

Note to the Coalitions:**FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:
BACKGROUND, FUNDING HISTORY, AND NEMW GRANTEES**

As Congress moves forward with FY2012 funding decisions, one of its priorities is to achieve economic growth and stability while reducing the nation's deficit. One set of relatively new housing, transportation, and environment programs is currently under debate: those programs coordinated by the "Partnership for Sustainable Communities."

This report provides background information on the history of—and grants awarded through—the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, allowing NEMW Coalition members to make informed decisions in ongoing debates. The report describes Partnership for Sustainable Communities grants, offers details on 2010 grantees in the Northeast-Midwest, and calculates total funding in the region as a percentage of national grant funding.

Background

In June 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) joined together to form the "Partnership for Sustainable Communities." The Partnership's goal is to fashion joint initiatives to improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment and enhancing economic competitiveness in communities around the country.¹

Funding for the Partnership varies according to agency:

- **HUD** created an Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities in 2009, which was funded through an appropriations line-item under the Community Development Fund ("Sustainable Communities Initiative"). Its FY2010 budget outlay was 150 million. This was also President Obama's funding request for FY2011 and FY2012. The FY2011 budget authority is 100 million (not including 2% across-the-board cut). Most recently, on September 7, 2011, the House THUD Subcommittee voted to recommend elimination of funding for any new "sustainable," "livable," or "green" community development programs. It also voted to recommend the specific prohibition of funds for the Sustainable Communities Initiative.
- Unlike HUD, **DOT** does not have dedicated funding for Partnership programs. Some of its programs were funded through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Other funding comes from annual appropriations. In FY2010 DOT awarded nearly \$2.4 billion in grants that support Partnership goals.
- Similar to DOT, **EPA** funds its programs through its new Office of Sustainable Communities (formerly "Smart Growth Division") via annual appropriations. It is difficult to estimate the total

¹ Description of Partnership adapted from: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/pdf/FactSheet.pdf> and <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/>

amount EPA spent on Partnership programs in FY2010 because its awards are often a blend of contracted direct assistance and grants.

In total, the Partnership coordinates around ten programs across agencies; although at least three of these programs predate the creation of the Partnership. Under the “Sustainable Communities Initiative” heading, these programs provide grants or assistance to various public and private entities and are targeted at a range of specific Partnership goals. The table below details 2010 amounts awarded through the Initiative for the region and the nation.

Partnership Programs and Funding Amounts for 2010 Awards in Region and Nation²

Program	NEMW Amount Awarded 2010	Total Amount Awarded 2010
HUD Regional Planning	\$41,928,550	\$98,000,000
HUD Community Challenge	\$18,756,430	\$47,953,029
DOT TIGER I*	\$638,125,667	\$1,498,126,016
DOT TIGER II Planning	\$13,135,559	\$27,555,397
DOT TIGER II Capital	\$193,584,085	\$556,577,591
DOT Urban Circulator/Bus & Bus Livability*	\$137,992,877	\$292,195,618
EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance*	N/A	N/A
EPA Greening America’s Capitals	N/A	N/A
EPA Brownfields Pilot Communities	N/A	N/A
EPA Brownfields Area Wide Planning Pilot	\$1,400,000	\$4,025,000

* Predates Partnership for Sustainable Communities

² A map of all these grants is available at: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/community.html>

Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative Grants and Grantees

This section provides details on specific Sustainable Communities Initiative grant programs and their presence in the Northeast-Midwest region in 2010.

❖ HUD Regional Planning Grants

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program supports metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments so that jurisdictions can simultaneously consider: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact.³ Summaries of each award can be accessed through HUD's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Regional Planning Grantees

Grantee Consortium Leader	City	State	Amount
Capitol Region Council of Governments	Hartford	CT	\$4,200,000
Windham Region Council of Governments	Willimantic	CT	\$225,000
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Urbandale	IA	\$2,200,000
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Chicago	IL	\$4,250,000
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	Peoria	IL	\$1,200,000
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Rockford	IL	\$600,000
Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization	Evansville	IN	\$1,420,300
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Boston	MA	\$4,000,000
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	Greenfield	MA	\$425,000
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Pittsfield	MA	\$590,700
Northern Maine Development Commission	Caribou	ME	\$800,000
Greater Portland Council of Governments	Portland	ME	\$1,600,000
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	Detroit	MI	\$2,850,000
Metropolitan Council	St. Paul	MN	\$5,000,000
Region Five Development Commission	Staples	MN	\$825,050
Regional Plan Association Inc.	Multiple Cities	CT/NY	\$3,500,000
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency	Cleveland	OH	\$4,250,000
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Winooski	VT	\$995,000
Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community, Inc.	Lac du Flambeau	WI	\$525,000
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission	Madison	WI	\$1,997,500
Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Platteville	WI	\$475,000
NEMW Total			\$41,928,550
National Total			\$98,000,000
NEMW % of National Total			43%

