




# Federal Activities to Support Sustainable Communities

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2011 Louisiana Smart Growth Summit: Creating Communities that Work  
August 19, 2011

# EPA and sustainable communities

- For EPA, conversation began in early 1990s.
  - Brownfields redevelopment
  - Focus on private sector
  - “Sustainable” had no traction
  - “Smart growth” helped build coalition
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# Environmental and Social Benefits of Sustainable Communities

- Reduced Emissions and Improved Air Quality
- Reduced Water Demand and Water Impacts
- Reclaimed Abandoned and Hazardous Lands
- More Walkable, Healthier Neighborhoods
- Enhanced Quality of Life and Strengthened Social Fabric


# Economic Benefits of Sustainable Communities

- Reduced infrastructure expenses
- Energy and water cost savings
- Attraction of local economic development
- Reduced health care costs
- Better connection of workers to education and job opportunities
- Reduced household expenditures
- Revitalization of neighborhoods and communities

# Our mission

The US EPA Office of Sustainable Communities will support development that ...

saves money for the public and for households,  
provides choice in where to live and how to travel,  
makes people healthier, and  
protects the environment by conserving land and energy and improving air and water quality.



# EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

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Since 1996, we have been working to address these challenges by:

- ✓ Changing the conversation
- ✓ Working with the willing
- ✓ Changing the rules



# EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

## Working with the Willing

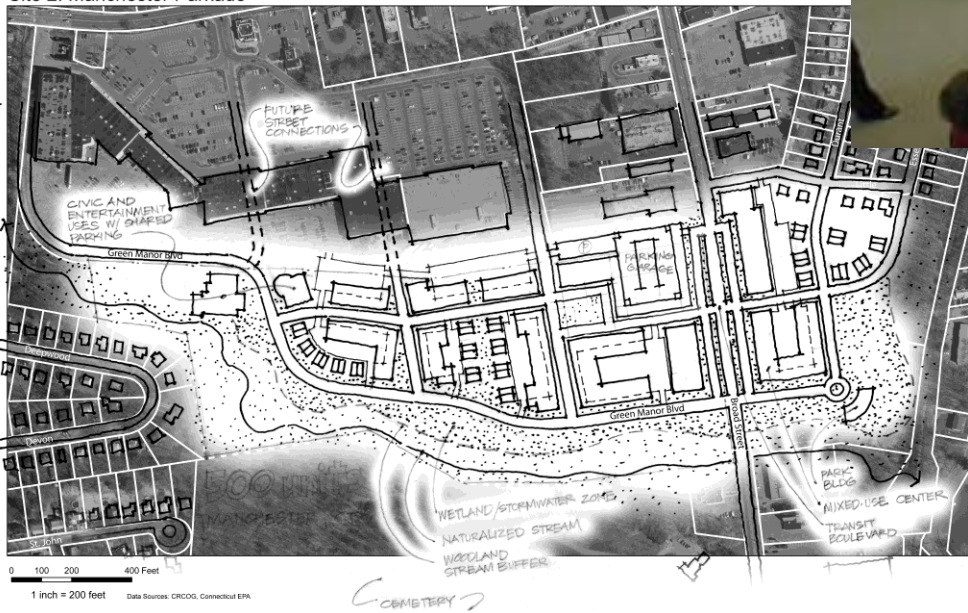
Technical assistance to localities

Governor's Institute for Community Design

Work with states to revise stormwater permit requirements



Site 2: Manchester Parkade



Connecticut Technical Assistance on Sustainable Housing, May 2009

*Images courtesy of CRCOG, WRT*

# EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

## Changing the Conversation

**February 4-6, 2010**  
**Seattle, Washington**

Presented by the  
Local  
Government  
Commission

**This  
Is  
Smart  
Growth**

**2009**  
NATIONAL AWARD FOR  
Smart Growth  
ACHIEVEMENT

Getting to Smart Growth  
EPA OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

