Support the Partnership for Sustainable Communities

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities helps communities achieve economic growth by spurring private sector investment, removing government barriers, and creating jobs at a time when we need it most. Specifically, HUD’s Regional Planning Grants and Community Challenge Grants and DOT’s TIGER Grants are critical to creating jobs and keeping America competitive in a global 21st century economy.

Sections 2226 and 2232 of H.R. 1 eliminate and rescind funding for the HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative and DOT’s TIGER II grant program, parts of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. As Congress debates the continuing resolution for FY2011, Smart Growth America urges you to protect funding for these critical programs that support several projects in North Carolina.

*North Carolina’s citizens will be directly affected by the rescissions in H.R. 1. Support the Partnership for Sustainable Communities in the Senate Continuing Resolution and in the FY12 Appropriations.*

**Partnership for Sustainable Communities Grants: North Carolina**

**HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants**

**Land-of-Sky Regional Council: $1,600,000**
LOSRC of Asheville will develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, including an integrated outreach approach in order to serve the region’s diverse but interrelated rural and urban Appalachian communities—including multi-generational and rural mountain landowners, farmers, urban minorities, small business owners, immigrant workers, retired senior citizens on fixed incomes, seasonal second-home owners, healthcare providers, tourism-dependent interests, and transit-dependent citizens as well as other populations that are traditionally left out of most public processes.

**Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation: $1,600,000**
The plan will integrate land use, transportation, housing, social equity, economic development, and environmental considerations across jurisdictional lines to maximize the use of the region’s built environment, physical infrastructure, and natural resources. The Piedmont Triad plan will encourage investments in revitalization and redevelopment in major cities and smaller towns. This puts the focus on deteriorating neighborhoods and abandoned manufacturing areas to foster new development patterns along the region’s transportation corridors and near existing downtowns and employment centers.
TIGER II Planning Grants

**Asheville NC East Riverside Sustainable Multi-Modal Neighborhood: $850,000**
The project will revise codes and regulations to create sustainable development in the River District, where affordable housing, jobs and a multi-modal transportation network will be created. A Land-Bank will support affordable housing.

**Lexington Multi-Modal Transportation Station Area Plan: $700,000**
The project will plan for a multi-modal transit station to connect Winston-Salem and surrounding municipalities to the Raleigh-Charlotte rail corridor planned for service in 2015. The station will serve as a passenger rail stop and a hub for bus, taxi, bicycle and pedestrian networks and increase connectivity for residents of a city with an unemployment rate of 18 percent. The new station in Lexington will fill gaps in station availability between Greensboro and Charlotte, as well as Greensboro and Raleigh, and is a keystone to the region’s comprehensive transportation strategy. Planning for an intermodal station promotes transportation choices and economic competitiveness of the community, and it will build on a major federal investment in rail transportation in the region.

**Preferred Sustainability Status**

**Centralina Council of Governments (Charlotte)**
**Triangle J Council of Governments (Durham)**
**North Carolina’s Eastern Region (Kinston)**
The Preferred Sustainability Status is a designation granted by HUD to a number of locations that applied for but did not receive funding in the first round of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants. These applicants had outstanding submissions and their communities created strong partnerships, but the projects could not be funded with the limited grants available. These regions will receive special credit and consideration for other competitive HUD grant programs and first consideration for a second round of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants if funded by Congress.

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About Smart Growth America
Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks so people can walk to their town center to ensuring that more homes are built near public transit or productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure that people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods.

For additional information, please contact Jessica Holmberg at Smart Growth America at jholmberg@smartgrowthamerica.org or find us at www.SmartGrowthAmerica.org