



NC Metro Mayors Coalition Annual Member Meeting

December 15-16, 2022

Winston-Salem, NC



Meeting and report
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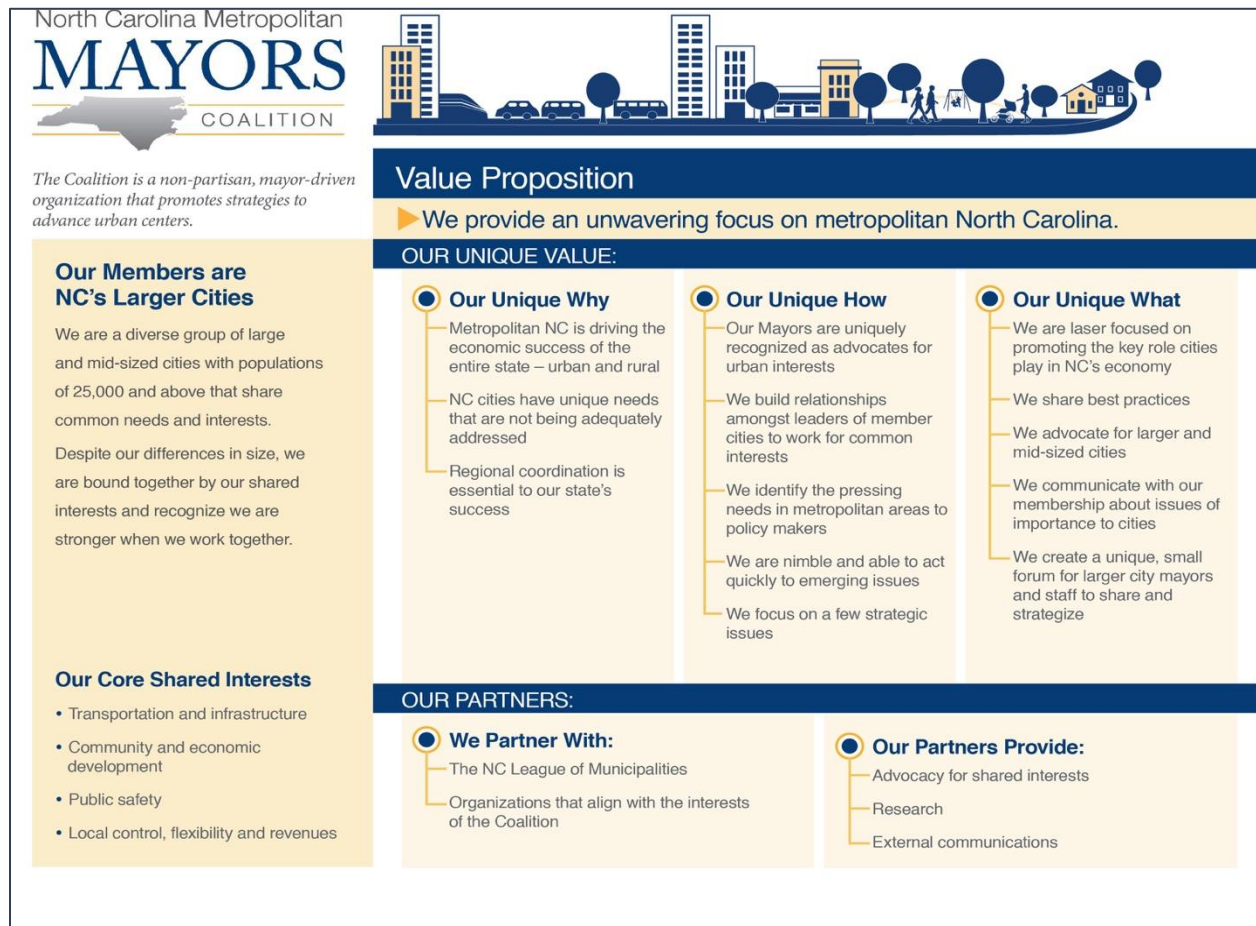


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Meeting Summary

Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger, current Chair of the Coalition, along with Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines welcomed the Metro Mayors Coalition (MMC) to Winston-Salem and reviewed the agenda. Members, including newly elected Mayors, were introduced. The mayors each shared a brief highlight of activities in their community during the “Mayors Minute.”

Executive Director Beau Mills shared updates on the activities of MMC over the past year. The work is consistent with the **value proposition** that was developed and approved in July 2018.



