

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	May 23, 2011
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>11-904</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>11-339</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Consortium Agreement relating to HUD Grant to Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

**SYNOPSIS:**

Staff recommends that the City join other regional entities in the Consortium Agreement between the City and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Consortium Agreement outlines the consortium goals and project outcomes, roles and responsibilities of the participating entities, project committees, community engagement, and accountability mechanisms.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: The MPO was awarded and will administer a \$2,000,000 federal grant. The grant requires a minimum of 20% of the grant amount as matching funds from the consortium. The City of Des Moines' portion of the match will be an in-kind contributions provided by our staff's participation in the planning work.

Funding Source: Des Moines' contribution to the required 20% match will be comprised of staff time and overhead from within the normal operating budget of various City departments, primarily Community Development. The Agreement commits the City to provide up to 4,992 hours of professional staff time over the course of thirty-six months, including, but not limited to, financial administration assistance, data collection, affordable housing planning work, multi-disciplinary planning work, incorporation of regional planning outcomes into our municipal comprehensive plan, and community outreach efforts. It is anticipated that this staff time will be allocated among various staff persons at various phases of the planning project.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are collaborating through an Interagency Partnership on Sustainable Communities (Partnership). The City of Des Moines was a collaborative partner in the application for a \$2,000,000 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant received by the MPO in October 2010. The MPO is administering the grant led by a local consortium (Consortium) to complete the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, the work product required by the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The City joins the following participants in this Consortium Agreement: Greater Des Moines Partnership; Community Foundation of

Greater Des Moines, Center on Sustainable Communities, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, Iowa State University, Polk County, Dallas County, and the Cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Carlisle, Johnston, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines.

The City has four representatives on the steering committee for the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (Mayor Cownie [Vice Chair], Councilperson Coleman, Councilperson Mahaffey, and City Manager Richard Clark.

It is envisioned that the Project will be utilized to guide the planning process, its framework, and the completion and implementation of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (Plan) for the central Iowa. The Project seeks to:

- Provide a forum for local stakeholders to participate collaboratively in the regional planning process;
- Engage the public in the regional planning process;
- Promote regionalism;
- Encourage and increase sustainability in central Iowa;
- Foster new and leverage existing relationships; and,
- Serve as an example for local communities, for the state, and for the nation.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Communities Regional Grant program identified eight mandatory outcomes for the Project:

1. Create regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans that are deeply aligned and tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans;
2. Align federal planning and investment resources that mirror the local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable communities;
3. Increase participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long-range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes;
4. Reduce social and economic disparities for the low-income, minority communities and other disadvantaged populations within the region;
5. Decrease per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and transportation-related emissions for the region;
6. Decrease the overall combined housing and transportation costs per household;
7. Increase the share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites that encourages revitalization, while minimizing displacement in neighborhoods with significant disadvantaged populations; and,
8. Increase the proportion of low- and very low-income households within a 30 minute transit commute to major employment centers;

Consortium members identified the following goals during the grant application process:

9. Increased number of mixed use and racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods with walkable and/or transit access to services (grocery, bank, retail), good jobs, good schools, park, and trails;
10. Improved public health outcomes that results from creating safer, more walkable neighborhoods;
11. Increased use of compact development as a tool for regional planning to accommodate population growth, to utilize infrastructure efficiently, and to preserve agricultural land and natural areas for environmental and recreational purposes;
12. Decreased hazardous environmental threats due to regional increases in the rate and frequency of flooding; erosion; and, compromised water quality; and,
13. Enhanced regional competitiveness through coordinated regional economic development and amenity planning;

The majority of the grant funding (approximately \$1,400,000) will be utilized to contract a planning

consultant to complete the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The MPO has assumed all grantee obligations under a Cooperative Agreement with HUD effective February 15, 2011.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: May 9, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-0794](#)

Action: [Memorandum](#) of Understanding with Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for advance of funds in conjunction with HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. ([Council Communication No. 11-282](#)) **Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.**

Date: August 9, 2010

Roll Call Number: [10-1334](#)

Action: [Authorization](#) to collaborate in Multi-Jurisdictional Application for a Federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Application sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), up to \$5,000,000. ([Council Communication No. 10-503](#)) **Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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