



Capitol Region Council of Governments

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RECEIVES \$4.2 MILLION HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT

(Hartford, CT) The Capitol Regional Council of Governments of Hartford has been awarded a **\$4,200,000** Regional Sustainable Communities Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A major press announcement on this award will be made by Senator Chris Dodd and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department Assistant Secretary Peter Kovar on Friday October 15th, 2010 at 11:30 am at Hartford Union Station, Great Hall, 1 Union Place, Hartford, CT.

This award will go toward implementing a bi-state Sustainable Knowledge Corridor in the Hartford and Springfield regions. The bi-state Knowledge Corridor Consortium which includes core partners such as the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency will use this grant to create a foundation of opportunity—in housing, education, transportation, employment, nutrition, and community resources—for those who have been trapped in neighborhoods that have failed to provide it. The consortium will: (1) update and integrate existing regional plans to form a *Knowledge Corridor Detailed Execution Plan for a Sustainable Region*; (2) build off of major Federal investments in the region—the Springfield-New Haven rail line, the New Britain-Hartford Busway, and the CROC Sustainability Development Guidelines—to create energy-efficient, affordable housing opportunities near transit and job centers in well-designed, mixed-use settings; and (3) establish imaginative new efforts such as affordable housing training for zoning commissioners; incentives for density creation in transit-rich locations; studies to help establish pilot feeder bus service to link jobs, housing and transit; a web-based platform to share information on successful land use strategies and progress toward a more sustainable Knowledge Corridor, opportunity mapping, and studies on how to harvest increased land values near stations and plow it back into affordable housing and transit infrastructure. These initiatives will not only inform policy efforts but will also provide knowledge-sharing models for other regions.

Chair of the CROC Policy Board, Mayor Melody Curry of East Hartford states, “This is an exciting and important moment for the Capitol Region Council of Governments and all of its partners – CROC has a long history of creating plans, policies and programs that support sustainable, livable communities and this grant will help put those plans into action. We look forward to working with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency on this bi-state project to create a Sustainable Knowledge Corridor.” Lyle Wray, CROC Executive Director shares this excitement stating, “We are thrilled that the Capitol Region Council of Governments and our partner regions, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency have been awarded this \$4.2 million grant through this highly competitive, national competition that awarded 45 regions out of 225 eligible applicants. Implementing the vision for a Sustainable Knowledge Corridor with the help of our bi-state consortium partners will no doubt put the Hartford and Springfield regions on the map as leaders in sustainable community development and create more vibrant, livable communities for all of the regions’ citizens.”

Other consortium partners in this project include City of Hartford, City of New Britain, Central Connecticut State University, Town of Manchester, Town of Windsor, United Way of Connecticut,

Partnership for Strong Communities, University of Hartford, University of Connecticut, 1000 Friends of Connecticut, Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Connecticut Housing Coalition, MetroHartford Alliance, Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Greater Hartford Transit District, Goodwin College, Northeast Utilities, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Department of Transportation, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, CT Main Street, Inc., Local Initiative Support Corporation, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Transit for Connecticut Coalition, University of Massachusetts, City of Chicopee, Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, United Way of Pioneer Valley, United Way of Hampshire County, Valley Development Council, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Pioneer Valley Sustainability Network, and the Mass Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.