Livable and Sustainable Communities: The Federal Perspective

Rick Krochalis, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Livable Communities Have Transportation Options
Livable Communities Have Housing Options
Livable Communities Have Options That Best Fit Their Citizens’ Needs
“For too long, federal policy has actually encouraged sprawl and congestion and pollution, rather than quality public transportation and smart, sustainable development…

And that's why we've created a new interagency partnership on sustainable communities, led by Shaun Donovan, Ray LaHood and Lisa Jackson. And by working together, their agencies can make sure that when it comes to development -- housing, transportation, energy efficiency -- these things aren't mutually exclusive; they go hand in hand. And that means making sure that affordable housing exists in close proximity to jobs and transportation. That means encouraging shorter travel times and lower travel costs. It means safer, greener, more livable communities.”

-- President Barack Obama
Six Partnership Principles

Provide more transportation choices

Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices

Improve economic competitiveness of neighborhoods by giving people reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, and other basic services.

Target Federal funding toward existing communities – through transit-oriented development and place-based policies

Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the effectiveness of existing programs.

Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities, whether rural, suburban or urban.
Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Near Term Priorities

- Respond to recommendations made by stakeholders
- Align funding opportunities across DOT, HUD and EPA
- Build regional capacity and collaboration between agency field offices
- Make visible progress coordinating federal planning requirements for housing, transportation, air quality, and water infrastructure.
FY 2010 Livability Funding Opportunities

**US HUD**
- Sustainable Community Planning Grants ($100 m)
- Sustainable Community Challenge Grants ($40 m)

**US DOT**
- TIGER I ($1.5b)
- TIGER II ($600m)
  - Capital
  - Planning
- Urban Circulator ($135 m)
- Bus Livability ($150+ m)
- Alternatives Analysis ($25.7m)
- TCSP ($3.5 m)

**US EPA**
- Smart Growth Technical Assistance
- Sustainable Communities Brownfields Pilots
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund Pilots
- Targeted Watershed Grants ($600 m)
Multi-modal Planning Model: Bellevue’s Bel-Red Corridor
A Legal Highway
“The pedestrian is the indicator species for a healthy, vibrant community”
Union Street Rail Road Bridge in Salem

- Union St RR Bridge Converted to Pedestrian/Bike Path
MAUPIN Main Street Project

- Local Sidewalk Project expanded with Recovery Act Funding
- City Tourism, Livability and Economic Development served

BEFORE

AFTER
Local Multi-Modal Planning

- ODOT/DLCD/FHWA
- Support Local Multi-Modal Community based Planning
- Light rail extension from Portland in development
Responding to Increasing Demand for Bicycle Usage
Everett Station, WA

- Local and regional bus service
- Sounder Commuter Rail
- Amtrak
- Greyhound bus service
- Taxi services
Sequim Transit Center
Portland State University
College Station Housing
Korean Woman’s Association Senior Housing in Federal Way, WA
Linking Transit to Economic Development

- Target Transit Stations
- Identify partners
- Conduct feasibility studies
- Finalize plans, grants & agreements
Additional Resources

http://www.dot.gov/livability
http://www.fta.dot.gov/livability
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability
http://www.hud.gov/sustainability
http://www.epa.gov/sustainability