

**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 all 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.

COPY TESTE:

Nicole Hange, Board Clerk

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING COG STATEMENT OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN HUD'S
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITITES REGIONAL PLANNIG GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association comprised of the local governments of the National Capital Region, and COG also acts as the administrative agent of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) of the National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, in January 2008, COG established the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, a public-private advisory panel, consisting of local government officials, representatives of the Region's business and environmental sectors, and members of the public representing numerous and diverse civic interests, to help shape the Region, and the Coalition sought to leverage existing regional and local vision plans and reach regional agreement on local actions that can help achieve common regional goals; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2010, the COG Board approved the Coalition's final report, *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century*, which includes nine regional goals in four themes of accessibility, sustainability, prosperity, and livability; and establishes regional performance targets and indicators to measure required progress toward goals; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board recommended that its member local governments execute a voluntary regional compact incorporating these regional goals, and commit to consider regional implications in their local decisions and actions; and every local government member has endorsed the voluntary *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* and, within the jurisdiction's legal, financial, and political limitations, committed to follow the principles and goals therein in its decisions and actions; and

WHEREAS, COG desires to apply for the HUD Fiscal Year 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program in order to implement the *Region Forward* Report and take other actions required by the program and the Livability Principles set forth in the HUD Docket No. FR-5396-N-03 Notice of Funding Availability in order to achieve sustainable outcomes for the National Capital Region.

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

1. Local governments, through participation and membership in COG, pledge our intent to participate in the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and will work with COG to secure individually signed memorandum of understanding agreements, or the like, within 120 days should grant funding be awarded.

2. The COG Board commits COG to be lead applicant for purposes of the HUD Fiscal Year 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program on behalf of its local government members.
3. As lead applicant, COG will have the administrative responsibility for ensuring that the COG consortium's program is carried out in compliance with all HUD requirements.
4. COG will execute a formal consortium agreement no later than 120 days after the effective start date of the grant agreement, which agreement shall describe each member's specific activities under the Program, including timetables for completion.
5. As lead applicant, COG will enter into memoranda of understanding with any partners receiving funding from the grant to ensure delivery of the required activities.
6. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to sign the grant and other documents required by HUD in furtherance of this statement of intent.

COPY TESTE:

Nicole Hange, Board Clerk