³ Description taken from:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/sustainable_communities_regional_planning_grants

❖ HUD Community Challenge Grant

The Community Challenge Planning Grant Program aims to foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. Such efforts may include amending or replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings and structures for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level. This program also supports affordable housing through inclusionary zoning ordinances and other activities to support planning implementation.⁴ Summaries of each award can be accessed through HUD's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Community Challenge Grantees

Applicant	City	State	Grant Amount
Connecticut Dept. of Economic and Community Development	Hartford	CT	\$2,000,000
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association	East Hazel Crest	IL	\$2,351,848
City of Indianapolis	Indianapolis	IN	\$1,197,622
City of Somerville, Massachusetts	Somerville	MA	\$1,800,000
Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission	Upper Marlboro	MD	\$800,000
City of Flint	Flint	MI	\$1,570,233
Grand Traverse County	Traverse City	MI	\$395,000
City of Claremont	Claremont	NH	\$58,740
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission	Lebanon	NH	\$147,878
Jersey City Redevelopment Agency *	Jersey City	NJ	\$2,273,370
City of Glens Falls, New York	Glens Falls	NY	\$200,000
City of Cincinnati	Cincinnati	OH	\$2,400,000
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission	Columbus	OH	\$864,989
City of Pittsburgh *	Pittsburgh	PA	\$1,500,000
City of Providence	Providence	RI	\$910,000
City of Burlington Vermont	Burlington	VT	\$286,750
NEMW Total			\$18,756,430
National Total			\$47,953,029
NEMW % of National Total			39%

*Joint HUD-DOT Project, HUD funding listed here

❖ DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant: TIGER I

The TIGER Discretionary Grant Program aims to spur a national competition for innovative road, rail, transit and port projects that promise significant economic and environmental benefits to an entire metropolitan area, a region, or the nation. Each project is multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional or otherwise challenging to fund through existing programs.⁵ TIGER I was funded through the American Recovery and

⁴ Description adapted from: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/grants.html>

⁵ Description taken from: <http://www.dot.gov/recovery/tiger100218.html> and

Reinvestment Act of 2009; grants were awarded in early 2010. Summaries of each award can be accessed through DOT's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region TIGER I Grantees

Project	State	Grant Amount
Priority Bus Transit in the National Capital Region	DC, VA, MD	\$19,612,667*
Ames Intermodal Facility	IA	\$8,463,000
Millwork District Multimodal Improvements	IA	\$5,600,000
CREATE Program Projects	IL	\$100,000,000
Normal Multimodal Transportation Center	IL	\$22,000,000
The Southwestern Illinois Intermodal Freight Transportation Hub	IL	\$6,000,000
Indianapolis Bicycle & Pedestrian Network	IN	\$20,500,000
Milton-Madison Bridge Replacement	KY, IN	\$10,000,000*
Fitchburg Commuter Rail Extension & Wachusett Station	MA	\$55,500,000
Revere Transit Facility & Streetscape	MA	\$20,000,000
Fast Track New Bedford	MA	\$20,000,000
Revitalizing Maine's Ports	ME	\$14,000,000
Black River Bridge Replacement	MI	\$30,000,000
M1/Woodward Avenue Light Rail Project	MI	\$25,000,000
Saint Paul Union Depot Multi-Modal Transit and Transportation Hub	MN	\$35,000,000
Moynihan Station, Phase 1	NY	\$83,000,000
Kent Central Gateway Multimodal Transit Facility	OH	\$20,000,000
National Gateway Freight Rail Corridor	OH, PA, WV, MD	\$73,500,000*
Philadelphia Area Pedestrian & Bicycle Network	PA, NJ	\$23,000,000
Quonset Wind Energy & Surface Transportation Project	RI	\$22,300,000
Burlington Waterfront North Project	VT	\$3,150,000
Park East Corridor Lift Bridges	WI	\$21,500,000
NEMW Total		\$638,125,667
National Total		\$1,498,126,016
NEMW % of National Total		43%

*Estimated NEMW states' portion of multi-state grant

❖ DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant: TIGER II Planning and Capital Grants

In addition to capital projects, TIGER II featured a new grant category for the planning, preparation, and/or design of eligible surface transportation projects. TIGER II was especially focused on projects expected to create and preserve jobs and stimulate increases in economic activity, as well as improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the safety of U.S. transportation facilities, and/or increase transportation choices and connections. Grants were funded through FY2010 Appropriations and awarded in late 2010.⁶ Summaries of each award can be accessed through DOT's website. Planning grants are detailed [here](#); Capital grants are detailed [here](#).

