

**C** Community Development Committee  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 27, 2011

Item: 2011-110

**Date** April 19, 2011  
**Prepared:**  
**Subject:** Authorization to Negotiate and Execute HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Sub-recipient Agreements

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Sub-recipient Agreements with 9 consortium partners of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG), totaling \$2,823,000.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

The only question about this business item pertained to how the various projects and partners were selected. Staff answered that this process was led by the Policy Board, and took place during the application development phase in 2010. Policy Board members had a dialogue with their senior staff and others to determine which projects should be included. The projects that were identified and included in the proposal were the ones that were subsequently funded by HUD.

The Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Sub-recipient Agreements with 9 consortium partners of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG), totaling \$2,823,000.

**Meeting date: April 18, 2011**

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	April 13, 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	Authorization to Negotiate and Execute HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Sub-recipient Agreements
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	MN Statutes 473.145, Regional Framework Policies 1, 2, 3
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Allison Brummel, Project Manager, Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, 651 602-1363
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development/Planning and Growth Management

### **Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Sub-recipient Agreements with 9 consortium partners of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG), totaling \$2,823,000.

### **Background**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117) provided funding for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning. HUD's grant is part of a federal partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Transportation, its Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The program made available approximately \$100 million for competitive SCRPGs.

In August 2010 the Metropolitan Council applied for the program on behalf of a regional consortium that includes Minnesota Housing, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the McKnight Foundation. This consortium is governed by a Policy Board comprised of representatives from the organizations that are not only partnering on the SCRPG but also on the implementation of the Living Cities initiative, which is also funded from 2011 through 2013. Together, the SCRPG and the Living Cities initiative comprise an over-arching effort called "Corridors of Opportunity" (see Appendix 1 for a list of Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board members).

In the SCRPG application to HUD, funding allocations and project components were the product of decisions by this Policy Board. Last fall, the Metropolitan Council was awarded a \$5 million grant which, with the help of local leveraging resources, will support planning along the region's network of transit corridors. Nationally, only 45 of the 225 applicants received funding.

In December 2010 the Metropolitan Council authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Grant Agreement with HUD for the \$5 million grant. The Regional Administrator and HUD signed the fully negotiated agreement with an effective date of February 1, 2011.

The SCRPG will run for three years, ending in January 2014. It will enable the Council, the consortium and its local partners to support voluntary comprehensive development strategies for five transitway corridors –Southwest LRT, Bottineau Transitway, Cedar Avenue BRT, Northstar Commuter Rail, and Gateway Corridor—and support local communities to

implement corridor strategies. The grant will address economic/workforce development, alternative energy systems, housing energy efficiency/affordability, stormwater and green infrastructure in the Central Corridor. The grant will also support technical studies and data collection in the corridors.

In all, the SCRPG includes 21 separate but integrated projects intended to serve as models for use throughout the region (see Appendix 2 for a full list of the SCRPG projects). 15 of these 21 projects will be managed by consortium partner agencies, with strong involvement of the Metropolitan Council as the primary grantee (the remaining 6 projects will be managed directly by the Metropolitan Council). As the table below indicates, these 15 projects will be managed by 9 sub-recipient organizations. The projects comprise \$2,823,000 of the overall \$5 million grant.

	<b>SCRPG Sub-recipient Organization</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	Minnesota Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving Energy Efficiency in Multifamily Rental Housing</li> <li>• Further Fair Housing</li> <li>• Enhance HousingLink Services</li> <li>• Location-Efficient and Energy-Efficient Mortgage Products</li> </ul>	\$280,000
2.	Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program of Projects</li> </ul>	\$150,000
3.	Hennepin County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwest LRT Community Works</li> <li>• Bottineau Transitway TOD Strategy</li> </ul>	\$950,000
4.	University of Minnesota – Humphrey School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corridors of Opportunity Evaluation</li> <li>• Research on System-Level, Transit-Oriented Jobs-Housing Balance</li> </ul>	\$175,000
5.	Ramsey County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateway Corridor Analysis of Ridership Opportunities and Issues</li> <li>• Jobs Central: An Employment &amp; Workforce Cluster Project on Central Corridor</li> </ul>	\$403,000
6.	City of Apple Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Ave. BRT Market &amp; Development Standards Study</li> </ul>	\$200,000
7.	Northstar Corridor Development Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northstar Commuter Rail TOD Strategy</li> </ul>	\$145,000
8.	City of Saint Paul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Corridor: Stormwater &amp; Green Infrastructure Planning</li> </ul>	\$370,000
9.	District Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit Corridors: Alternative Energy Models</li> </ul>	\$150,000
			<b>\$2,823,000</b>

## Rationale

The SCRPG will enable the Council and communities to build on existing planning efforts to advance multi-modal transportation choices, promote affordable housing with access to jobs, transit- and pedestrian-friendly development, environmental preservation and energy efficiency.

