



## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 15.

**DATE OF REQUEST:** August 16, 2010

**REQUESTED BY:** Benjamin Andrea, Planner I, Department of Planning and Community Development

**SHORT TITLE:** A Resolution Supporting the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Consortium, the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Proposal, and Pender County's Participation in the Consortium

**BACKGROUND:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117), provided a total of \$150,000,000 to HUD for a Sustainable Communities Initiative. Of that total, \$100,000,000 is available for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments.

The *Cape Fear Regional Sustainability Planning Consortium* has been organized to respond to a notice of funding availability issued by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for regional sustainability planning. The participating organizations of the consortium represent a broad spectrum of organizations, including the City of Wilmington, WAVE transit, the Wilmington MPO, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, Cape Fear Regional Community Development Corporation (CFRCDC), Brunswick Housing Opportunities, Cape Fear Council of Governments, and New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender Counties. Pender County planning staff has been involved in the Consortium efforts. CFRCDC is acting as the lead agency. The deadline for grant submittal is August 23, 2010.

The participating organizations represent a broad spectrum of organizations within the three-county region of Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender all dedicated to planning for enhanced sustainability focusing on housing opportunities, transportation alternatives, environmental stewardship, and economic development. Towards this end, the participating organizations formed the consortium to leverage the combined resources of the partners to attempt to secure federal grant funding for sustainability planning. Cape Fear Regional Community Development Corporation (CFRCDC) is acting as the lead agency in a representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all members of the consortium and will assume administrative responsibility for ensuring that the consortium's program is carried out in compliance with all HUD requirements.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** To consider a resolution supporting the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Consortium, the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant proposal, and Pender County's participation in the Consortium's regional planning efforts.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

Respectfully recommend approval.

MB  
Initial

**RESOLUTION**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:  
the Board hereby supports the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Consortium, the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant proposal, and Pender County's participation in the Consortium's regional planning efforts.

**AMENDMENTS:**

MOVED \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DENIED \_\_\_\_\_ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Tate \_\_\_ Blanchard \_\_\_ Brown \_\_\_ Williams \_\_\_ Rivenbark \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST                                      Date



## **FACT SHEET on HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program**

The FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 111-117) provided \$100 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a new Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program, of which \$2 million will be reserved for capacity support grants distributed separately, and not less than \$25 million will be awarded to regions with populations of less than 500,000. HUD announced the availability of funding for this program on June 24, 2010. To view the announcement visit [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability)

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; and, public health and environmental impacts. The program will place a priority on investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (e.g., arts and culture, philanthropy, etc.) and bringing new voices to the regional planning process.

The grant program is a centerpiece of the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, a joint effort between HUD, the US Department of Transportation, and the US Environmental Protection Agency to leverage long-term development and reinvestment that advances improved environmental and economic sustainability and to engage stakeholders and citizens in meaningful decision-making roles. HUD has chosen to make the Partnership's six Livability Principles central to the program outcomes discussed in the NOFA:

1. *Provide More Transportation Choices.*
2. *Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing.*
3. *Enhance Economic Competitiveness.*
4. *Support Existing Communities.*
5. *Coordinate Policies and Leverage Investment.*
6. *Value Communities and Neighborhoods.*

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support a number of activities related to the development and implementation of integrated long-range regional plans such as, but not limited to,

- A) identifying affordable housing, transportation investment, water infrastructure, economic development, land use planning, environmental conservation, energy system, open space, and other infrastructure priorities for the region;
- B) establishing performance goals and measures;
- C) providing detailed plans, policies, and implementation strategies to be implemented by all participating jurisdictions over time to meet planning goals; and,
- D) engaging residents and stakeholders substantively and meaningfully in the development of the shared vision and its implementation. For a full list of eligible activities please refer to the published NOFA.

Recognizing that areas are in different stages of achieving sustainability, HUD established two funding categories for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program.

- Category 1 Funds can be used to support the preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development.
- Category 2 Funds can be used to support efforts to fine-tune existing regional plans so that they address the Partnership's Livability Principles, to prepare more detailed execution plans for an adopted Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, and limited predevelopment planning activities for catalytic project/projects.

Grants will be made to regional consortia consisting of local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, educational institutions and non-profit organizations. The end product of a regional planning initiative will be a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development or a Detailed Execution Plan and Program for a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development that will provide a blueprint for investment decisions, both public and private, that will support a more sustainable future for a region. The size of awarded grant amounts is determined by the whether the applicant represents a large metropolitan region, a medium-sized region, or a small-sized region, rural communities or small towns areas.

Grant applications are due August 23, 2010. Applicants for funding should carefully review the requirements described in the NOFA and HUD's General Section.

Specific questions regarding the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program requirements should be directed to: [sustainablecommunities@hud.gov](mailto:sustainablecommunities@hud.gov) or may be submitted through the [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability) website.