

The Honorable Jeffrey Zient
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Zient,

We are writing in strong support of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an interagency partnership between the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Partnership is working to eliminate obstacles between the three agencies helping the federal government to run more efficiently and reduce costs to local governments. We ask the Office of Management and Budget to recognize the value in the Partnership by including funding for its important programs in the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request.

Specifically, we support continued funding for HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative. Through the Community Planning and Community Challenge grant programs the Sustainable Communities Initiative helps communities make choices for future growth that will leverage private sector investment, streamline regulatory barriers and make strategic investments with limited taxpayers dollars. To date HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative has provided 162 grants to support this effort, out of nearly 600 applications.

Additionally, we support continued investment in the DOT's TIGER program. The TIGER program has awarded 172 grants through three extremely competitive rounds, out of over 3,200 applications. TIGER grants support a wide variety of innovative transportation projects and require that they demonstrate positive cost-benefit analysis, ensuring that limited federal funds are used effectively. In addition, this program is a source of financing for

projects that impact multiple modes that cannot be funded under the existing authorized programs. It rewards innovative projects that advance the performance and safety of our surface transportation system.

The EPA Smart Growth program helps communities to capitalize on their unique assets, grow their economies, protect the environment and public health, and improve their infrastructure. Through its technical assistance program communities are given the tools to ensure residents have housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops, and schools that support thriving local economies, the Smart Growth program is a great benefit to communities across the country.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities stresses efficient use of public resources in lean times and help demonstrate that planning saves taxpayer dollars. The Partnership supports a culture of investment that removes the barriers between a strong economy and a sustainable environment creating communities that are competitive in the 21st century. We ask you to support this innovative program and look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Enterprise Community Partners
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
National Association of Development Organizations
National Housing Coalition
PolicyLink
Reconnecting America

Smart Growth America
Transportation for America