



May 7, 2003

Dear Citizens of Greater Greensboro:

It is my pleasure to present the *Greensboro Connections 2025 Comprehensive Plan* to the citizens of Greensboro. This document, and the process which led to its development, represents a significant milestone in our community. Greensboro is at a pivotal point in its history. The City's first comprehensive plan, *Connections 2025* will serve as a guide for our future growth and development over the next 20 years. During this time Greensboro will experience significant growth and change, as well as innumerable challenges and opportunities. We must diversify our economy, protect our environment, enhance our quality of life, invest in transportation and infrastructure, and promote a shared sense of direction and partnership between government, businesses and citizens. We cannot meet these challenges, or seize the opportunities that lie ahead, by maintaining the status quo and hoping for the best. We must proactively plan our future, make some changes in how we operate, and then consistently follow-through in implementing the plan.

I am convinced that *Connections 2025* represents the values, the aspirations and the best interests of all of the citizens of our diverse community. Guided by a citizens steering committee appointed by City Council to reflect a cross-section of the community, our planning process involved listening and responding to citizen concerns and ideas for the future. We began our planning process with a Vision Statement, which was created by asking the citizens what kind of place they wanted Greensboro to be in 20 years.

Following adoption of the Vision Statement by City Council, we carefully examined existing conditions, trends and the pressures for growth and change that are on the horizon. We confronted the reality that present trends are not taking us where we want to go as a community. Fragmented growth, pollution, loss of open space, traffic congestion, unbalanced investment patterns, fiscal and environmental stress, and a myriad other factors threaten to erode our quality of life and the viability of our economy, unless we take bold and decisive action. The *Connections 2025 Plan* lays out what we have called "strategic course corrections" through clearly defined goals, policies and a timetable of actions that will enable us to realize the Vision of what this great City of ours can become.

It has been my privilege to work closely over the past 2½ years with a group of dedicated folks: my fellow steering committee members, City staff, consultants, and the many citizens who have been active in providing thoughtful input to the planning process. We have grappled with some tough issues and carefully built consensus on a well-conceived plan of action. I believe we got it right. Now the real work begins as we adopt the plan and initiate the many actions necessary to carry out the plan. Our City government can't do it alone. We challenge all citizens to become active in supporting the implementation of the *Greensboro Connections 2025 Comprehensive Plan*.

Sincerely,

Cameron Cooke, Chair
Connections 2025
Steering Committee