EPA  
SMART GROWTH  
NETWORK

# EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

## Changing the Rules



EPA Regulations: *Atlantic Station*

*Image courtesy of www.atlanticstation.com*

National (Voluntary) Code: *International Green Construction Codes*

Voluntary  
Standards:  
*Thompson  
Middle School,  
Newport, RI*

*Image courtesy of Wayne  
Soverns, Jr.*



People Helping People Build a Safer World™



**SPRING 2010 GROUP A  
FINAL ACTION HEARINGS  
DALLAS, TX**

# Public Support for Sustainable Communities

*New national opinion survey:*

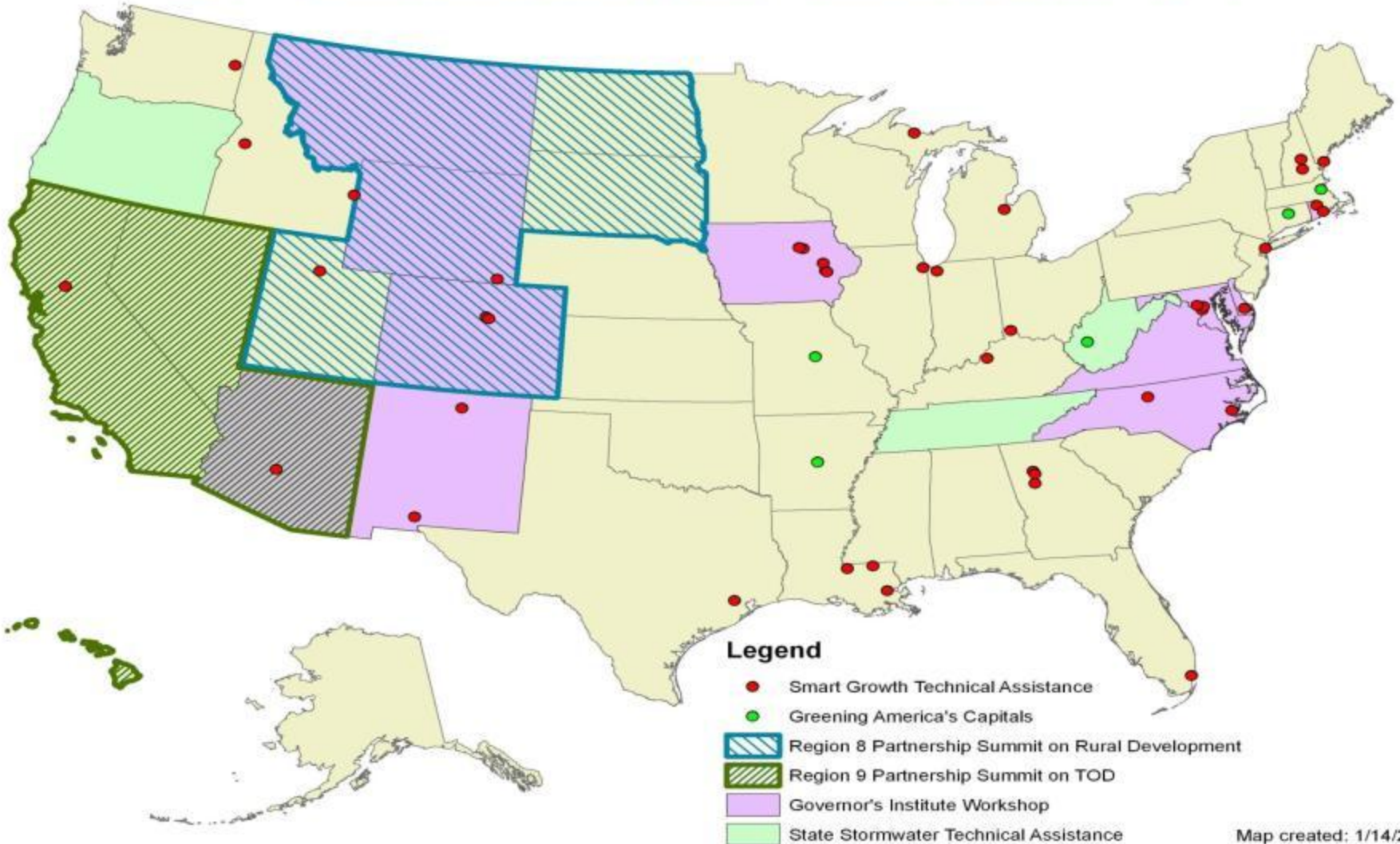
- Majority of Americans – regardless of political affiliation- support sustainable communities *(79% overall)*
- Majority of Americans believe their region needs more sustainable communities *(66% overall)*
- Most Americans believe that sustainable communities are an important part of rebuilding the national economy *(80% overall)*

The poll also found overwhelming public support for the Partnership's core principles.

