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**Georgia Tourism Product Development Resource Team Returns to Forsyth**

**ATLANTA, September 26, 2016** – The Georgia Department of Economic Development announced today that Georgia Tourism’s Office of Tourism Product Development will return to the City of Forsyth on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, to present its Tourism Product Development Resource Team Report to the community. The resource team program is an intensive, months-long community program that identifies potential innovative tourism products to increase visitor activity throughout the community.

The meeting will be held at 5pm in the City Hall Annex Council Chambers.

“We are excited to present this community inventive ideas and a suggested strategy based on the observations and research from our initial resource team visit,” said Cindy Edison, Director of Tourism Product Development at the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “The team spent time with community leaders exploring tourism opportunities across a wide number of markets that will be critical to continued progress and success of the entire economy of the City of Forsyth and Monroe County.”

Following initial staff visits, the City of Forsyth was selected by the Georgia Tourism division to participate in this initiative, which focuses technical assistance in the form of a reconnaissance and strategy visit to a local community interested in developing its tourism potential. Over the past nine months, the community has worked in-depth with Georgia Tourism staff and consultants to evaluate the past, present and future of the local and regional tourism economy.

The representatives from multiple state agencies and private consultants who are part of the resource team will return to the community to discuss their recommendations related to their areas of expertise. The report will serve as a guidepost for future tourism development initiatives through public and private investment that has a proven return of investment through local job generation.

“This is an exciting time for the City of Forsyth. We are looking forward to seeing what the Tourism Resource Team recommends. This is another step forward in our economic development efforts for the City.” said Mayor Eric Wilson.

**About GDEcD**

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state’s sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts events and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development.

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