



GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM:

DATE: July 21, 2010

RE: Memorandum of Understanding, Partnership Consortium Agreement Letter, and resolution of support for the joint grant application for the Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative

ACTION STATEMENT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IN PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE JOINT APPLICATION UNDER THE FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE AND ESTABLISHING A WORKING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC, PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT, AND CIVIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WATER RESOURCE, HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS, ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

Strategic planning initiatives that tie into this agenda item include seeking solutions to assure we maintain our neighborhoods for residential living so as to reflect our diverse population, community character, and protect and enhance our residential quality of life; and Environmental management seeking to preserve, maintain and when possible enhance the physical environment of Key West and its nearshore waters and is a strategic plan initiative.

BACKGROUND:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a new partnership to help American families gain better access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs. Since the average working American family spends nearly 60 percent of its budget on housing and transportation costs, these two areas are the largest expenses for American families. The partnership wishes to seek ways to cut these costs by focusing their efforts on creating affordable, sustainable communities.

DOT and HUD wish to better coordinate federal transportation and housing investments and identify strategies to give American families: More choices for affordable housing near employment opportunities;

more transportation options, to lower transportation costs, shorten travel times, and improve the environment; the ability to combine several errands into one trip through better coordination of transportation and land uses; and safe, livable, healthy communities.

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact.

PURPOSE & JUSTIFICATION:

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Initiative is the development of a “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development” for regions that lack a cohesive, integrated regional “vision” across issue areas and jurisdictional boundaries. In Southeast Florida, significant resources, time and effort have been invested in planning throughout the years. There are existing regional relationships and partnerships that can be strengthened and expanded. **The challenge is to integrate these partnerships and efforts across issue areas and jurisdictional lines and reach agreement on the critical infrastructure investments needed to move the region forward.**

The U.S. HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative is the region’s best opportunity to access up to \$5 million to articulate and develop consensus around a “Regional Vision” and “Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.” It is expected that this Plan will: 1) serve as the framework for future federal investment; 2) support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other regional partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional Vision and Plan; and 3) put the Southeast Florida Region in the best position possible to capture federal funds for critical infrastructure projects designed to improve the region’s sustainability.

The South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council are coordinating the development of a comprehensive joint application for Sustainable Communities Initiative funding on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, a seven-county partnership extending from Monroe through Indian River County. The Partnership represents a broad-based group of stakeholders, including but not limited to, water resource, housing, human services, environmental and transportation agencies and organizations; community-based organizations; health care organizations and funders; local governments; non-profits; academia and research institutions; and private sector organizations.

The HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the federal guidance document for the Grant, was released on June 24th. The grant application is due on August 23rd. The Councils have requested from its partners letters and resolutions of support and the

execution of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize the regional partnership. A list of the current membership and supporters of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership is included herewith.

In the NOFA, HUD stipulated the creation of a “consortium” which includes, at a minimum the principal cities of the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the region; metropolitan planning organizations; regional planning councils; non-profit and faith-based organizations; and educational institutions. HUD considers the interdependence of the participating partners an asset in the grant application process.

The City of Key West, by virtue of being the Principal City for the Key West Micropolitan Statistical Area is requested to sign the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership Consortium Agreement letter which is required by HUD as part of the application.

If awarded, these funds will be used to further develop the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership; establish a comprehensive regional vision and plan identifying critical projects and infrastructure that will improve the Region’s sustainability; and establish priorities for focused investment in Southeast Florida.

OPTIONS:

Approve the resolution as provided allowing for execution of the Memorandum of Understanding and partnership letter.

Modify the resolution and approve it as desired.

Do not provide any resolution. This will cause the group to be unable to apply for the grant as all cities that are “Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the region” must be signatory’s on the memorandum of understanding. This was a last minute rule created by HUD.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This non-binding agreement tracks the language in the MOU and **is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document.** Nothing in the document obligates the City to expend appropriations, obligate funds or enter into any contract or other agreement, or restricts the City from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities or agencies. Although HUD is requesting that the consortium partners agree to enter into a formal consortium agreement with 120 days of the grant being awarded, the City is not obligated to do so.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve this resolution.