



# FRANKLIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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County Administrator Brian Dansel

January 7, 2026

### **RE: Invitation to the USDA Rural Prosperity Summit & Regional Planning Session**

To Our Regional Partners and Stakeholders:

On behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, we are honored to announce that Franklin County has been selected as a host site for the upcoming USDA Rural Prosperity Summit, scheduled for **March 26, 2026**.

Franklin County has been working diligently with our federal partners, maintaining a consistent "seat at the table" throughout the planning stages of this event with our federal partners. Because we now have a captive audience with key decision-makers, we believe this is a rare and vital opportunity for our region to speak with a unified voice.

#### Why Your Participation Matters

This summit is not merely a presentation; it is a platform for high-level engagement. We have confirmed that many high-ranking officials from the Trump Administration will be in attendance. Their goal is to listen directly to our local concerns and identify specific federal resources available to help us achieve our collective goals.

In a landmark show of inter-agency cooperation, the USDA will be joined by representatives from numerous federal entities, including:

- **USDA Rural Development**
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**
- **Small Business Administration (SBA)**
- **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
- **And additional federal agencies**

#### Regional Planning Meeting: January 28, 2026

To ensure we maximize the Return on Investment (ROI) for our regional projects and issues, we believe coordination is crucial. We are inviting you to join us for a preliminary planning meeting that will be held during the workshop portion of our commissioner's meeting on January 28, 2026.

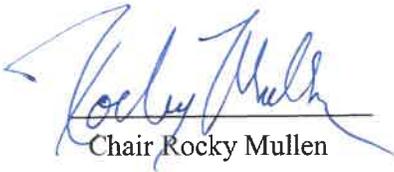
During this session, we will discuss our shared priorities and refine the messaging we intend to present to the federal delegation in March. Our strength lies in our ability to demonstrate regional synergy to these federal partners.

Save the Dates:

- **Regional Planning Workshop: January 28, 2026**
- **USDA Rural Prosperity Summit: March 26, 2026**

We look forward to collaborating with our neighboring counties, cities, towns, port districts, and community leaders to bring meaningful investment and prosperity to our region.

Sincerely,  
The Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Chair Rocky Mullen



Pro-Tem Stephen Bauman



Member Clint Didier