

Agenda Item Number 14.d.

Sustainable Communities Grant

Presenter: Andrea Riner

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background

In October, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the award of \$1,450,000 to Lane Council of Governments for the *Lane Livability Consortium: SMART Communities Project*. The award was made under HUD's new Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program that was funded for the first time this year. LCOG was one of just 45 organizations receiving awards, competitively selected from a pool of more than 1,000 communities from across the country. Based on feedback from HUD representatives, our region's history of successful regional partnerships weighed very heavily in our selection.

Lane Council of Governments submitted the grant application in August 2010 on behalf of ten economic development, transportation, land use, housing and social service agencies in our region, including:

- The Cities of Springfield and Eugene;
- Lane County;
- Housing And Community Services Agency (HACSA);
- St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County;
- Lane Transit District (LTD);
- University of Oregon Sustainable Cities Initiative;
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
- Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization; and
- Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)

These regional stakeholders form the ***Lane Livability Consortium***, an interdisciplinary Consortium that will be the primary mechanism for advancing sustainability. The Consortium hopes to add additional jurisdictions and interests as partners throughout the 3-year project. Project components include facilitating comprehensive, inclusive public engagement; establishing a baseline for sustainability; building organizational capacity; and identifying a process to make more strategic regional investments in support of sustainability primarily in the areas of housing, transportation and economic development. Recognizing the connectedness between individual agencies' focus

areas and the need for better coordination among jurisdictions addressing sustainability, the Consortium will collaborate with a focus on providing affordable housing, expanding regional transportation choices within a region-wide economic development strategy.

Attachment 1 provides an overview of the project, including the Consortium's working definition of sustainability, the project purpose statement, a list of key program areas and preliminary goals and a timeline.

For additional information

Please contact Andrea Riner at ariner@lcog.org or by phone at (541) 682-6215.

Attachments

1. SMART Communities Project Overview