Director's Report – Beau Mills

Through involvement in national meeting and events, engagements with local, state, and federal leaders, as well as several legislative victories, the MMC had a landmark year in 2022. Our coalition continues to lead the way in conversations integral the future of our state. A few highlights of the year include:

- Advocated for and developed key partnerships to pass a permanent/recurring transfer of **6% of state sales tax receipts (estimated at \$625 million a year) to NCDOT budget**, with 75% of new funds for STIP. ***This represents a massive new investment in transportation that will grow over time!***
- Over 25 legislative/policy Zoom meetings and debriefs, many including special guests, such as:

- NC Attorney General Josh Stein, 3 NC Cabinet Members, NC Economic Development Partnership CEO Chris Chung, White House Staff, and Leader from the US Conference of Mayors
- MMC Summer Meeting in June that included lunch at the Executive Mansion with Governor Roy Cooper and 40-minute meeting with Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger
- MMC support and co-hosted reception for NC Communities in Action event at the White House
- NC Transportation Summit Mayor Luncheon with NCDOT Leadership in January 2022
- Representation on the NC TEN Commission, NCDOT STI Workgroup, NC Vision Zero Task Force, and NCDOT Clean Transportation Plan Executive Committee
- Zoom meeting with Governor Roy Cooper and DPS Secretary Eddie Buffaloe to discuss public safety challenges

North Carolina Cities Initiative – Environmental Defense Fund

Zach Ambrose, President of Ambrose Strategy shared the work of the Cities Initiative. EDF's work is data driven and believes in the power of collaboration. They saw a critical mass of local governments that want to focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction in North Carolina, but found a gap – there are resources around best practices and resources at the national level, but not a group that was looking at policy and regulatory issues to address systemic problems at the state level. The Cities Initiative has identified **12 consensus action items** to speed up meaningful GHG reductions in North Carolina, they can be found [here](#).

Phase 2 launched in 2019, with a focus on developing implementation goals and strategies for the consensus action items to address statewide barriers to reducing GHG emissions. The following local governments are participating in Phase 2. (*MMC members noted* - additional government are invited to join.)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Asheville | • Davidson | • Matthews |
| • Boone | • Durham | • Mooresville |
| • Buncombe County | • Durham County | • Orange County |
| • Canton | • Forsyth County | • PTRC |
| • Carrboro | • Greensboro | • Raleigh |
| • Cary | • High Country COG | • Salisbury |
| • Chapel Hill | • Hillsborough | • TJCOG |
| • Charlotte | • Kannapolis | • Wilmington |
| | • LRCOG | • Winston Salem |

Current and upcoming initiatives include:

- Implementation of the Clean Energy plan
- Duke Energy Utility Billing Platform
- Duke Energy's Electric Transportation Pilot
- VW Settlement Awards – DC Fast Charging, Level 2 Charging, Transit Bus programs
- Grant funding from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Zach Ambrose | zambrose@ambrosestrategy.com | 919.438.2752

A Bed and A Book – Host City Special Guest

Host City Mayor Allen Joines introduced **Anneliese Wall, Founder and President of *A Bed and A Book*** who provided an overview of the organization that was founded in Winston-Salem. They provide families in need with beds for their children and books to encourage the child's learning and enrichment. Volunteers work with referring agencies and community partners to ensure that children and families most in need will benefit from A Bed and A Book.

A [Bed and a Book](#) is staffed and managed mostly by volunteers committed to the mission. Donation options include volunteering time, expertise, or money. Examples include:

- \$380 provides a twin bed frame, mattress and clean bedding
- \$180 provides books for six families for one year

Other cities in NC are participating, including Boone and Greensboro. For more information for how you can have A Bed and A Book come to your city, please reach out to Anneliese Wall | abedandabook@gmail.com | abedandabook.com

Mayor's Lunch Conversation – Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan

Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan hosted a frank discussion regarding the state of affordable housing in North Carolina's Metro Cities. Chapel Hill Mayor and MMC Chair Pam Hemminger showed off Chapel Hill's [Affordable Housing Dashboard](#). The discussion generated valuable insights such as establishing a link between local governments and the state on housing issues, including a proposed new NC Department of Housing as well as suggestions to enable cities to take more advantage of funding and incentives.



Winston-Salem Tour: Old Salem, Innovation Quarter, Wake Forest University, Metropolitan Village, and ROAR Entertainment Center

The City of Winston-Salem hosted a tour of exciting work that is going on in the city.

- We visited [Innovation Quarter](#), the 330+ acre mixed-use development aimed at creating an ecosystem where businesses can create an entrepreneurial community that contributes to notional innovation culture serve those who live, work, learn, and play in the vibrant district.



Host City Mayor Allen Joines enjoying the visit to Innovation Quarter

- The Metro Mayors learned more about Metropolitan Village, a mixed-use, multifamily development designed to link lower-income neighborhoods east of U.S. 52 to Innovation Quarter. <https://metrovillage-ws.com/>
 - 30% of units considered affordable per the City's definition; All units are under the market rate
 - Partnership between United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church and Liberty Atlantic backed by Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Health, APG Capital of Raleigh and Pinnacle Bank
- On the final stop of our tour, we visited [ROAR Entertainment Center](#) - a multi-floor entertainment and recreation complex in a revitalized industrial building.



