

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9: U.S. HUD SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS PROGRAM

SUBJECT:

The federal Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture and Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have developed the *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program*, to support regional planning initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced its intention to offer competitive grant funding through the new *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program*. The Program, funded at \$100 million (with an additional \$40 million for a Community Planning Challenge Grants Program), is to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, economic development, and transportation decision-making in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic growth, social equity, and environmental impact simultaneously. Grants will be capped at a maximum of \$2 million for entities of small metropolitan or rural areas (under 500,000 population) and \$5 million for large metropolitan area entities (500,000+ population). HUD's formal Request for Proposals is expected to be released during the week of May 14, 2010 with proposals due to HUD by June 5, 2010, with grants announced by August 2, 2010.

The staffs of the HRPDC and the HRTPO are working to formulate a project proposal for application to this grant program ahead of HUD's release of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The current concept involves a regional effort consisting of the HRPDC as the lead entity, member localities, and regional partners to draft a regional development framework. The goal of the regional development framework would be to improve the regional integration of local plans, accounting for initiatives within different livability areas including transportation, housing, environment, land use, and other applicable areas of interest; to address gaps in the recently approved Vision Hampton Roads; and to provide technical supporting information for local government planning initiatives. The HRPDC intends to convene a Working Group of local Planning Directors or their designees and other local government staff to assist in this effort.

HRPDC Deputy Executive Director John Carlock will brief the Commission on this initiative.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a regional proposal for funding under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program and to accept a grant if offered.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The proposal has been discussed in concept with the HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee, the HRTPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and a subgroup of local comprehensive planners from several of the Southside Hampton Roads localities.