<http://www.dot.gov/tiger/index.html>

⁶ Description adapted from: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/dot18810.html> and

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-131

Northeast-Midwest Region TIGER II Planning Grantees

Project	State	Grant Amount
Newark Train Station Improvement Plan	DE	\$2,250,000
US-14 Underpass (Barrington)	IL	\$2,800,000
South Shore Commuter Railroad Realignment Study	IN	\$800,000
Linking the Rural Regions of Five Counties in Maine	ME	\$770,988
Building Livability in Pontiac: Planning for Connectivity between the Downtown, Neighborhoods and Transit	MI	\$300,000
Saint Paul Complete Streets Plan	MN	\$250,000
Canal Crossing *	NJ	\$1,964,400
Sheridan Expressway Corridor	NY	\$1,510,171
Owasco River Multi-modal Trail Corridor Plan	NY	\$590,000
Allegheny Riverfront Green Boulevard Planning *	PA	\$825,000
Downtown St. Albans Streetscape Improvements	VT	\$125,000
Downtown Madison Intermodal Terminal	WI	\$950,000
NEMW Total		\$13,135,559
National Total		\$27,555,397
NEMW % of National Total		48%

*Joint HUD-DOT Project, DOT funding listed here

Northeast-Midwest Region TIGER II Capital Grantees

Project	State	Grant Amount
New Haven Downtown Crossing	CT	\$16,000,000
Steel Point Roadway Improvements (Bridgeport)	CT	\$11,159,493
Des Moines Multimodal Hub	IA	\$10,000,000
Moline Multimodal Station	IL	\$10,000,000
Warehouse District Complete Streets Project (Peoria)	IL	\$10,000,000
Waterloo Station Improvements	IN	\$1,820,100
Aroostook Rail Preservation	ME	\$10,546,436
Ann Arbor Bridges	MI	\$13,900,000
Staples North/South Corridor	MN	\$7,650,000
Memorial Bridge Replacement (Portsmouth, NH & Kittery, ME)	NH, ME	\$20,000,000
Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System	NJ	\$10,008,056
Niagara Falls Rail Station	NY	\$16,500,000
Fordham Transit Plaza (Bronx)	NY	\$10,000,000
University - Cedar Rapid Transit Station Improvements	OH	\$10,500,000
Dilworth Plaza and Concourse Improvements (Philadelphia)	PA	\$15,000,000
Central Pennsylvania Rail and Road Expansion	PA	\$10,000,000
Port of Providence: Electric Cranes	RI	\$10,500,000
NEMW Total		\$193,584,085
National Total		\$556,577,591
NEMW % of National Total		35%

❖ DOT Funds for Urban Circulator/ Bus & Bus Livability Projects

The Bus Livability Program makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities.⁷ The Urban Circulator program funds a limited number of projects (such as streetcars and rubber-tire trolley lines) that provide transportation options to connect urban destinations and fosters the redevelopment of urban spaces into walkable mixed-use, high-density environments.⁸ Summaries of each award, announced in mid-2010, can be accessed through DOT's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Urban Circulator/Bus & Bus Livability Grantees

Sponsor	State	Grant Amount
Greater Hartford Transit District	CT	\$4,940,000
City of Stamford	CT	\$16,000,000
Chicago Department of Transportation	IL	\$24,650,000
Chicago Transit Authority	IL	\$11,000,000
Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART)	IA	\$6,500,000
Maryland Transit Authority (MTA), on behalf of Prince George's County	MD	\$4,126,227
Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the City of Baltimore	MD	\$516,000
Maryland Transit Authority (MTA)	MD	\$260,000
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	MA	\$3,003,051
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)	MA	\$745,689
Metropolitan Council	MN	\$1,248,000
Manchester Transit Authority	NH	\$300,000
New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT)	NY	\$18,379,510
Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO)	NY	\$8,500,000
City of Cincinnati	OH	\$24,990,000
Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA)	OH	\$2,774,400
Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)	PA	\$3,980,000
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)	PA	\$5,000,000
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)	RI	\$700,000
City of Racine	WI	\$380,000
NEMW Total		\$137,992,877
National Total		\$292,195,618
NEMW % of National Total		47%

