



NY – CT Sustainable Communities Consortium

Steering Committee Meeting

Friday, June 8, 2012

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Purdue Pharma – 1st Floor auditorium
201 Tresser Blvd, Stamford CT

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Designees and Alternates

Gerry Bogacz (NYMTC); Chris Canna (New Haven); Norman Cole (City of Stamford); Nicole Davis (SWRPA); Richard Dunne (GBRC); Michael Freimuth (City of New Rochelle); Sarah Goldwyn (NYCDCP); Chris Jones (RPA); Alanna Kabel (City of Bridgeport); David Kooris (RPA); Floyd Lapp (SWRPA); Eugene Livshits (SCRCOG); Cara Longworth (LIRPC); Alexandra McGoldrick (City of Bridgeport); Linda Puoplo (City of White Plains); Sean Sallie (Nassau County); Satish Sood (Nassau County); Susan Sweitzer (City of Norwalk);

Advisory Board Members:

Richard Manson (LISC)

Other Consortium Participants:

Amanda Kennedy (RPA); Robert Paley (MTA); Brian Dennis (RPA); Will Palmquist (SWRPA); Craig Lader (City of Stamford); Meghan Sloan (GBRC)

CONSORTIUM PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Floyd Lapp and Howard Slatkin gave introductory remarks and reviewed the steering committee agenda.

2. ROLL CALL

Chris Jones took roll call. A quorum was reached.

3. SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2012 – 2013 TERM

Two new co-chairs to the Steering Committee were selected to serve the new term ending in 2013. Alanna Kabel of the City of Bridgeport was selected as the municipal representative while Gerry Bogacz of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council was selected as the metropolitan planning organization representative. Their term began on July 15, 2012. Chris Jones of the Regional Plan Association remained as the Consortium secretary. All nominations for the co-chairs and secretary role were accepted and passed with unanimous agreement.

4. STATUS REPORT ON CONSORTIUM WORK PROGRAM

Gap Analysis

Chris Jones opened with a general introduction to the gap analysis project. Since the New York and Connecticut region already have many different plans that incorporate sustainable principles, the gap analysis exercise will enhance the priorities of each evaluated plan. A draft document is expected to be available for public review in April 2013.

Will Palmquist of the South Western Regional Planning Agency spoke to Connecticut's progress on the gap analysis. Identifying strengths, weakness and gaps were completed during the beginning of 2012. The Connecticut MPOs are working on the report summary that will be available for the regional town hall meetings this fall.

Gerry Bogacz reported on New York's progress, which focus on state documents and intraregional efforts between counties. There will be public outreach through the summer and into the fall with final action on the regional sustainable development plan.

Fair Housing and Equity Analysis

Chris Jones presented an overview of the Fair Housing and Equity Analysis (FHEA) requirements and work plan. Our consortium will complete a Fair Housing Equity Assessment and may consider a Regional Analysis of Impediments. The mapping analysis will be completed by the end of summer 2012. The outline and draft recommendations will be completed by December 2012 and the final report will be completed by February 2013.

Connecticut Place-based Projects

Craig Lader opened with the Stamford East Main Street Transit Node Feasibility Study. The study will determine the feasibility of a new station along east Main Street. SWRPA will screen different scenarios for the transit node and develop an alternative build-out analysis. They plan to organize stakeholder committees and hold three public workshops for feedback. This project should take nine months to complete.

Susan Sweitzer of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency followed with a report on the Transit Oriented Development Master Plan for the South Norwalk Railroad Station. The goals are to increase accessibility and enhance real estate value while improving the quality of life for areas around the station.

Meghan Sloan presented on the East Bridgeport Development Corridor. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. is the consultant firm conducting the feasibility study for the Barnum Bridgeport train station. The kick off for this project occurred in May of 2012. The program should be completed in 2013.

Chris Canna reported on the Transit-Oriented Development & District Plan for New Haven's Union Station. The goal of the plan is to increase ridership at the station, generate economic growth;

and expand commuter parking demands. The kick off with the consultants occurred in June 2012 and the final report will be completed by March 2013.

Richard Manson asked what deliberate efforts have been made to include outreach. Craig responded that SWRPA and their consultants have been working with the community. Norwalk enlists the services of a translators and interpreter to their Spanish and Creole population. Bridgeport is putting together a technical and community advisory committee. New Haven will issue a RFQ for a consultant to help reach populations traditionally marginalized. In general, the Consortium recently contracted with Language Links to do outreach in Connecticut.

Julie Fagan of HUD inquired of the level of coordination between some of the other HUD grants awarded to consortium members, like the Choice Neighborhoods program and the Sustainable Communities grant program. Both Norwalk and New Haven responded that their consultant have been involved with the coordination activities of both grant programs administered by HUD.

Richard Manson asked about the governance structure for the Norwalk project. The form has not yet been determined, but the planning and feasibility process will be the responsibility of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency.

Rick Dunne commented on Bridgeport's plans to accommodate more parking. He wanted a stronger understanding of Bridgeport's goals in order to avoid competing with the Valley Council of Government's goals to enhance service on the branch line. Meghan responded that the issue will be addressed as part of the planning process.

Brian Dennis finished with an update on the Consortium data and repository information. So far, we've received data from NYMTC, SWRPA, City of New Rochelle and Nassau County. The data received ranges from GIS shapefiles, databases, plans and reports.

5. REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Zanobia Field briefed on the progress of the North New Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium. The New Jersey consortium has begun conference calls with members of the NY-CT consortium to coordinate activities where appropriate. According to Gerry Bogacz, coordination and integration of both federally funded grant programs is important.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

7. ACTION ITEMS

The minutes from the March 16th Steering Committee meeting was motioned by Floyd Lapp, representing the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency 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 SC04-2012, Revised Goals and Milestones and was motioned by Floyd Lapp and seconded by Alanna Kabel, representing the City of Bridgeport. The resolution was adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Resolution SC03-2012, Approach to Data and Information was motioned by Gerry Bogacz and seconded by Floyd Lapp. The resolution was adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Resolution SC02-2012, Selection of Professional Service Firms was motioned by Howard Slatkin, representing the New York City Department of Planning and seconded by Alanna Kabel. This resolution was adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee

8. DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Chris spoke to the formation of regional advisory committees. They would be open to participants who express interest in some the consortium projects. The committees will be used to explore findings and recommendations coming out of the regional planning activities. The committees will form when substance develops from the regional projects.

Rick Dunne raised a separate concern on attaining points on grant applications from the federal agencies for membership in the Sustainable Communities consortium. The federal grant programs only recognize the lead grantees and not sub grantees as recipients for points. Rick would like the consortium to send a communication to HUD stating that members of the SCI consortium are not members of the Regional Plan Association and should be entitled to receive points.

9. NEXT MEETING AND ADGENDA

The next steering committee meeting will be held on September 14, 2012.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Jones
Secretary