## **Funding**

HUD has granted \$5 million to the Council on behalf of the Consortium and communities to promote sustainable communities throughout the region.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Over 30 communities and organizations submitted letters to the Council in support of this grant. Many local philanthropic organizations such as McKnight Foundation are supportive of this grant. There is no known opposition to the grant.

## Appendix 1: Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board Members

- Susan Haigh, Chair, Metropolitan Council, *Policy Board Chair*
- Lee Sheehy, Director, Regions & Communities Program, the McKnight Foundation, *Policy Board Chair*
- Andriana Abariotes, Executive Director, Twin Cities LISC
- Jay Cowles, Itasca Project
- Caren Dewar, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute of Minnesota
- Tom Fulton, President and CEO, Family Housing Fund
- Jim McDonough, Commissioner, Ramsey County
- Laurie McGinnis, Director, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota, *ex officio* representative of the Sustainable Communities Data and Evaluation Team
- Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County
- Repa Mekha, Executive Director, Nexus Community Partners, Representative of the Community Engagement Team
- Ann Mulholland, VP of Grants and Program, the Saint Paul Foundation
- Becky Rom, President and CEO, Twin Cities Community Land Bank
- Jim Roth, Executive Director, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
- Mayor R.T. Rybak, Minneapolis
- Jonathan Sage-Martinson, Director, Central Corridor Funders Collaborative
- Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, Dakota County, representing Counties Transit Improvement Board
- Mihailo “Mike” Temali, President and CEO, Neighborhood Development Center
- Commissioner Mary Tingerthal, Minnesota Housing
- Mayor Tyra-Lukens, Eden Prairie
- Deputy Mayor Paul Williams, Saint Paul
- Charlie Zelle, Itasca Project

## Appendix 2: List of SCRPG Projects

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Sub-Recipient</b>	<b>Ultimate Recipient(s)</b>
<b>1</b>	Community Engagement and Outreach	\$750,000	Managed by Metropolitan Council	TBD
<b>2</b>	Scenario and Visualization Tools	\$153,419	(None)	Consultants
<b>3</b>	Corridors of Opportunity Evaluation	\$75,000	U of MN (CURA, CTS)	U of MN
<b>4</b>	Convene Collaborating Partners	\$0	Managed by Metropolitan Council	(None)
<b>5</b>	Local Implementation Capacity	\$953,000	Managed by Metropolitan Council	Eligible cities
<b>6</b>	Program of Projects	\$150,000	CTIB	Consultants
<b>7</b>	Southwest LRT Community Works	\$800,000	Hennepin County	Hennepin County and Consultants
<b>8</b>	Bottineau Transitway	\$150,000	Hennepin County	Consultants
<b>9</b>	Gateway Corridor Analysis of Ridership Opportunities and Issues	\$150,000	Ramsey County	Ramsey County and possibly consultants
<b>10</b>	Cedar Ave. BRT Market & Development Standards Study	\$200,000	Apple Valley	Consultants
<b>11</b>	Northstar Commuter Rail Transit-Oriented Development Strategy	\$125,000	Northstar Corr Devt Auth	Consultants
<b>12</b>	Jobs Central: An Employment & Workforce Cluster Project on Central Corridor	\$247,000	Ramsey County	DEED, Ramsey County, Consultants
<b>13</b>	Transit Corridors: Alternative Energy Models	\$150,000	District Energy	District Energy
<b>14</b>	Improving Energy Efficiency in Multifamily Rental Housing	\$20,000	Minnesota Housing	Consultant
<b>15</b>	Central Corridor: Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Planning	\$370,000	City of Saint Paul	City of Saint Paul
<b>16</b>	Further Fair Housing	\$100,000	Minnesota Housing	Consultant
<b>17</b>	Enhance HousingLink Services	\$100,000	Minnesota Housing	Consultant
<b>18</b>	Location Efficient and Energy Efficient Mortgage Products	\$60,000	Minnesota Housing	Consultant
<b>19</b>	Research on How to Achieve System-Level Jobs-Housing Balance	\$100,000	U of MN (CURA, CTS)	U of MN
<b>20</b>	Local Implementation of Preferred Sustainability Status	\$0	Managed by Metropolitan Council	(None)
<b>21</b>	Regional Plan for Sustainable Development	\$0	Managed by Metropolitan Council	(None)