⁷ Description taken from: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=101593>

⁸ Description adapted from: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-29245.pdf> and http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants_financing_7829.html

❖ EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA)

The SGIA program is an annual, competitive solicitation open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into future development. Selected communities receive direct technical assistance from a contracted team of national experts in one of two areas: policy analysis (e.g., reviewing state and local codes, school siting guidelines, transportation policies) or public participatory processes (e.g., visioning, design workshops, alternative analysis, build-out analysis).⁹ Instead of a direct grant, each SGIA recipient receives contractor assistance valued between \$80,000 and \$90,000. In 2010, three out of the seven recipients were located in the Northeast-Midwest region. Summaries of each award can be accessed through EPA's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grantees

Recipient	State
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association	IL
Saginaw	MI
Rhode Island Housing	RI
# of NEMW Recipients	3
Total # of Recipients	7
NEMW % of National Total	43%

❖ EPA Greening America's Capitals

The Greening America's Capitals program aims to help state capitals develop a plan for distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green building and green infrastructure strategies. EPA will fund a team of designers to visit each city to produce schematic designs and illustrations, as well as implementation strategies, intended to catalyze or complement a larger planning process for the pilot neighborhood.¹⁰ This program assists three to five communities per year. In 2010, two out of five selected cities were from the Northeast-Midwest region; no NEMW cities were chosen in 2011. Summaries of each award can be accessed through EPA's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Greening America's Capitals Grantees

Selected City	State
Boston, Massachusetts	MA
Hartford, Connecticut	CT
# of NEMW Recipients	2
Total # of Recipients	5
NEMW % of National Total	40%

❖ EPA Brownfields Pilot Communities

The Pilot Communities Program provides direct technical assistance from EPA to: plan for the eventual assessment, cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of brownfield sites and associated long term quality of life improvements; plan for area-wide brownfield redevelopment; and provide expert environmental and economic analysis. Other potential areas of technical assistance from EPA include: addressing community needs such as affordable housing creation and preservation; access to transit, air

⁹ Description taken from: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>

¹⁰ Description taken from: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greencapitals.htm>

and water quality improvements; access to fresh, local food; energy efficiency improvements; renewable energy strategies; and access to green space for recreation. HUD and DOT officials serve on the technical assistance teams in order to help identify how these pilots can complement and build on past and future investments, as well as identify opportunities to bring relevant resources from their agencies as the pilots progress.¹¹ Three out of the five projects selected in February of 2010 were from the NEMW region. Summaries of each award can be accessed through EPA's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Brownfields Pilot Grantees

Project	City	State
Riverfront Crossings District	Iowa City	IA
Smart Growth Redevelopment District	Indianapolis	IN
Fairmount Line	Boston	MA
# of NEMW Recipients		3
Total # of Recipients		5
NEMW % of National Total		60%

❖ EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Initiative

The purpose of this initiative is to facilitate community involvement in developing an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. The pilot program will help further community-based partnership efforts within underserved or economically disadvantaged neighborhoods by confronting local environmental and public health challenges related to brownfields, while creating a planning framework to advance economic development and job creation. Each recipient receives up to approximately \$175,000 in grant funding and/or direct technical assistance from the Agency.¹² Summaries of each award (announced October 2010) can be accessed through EPA's website [here](#).

Northeast-Midwest Region Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Grantees

Recipient	State	Estimated Grant &/or Contract Amt.
Goshen	IN	\$175,000
Sanford	ME	\$175,000
Lowell	MA	\$175,000
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, City of Chicopee	MA	\$175,000
Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark	NJ	\$175,000
Ogdensburg	NY	\$175,000
Cleveland	OH	\$175,000
Monaca	PA	\$175,000
Estimated NEMW TOTAL		\$1,400,000
Estimated TOTAL		\$4,025,000
NEMW % OF TOTAL		35%

¹¹ Description adapted from: http://epa.gov/brownfields/sustain_plts/factsheets/scbpb_fs_web_final.pdf

¹² Description adapted from: http://epa.gov/brownfields/areawide_grants.htm

Conclusion

Much of the national program activity coordinated by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities occurs in the Northeast-Midwest region. In considering Partnership program activity for which award amounts are available, Northeast-Midwest grantees received at least a third of the total. In some cases, grantees located in the NEMW region received nearly half of the national funds distributed. The total amount appropriated to NEMW regional projects for these programs so far is at least \$1 billion. If the programs also deliver their intended benefits to the recipient communities, their value to the region would go well beyond this dollar amount. However, any program-related benefits will need to be quantified and assessed on a grant-by-grant basis over time.