Matthews Mayor John Higdon and others learning more about Metropolitan Village.



Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo and Durham Mayor Elaine O'Neal

Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan and staff from ROAR Entertainment Center.



Metro Mayors toured Old Salem and downtown Winston-Salem – learning about efforts to encourage the arts, entertainment, entrepreneurship, new businesses, and affordable housing

Dinner: Special Guest, Dr. Mandy Cohen

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Former NCDHHS Secretary and EVP, Aledade Inc & CEO, Aledade Care Solutions Aledade, Inc. joined the MMC for dinner to discuss of her work at NC DHHS and the collaboration the state and cities grew together in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The conversation format with MMC Chair Mayor Pam Hemminger as well received and the mayors were incredibly appreciative of Dr. Cohen's service to our state.

In her comments during the conversation, Dr. Cohen emphasized the critical nature of building trust during the pandemic. She and Governor Cooper strived to build trust by focusing on:

- **Transparency:** share data, open to questions
- **Competence:** execute, "not perfect," but reliable
- **Relationships:** connect with people, especially minorities and underserved – across cultural and political spectrum



Dr. Mandy Cohen addressing the MMC.



Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines awarding Dr. Cohen the *Key to the City*.

The MMC appreciates the continued support of the evening's sponsors, AT&T and Rubrik.



City Managers Panel – Recruitment and Retention Challenges

Dr. Leisha DeHart-Davis, Professor of Public Administration and Government at UNC School of Government discussed the recruitment and retention trends of NC Local Government across the state. Specifically, she referenced the *Local Government Workplace Initiative* aimed at helping cities listen to their employees to effectively achieve workplace improvements. Following her brief presentation, Dr.

DeHart-Davis was joined by a panel of seasoned city managers: **Gastonia’s Michael Peoples, Concord’s Lloyd Payne, and Apex’s Katy Crosby** to discuss how managers can aid in the workforce challenges our local government’s face.

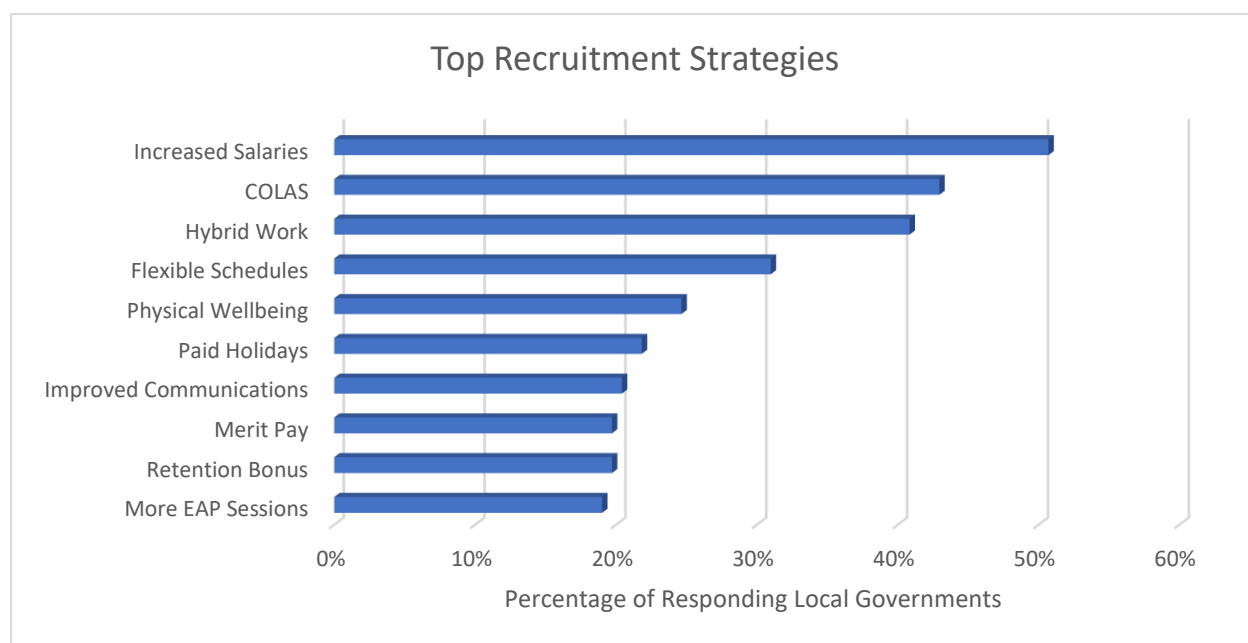
Dr. DeHart-Davis provided a couple of pieces of advice for *managers*:

1. Work on improving workplace climate
2. Give employees voice in decisions that affect their work
3. Prioritize physical and emotional health of employees

Advice for *elected officials*:

1. Employees can take cues on their value and worth in words/behavior of council
2. Support employees and respect their expertise
3. Remember that worker shortages create employee burnout and stress

Dr. Leisha DeHart-Davis | ldhart@email.unc.edu | 919.966.4189



Data presented by Dr. DeHart-Davis to the MMC.

