

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM
#10-27

August 12, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members

FROM: William Simmons, City Manager *WSP*
James Hayes, Director of Planning and Development *JH*

SUBJECT: CR-115 – Support of DRCOG Regional Planning Grant Application

SUMMARY

Attached to this memorandum is a resolution, CR-115, which if approved supports an application for a Regional Planning Grant by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

BACKGROUND

In June of 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joined with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to form a “Partnership for Sustainable Communities.” This federal partnership is focused on improving access to affordable housing, providing more transportation options, and lowering transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. The partnership is governed by a set of six “Livability Principles”:

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
6. Value communities and neighborhoods

Several funding opportunities have emerged from the federal partnership, including HUD’s \$100 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG) Program. This grant program will support multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments.

DRCOG, Colorado Tomorrow Alliance, the Metro Mayors Caucus, and Metro Area Commissioners are working collaboratively to develop a “Centers and Corridors” proposal to fund the planning, financing, and implementation of transit-oriented development and urban centers throughout the region. The proposal builds on the draft Metro Vision goal of accommodating 50% of new housing and 75% of new employment in urban centers throughout the region, which in turn will support other current and draft Metro Vision goals including improving air quality, reducing VMT per capita, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and conserving water.

The grant proposal identifies two main tasks:

Augmenting Metro Vision to a) address the range of housing, economic development, environmental and other factors that are critical for successful transit-oriented and urban center development throughout the region, b) engage a wide variety of stakeholders and create broad support for the regional vision, and c) more fully integrate the federal Livability Principles and serve to direct federal funding toward regional priorities.

Focusing resources on local implementation efforts. Many local governments are struggling with “last mile” challenges associated with successful transit-oriented and urban center development, such as providing the urban infrastructure necessary to support compact development, preserving or creating affordable housing, and connecting residents with employment, shopping, recreation and other opportunities. Through the establishment of a stable and enduring “Metro Vision Implementation and Action Partnership,” this grant would bring a wide variety of resources to bear on the overarching mission of helping local governments transform the vision into reality.

DRCOG is asking local governments to pass resolutions that 1) Support DRCOG’s submittal of a comprehensive joint application for the SCRPG, and 2) Commit to continue working collaboratively with DRCOG and stakeholders from across the region to refine and implement Metro Vision to achieve the outcomes envisioned in the Federal Livability Principles.

POTENTIAL OBJECTION:

City Staff is not aware of any specific opposition to the proposed resolution.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budget implications with this resolution, although if the application is ultimately approved, it may lead to more grant application opportunities for the City.

STAFF REFERENCE:

If Council members have any questions they may contact James Hayes, Director of Planning and Development at 303-450-8937 or by e-mail at jhayes@northglenn.org

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DOWNING

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-115
Series of 2010

Series of 2010

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN SUPPORTING THE DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' COMPREHENSIVE JOINT APPLICATION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (The Partnership) to reshape the Federal government's role in helping achieve economically prosperous, healthy, environmentally sustainable and opportunity-rich communities; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership seeks to foster such communities consistent with the following Livability Principles:

1. **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable and economic transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location-and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility, and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.
4. **Support existing communities.** Target funding toward existing communities through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.
5. **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.** Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy
6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Board of Directors adopted a resolution affirming its support for the Partnership and agreeing to integrate the Livability Principles

into ongoing and future Metro Vision discussions; and

WHEREAS, this new Partnership recognizes the need to support metropolitan scale, multi-jurisdictional solutions in meeting these Livability Principles; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that it will award \$100 million in grants as part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Metro Mayors Caucus, the Metro Area County Commissioners and the Colorado Tomorrow Alliance have facilitated a region-wide discussion with a wide range of stakeholders over the past three months to develop a regional proposal under this grant program; and

WHEREAS, as an outcome of these discussions, the Denver Regional Council of Governments is now finalizing a grant application focused on 1) refining Metro Vision to attend to the Livability Principles and 2) providing financial support to advance the successful implementation of the Livability Principles at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn is a strong, committed member of the Denver Regional Council of Governments and is duly proud of the region’s long history of collaborative action on matters of regional concern for the collective betterment of the region as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The City of Northglenn strongly supports submittal of a comprehensive joint application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants Program by the Denver Regional Council of Governments and commits to continue working collaboratively with the Denver Regional Council of Governments and stakeholders from across the region to refine and implement Metro Vision to achieve the outcomes envisioned in the Federal Livability Principles.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2010.

JOYCE DOWNING
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney