



Ten at the Top Current Projects and Initiatives – June 2013

Mission: Foster collaboration, partnerships and strategic planning across Upstate South Carolina on cross-jurisdictional issues that impact the quality of life and economic vitality of the region.

Below is an overview of how TATT has worked within the Upstate to accomplish its mission around key program areas.

Regional Communication and Convening:

- Since 2010, TATT has hosted more than 170 regional meetings and conducted nearly 100 organization presentations with a total engagement of more than 15,000 Upstate residents.
- Partnered with six other regional organizations to develop regular meetings of Upstate city, county and state elected officials to discuss key issues facing the region. The Upstate Elected Officials have met three times annually since 2010 with an average participation of more than 100 elected and community leaders.
- Created the Our Upstate Vision Regional Forum Series, which includes quarterly regional forums each focused on a key issue that impacts current and future growth in the region.
- Developed the Upstate Information Hub (www.ourupstatesc.info) that includes a regional calendar of events, programs and activities and links to more than a thousand resources available across the region. In May 2013, the Information Hub and Uniquely Upstate e-newsletter had more than 15,000 unique visitors, 50,000 page impressions and 1,000 clicks to resource sites across the region.
- Commissioned a survey to develop baseline understanding of how business and community leaders view collaboration across the Upstate.

Human Potential:

- Worked with the seven United Ways from across the Upstate to create a partnership to move forward with a regional messaging program around the importance of early childhood education called the Born Learning Program. The regional campaign will kick off in August 2013.
- Following a regional forum in September 2012 on Senior Issues, TATT has convened three meetings of interested stakeholders to identify regional opportunities to support key issues facing seniors today and into the future. The group is currently developing a survey to identify gaps and opportunities around senior needs in the Upstate.
- Convened meetings of health care professionals to discuss potential opportunities for regional collaboration and partnerships around preventive healthcare. Also partnered with the Barbara Stone Foundation to host meeting of organizations providing care to individuals with disabilities.

Economic & Entrepreneurial Vitality:

- As follow-up to feedback from a January 2013 regional forum, Ten at the Top is convening representatives from Workforce Organizations, Education and Business/Economic Development to create a regional coalition designed to enhance cross-sector communications regarding the issue of Workforce and Skill Development. The group first met in April 2013 and met again on June 25th. They will meet again in September to discuss barriers, challenges and opportunities specifically around manufacturing.

- Developed framework to create an Entrepreneurial Friendly Community program in the Upstate. Initiative is currently being developed by the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Sustainable Growth:

- Partnered with the Clemson University graduate program in planning to develop the Regional Vision Tool Kit. The tool kit has been used by the Appalachian Council of Governments to conduct continuing education training for elected officials and planning commissioners.
- Brought together public and private planners from across the region to create the Upstate Professional Planners Group. The group, which regularly includes more than 50 meeting attendees, meets three times annually to discuss opportunities for regional collaboration and to support economic development and sustainable growth in the region.
- Helped facilitate development of a regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GPATS (Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study), SPATS (Spartanburg Area Transportation Study) and ACOG (Appalachian Council of Governments) that allows these transportation organizations to partner on initiatives, grants and projects. Since the approval of the MOU, the organizations have partnered on the SMART Upstate transportation mapping program. They are also working together on traffic signal coordination.

Natural Beauty & Resources:

- Facilitating and coordinating the Upstate Air Quality Advisory Committee and Clean Air Upstate initiative to reduce emissions and stay within federal air quality standards. This initiative includes representatives from stakeholder groups across the Upstate. Four counties and nearly 20 businesses and organizations have signed the Clean Air Upstate Pledge that illustrates a commitment to reducing ozone emissions within the Upstate. A recent grant from the Duke Energy has allowed for the creation of a regional Air Quality Awareness Campaign and the expansion of the Breathe Better No-Idling Program in the Upstate.
- Currently convening regular meetings of water system directors across the Upstate. Group developed a unified message that was sent to SC DHEC and DNR regarding the South Carolina surface water assessment.

Community Vibrancy:

- Partnered with USC Upstate Urban Planning & Policy classes to develop list of more than 50 “great ideas” created by communities across the state and country that have increased vibrancy in their community around the areas of neighborhoods, downtowns, parks & recreation, events & programs and arts & culture. In May 2013, brought representatives from 10 of these communities to the Upstate for four Community Vibrancy Workshops (held in Spartanburg, Greenwood, Clemson and Greenville) in which more than 250 Upstate residents participated. The program has also led to the creation of the Hughes Investments ELEVATE UPSTATE Community Vibrancy Grants program that will award two \$5,000 grants per year for the next five years to help local communities or neighborhoods grow their own vibrancy initiative.
- Coordinated meeting of the tourist directors to discuss the Upstate Information Hub calendar and potential opportunities for regional collaboration around tourism messaging.

Additional projects and initiatives will continue to be developed and implemented as identified by the Regional Task Forces and as the need or opportunity arises across the Upstate.