

In June 2012, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) celebrated its third anniversary. There were several events to mark the milestone, including a forum at the White House with more than 50 local government and business leaders to discuss how to best integrate the administration's sustainability efforts with job creation. The Partnership also released an accomplishments report (<u>Partnership Three Years Helping Communities Achieve Their Visions for Growth and Prosperity</u>), and launched a <u>case study database</u> that includes many of the case studies from the report as well as others developed by the partner agencies.

Some regional engagement milestones and successes between April and June, 2012 include:

Communicating Successes

Regional offices continue to document success and assist grantees with measuring and documenting progress. Region 1 HUD presented a workshop on defining and measuring social equity impacts of grantee activities in rural communities. Region 2 is closely tracking the activities of grantees to be able to share best practices as the grants near completion. In Region 4, staff has been very engaged in a 2010 regional planning grant in North Carolina which covers a five-county region. The region includes Asheville, which the Sierra Nevada Brewing company has selected has the location of its new brewery, largely on the basis of the region's focus on sustainable land use, and social, environmental and economic stewardship.

Coordinating Policies and Programs

Regional offices have been working hard to improve communication and coordination amongst Federal agencies. Region 7 staff adopted a "Project Identification Strategy" to assist with project implementation. It includes specific criteria to identify potential Partnership projects and help accomplish key goals. Region 9 staff are working on updating the HUD and DOT paper, "Federal Barriers to Local Housing and Transportation Coordination," and beginning to identify ways to address some of the barriers already identified. Region 10 staff presented a webinar on coordinating federal investments for tribal smart growth and green building, highlighting the Interagency Newtok Planning Group working with the Native Village of Newtok in Alaska.

Supporting Communities

Regional offices participated in most of the 47 Building Blocks technical assistance workshops held this quarter. HUD and EPA staff in several regions continue to partner on issues related to health, including community gardening, healthy homes, and children's environmental health. In Region 3, the FHWA DelMar Division continued to work with state DOT partners to incorporate livability and sustainability elements into NEPA documents. In Delaware these include the West Dover Connector EA, Clarence Street Extended EA, and Christina River Crossing EA. In Region 5, EPA and HUD convened a workshop on "Retooling Infrastructure as a Strategy to Advance an Older Industrial City's Future Vision" in Detroit, MI. In Region 6, HUD staff toured the Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, TX, and continued to participate in discussions of how to link housing, transportation, and economic development in the cities closely tied to the base. Region 8 staff participated in the "2040 Kickoff" and Scenario Planning workshop and peer exchange in Denver, CO, which addressed how to best use scenario planning tools for decision making and

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q2



Region 1 – Held several trainings and seminars throughout the region in the geographic focus areas, on topics including Complete Streets, parking needs assessment, scenario planning and value capture. FEMA recently joined the Partnership and hosted an open house, discussing how FEMA integrates Climate Change/Adaptation/Coastal Planning and Sustainable Communities into its operations and how it implements its goal of advancing disaster resilient and sustainable communities.

Region 2 – HUD and EPA hosted a workshop on encouraging community gardens in low-income and senior housing projects. Regional staff are also working hard to complete an inter-agency cross-training that enables each member to represent all of the agencies' concepts/ideas/goals, and develops a workplan and workgroups to address livability initiatives.

Region 3 – In May, all Partners- HUD, EPA and DOT participated in an on-site meeting and site visit in Wilmington, DE, regarding the Christina River Bridge Project. The project will provide additional access to the redeveloped Riverfront area of Wilmington and has stimulated significant commercial and residential development. The project is expected to support improved transit service, access to nearby HUD-funded housing, and continued cleanup and redevelopment efforts in this former industrial area.

Region 4 – Continued support to the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) in the Greensboro, NC, area. To date, 38 organizations have pledged to support the Regional Planning grant, and the website is well used. PART delivered a series of forums across the 12-county region, focusing on future land use and development, alternative growth scenarios, and prioritizing infrastructure needs.

Region 5 – DOT, HUD, and EPA hosted a two-day Regional Symposium, attended by over 100 local and regional community planning and development professionals. Highlights included small group discussions with federal agency staff and workshops on a variety of topics selected by grantees.

Region 6 – HUD participated in the MetroPlan Reg. Planning Advisory Com't meeting on health, transportation, and community design in North Little Rock, AR. The meeting included a neighborhood scavenger hunt to identify related sustainable design elements, and discussion of obesity and efforts to promote walkability. EPA sponsored a walk audit in the Showcase Community of Port Authur Texas.

Region 7 – In Joplin, MO, EPA is liaison for efforts related to long-term disaster recovery and coordinating with FEMA, USDA and other partners.

Region 8 –The Tapiz at Mariposa project was honored by the Downtown Denver Partnership in June 2012. The 1099 Osage apartment building was recognized for maintaining the economic and cultural diversity of the La Alma-Lincoln Park neighborhood; the first completed building is also adjacent to a transit station. The project has received Federal funds for brownfields cleanup, affordable housing, infrastructure charrettes, and technical assistance.

Region 9 – DOT and other Federal involvement helped to realign the future Fresno Bus Rapid Transit line to better serve downtown Fresno, including the Fulton Mall, which is the lynchpin of the City's downtown revitalization efforts and adjacent to the planned future high speed rail station site.

Region 10 – EPA and HUD met with HHS to explore opportunities for inter-agency collaboration around children's environmental health. Next steps will be to identify unifying themes and actions. Also, Partnership staff helped connect El Centro de la Raza with other grantees; El Centro has been awarded



\$100,000 from the Puget Sound Regional Council to support its proposed transit-oriented town center, with mixed-income housing, multicultural gathering space, and local businesses.

