



Contact: Kara M. Louise  
Telephone: (919) 521-4499  
Email: [kara@louiseprod.com](mailto:kara@louiseprod.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SOUTHWEST AREA STUDY TO HOST 2<sup>nd</sup> LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

**FUQUAY-VARINA, NC – September 6, 2011** – The Southwest Area Study Team will be sponsoring the study's 2nd Leadership Symposium on Wednesday, September 28, at the Fuquay-Varina Community Center, 820 South Main Street from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This Leadership Symposium is the second installment of stakeholder outreach and is focused on keeping community leaders informed about the Southwest Area Study planning process. The symposiums are a forum in which the thoughts and opinions of stakeholders can be gathered and integrated into this planning process. During the second symposium, attendees will see how their input from the first session influenced the project's Guiding Principles. Attendees will also play a role in the creation of a preferred growth scenario for the region.

Much has occurred since the first symposium was held, including the creation of Guiding Principles and scenario planning tools that are enabling planners to evaluate the likely outcomes of alternate growth strategies for the region. During this second symposium, stakeholders will be asked to assist with the evaluation of these growth scenarios. Input gathered from participants will also directly influence the development of a sustainable transportation plan for the southwestern Wake County and northern Harnett County areas.

The Southwest Area Study is a collaborative study funded by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The study began in February 2011 and will be completed in approximately 18 months. The roughly 230 square mile study area generally includes the southwestern portion of Wake County and northern portion of Harnett County including the Towns of Angier, Apex, Fuquay-Varina, and Holly Springs.

For more information about the Leadership Symposium contact the consultant team's project manager Mike Rutkowski at (919) 678-4192.

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For more information about the Southwest Area Study, contact Kara Louise at (919) 521-4499 or [kara@louiseprod.com](mailto:kara@louiseprod.com).