Special Session – Mayors and City Managers Breakout Session

The Mayors and City Managers participated in special breakout sessions KTS Strategies team including Nelson Freeman, John Easterling, Amanda Honaker, Hampton Billips and John Easterling joined the mayors and provided a brief legislative update from the 2022 legislative short session as well as predictions

MMC Business Meeting



MMC Budget

A quorum was established by the Secretary and MMC Treasurer Concord Mayor Bill Dusch presented the proposed budget. The proposal accounts for the increased travel costs as activities pickup post-COVID and increased costs for in-person meetings. Approval of the proposed budget directs the Executive Committee to review and approve/disapprove a North Carolina Metro Mayors Inter-City Passenger Rail Workgroup. With a motion from Mayor Baldwin, a second by Mayor Lyles – budget passed unanimously.



Mayors discuss transportation challenges – Charlotte Mayor Lyles, Chapel Hill Mayor Hemminger with Raleigh Mayor Baldwin and Asheville Mayor Manheimer in the foreground

MMC Elections of new officers

Introduced by Mayor Nancy Vaughan, the Nominating Committee Chair, Beau Mills, Director and Secretary to the Board, presented a proposed amendment to the by-laws to add an additional at-large seat to the current five positions at-large on the Executive Committee. The Coalition has grown to 32 member cities from 27 only 3 years ago, thus making an additional seat desirable and appropriate. Mayor Darrel Hinnant voiced a motion to approve the change – seconded by Mayor Bill Dusch and passed unanimously.

This was followed by a presentation of Executive Committee slate for an Executive Committee. Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the proposed slate of new officers. Mayor Baldwin moved adoption of the slate and a second from the floor (Mayor Darrell Hinnant, Nominating Committee member), the proposed slate was passed unanimously:

Chair: Mayor Pam Hemminger, Chapel Hill
Vice Chair: Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington
Treasurer: Mayor Bill Dusch, Concord
Immediate Past Chair: Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Greensboro
At-large: Mayor Miles Atkins, Mooresville
At-large: Mayor Allen Joines, Winston-Salem
At-large: Mayor Blake Massengill, Fuquay-Varina
At-large: Mayor Costi Kutteh, Statesville
At-large: Mayor Jacques Gilbert, Apex
At-large: Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin, Raleigh

Legislative Update from KTS Strategies

The KTS Strategies team including Nelson Freeman, John Easterling, Amanda Honaker, Hampton Billips and John Easterling joined the mayors and provided a brief legislative update from the 2022 legislative short session as well as predictions for the upcoming new biennium beginning in January.



Legislative Update - Nelson Freeman, KTS Strategies

KTS Senior Legislative expert, Nelson Freeman, suggested that the NCGA would work expeditiously on the budget this year and would likely take on Medicaid expansion, and only a few other issues. He predicted that the leadership would likely seek to avoid unexpected or surprise legislative issues. He suggested that MMC cities should make every effort to prepare local and state-wide legislative issues well in advance and work with their local legislative delegations as soon as possible.

Closing Special Guest: Gary Salamido, CEO and President of NC Chamber of Commerce

The MMC Chair, Mayor Pam Hemminger, introduced the closing special guest speaker – **Gary Salamido, CEO and President of the NC Chamber of Commerce**. Mr. Salamido spent some time sharing the structure and priorities of our state’s Chamber of Commerce – with a special focus on the long-term priorities for transportation. He acknowledged that the mayors and local chambers of commerce across the state are important partners for continuing to build a transportation system in our state that can facilitate further economic growth.



Gary Salamido, President and CEO of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce speaking to MMC Annual meeting

ADJOURN 2022 Annual Meeting

The MMC Chair, Mayor Pam Hemminger, thanked Mr. Salamido for joining the Metro Mayors and agreed that there will be many more opportunities to work together in the future.

Mayor Hemminger thanked everyone for attending what she believes was one of the best Metro Mayor meetings yet! She shared her appreciation for host Mayor Allen Joines and his team - and everyone who worked hard to make the event a success. With that, she adjourned the 2022 Annual Meeting.



Group photo of the Metro Mayors Coalition at Winston-Salem and Wake Forest University's **Innovation Quarters**