

## TIGER Discretionary Grant Program:

# PLANNING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a new opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to promote exciting, transformative project planning, in addition to funding capital projects. Congress dedicated up to \$35 million for DOT in TIGER II and up to \$40 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Challenge Development Grant that the agencies combined to fund planning activities that support economic competitiveness, transportation choices and equitable, affordable housing in communities across the Nation. The highly competitive process for HUD/DOT joint planning grants, galvanized by tremendous applicant interest, allowed DOT and HUD to jointly fund 14 innovative planning projects that featured significant housing and transportation elements and DOT to fund 19 projects principally focused on transportation planning.

DOT, HUD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Partnership for Sustainable Communities to encourage interagency cooperation and ensure all three agencies best invest limited Federal resources in projects that are well-coordinated and planned. The Partnership for Sustainable communities established Six Livability Principles to guide collaboration and inform the joint planning grant process.

### Livability Principles

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies & investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.



*A well-developed plan to increase transportation choices and connect existing communities enabled the Northwest Arkansas Razorback Regional Greenway to win TIGER construction funding.*

### Focusing Economic Development

The broad, interagency scope of the joint planning grants enabled DOT and HUD, with assistance from EPA, to focus on planning projects with strong local and regional benefits across multiple public sector disciplines. In tough economic times, planning projects that focused on strengthening economic competitiveness by encouraging redevelopment where valuable infrastructure already exists made for particularly compelling investments.

Jersey City, NJ proposed a transformative 111-acre redevelopment of the Canal Crossing former industrial sites using EPA's LEED-Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) principles. DOT and HUD will jointly fund \$1.9 million of the \$2.8 million planning cost to anticipate redevelopment of over 30 brownfield sites, enabling Jersey City to prepare the area to support transit-oriented developments with a mix of businesses and housing. The redevelopment will establish links to the regional rail network and



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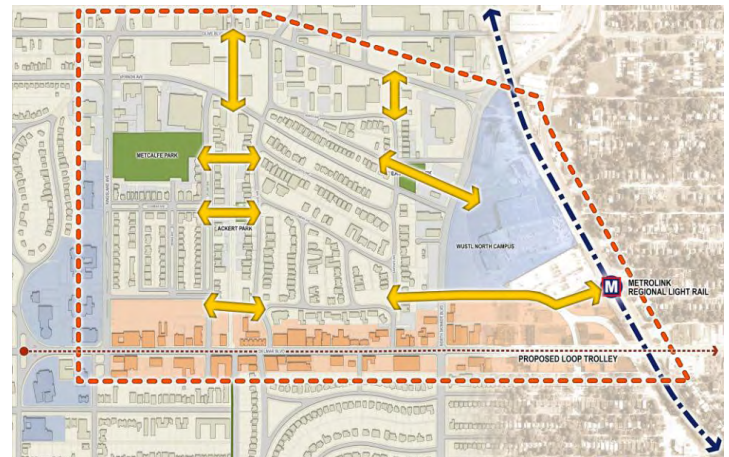


support affordable housing and transportation choices to strengthen the area's economic competitiveness and resident's access to jobs in a community experiencing high unemployment and poverty rates.

In Oakland, CA, DOT will fund planning activities for a massive redevelopment of 1,800 acres in support of significant community efforts to reuse the former Oakland Army Base. Oakland's Infrastructure Master Planning will direct utility and roadway improvements and also include Transit-Oriented Development around the West Oakland Station (the busiest on the Bay Area Rapid Transit line). DOT's \$2 million investment in support of the City's \$9 million planning project will enable Oakland to capitalize on the existing infrastructure left under-utilized by the base's 1999 closure and create more transportation options to link new housing and employment areas.

### Strengthening Connections

The tremendous response to HUD and DOT's joint planning grants revealed transformative planning projects with broad public support from areas across the nation. HUD and DOT will jointly fund University City, MO's plans to strengthen housing in the Parkview Gardens neighborhood along LEED-ND principles while also removing East-West walking and driving transportation barriers. The plans will also create connections to a new trolley line and the nearby light-rail station. The neighborhood's planning proposal featured significant local support from the City, Washington University, private companies and non-profit agencies and will develop



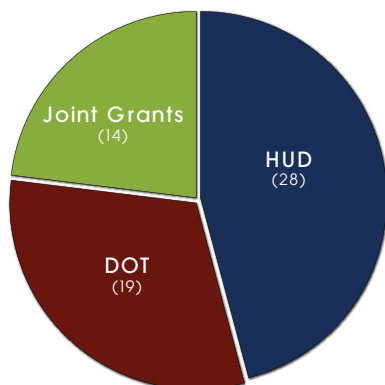
*University City's Parkview Gardens neighborhood will develop plans to increase connectivity across the neighborhood while improving affordable housing through LEED-Neighborhood Development*

best practice techniques and make them available to other communities in an innovative, user-friendly format.

Creating connections in support of existing communities goes beyond urban and suburban neighborhoods. TIGER planning funds will assist Penobscot County, ME in a wide-ranging study of regional transportation needs in rural Maine. The study will identify strategies to deliver broad and reliable transportation choices to rural communities. The study will particularly focus on aging and transit dependent populations but will also strengthen rural community links to regional employment centers, enrich quality of life and aid aging in place.

The TIGER and Community Challenge Planning grants provide the Partnership for Sustainable Communities with a tremendous opportunity to help communities across the Nation develop plans to connect equitable and affordable housing with employment centers and foster sustainable, cost effective redevelopment to ensure scarce community resources are invested as effectively as possible.

### Partnership for Sustainable Communities Planning Grants



U.S. Department of Transportation