

An aerial photograph of Forsyth County, North Carolina, taken at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the landscape. In the background, a large mountain (Mount Airy) is visible. The foreground shows a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, and green fields. A semi-transparent yellow rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the text "FORWARD FORSYTH Together. Success." in white. Below this, a dark grey bar contains the text "2019 // ANNUAL REPORT" in white.

FORWARD FORSYTH

Together. Success.

2019 // ANNUAL REPORT

IN 2019,
**FORWARD
FORSYTH'S**
RESULTS
INCLUDED:



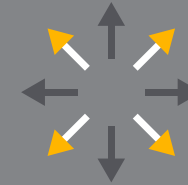
1,133
NEW JOBS



56
ATTRACTION
PROJECTS

25

EXPANSION
PROJECTS



7
RETENTION
PROJECTS



88
PROJECTS

\$114,635,000



IN **NEW** CAPITAL
INVESTMENT

7,687

HOTEL ROOM NIGHT LEADS

TARGET INDUSTRY: TECHNOLOGY



Last year Forward Forsyth's Forsyth Tech Execs group celebrated a major announcement. In June, Digital Ignition held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to announce its designation as a blockchain, artificial intelligence, internet of things and business innovation partner of Forward Forsyth. Digital Ignition, a co-working launching-pad for innovative companies was also recognized as the official business incubator for North Georgia. Georgia's Lieutenant Governor, Geoff Duncan, was on-site at the ceremony to share in the excitement. "We're not cutting a ribbon on a facility. We're cutting a ribbon on a vision," he commented.

Partnering with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Forsyth Tech Execs hosted the Talking Traffic Lights Challenge, the first-ever Georgia Smart Vehicle Tech Challenge. Startups and businesses from around the world competed to interpret vehicle and traffic light data to improve opportunities for road and traffic safety. With Forsyth County's high concentration of software developers and programmers, it was a perfect opportunity for GDOT to access local, regional, national and international talent. Competitors used emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain and internet of things to interpret GDOT-provided data and develop applications that enhance GDOT systems. ETALYC was the challenge winner and received the opportunity to contract with GDOT to further the idea.



FORWARD FORSYTH LAUNCH

The Forward Forsyth brand was formally launched at the 2019 State of the County Luncheon. Forward Forsyth is a partnership of Forsyth County Government, the Forsyth County Development Authority, Forsyth County Schools, the Forsyth Chamber of Commerce and Forsyth's higher-education institutions. Forward Forsyth leverages the time and talent of stakeholders from the business community, county government and local schools and colleges to develop and execute strategies and programs to attract investment and jobs to the community. The partnership is committed to bringing balance to the tax digest, improving quality of life and ensuring greater stability for the future – hence Forward Forsyth's tagline of "Together. Success."



COUNTY'S ROLE:

- Intentional Planning Decisions
- Ensuring Viable Locations for Commercial Development
- Respond to Businesses' Needs

CHAMBER/DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S ROLE:

- Market Forsyth County to the World
- Create a Competitive Toolbox
- Foster a Relationship with State Economic Development Entities

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS' ROLE:

- Develop a Well-Educated and Diverse Workforce
- Offer Sought-After Employment Pathways

FUTURE KEY PROJECTS



TARGET INDUSTRY SALES AND MARKETING CAMPAIGN

"Push/Pull" marketing strategy to focus on the target markets of: Corporate Headquarters / Technology / R&D / Data Services / E-Commerce / Advanced Manufacturing / Healthcare



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ensure that businesses and high-education institutions work together to ensure the area produces high-quality talent



TRANSPORTATION

Develop new transportation options that help companies broaden their reach, attract talent and reduce congestion



COMMERCIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

Promote commercial development in north Forsyth County and along Lake Lanier's Forsyth shoreline



CONVENTION CENTER AND HOTEL DEVELOPMENT

Explore options to increase opportunities in Forsyth County's tourism market



2019 REPORT

www.forwardforsyth.org