

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q4



Regional milestones and successes between October and December, 2012 include:

Communicating Successes

Region 10 FHWA Idaho Division continued to sponsor a “Livable Idaho” webinar series. The webinars occur bi-monthly, and each instance showcases a different Idaho community that presents a project or process they have used to achieve Livability goals. In Region 4 the HUD and DOT-funded Community Challenge project, “Connections,” supports sustainability initiatives in Greenville, South Carolina. Connections staff are sharing information through a website, webinars, and a project newsletter, and these are serving as a model for a number of communities that are considering transportation options, infill, and neighborhood development, including High Point, North Carolina and Macon, Georgia.

Coordinating Policies and Programs

Region 2 EPA, FHWA, FTA, and HUD staff met with key members of the Together North Jersey Consortium, a 2011 HUD Regional Planning Grantee, to coordinate Federal and State resources in support of the Regional Planning grant. Region 5 invited the US Department of Energy (DOE) to begin participating in PSC activities. Region 8 participated in the National Prevention Strategy efforts led by the US Department of Health and Human Services in order to mobilize Federal resources in support of health and livability issues. Region 9 California High-Speed Rail Sustainability Workgroup developed a detailed work plan for the next two years, with commitments to specific activities by each of the member agencies.

Supporting Communities

Region 1 EPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FHWA, and HUD participated in a site visit for a post-Tropical Storm Irene disaster resiliency project funded by EPA (through the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program) and by FEMA. The Vermont state lead for the project is the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Region 3 continues to support community redevelopment efforts as part of the White House’s Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative in Chester, PA. EPA is also working with local stakeholders to examine the effects of climate change to this coastal community and to begin climate adaptation planning.



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Region 1 –Held an all-grantee conference in Amherst, MA. The event attracted 97 attendees including grantees that received PSC funding from four different Federal agencies as well as officials from municipal, state, and Federal agencies throughout New England. The conference agenda focused on defining social equity and meeting the future measurement and implementation challenges of sustainable communities planning and development work.

Region 2 –EPA, FHWA, FTA, and HUD staff met with key members of the Together North Jersey Consortium, a 2011 HUD Regional Planning Grantee, to coordinate Federal and State resources in support of the Regional Planning grant.

Region 3 –FHWA has sponsored several meetings with the borough of Marietta, PA to advance their action plan that resulted from an EPA Building Blocks workshop. Top priorities are economic vitality, rehabilitation of historic buildings, walkability, tax-base retention (and attraction), and soundscapes (due to an active rail line). FHWA has developed a “Hurdles to Success” worksheet to help guide the Borough in next steps.

Region 4 – HUD, EPA, DOT, and the state of North Carolina supported the 2012 Piedmont Livable Communities Summit held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on October 25, 2012.

Region 5 – Conducted bi-annual conference calls in November, in which grantees provided a status update on their planning initiatives. The calls facilitated information exchange and connected grantees with similar initiatives.

Region 6 – FTA, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (HUD grantee), EPA, and the city of Austin delivered panel presentations during a livability session at the Texas chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) annual conference held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Region 8 – The Oglala Sustainability Plan and grant recipients were recognized by President Obama at the 2012 White House Tribal Nations Summit “Day by day, family by family, community by community.”

Region 9 – HUD and EPA joined the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program Center at the Smart Growth in Hawaii Conference to share best available smart growth practices and to assist community partners in identifying challenges to re-development and implementing smart growth principles in Hawaii.

Region 10 –HUD, FTA, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) met with the nonprofit Forterra (which holds HUD Preferred Sustainability Status and is an EPA Building Blocks grantee) to discuss opportunities for collaboration on Washington State's rural Olympic Peninsula. This was also an important meeting for engaging new partners (USDA-RD and EDA) in the work of the Partnership.