Source: "Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: American support for sustainable communities", March 2011.  
<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/building-for-the-21st-century.pdf>

# EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

## OSC Technical Assistance and Workshops 2005 - 2010



SMART GROWTH NETWORK



**Brownfields2011**  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES START HERE

**COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Your Door to  
**FHA**  
HOMEOWNERSHIP



*Energy*  
**ENERGY STAR**

**MyEnvironment**

**CARE**  
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

**Home Comm**  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



**HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**



**Clean Water**  
State Revolving Fund



**Climate Showcase Communities**  
Local Climate and Energy Program



**BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY HOUSING**

**Ginnie Mae**

**CTOD** CENTER FOR TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT



**Federal Transit Administration**

**USDOT TIGER**  
DOT.GOV

UNITED WE



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**Livability Initiative**



**Knowledge Sharing**



# Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities

**What is it all about?**

# Partnership for Sustainable Communities

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*“When it comes to development, it's time to throw out old policies that encouraged sprawl and congestion, pollution, and ended up isolating our communities in the process.*

*We need strategies that encourage smart development linked to quality public transportation, that bring our communities together.*

*That's why we'll improve our Partnership for Sustainable Communities by working with HUD, EPA, and the Department of Transportation in making sure that when it comes to development, housing, energy, and transportation policy go hand in hand.”*



*-- Barack Obama,  
January 21, 2010*

# HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership Mission

To coordinate our policies, programs, and resources to help urban, suburban, and rural areas and regions to build sustainable communities, and to make sustainable communities the first-choice type of development in the United States.



# Federal Partnership Goals



Align  
HUD, DOT  
& EPA  
programs

Develop  
livability  
measures  
and tools

Redevelop  
underutilized  
sites

Redefine  
housing  
affordability

Provide a  
vision for  
sustainable  
growth

Enhance  
integrated  
planning &  
investment

# Partnership Livability Principles



**Provide More  
Transportation Choices**



**Promote Equitable  
Affordable Housing**



**Enhance Economic  
Competitiveness**



**Support Existing  
Communities**



**Coordinate Policies and  
Leverage Investments**



**Value Communities and  
Neighborhoods**

# Federal Partnership in Action

## Accomplishments to Date

- Changes in National Priorities
- New Grants, Pilots and Initiatives
- Grant and Technical Assistance Coordination
- Policy Changes

## Priority Areas for 2011

- Economic connections to sustainable communities
- Support current grantees and work to achieve success on the ground
- Enhance access to Partnership programs
- Leverage new partners

# FY 2010 Resources to Support Sustainable Communities

## Sustainable Communities Planning Grants

[\$100M]

Sustainable Communities Challenge Grants  
[\$40M]

Choice Neighborhood Initiative  
[\$65M]



## TIGER I [\$1.2B]

TIGER II  
Capital [\$570M]  
Planning [\$30M]

Urban Circulator  
[\$135M]

Bus Livability [\$150M]

TIGGER/Clean Fuels  
[\$156M]



## Smart Growth Technical Assistance

Sustainable Communities Brownfields Pilot

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Pilots

Greening America's Capitals

Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grants



# Sustainable Communities

## Federal agency roles and activities

# Livable Communities and DOT

## DOT's Livability Goal:

- To increase access to adequate, affordable and environmentally sustainable travel choices

## DOT's Partnership Role:

- Build the Capacity of Transportation Agencies to Integrate Their Planning and Investments into Broader Plans
- Invest in Transportation Infrastructure that Directly Supports Sustainable Development and Livability Principles



