

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

### **ITEM #12: HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANTS PROGRAM**

#### **SUBJECT:**

HRPDC Proposal Concept for HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released an advance notice to announce its intention to offer competitive grant funding through its Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program [SCRPG) Program. The Program, funded at \$67 million, 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 limited by population; large metropolitan areas (regions with over 500,000 residents) will be eligible for between \$1 million and \$5 million. Pre-Applications, currently being solicited by HUD, are due July 21, 2011.

The NOFA outlines the application structure, program expectations, and the expected final product from the grantee. The SCRPG Program includes funding for two categories: Regional Plans for Sustainable Development and implementation plans for existing Regional Plans for Sustainable Development. The program also details the required 'consortium' of regional partners that will need to be engaged in this endeavor. Among the partners required in the consortium are the regional planning agency, regional MPO, regional principal city, member localities to represent a minimum of half of the regional population, and a regional nonprofit organization, foundation, or educational institution that has the capacity to engage a diverse representation of the general population. Other regional partners such as transit agencies and housing authorities are suggested and encouraged to be involved in the regional consortium, per the information outlined in the NOFA.

The HRPDC staff is working with local government representatives to develop a project proposal for application to this grant program. The current concept envisions a regional effort consisting of the HRPDC as the lead entity working with HRTPO, member localities, and regional partners to develop 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 as outlined in the NOFA as well as establish a Consortium of Partners that have the capacity and experience to carry out the proposed activities. The evolving proposal refines and enhances the proposal that was submitted in fiscal year 2011, approved by the Commission on July 21, 2010.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant application to HUD and accept a grant award if offered.