

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT A
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, in 2009 Congress authorized a multi-agency Sustainable Communities Initiative between the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning; and

WHEREAS, in February 2010, HUD released a Request for Comments on a proposed Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, seeking input on specific programmatic elements of the \$100 million program; and

WHEREAS, in March 2010, the COG Board, recognizing the tremendous regional funding opportunity, transmitted its comments to HUD applauding the groundbreaking joint effort and urging a greater focus on regional entities as lead grant recipients; and

WHEREAS, HUD published the final notice of funding availability for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant on June 23 and makes available up to \$5 million for large metropolitan areas, like the National Capital Region, to help complete a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development; and

WHEREAS, the application requires the formation of a multi-jurisdictional consortium including the regional planning organization, metropolitan planning organization, local jurisdictions representing at least 50 percent of the metropolitan area population, and at least one non-profit or educational institution to administer the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The consortium must also provide a 20 percent in leveraged resources; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will enable the National Capital Region to be a stronger competitor for limited infrastructure funds, create efficiency gains by breaking down administrative silos, and address environmental concerns related to climate change and growth; and

WHEREAS, COG is well positioned to compete for the grant funding with its *Region Forward: A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning*, which to-date has received the endorsement of 19 of COG's 21 local jurisdictions as well as several community based organizations; and

WHEREAS, COG is proposing to implement *Region Forward* through a Plan that creates complete communities that emulate successful transit oriented developments in the region. They will take the activity centers identified in *Region Forward* to the next level by enhancing existing centers and creating new ones. These complete communities will be strategically located, planned and developed at the regional level to reduce economic disparities; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will serve as a guide for local, state and regional policies and investments that will integrate existing or emergent land use plans. Integrated Plan elements will include:

- a *regional housing plan* that addresses the full range of existing and projected housing need that are affordable to all ranges of family income,
- a *regional transportation plan* that addresses the development of transportation networks tied to sustainable centers and corridors,
- *advances water infrastructure planning* to ensure that investments in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems support the sustainability of the community over the long-term,
- *environmental planning* that includes environmental review systems to evaluate the impacts of various decisions,
- a *plan for economic development* that stimulates the regional economy and creates jobs, and
- a *comprehensive climate change impacts assessment* to guide regional planning and implementation strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to submit an application, on behalf of the consortium, to HUD for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant in an amount not to exceed \$5 million by the published deadline of August 23, 2010.
2. The grant requires applicants to provide a minimum of 20 percent in leveraged resources, including cash and in-kind support from COG and consortium participants. COG shall provide up to \$100,000 in FY 2011 Contingency Reserve revenue should it be necessary to meet the leveraged resources minimum and support a competitive grant application.
3. The grant will be in the form of a cooperative agreement and the period of performance shall not exceed 36 months.
4. If approved, the cooperative agreement will require amendment to COG's FY 2011 work program and budget and be incorporated into COG's FY 2012 and 2013 proposed budgets.
