



# Gaston County & Bessemer City: Opportunities for Collaboration

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BOC Work Session  
February 11, 2020



# Importance of Collaboration

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- Allows us to better serve our shared constituency
- Increases efficiency and effectiveness of services
- History of successful collaboration between the County and City
- Partnership will remain crucial moving forward, especially for Planning and Economic Development initiatives





# Current City-County Partnerships

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## Human Services

- Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Ordinance
  - County Health department assisted City with implementation
- Meals on Wheels
  - City has hosted County program for over 40 years

## Cultural & Recreational

- Bessemer Public Library
- Elections
  - Collaborate to provide two polling sites for City voters

## Public Safety

- County provides public safety services for City residents
  - Emergency medical services (GEMS)
  - Animal care and control (ACE)

## Economic & Physical Development

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
  - Collaboration between County and City Planning departments
- TRU-Bessemer City Water Interconnect
- South Ridge Business Park



# TRU-Bessemer City Water Interconnect

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- Partnership between the County, Gastonia and Bessemer City to install a water booster pump station
- Design and permitting are complete; Anticipate project bid in early 2020 and construction completion in spring 2021
- Will allow Two River Utilities (TRU) to serve Bessemer City in emergency conditions
- Will enhance economic development, specifically recruitment for SouthRidge Business Park tenants

Funding Source	Amount
NC Department of Commerce	\$1,125,000
Gastonia	\$158,333
Bessemer City	\$158,334
Gaston County	<u>\$158,333</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>



# Economic Development

- Water plant improvement projects are putting the City in an excellent position for economic development and expansion
- Successful collaboration between County's EDC and the City
  - Donny Hicks, EDC Director





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