepreneurs providing prosperity throughout the region.

Create innovative educational opportunities that are effective in meeting needs of current residents, attract talent to the region, and provides the workforce necessary to support business growth and development.

Maintain a quality of place ethic that values Strafford region's natural resources, strengthens the agricultural and mill heritage, supports civic leadership and community volunteerism, and further develops cultural and recreational resources.

Develop a sustainable transportation infrastructure that not only moves people through but also to our communities to live, work and play.

Sustain high quality health, education, public safety, and social services as well as diverse housing options.

## REGIONAL COLLABORATION PRINCIPLES

### **Focus on a compelling purpose – have a catalyst**

Working together achieves shared and individual goals.

### **Organize around collaborative leadership.**

Develop relationships that respect a diversity of ideas and views by listening carefully, building trust, understanding and agreement.

### **Assemble the necessary resources – have the capacity to initiate and sustain a process**

Identify and put together the people, skills, information and funds needed to confidently begin and maintain the processes needed for success.

### **Jointly develop a shared vision and strategy of action.**

Build a shared vision and action plan to achieve goals - making changes as needed and always celebrating success.

### **Move from vision to implementation.**

Demonstrate that the potential gain is greater than the risk to the larger audiences in the region; motivate the political will needed to reach goals.

### **Learn and adapt for sustainable accomplishments.**

Learn from achievements by adapting successes and failures to new opportunities, information and challenges.

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## BELLAGIO PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE ASSESSMENT

### **Guiding Vision and Goals**

Develop a clear vision of sustainable development and goals to define that vision.

### **Holistic Perspective**

Consider the well-being of social, ecological, and economic subsystems in monetary and non-monetary terms.

### **Essential Elements**

Consider equity and disparity issues, ecological conditions, economic development, and other non-market activities contributing to human and social well-being.

### **Adequate Scope**

Adopt a time horizon long enough to capture both human and ecological time scales; build on historic and current conditions to anticipate future conditions.

**Practical Focus**

Generate explicit set of categories or organizing framework to link vision and goals to indicators and assessment criteria.

**Openness**

Make methods and data accessible to all; make explicit all judgments and assumptions in data and interpretations.

**Effective Communication**

Design to address needs of users; draw from indicators and other tools to engage decision makers.

**Broad Participation**

Provide for inclusive representation and participation.

**Ongoing Assessment**

Ensure capacity for repeated measurement; adjust goals and framework as new insights gained.

**Institutional Capacity**

Clearly assign responsibilities; support development of local assessment capacity.