# DOT's Perspective



# DOT Programs

## FY2011 Funding

- TIGER 3
  - Through Office of the Secretary
  - \$527M available
  - Pre-applications due 10/3/11
  - See [dot.gov/tiger](http://dot.gov/tiger)
- FTA livability grants
  - \$175M, winners recently announced

# FHWA Programs

- Funding
  - 2011 TCSP, \$417M just announced
- Awareness and Capacity Building
  - CSS Clearinghouse Livability Webinars
  - CTE Livability Webcast
  - Livability website
  - Livability in Transportation Guidebook
  - Livable Communities Strategic Initiative

# FHWA Programs

- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- Transportation Enhancements
- Green Highways Initiative
- Exemplary Human Environment
- Safe Routes to School
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- STEP research supporting Livability



# Sustainable Communities and HUD

## HUD's Strategic Goal

- Build Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Free From Discrimination

## HUD's Partnership Role:

- Encourage communities to build green, energy efficient housing
- Retrofit existing housing near job centers and affordable, accessible transportation.
- Stimulate more integrated regional planning for land use, transportation and housing



# HUD Activities

- Performing green retro-fits of public, assisted and other HUD-supported affordable homes
- Showing cities, property managers and housing authorities how to save energy costs
- Using ARRA funds to finance the development of green affordable housing

# HUD 2011 Programs

- Community Challenge Grants
  - \$29M available
  - Applications due 9/9/11
  - Set-aside for small communities
- Regional Planning Grants
  - \$70M available
  - Pre-application due 8/25/11
  - Set-aside for small regions
- Capacity Building Grants
  - Help current grantees succeed
  - \$6M available
  - Eight winning teams announced this week

# Smart Growth and EPA

## EPA's Strategic Goal:

- Support sustainable, resilient, and livable communities by working with local, state, tribal, and federal partners.

## EPA's Partnership Role:

- Provide tools, technical assistance, and resource support to encourage smart growth approaches to protect human health and the environment and develop sustainable communities.



# EPA Resources

## Key EPA Programs:

- Brownfields Remediation and Development
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds
- Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)
- Environmental Justice
- Smart Growth
- Community-Based Lead Program
- State and Local Climate and Energy Program
- National Clean Diesel Program

## New EPA Pilots and Initiatives:

- Brownfields Partnership Pilots
- Urban Waters Initiative
- Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilots
- Sustainable Communities Building Blocks
- Sustainable Healthy Communities Research Program

## Tools:

- Clean Energy Resources Database
- Playbook for Green Buildings
- Essential Code Fixes for Urban, Suburban Zoning Codes
- Smart Growth Scorecards

# Federal Programs that Invest in Smart Growth

## *HUD/community development programs*

- **CDBG** – Economic/community development, planning, support services, housing

## *EDA/economic development, infrastructure programs*

- Public works/economic adjustment/planning


## *USDA/rural development programs*

- **Business and industry** loans, loan guarantees
- **Community facilities** grants and loans
- **Business development** programs

## *DOT/transportation*

- Road/transit system enhancement, construction, improvement, cleanup

## *EPA/environmental programs*

- **Brownfields** – grants for site assessment, cleanup, RLF capitalization
  - **Water RLFs** – capitalization for water quality-related projects
- 

# Four federal tax incentives that can be linked to revitalization transactions – all at little or no cost to the project

- Rehabilitation tax credits
- Low income housing tax credits
- New Markets Tax Credits
- Energy efficiency/renewable energy tax credits



# Partnership Information Resources

HUD.GOV U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan

Home Press Room Multimedia State Info Program Offices Topic Areas About HUD Services Contact Us

HUD Program Offices Sustainable Housing Communities

## Sustainable Housing and Communities

Map of America In its 100th year, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities has awarded grants to innovative communities, regions and states across the country that will give them the resources to make the investments in planning...

