



*NY – CT Sustainable Communities Consortium
Public Steering Committee Meeting Minutes*

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, Lower Manhattan
Friday, November 8th, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Steering Committee Designees and Alternates

Alanna Kabel (City of Bridgeport); Sweitzer (City of Norwalk); Chris Canna (City of New Haven), Carl Amento (SCROG); Cara Longworth (LIRPC); Sarah Goldwyn (City of New York); Sean Sallie (Nassau County); Sarah Lansdale (Suffolk County); Virginia Picciotto (City of New Rochelle); Chris Jones (RPA), Gerry Bogacz (NYMTC); Brian Bidolli (GBVMPO); Amanda Kennedy (RPA); Brian Dennis (RPA)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Brian Bidolli greeted all attendees to the tenth public meeting of the Consortium Steering Committee and proceeded with the agenda.

ROLL CALL

According to the Consortium MOA, a quorum for any steering committee meeting will be reached when two-thirds of the New York (6 of 9 NY organizations) and Connecticut (5 of 7 CT organizations) Steering Committee members are in attendance. Amanda Kennedy of RPA took roll call. A quorum was reached on both the New York and Connecticut.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

The approval of September 13 , 2013 Steering Committee meeting minutes were motioned by Alana Kabel representing the City of Bridgeport, and seconded by Sarah Goldwyn of New York City. The minutes were adopted and passed unanimously by the Steering Committee.

The adoption of Steering Committee Resolution SC15-2013 – “Selection of Transit-Oriented Housing Incentive Fund Grant Recipients” was motioned by Gerry Bogacz representing New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, and seconded by Satish Sood of Nassau County. The Housing Incentive Fund Committee selected four recipients to receive small grants that will allow the awardees to build affordable housing within walking distance of subways, commuter rail stations and bus stops. The grants are intended to pay for pre-development expenses, including architectural, engineering and legal fees. The recipients were Allied Community Enterprises, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, West

Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing and Bridgeport Housing Authority. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the Steering Committee.

DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Fair Housing Equity Assessment

The Fair Housing and Equity Assessment is an essential component to the consortium work program that is composed of three elements: a data analysis on trends and conditions, a deliberation component, and a bridge to decisions making. Many effort hours have been invested into constructing the FHEA framework.

The consortium formed an advisory committee of fair and affordable housing coalitions in the region. Efforts were used to attract an even geographic distribution of representation. The committee is composed of representatives from community based organizations, state agencies, community foundations and other groups that support the cause of low income individuals and people of color across the four sub regions of New York and Southwestern Connecticut.

The first FHEA meeting was held on October 28th at the Ford Foundation, 340 E 43rd Street. This meeting was used to introduce committee member to each other. It was also used to review the purpose, requirements and expectations of the committee. In short, the members, who have agreed to participant, will meet on three occasions to develop and submit a set of fair housing recommendations to the Sustainable Community Consortium's Steering Committee.

The final FHEA plan will be based on neighborhood types that resemble places in our region. Because the Consortium's catchment area is very large, typologies will be chosen over a place by place analysis. Using typologies will allow our consortium to prescribe recommendations that could be applied to various parts of the region. A draft of the FHEA should be ready by the end of December.

Questions & Comments:

- Susan Sweitzer of the City of Norwalk wanted to know if a list of the advisory committee members were published to the Sustainable Communities website. Posting names of the members will add credibility to the process.
- Brian Bidolli of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council asked if the steering committee would have any opportunity to view a draft product coming out of the working group. Brian made this comment in reference to the consortium's other required deliverable on Regional Planning Enhancement.
- Gerry Bogacz asked if HUD was okay with the decision making process our consortium has chosen for the FHEA and Regional Planning Enhancement. The committee acknowledged that whatever recommendations are made in the process needs to flow from the data provided by HUD.
- Alanna Kabel commented that the FHEA analysis, once completed, will be a very helpful framework to onset positive change in the region. This analysis will benefit many of the entitlement communities that receive Community Block Grant Development Funding.

REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Choice Neighborhood Mott Haven

Zarana Sanghani of Local Initiatives Support Corporation presented on the Choice Neighborhoods planning project for the Betance Community Public Houses in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx, New York. The New York City Housing Authority received a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhood planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but has chosen LISC to coordinate the planning effort.

Choice Neighborhoods for Mott Haven has three main thrusts: to plan for housing, preserve recreation and other amenities, and promote economic development. The Mott Haven Neighborhood has the highest concentration of public housing in the country. It also has a high rate of poverty, low reading proficiency with only half of the population in the workforce.

The planning process was designed to be community driven. LISC is working with multiple local organizations through vision workshops to prioritize the neighborhood's needs. The public can expect a draft of the final report by the spring of 2014. NYCHA and LISC are developing a Choice Neighborhoods plan in order to apply for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant.

Questions & Comments:

- Sarah Goldwyn of New York City asked what form the recommendations will take at the end of the planning grant.
 - There are three major categories: people, neighborhoods and housing. The planning grant will recommend supporting residents, by scaling good and programs down to the neighborhood level.
 - NYCHA and LISC will also make recommendations around infrastructure, open space and housing.
- Sarah Goldwyn also wanted to know how Mott Haven was chosen as the focus of the grant.
 - The New York City Housing Authority did an assessment of all its properties and determined that the Betance community had the most serious need of all.
- Chris Jones added that our consortium provided NYCHA with preferred Sustainability Status points, which is essentially an endorsement of NYCHA's application towards HUD funding.
- Susan Sweitzer commended NYCHA's planning effort in Mott Haven. There is a need for the work because racial ethnicity plays a major role on poverty in that community.

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA

The next public Steering Committee meeting will be January 10, 2014.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Kennedy
Secretary