

AGENDA REQUEST

ITEM NO.	VI-15
DATE:	4/13/10
REGULAR	()
PUBLIC HEARING	()
LEG.	()
QUASI-JD	()
CONSENT	(X)

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PRESENTED BY:
Roberta Breene *RAB*
Grants/Resource Developer

SUBMITTED BY: Grants/Disaster Recovery Department

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program

BACKGROUND: See attached memorandum.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: N/A.

PREVIOUS ACTION: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Board authorization to submit a letter (Attachment 1), Resolution No. 10-125 (Attachment 2) and a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 3) for the creation of a "Southeast Florida Partnership" and a joint grant application by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils to the to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

COMMISSION ACTION:

CONCURRENCE:

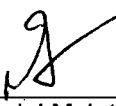
APPROVED () DENIED
() OTHER

Approved 5-0




Faye W. Outlaw, MPA
County Administrator

Coordination/Signatures

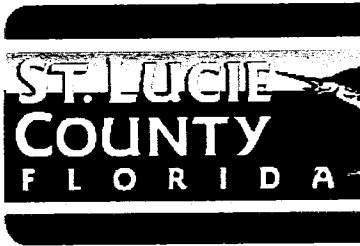
County Attorney (X) 

Daniel McIntyre

Originating Dept. (X) 

William Hoeffner

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Grants/Disaster Recovery

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: William Hoeffner *WHH*
Grants/Disaster Recovery Director

FROM: Roberta Breene *RAB*
Grants/Resource Developer

DATE: 4/13/2010

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program

ITEM NO. VI- 15

Background:

This requests Board authorization to submit a letter (Attachment 1), Resolution No. 10-125 (Attachment 2) and a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 3) for the creation of a "Southeast Florida Partnership" and a joint grant application by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils (Councils) have requested the Board's participation in, and support for, a joint regional application to the U.S. HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative that will be submitted by the Councils on the behalf of the many public, private, non-profit and other regional stakeholders from the seven-county region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to: water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies; local government; non-profits; academia; and private sector organizations. The purpose of submitting the application is to place the Southeast Florida Region in the best position possible to capture federal funds for critical infrastructure projects designed to improve the regions' sustainability.

A key component of the Sustainability Initiative is the development of a "Regional Plan for Sustainable development" for regions such as Southeast Florida that have many plans but lack a cohesive, integrated regional "vision" across issue area and jurisdictional boundaries. The program will provide up to \$5 million for large metropolitan regions to support the development of the Regional Plan. This Plan is expected to serve as the framework for future federal investment and support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other regional partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional vision and plan.

Recommendation:

Board authorization to submit a letter (Attachment 1), Resolution No. 10-125 (Attachment 2) and a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 3) for the creation of a "Southeast Florida Partnership" and a joint grant application by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program.

**BOARD OF
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



Attachment 1

CHARLES GRANDE

COMMISSIONER

April 13, 2010

The Honorable Samuel Ferreri, Chair
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994

The Honorable Joseph Scutto, Chair
South Florida Regional Planning Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Subject: Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative

Dear Chairman Ferreri and Chairman Scutto:

We wish to express our participation in, and support for, a joint, regional application to the U.S. HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program that will be submitted by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils (Councils) on the behalf of the many public, private, non-profit, and other regional stakeholders from the seven-county region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties.

At its regularly-scheduled Board meeting on April 13, 2010, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted the attached Resolution No.10-125 and Memorandum of Understanding directing the development of a comprehensive joint application for Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative funding. This application will be developed through a collaborative partnership of regional stakeholders including, but not limited to: water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies; local governments; non-profits; academia; and private sector organizations.

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Initiative is the development of a "Regional Plan for Sustainable Development" that will serve as the framework for the creation of a more sustainable region. We recognize the need for, and support the development of this multijurisdictional, regional plan and cohesive, integrated "vision" across issue areas and political boundaries in Southeast Florida.

We support your efforts and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Councils and other regional stakeholders in this important effort.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Grande, Chairman

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
Faye W. Outlaw, MPA, County Administrator
Lee Anne Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
Dan McIntyre, County Attorney
William Hoeffner, Grants/Disaster Recovery Director
Roberta Breene, Grants/Disaster Recovery

Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative

RESOLUTION #10-125

A RESOLUTION OF THE St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IN PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE JOINT APPLICATION UNDER THE FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE AND ESTABLISHING A WORKING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH APPROPRIATE WATER RESOURCE, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS, ACADEMIA, AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new partnership to regionally coordinate federal housing, environmental protection, and transportation planning and investment; and

WHEREAS, this new partnership is looking to multidisciplinary regional councils of government to identify and coordinate regional strategies that:

- Provide a regional vision or plan for sustainable growth
- Integrate housing, water infrastructure, transportation, land use planning and investment
- Address energy efficiency
- Address the impacts of climate change through the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Foster compatibility of sustainable built systems with restoration of the Florida Everglades
- Promote the creation of equitable, sustainable communities
- Promote environmental protection and restoration
- Redevelop underutilized sites
- Leverage federal investment in existing communities
- Promote equitable affordable housing
- Increase economic competitiveness
- Invest in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban

WHEREAS, there is a clear understanding that the Sustainable Communities Initiative program is designed to establish a comprehensive regional plan or vision identifying critical projects and infrastructure to improve the Region's sustainability and to be used as a guide by federal funding agencies to prioritize and focus future federal investment; and

