EasternCarolinaCouncil

RESOLUTION

APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2026 ANNUAL UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Neuse River Council of Governments (d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council, or ECC) is a regional Council of Governments serving a nine-county region in eastern North Carolina, including Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Green, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne counties; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Carolina Council is the Economic Development District (EDD) for the nine-county Eastern Carolina region of North Carolina, as designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration (EDA); and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Carolina Council secured funding from the United States Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Program (EDA Grant# ED24ATL0G0151) to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region; and

WHEREAS, a CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development and is the result of a regionally owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area of region; and

WHEREAS, EDA requires ECC as an Economic Development District to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region every 5 years and provide an Annual Update; and

WHEREAS, ECC last developed and adopted a CEDS in 2023; and

WHEREAS, during 2025 and 2026, ECC worked with regional partners to implement the CEDS Action Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Carolina Council Board approves the CEDS 2026 Annual Update; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastern Carolina Council Board directs staff to continue efforts to implement the provisions of said Strategy and submit the 2026 Annual Update to EDA.

Adopted by the Board of Directors vote of the Neuse River Council of Governments (d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council) on November 12, 2026.

Signed:

Edward Riggs, Jr., President

Attest:

David Rosado, Interim Executive Director