



Baltimore Metropolitan Council
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MEMORANDUM

TO: BRTB Members

FROM: Todd R. Lang

DATE: August 5, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7 – HUD’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

ACTION: Resolution

Attached is the resolution and background material for a grant application for the U.S. Department of HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The BRTB will be asked to approve this resolution at the August 12, 2010 meeting.

Attachment

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Anne Arundel County
Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Carroll County
Harford County
Howard County

MEMORANDUM

To: Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Re: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Date: August 5, 2010

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) requests the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) consider joining a consortium led by BMC to apply for a grant under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program.

The purpose of this project is to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). It is intended to integrate existing planning efforts in the areas of housing, transportation, water infrastructure, the environment and economic development. In order to integrate these planning areas, the grant requires that the RPSD include the following elements:

- a. Explanation of how the consortium will adopt a housing plan
- b. Incorporation of equity and fair housing analysis into regional planning
- c. Advancement of regional transportation planning
- d. Advancement of water infrastructure planning
- e. Performing environmental planning
- f. Planning for economic development activities
- g. Conducting scenario planning
- h. Conducting comprehensive climate change impact assessments

The Baltimore region is uniquely suited to undertake this endeavor having initiated the *imagine 2060* visioning effort that seeks to better coordinate land use and transportation planning in the region including a strong public involvement process. The development of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development will also benefit from the work that has been done by the Maryland Department of Planning with their Plan Maryland effort, in addition to several other statewide, regional and local plans developed by both governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations. These include the recently completed water resource elements of local comprehensive plans mandated by the Maryland General Assembly under House Bill 1141 and the Urban Land Institute's 2008 Growing Cooler Baltimore Regional Urban Development and Climate Change Workshops.

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is well positioned to lead this integrated planning effort. BMC was formed in 1992 as a private nonprofit organization of the

region's elected officials by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly. At its core, BMC is committed to identifying regional interests and developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs which will improve the quality of life and economic vitality throughout the region. A prime example of regional cooperation is the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC), the procurement arm of the BMC. BRCPC organizes the purchasing power of the member jurisdictions to buy everything from office furniture to electricity at discounted rates. BMC staff also work on items such as emergency preparedness, regional rideshare programs and operating the Baltimore region's Reservoir Watershed Protection Program.

The concepts of sustainable development are not new to BMC. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council Regional Sustainability Committee (RSC) was initiated by the BMC Board in October 2008. Consisting of a representative from each of our six jurisdictions who meet on a monthly basis, the RSC is charged with coordinating regional sustainability programs, fostering cooperation between state and local governments and maximizing partnerships with public, private and quasi-governmental agencies. In early Spring 2010, the RSC hosted a day-long summit to go beyond "green" and explore the relationships between the economic, environmental and societal aspects of sustainable local and regional development in the region. The RSC also works together to share best practices in areas such as energy efficiency and greenhouse gas inventory methods.

BMC also serves as staff to the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Baltimore Region. As such, the mission of the BRTB is to provide regional transportation planning and policy making for the Baltimore region. Through the work of the BRTB Cooperative Forecasting Group, annual updates are created for population and household data on a small area basis. The BRTB adopts these estimates and projections each year for use in travel demand modeling and testing air quality conformity. The BMC also maintains a database of all construction authorization permits issued in the Baltimore region for the past decade. The compilation and analysis of new residential and non-residential building activity and remodeling serves as the basis for Development Monitoring Activity conducted by the agency.

DRAFT SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

BMC feels that it is uniquely qualified to lead the proposed consortium. Through its longstanding relationships with representatives from the local jurisdictions in the region, BMC is centrally positioned among a vast network of local governments, state government, non-profits and educational institutions. The combined knowledge and capabilities of organizations in this network forms the basis for the structure of the proposed grant application. While the aim of the HUD program is to develop a truly cross-jurisdictional cross-discipline effort that builds partnerships and takes advantage of resources beyond the traditional units of local and state governments, BMC recognizes that the local jurisdictions will ultimately implement the recommendations of the RPSD.

To take advantage of all of these varied resources, the Baltimore Region will employ a three-tiered governance structure for our application to the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. It is envisioned that diverse working groups will prepare reports covering areas of focus highlighted in the NOFA. These reports will provide a ground level analysis of where our region is, and offer strategies to move forward using the six Livability Principles that guide the entire program.

A Steering Committee made up of local governments, state entities, and non-profit organizations will review the working group reports and develop a cohesive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, all while coordinating with HUD at appropriate milestones through a project manager. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Board of Directors will ultimately adopt the plan and maintain responsibility for its implementation.

While there are many details to work out, this memorandum and the attached organizational chart provide a starting point for creating the governance section of our application.



BMC

The responsibility for implementing the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) ultimately falls to our local government's leaders. With that understanding, BMC's Board of Directors (BMC Board) will guide the efforts in the development of Baltimore's Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). The BMC Board is comprised of the Mayor of Baltimore City, a member of the Carroll County Commissioners, and the County Executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard Counties.

The BMC Board will appoint a SCI Steering Committee charged with (1) drafting the RPSD and (2) working with HUD and other appropriate entities to create an innovative plan that has broad support and enhances the region's competitiveness for implementation funding. The BMC Board will ultimately be charged with adopting the RPSD.

SCI Steering Committee

The SCI Steering Committee will consist of twelve members representing a mix of local governments, state entities and non-profit organizations. The Steering Committee is the coordinating group that will direct planning grant implementation and drafts of the RPSD using the work of the SCI working groups. A Project Manager assigned to the

Steering Committee will oversee the staffing of the program and serve as a liaison between HUD and BMC.

The makeup of the Steering Committee will be representative of stakeholders, including local governments, the State of Maryland and non-profit organizations capable of offering capacity, experience and expertise to the process. The Steering Committee will include one representative each from the City of Annapolis, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. This local government representation mirrors that of the BRTB, a key member of the application consortium.

The remaining five spaces on the Steering Committee will be filled by representatives of state agencies (MDP, MDOT, MDE, DHCD, DBED, or MDNR) and non-profit organizations. Selection of non-profit's and educational institutions will be based on interest, ability to offer a grant match, experience, and technical expertise.

Working Groups

The coordinating work of the Steering Committee will be guided and informed by the work of Regional Sustainability Working Groups. Size and composition of the Working Groups remains to be determined, but they should be representative of the local governments, the State and especially the non-profit's whose expertise is readily applicable to the subject area of the Working Group. Representatives from the Steering Committee will be encouraged to serve on working groups as well.

The Steering Committee needs to be engaged in determining how the regional values/indicators and scenario testing from the *imagine 2060 Vision* process will be used as the framework for developing not only the LRTP, but also the other regional sustainability plan components. This framework will assist in guiding and coordinating the tasks of the working groups.

The Working Groups will have several tasks:

- Identify all existing plans and programs pertaining to given subject areas and assess their relevance in relation to the RPSD.
- Prepare an analysis of gaps, conflicts, opportunities, and challenges highlighted by these plans and programs.
- Report to the Steering Committee with an evaluation of existing plans and strategies to address the gaps, conflicts, opportunities and challenges identified above using the Six Livability Principles of the Sustainable Communities Initiative as guidance.