



City of Seattle

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Seattle City Council

FROM: Marshall Foster, DPD; Rick Hooper and Ryan Curren, OH

DATE: July 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Update on City Response to Federal Planning Grant Opportunities

Background

Federal agencies have recently released notices of two grant programs that would support planning for equitable transit-oriented development consistent with Seattle's growth management strategy. We are actively pursuing these grants. The purpose of this briefing is to update you on our overall approach.

These grant programs are unusual because they are jointly sponsored by multiple federal agencies – with HUD, FTA and EPA – and because they are specifically for planning activities.

- EPA, FTA and HUD have issued a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant with up to \$5 million to “support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure investments ... addressing issues of regional significance...”
- HUD has issued a Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant with up to \$3 million to support individual jurisdictions with planning that reduces barriers to affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level. This grant is closely aligned with the USDOT's Tiger II Grant program and applications will be reviewed jointly.

Proposed Approach

EPA/FTA/HUD REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT

Puget Sound Regional Council is coordinating an application for the Regional Planning Grant. City staff have been actively involved in shaping the proposal. The process has resulted in the following proposal (see attached for details):

- Focus on the operating and funded ST light rail lines (North South, East).
- Include significant amounts for transit corridor action strategies; a TOD affordable housing plan; and three catalyst projects (King Co.'s Northgate site and Tacoma Dome area).



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- Seattle would have some staff time funded for participating in the transit corridor, affordable housing and Northgate projects

We believe on the whole this is a good outcome for Seattle because it focuses on the core of the ST system and supports a multi-jurisdictional “compact” on implementing equitable, affordable TOD around station areas.

HUD COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

DPD, OH and SDOT are coordinating on a request for the Challenge Grant funds for the City. Our proposal would align with the regional approach by focusing on operating and funded light rail stations; also ties in with the WEB grant. The proposal would include:

- Implement key actions called for in the SE neighborhood plan updates for Othello, Mt. Baker and Beacon Hill, including:
 - An affordable housing / TOD strategy, including acquisition and project feasibility studies
 - Developing zoning tools to support affordable small and ethnically-owned businesses
 - A feasibility study for multi-cultural community center
 - 75% Design and engineering for key station area access improvements, as established by SDOT’s Southeast Transportation Study (SETS).
- Conduct focused planning for “Equitable TOD” for the Broadway Corridor from Yesler Terrace to Aloha, including the Capitol Hill / Broadway station:
 - Feasibility for arts/cultural community center; tie-in with NEA
 - Optimize zoning to take advantage of light rail, consider incentive zoning
 - Development feasibility for affordable housing/commercial on surplus property
 - Updated market Study / tools to support small businesses
 - 10% design of station area access / streetscape improvements
- The grant requires a 20% match, which may be in-kind.

Next Actions and Dates

Staff from DPD, OED, OH and SDOT will continue working with PSRC and community organizations to develop detailed scoping for both grants and ultimately complete grant materials. PSRC will be lead applicant for the regional grant.

Action	Date
Pre-Application for Challenge Grant	July 26, 2010
Grant Submittals	August 23, 2010

Central Puget Sound Region Proposal Summary

Component	Funded Activities	Preliminary Amount
<u>CORRIDOR ACTION STRATEGIES / TOD COMPACTS</u>		
Community Engagement: Equitable Development	Staff Capacity, Direct Costs	\$500,000
Equitable Corridor Planning, Coordination, Research & Data Acquisition	Staff Capacity, Direct Costs	\$1,000,000
Land Use / Regulatory Strategies for Affordable Housing and TOD Incentives	Staff Capacity, Direct Costs	\$500,000
Station Area Planning: East, North & South LINK Catalyst Corridor Projects (Bel-Red Corridor*; Northgate; Tacoma Dome)	Staff Capacity (?) Direct Costs	\$1,000,000
<u>INNOVATIVE TOOL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT</u>		
Affordable Housing Strategy: Equitable TOD Finance Strategy, Fund Development, Transit Property Surplus Issues	Staff Capacity, Direct Costs	\$1,000,000
Decision Commons: East LINK Corridor Catalyst Project – Development and Application of Prototype for Bel-Red Corridor <i>*Note: Specific relationship to Bel-Red planning effort TBD</i>	Development*	\$750,000
<u>GRANT ADMINISTRATION</u>		
	Staff Capacity, Direct Costs	\$250,000
Total		\$5,000,000