

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**BALTIMORE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
RESOLUTION #11-7**

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE A BALTIMORE REGION APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region, encompassing the Baltimore Urbanized Area, and includes official representatives of the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore, the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard, and the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Department of Planning; and

WHEREAS, on June 23 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the final notice of funding availability for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program which makes available up to \$5 million over 36 months for large metropolitan areas, such as the Baltimore region, to help complete a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development; and

WHEREAS, the application requires the formation of a multi-jurisdictional consortium including the metropolitan planning organization, the traditional principle city, the most populous jurisdiction in the region and 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, and the consortium must provide at a minimum 20 percent of the requested funding amount in matching funds or leveraged resources; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council is well positioned to conduct the program proposed under this grant program utilizing the BMC's "*imagine 2060*" visioning initiative as a foundation through which stronger and more diverse cross-jurisdictional bonds are being created between state, local and non-governmental organizations including a strong public involvement process; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore region is uniquely qualified to pursue this endeavor having the ability to draw on and integrate local, regional, state, and non-governmental resources: local comprehensive and community plans that include water resource elements; regional transportation planning and water/sewer infrastructure; the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education's extensive data bases and modeling capabilities the Maryland Department of Planning's current initiative to develop the first State Development Plan "Plan Maryland"; as well as the many, diverse resources, plans, programs and initiatives of the many non-governmental

agencies and organizations in the region that will strengthen the process of developing a Regional Sustainable Communities Plan the Baltimore Region; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development will integrate existing and evolving land use plans into a sustainable communities framework that guides local, state and regional policies and investments. Integrated Plan elements will include: an economic development plan that strengthens the regional economy, promotes job creation and enhances workforce development; a regional housing plan that addresses the *full* range of existing and projected housing needs that are affordable to all ranges of household income and improves access to jobs; a regional transportation plan that improves mobility and expands multi-modal access 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 establishes effective strategies for achieving Chesapeake Bay restoration targets, and strengthens preservation of agricultural and natural resources; and a comprehensive climate change impacts assessment to guide regional planning and implementation strategies; and

WHEREAS, funding in the BRTB's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is eligible as a component of the leveraged resources required for the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the grant will be in the form of a cooperative agreement with HUD and the period of performance cannot exceed 36 months; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is approved by HUD, the cooperative agreement will require an amendment to the BRTB's FY 2011 UPWP and will need to be incorporated into the FY 2012 and FY 2013 UPWPs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board commits BRTB's participation as an applicant in the consortium for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's submission of a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Application to HUD by the due date of August 23; and up to \$1,000,000 in funding from the Unified Planning Work Programs over the 36 month grant period as leveraged resources for the Regional Planning Grant Application.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore region approved the aforementioned resolution at its August 12, 2010 meeting.

Date

Emery Hines, Chairman
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board