NY – CT Sustainable Communities Consortium

Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, September 14, 2012
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Designees and Alternates

Brian Bidolli (GBRC); Rick Dunne (GBVMPO); Michael Freimuth (City of New Rochelle); Chris Jones (RPA); Alanna Kabel (City of Bridgeport); Amanda Kennedy (RPA); Floyd Lapp (SWRPA); Eugene Livshits (SCRCOG); Cara Longworth (LIRPC); Jaime Martinez (City of Mount Vernon); Larry McAuliffe (NYMTC); Chris Rappa (SCRCOG); Sean Sallie (Nassau County); Eleanor Sharpe (City of New Rochelle); Howard Slatkin (NYCDCP)

Advisory Board Members:

Mary Ameen (NJTPA); W. David LeVasseur (CTOPM)

Other Consortium Participants:

Brian Dennis (RPA) Ralph Blessing (NYCDCP); Shawn Brede (NYCDCP)

CONSORTIUM PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Alanna Kabel and Gerry Bogacz greeted the attendees and introduced themselves as the new co-chairs of the Steering Committee. Gerry reviewed the agenda and announced other housekeeping items.

2. ROLL CALL

Chris Jones took roll call. A quorum was reached on the New York side at 10:15. Eugene Livshits arrived soon after, providing a quorum for Connecticut.

3. STATUS REPORTS ON CONSORTIUM WORK PROGRAM

New York City Climate Resilience

Howard Slatkin of the New York City Department of City Planning opened with the first status report. The Climate Resilience project assesses NYC's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters. The study is broken into several portions, including an assessment of waterfront adaptive strategies, an evaluation of raising buildings above coastal water levels, and the development of strategies for different types of waterfront neighborhoods. The program will also develop urban design principles for coastal development and outline a framework for decision making to address coastal risks from climate change and the scale of the site, neighborhood and reach.

Bronx Metro North Study – New York City

Shawn Brede of the Bronx Department of City Planning office reviewed the work, which looks at eight metro north stations throughout Bronx neighborhoods and that will look to capitalize on the transportation assets that connect residents to other places in the greater New York City region. There will be a series of multidisciplinary, attainable recommendations with a long term goal of creating complete Bronx communities. The Bronx office will continue outreach around six more train stations and then compile feedback and draft a set of recommendations.

Sustainable East New York – New York City

The goal of the study is to coordinate regional sustainable goals and land use planning. The study also looks to improve access to job opportunities in the larger region through transit and through developing local economic opportunities. The plan will also promote access to fresh foods and retail local to the area. There have been over 40 outreach meetings with local community based organizations. After obtaining substantive feedback, the Brooklyn office of the Department of City Planning will bring their recommendations to the public between October and November.

Infill Development Study- Nassau County

The project is a two phase study that looks at twenty-one rail stations in Nassau County to identify and plan for transit-oriented infill development. The twenty-one stations will be narrowed to three stations, for which Nassau County and Consultant will prepare a detailed transit supportive development plan. A large public input process targets municipal stakeholders for input on which stations have the desire and readiness to partake in the grant project. The next steps are to hold three separate public meetings in October and a broad public outreach meeting in November.

Transfer of Development Rights - Suffolk County

The transfer of development rights is a mechanism where property owners with developable land in environmentally sensitive areas can transfer their rights to develop to properties in and near downtown areas. The project will inventory and assess successful and current TDR programs in Suffolk County. The county has convened an advisory group for the study and completed a draft inventory of all the different programs. There will be a meeting this fall to review and approve the report before going public.

Sustainable New Rochelle

This project studies how to leverage the robust, existing transit assets to develop transit supportive development. The goal of the study is to turn New Rochelle into an attractive destination in the region. New Rochelle has retained consultants and they have been working steadily. Public outreach should begin very soon. The next step is working with consultants to conduct a market analysis.

Mid-Hudson Valley working projects

Gerry Bogacz reported on the Southern Westchester East West Corridor project, being carried out by the cities of New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, Yonkers, and other partners as an unfunded project within the Sustainable Communities Work Plan. The working group is developing an issues scan particularly as they pertain to regional action. Another working group is focused on understanding issues surrounding adaptive reuse of vacant office parks in the I-287 corridor. A planning workshop will be conducted this fall.

4. REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Mary Ameen spoke on progress made in the New Jersey consortium and highlighted three areas where there could be interregional collaborations between the two consortiums: through general informational sharing, reviewing FHEA analyses, and the implementation and coordination of final execution plans from both consortia. There has been a lot of progress made on forming the various committees in the New Jersey Consortium. Also, New Jersey has planned many upcoming events and projects. Both Alanna and Gerry agreed that integrating the efforts of both consortia is the key for coordinating our "asks" for future funding to keep the programs alive. (1.10.26)

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Tad Diesel from the City of Norwalk added comments for corrections to page two of the minutes from the June 8th Steering Committee meeting before it was motioned by Brian Bidolli, representing the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council and seconded by Gerry Bogacz representing the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. The minutes were adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Resolution SC05-2012, Operating Procedure for Approving Letters, Statements and Other Communications was motioned by Tad Diesel from the City of Norwalk and seconded by Michael Freimuth, representing the City of New Rochelle. The resolution was adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Resolution SC06-2012, Operating Procedure Revisions for Advisory Subcommittees was motioned by Chris Jones from the Regional Plan Association and seconded by Michael Freimuth from the City of New Rochelle. Before the resolution was adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee, Michael Freimuth requested a line to be added to the resolution to show that the secretary is responsible for convening the advisory subcommittee.

7. DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

The Consortium is scheduling regional outreach meetings for late October and early November. As local outreach meetings are occurring, we need to make sure that there is cross communication between the two efforts.

8. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA

Gerry explained that the purpose of the principals meeting is to brief those who signed on to the Sustainable Communities Initiative Memorandum of Agreement on the progress of the Consortium. The next steering committee meeting will be the Consortium Principals meeting on December 14, 2012.

9. ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Jones
Secretary