

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q1



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continued their collective efforts to help communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. Regional milestones and successes for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) between January and March 2014 include:

Communicating Successes

Region 5 EPA and HUD staff have begun to develop place-based performance metrics. Once finalized, these metrics will demonstrate the impact of PSC place-based community initiatives. While northwest Indiana will pilot the metrics initially, they are designed such that other communities and regions may tailor them for their own purposes.

Coordinating Policies and Programs

In Region 10, the Washington State DOT and the FHWA Washington Division Office saved money and time by combining Federal resources from FHWA and HUD in support of a roadway reconstruction project in the city of Sultan. These savings were possible because of the [Livability Initiative Under Special Experimental Project Number 14 \(SEP-14\)](#), which allows States to request approval to bypass FHWA contracting requirements in favor of HUD's requirements for jointly funded livability and sustainability projects. The purpose of SEP-14 is to assess: the effectiveness of using HUD funding for highway projects, the impact on competition whenever HUD's requirements are used on a project funded jointly by FHWA and HUD, and the extent to which the alignment of contracting requirements promotes livability. Agencies may use this strategy for any eligible project that is too complex to split into multiple contracts. In Region 5 HUD, DOT, and EPA have continued their collaborative effort around the Opportunity Corridor. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Ohio DOT jointly devised a grant program for capturing Opportunity Corridor roadway runoff through green infrastructure projects instead of through traditional gray infrastructure. This program illustrates how intergovernmental infrastructure coordination can lead to better project delivery for local residents.

Supporting Communities

The regional partnerships are supporting the implementation of local and regional plans. For example, Region 8 is supporting plans for the West Corridor Line's Sheridan Station in Denver, Colorado. In January, Federal agencies joined the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel to discuss financing mechanisms and related legal structures to fund needed infrastructure for new vertical development in the Sheridan Station Area.



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Region 1 – Continued assistance to communities in preparing for natural hazards and the impacts of climate change as part of the Region 1 Resiliency Workgroup.

Region 2 – FHWA, HUD, and state and local partners are working to improve the long term resilience of the region's transportation system. They are analyzing impacts of recent storms on transportation infrastructure; conducting a gap analysis and identifying lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy; developing a region-wide, multi-modal transportation vulnerability assessment; and conducting engineering assessments of asset resilience options.

Region 3 – Collaborated with Cumberland County, the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Authority, the city of Carlisle, and other stakeholders on the development of a strategy to advance and implement the recommended actions laid out in its emerging EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Plan. The discussion focused on ways to coordinate brownfields redevelopment with other community and economic development projects.

Region 4 – Collaborated with regional and local staff to present a pre-workshop session, “Federal Sustainable Resources for Small Cities, Towns, and Neighborhoods” at the 2014 Memphis Neighborhood Redevelopment Conference.

Region 5 – General Services Administration, HUD, and EPA provided a free training webinar on how to use EPA’s [Energy Star “Portfolio Manager”](#) tool to benchmark utility costs of multifamily properties. HUD’s Office of Public Housing now uses the tool.

Region 6 – Collaborated with state and local stakeholders on the Central New Mexico Climate Change Scenario Planning Project. The team is exploring the impacts of growth, water scarcity, heat waves, wildfires, and extreme weather events.

Region 7 – Hosted Spring Community Toolbox Meetings in six locations throughout the Flint Hills, Kansas region to present best practices and tools and help communities advance from vision and goals to implementation.

Region 8 – Joined FEMA to explore the use of a scenario planning tool for calculating potential future impacts of different development patterns. PSC agencies are already using scenario planning tools, which allow the public to make informed decisions about how they would like to see their community grow and evolve.

Region 9 – Networked with Hawaii grantees to align national initiatives, resources, and tools with local programs, such as [Hawaii B-cycle](#), [Pacific Risk Management ‘Ohana](#), and [Honolulu Age-Friendly City](#). The Partners are exploring emerging trends and working collaboratively on actionable solutions.

Region 10 – Partnership staff participated in the Idaho Rural Partnership’s Community Review for Aberdeen, Idaho. The review focused on economic development, infrastructure, and downtown revitalization.