WHEREAS, any application for funding under the Sustainable Communities Initiative should be prepared in consultation with the appropriate water resource, housing, environmental, and transportation agencies, local governments, nonprofits, academia, and private sector organizations; and should include a formalized agreement among these entities to work cooperatively on the application and funded project; and

WHEREAS, the regional planning councils of Southeast Florida should commit the resources necessary within the limits of its budget and work program to prepare and submit a successful joint application under the Sustainable Communities Initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lucie County, Florida Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council in preparing a comprehensive joint application for the Sustainable Communities Initiative funding; and the establishment of a working partnership agreement with appropriate water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies, local governments, nonprofits, academia, and private sector organizations to collaborate on the application and the funded project.

DULY ADOPTED by the St. Lucie County, Florida Board of County Commissioners this 13th day of April, 2010.

Signature

Signature

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGION**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a mutual understanding in support of the signatory agencies, organizations, governments, and individuals that will be working in cooperation to: 1) prepare a successful Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) grant application; and 2) complete the work funded under the SCI grant.

II. Background

On June 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joined with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. A set of guiding livability principles and a federal interagency partnership agreement is intended to guide their efforts in coordinating federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments designed to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change.

Congress provided a total of \$150,000,000 to U.S. HUD for the SCI program to encourage regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase State, regional and local capacity to incorporate livability, sustainability and social equity principles into land use and zoning. From that total amount, \$100,000,000 is being made available to encourage metropolitan regions to develop integrated regional plans that articulate a vision for growth that federal housing, transportation and other federal investments can support.

More importantly, the three federal agencies have made a commitment to utilize the integrated regional plans or visions to guide their planning and funding decision-making. Funding to these metropolitan regions would generally be directed towards programs and projects identified in “Regional Plans for Sustainability” aimed at increasing transportation choices, reducing combined housing and transportation costs for American families, improving the quality of life in communities, and improving the natural and built environment.

III. Agreement

Whereas, there is a recognized need among the signatories for a coordinated, collaborative regional effort to prepare and carry out a successful SCI grant application and work program; and

Whereas, an SCI grant application and work program will be prepared and managed by the Treasure Coast and South Florida Regional Planning Councils in cooperation with the MOU signatories, including, but not limited to, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, with the intent of establishing a comprehensive regional plan or vision identifying critical projects and infrastructure to: 1) improve the Region’s sustainability; and 2) assist and guide federal funding agencies in prioritizing and focusing future federal investment in Southeast Florida; and

Whereas, the signatories agree to the best of their abilities and within the limits of their budgets to work cooperatively on the grant application and funded project; and

Whereas, any private sector organization, non-profit, academic or research institution, philanthropic partner, community organization, governmental entity, individual, or intermediary agency that bears responsibility for or has an interest in the sustainable development and redevelopment of Southeast Florida may be a partner and signatory to this MOU; and

Whereas, each of the signatories to this MOU understands urban redevelopment and the promotion of infill development in Southeast Florida represents environmental, transportation, social, and economic and community development strategies for restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and advancing the goals of the federal SCI program; and

Whereas, each of the signatories to this MOU is committed to following the Livability Principles relating to the sustainable development and redevelopment of Southeast Florida:

1. **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable and economic transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location-and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility, and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.
4. **Support existing communities.** Target funding toward existing communities through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.
5. **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.** Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban.

7. **Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of Climate Change.** Enhance community resiliency to the impacts of climate change through the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Whereas, any regional plan document developed under the SCI grant will support these Livability Principles and should, to the greatest extent possible and where appropriate, be built upon the foundation of work that has been accomplished and undertaken in the region where existing plans, partnerships, and processes enhance regional planning, coordination and efficiency, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort and responsibilities, and add clarity and accountability to implementation processes.

Now, Therefore, this MOU is established to create a framework for coordinating efforts related to the preparation of a successful SCI grant application and successfully completing the work funded under the SCI grant.

IV. Programming, Budgeting, Funding and Reimbursement Arrangement

- a. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any transfer of funds between parties may take place through existing authorities and procedures.
- b. Generally, any endeavor involving the transfer of funds will follow normal procurement or other appropriate processes and will be affected in writing by representatives of the organizations involved.
- c. This MOU in no way restricts the signatories from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities or agencies.

- d. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the signatories to expend appropriations, obligate funds or enter into any contract or other agreement.

V. Effective Date

This MOU will become effective upon signature by any two parties. Any Party may terminate its participation in this MOU upon written notice to the other Parties. The provisions of the MOU will be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, and amended or supplemented as may be mutually agreed upon.

VI. Other Memorandum of Understandings

There are no superseding MOUs on this topic among the Parties hereto.

VII. Signatures

This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party has signed this five-page agreement on a separate page. The original signature pages are on file at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021; (954) 985-4416.

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGION**

By my signature below, my organization/agency becomes a signatory to the Sustainable Communities Initiative Memorandum of Understanding for the Southeast Florida Region, dated April 13, 2010. I understand that the MOU will be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. This original signature page will be kept on file at the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Signature

Charles Grande, Chairman
Typed Name and Title

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
Organization/Agency

April 13, 2010
Date

Please return to:

South Florida Regional Planning Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, Florida 33021