Making Home Affordable Help for America's Homeowners

United States Department of Transportation

Home About Working Hours Services

## DOT Livability

### Grants and Programs

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has identified livability as a key priority for transportation. The Secretary's vision is "transportation policies that focus on people and communities who use the transportation system." A major way DOT helps communities pursue these aims is by issuing grants to eligible recipients for planning, vehicle purchases, facility construction, operations, and other purposes. DOT administers this financial assistance according to authorization, SAFETEA-LU, which was signed into law in August 2005. There are a large number of programs and grants within the Department of Transportation that support projects that enhance or relate to livability.

#### Grants and Programs (organized by subject)

- Surface Transportation Improvement
- Accessibility to Disadvantaged Populations
- Roadway Systems
- Rail
- Surface Transportation Planning
- Bike/Pedestrian
- Marine Transport
- Air Transport
- Research & Innovation

#### FAST LANE

The Official Site of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation

#### STAY CONNECTED

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Smart Growth

### Tools and Key Resources for Sustainable Communities

Introduction

- Tools for Sustainable Communities
  - Climate Change
  - Codes, Certifications, and Land Development Regulations
  - Environmental Justice
  - Financial Resources
  - Green Buildings
  - Healthy
  - Land Use and Land
  - Sustainable Materials
  - Transportation

#### Introduction

One of the goals of the HUD-DOT-EPA transportation choices and effort support these communities. EPA has Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and EPA.

#### Tools for Sustainable

#### Climate Change

Smart Growth (an online calculator) This calculator can help communities measure impacts.

Clean Energy Resources Database This searchable database describes measurement, and verification, and codes practices, or quality, clean energy a transportation and climate change. The Transportation and Climate (in addition to new resources and tools research and innovative technology

#### Livability and Government

- FTA Livability
- FARA Livability

#### FAST LANE

#### STAY CONNECTED

Leveraging the Partnership: DOT, HUD and EPA Programs for Sustainable Communities

April 2010

This guide to Federal programs is intended to help communities identify resources available to support their efforts to promote livable and sustainable communities.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The U.S. Department of Transportation serves the United States by ensuring a safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our nation's interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

DOT will work to promote livable communities and enhance the economic and social well-being of all Americans by creating and maintaining a safe, reliable, integrated and accessible transportation network. A multi-modal transportation system increases choice, provides easy access to employment opportunities and other destinations, and promotes positive effects on the surrounding community. DOT will work to build an innovative way of doing business that promotes mobility and enhance the unique characteristics of our neighborhoods, communities and regions.

#### Multimodal Programs

TIGER/Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery: The TIGER Discretionary Grant Program was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to spur a red-one competition for innovative, multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional transportation projects that promise significant economic and environmental benefits to an entire metropolitan area, a region or the nation. In February 2010, US DOT selected 31 projects to be funded with the \$1.3 billion allocated in the Recovery Act including improvements to roads, bridges, rail ports, transit and intermodal facilities. In FY 2010, US DOT will be competitively selecting a second round of projects under the TIGER program. Up to \$400 million will be funded, including 225 million set aside for planning projects. The solicitation is expected later in FY 2010. <http://www.dot.gov>

Joint Federal Transit and Federal Highway Administration Programs

Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program: This FHWA/FTA comprehensive program provides training, technical assistance and support to help decision makers, transportation officials, and staff resolve the increasingly complex issues they face when addressing transportation needs in their communities. Among the many initiatives in this program are efforts that encourage public participation in the planning process through the promotion of visualized in tools and the encouragement

Please Note: The following funding and technical assistance programs do not represent a complete list of DOT, HUD or EPA grant or technical assistance programs. These are included here because of the connection to the principles of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. We hope this provides you and your colleagues with the Federal resources that will help you realize the potential of a livable and sustainable community.

# Contacts for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities

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## Regional Contacts

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FHWA: [kirk.fauver@dot.gov](mailto:kirk.fauver@dot.gov) (TX)

HUD: [nicolas.ramon@hud.gov](mailto:nicolas.ramon@hud.gov)

[www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth)

[www.fta.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fta.dot.gov/livability)

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability)

[www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability)

... and the **JUST LAUNCHED** ...

[sustainablecommunities.gov](http://sustainablecommunities.gov) !