Current Initiatives in Sustainable Communities Planning

APA Pennsylvania Chapter Annual Conference
October 18, 2011

1. Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, APA Sustaining Places
   David Rouse, AICP

2. ICLEI Star Community Index
   Andrea Lytle Peet, AICP

3. Sustainability in Cranberry Township
   John Trant Jr., AICP
Two National Initiatives:
The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program is part of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings HUD, DOT and the EPA together to ensure that the agencies’ policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together.
Livability Principles

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate and leverage federal policies & investment.
2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act
   • $98,000,000 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants

2010 Notice of Funding Available from HUD
   • NOFA issued June 23, 2010
   • 225 submissions / 177 complete applications reviewed by HUD
   • 45 Awards announced October 14, 2010

Applications from Pennsylvania
1. Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, Bethlehem*
2. Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation, Pittsburgh
3. County of Berks
4. Sewickley Borough
5. Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia

* Preferred Sustainability Status
Sustainable Community Challenge Grant Program
- Created to help support local planning to integrate housing, employment, and public transportation
- FY 2010: $75 million in combined HUD/ DOT TIGER II funding available
- 1st Awards announced by HUD in October of 2010

2010 Grants
- $67.6 million awarded to 62 communities – typically BIG grants
- About 10% of applicants received grants
- HUD Identified $1.28 billion in demand for the program
Pennsylvania Applications

- Union County
- SEDA Council of Governments
- City of Bethlehem
- City of Erie
- City of Johnstown
- City of Lancaster
- Chester County
- Cranberry Township
- City of Kimberton
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- City of Reading
- Cheltenham Township
- Lower Merion Township
- Erie Western PA Port Authority
- Lehigh Valley Econ. Dev. Corp.
- Westmoreland Econ. Dev Initiative

Pennsylvania Grant Award:
Pittsburgh: Allegheny Riverfront Green Boulevard Plan $1,500,000
CATEGORY 1: Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

PlanET

Knoxville Regional Consortium

CATEGORY 2: Detailed Implementation Plan

SUSTAINABLE PLACES Project

Capital Area Texas Sustainable Consortium

2010 Regional Planning Grants
Two Examples
HUD Category 1
Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

KNOXVILLE REGION
- 1,900 Square Miles in Appalachia
- 680,444 People
- Key Issues: Air & Water Quality, Economic Opportunity, and Community Health
- Limited Transportation Opportunities

GRANT APPLICATION
- Broad Consortium of Public & Private Stakeholders
- $4.3 Million HUD Category 1 Grant

PLAN
- Engage the Community
- Increase Local Capacity
- Develop a Blueprint for the Region’s Future
HUD Category 1
Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Goals for the Process

• Capacity Building
• Community Engagement
• Developing a Blueprint for the Region’s Future

“This three-year effort will develop a community-driven roadmap to help shape where we will live, where we will work and how we will get there.”
HUD Category 2
Detailed Implementation Plan

Capital Area Texas Sustainable Consortium (CATS)

**Steering Committee:**
- CAMPO
- CAPCOG
- Envision Central Texas
- CARTS
- Cap Metro
- City of Austin
- City of Round Rock
- City of San Marcos

**Based on Adopted 2035 Plan**
- Envision Central Texas
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Focus on Activity Centers

**Work Plan**
- Analytics Tool Development
- Demonstration Site Selection
- Outreach Strategy
HUD Category 2
Detailed Implementation Plan

Analytics Tool Development
• Collaboration between IBM and University of Texas
• Designed to assess economic impact of different planning approaches

Demonstration Sites
• Currently selecting locations through application process
• Identified Activity Centers in the 2035 Plan
2011 Sustainable Communities Planning Appropriations
- $100 million total (reduced from $150 million in 2010)
  - $67,000,000 Regional Planning Grants
  - $28,000,000 Community Challenge Grants

Regional Planning Grants
- Advance Notice Issued June 20, 2011
- NOFA Opened July 27, 2011
- Pre-Applications Due August 25, 2011
- 189 Regions Deemed Eligible (13 from PA)
- Final Applications Were Due October 6, 2011
Pennsylvania 2011 Applicants Eligible to Apply

- Blair County Planning Commission/Altoona
- Indiana
- City of Harrisburg
- Berks County/Reading*
- Erie County
- York County
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission/Philadelphia*
- Lawrence County/New Castle
- Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp/Bethlehem*
- North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development
- Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission/Towanda
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission/Pittsburgh*
- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission/Harrisburg

* 2010 Applicant
What’s Next for Sustainable Communities?

• House 2012 budget proposal: “de-fund” Partnership
• Senate 2012 budget proposal: $90 million for Regional Planning and Community Challenge Grants (10% reduction)

2012 Presidential / Congressional Elections

• ???
• The **Sustaining Places Initiative** is a multi-year, multi-faceted program to define the role of planning in addressing all human settlement issues relating to sustainability.
Sustainability: the Defining Challenge of the 21st Century

Issues

• Resource depletion
• Climate instability
• Energy production
• Economic stress
• Social inequity
• Community health
Members:
William Anderson, FAICP (Co-Chair)
Rudayna Abdo, AICP
Kenneth Bowers, AICP
Benjamin Herman, FAICP
Ann McAfee
William Moomaw

David Godschalk, FAICP (Co-Chair)
Timothy Beatley
Stephen Hardy, AICP
Daniel Lerch
David Rouse, AICP
Eric Shaw
Primary Charge:
Focus on the role of the *comprehensive plan* as the leading policy document and tool to help communities of all sizes achieve sustainable outcomes. Examine how plans effect change and are held accountable.

Secondary Charge:
Examine related changes in the *practice* of planning, including best practices that integrate sustainability into the comprehensive planning process.
Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan

Sustaining Places Defined

Planning for sustaining places is a dynamic, democratic process through which communities plan to meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the ecosystems upon which we depend by balancing social, economic, and environmental resources, incorporating resiliency, and linking local actions to global and regional concerns.

Eight Principles Derived from Best Practices

- Livable Built Environments
- Resilient Economy
- Healthy Community
- Authentic Participation
- Harmony with Nature
- Interwoven Equity
- Responsible Regionalism
- Accountable Implementation
Accountable Implementation

- Timeframes and responsibilities
- Departmental buy-in
- Coordination with capital program and operating budget
- Public and private sector partners / champions
- Metrics / indicators of success
- Public involvement
  - Measure progress and communicate results
  - Recognize milestones to maintain community support

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Short Term Projects</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Applicable System Strategies</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Partnerships</th>
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<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>LU-2, LU-3, UD-1, ARCH-1, ARCH-2</td>
<td>Albany Dept. of Development</td>
<td>Neighborhood associations, Mayor’s Office of</td>
<td>NYS Community Development</td>
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Scorecard for Union County, PA Comprehensive Plan: **Cultivating Community**

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<th></th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
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**Location:** Central Pennsylvania

**Governmental Structure:** County Planning Commission; municipalities have land use regulatory authority

**Population:** 43,640 (2008 Census Estimate)

**Largest Municipality:** Lewisburg (population 5,454)

**Year Plan Adopted:** 2009
**Scorecard for Philadelphia 2035 Comprehensive Plan**

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**Location:** Population and economic center of a 12-county (four-states) MSA.

**Governmental Structure:** Home Rule Charter, governed by an elected City council, with the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) given main responsibility to prepare and implement the citywide plan; Outreach and education provided through the PCPC’s City Planning Institute.

**Population:** 1.55 million in the city in 2010 (6.35 million in the greater Philadelphia area)

**Year Plan Adopted:** 2011
Stay tuned! **Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan** will be released as a PAS Report in January 2012.
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