



South Central Regional Convening

Growing and Strengthening Competitive Regions and Communities

January 23-24, 2014
Austin, TX

Sustainable Communities
Learning Network

NADO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Background Information & Event Materials

Welcome

Thank you for joining us in Austin! This convening is designed to build the capacity of HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge grantees and EPA technical assistance/grant recipients in the region and develop plans and partnerships to bolster their communities' economic competitiveness and quality-of-life by engaging in place-based strategies. Presentations and other event materials, as well as reports, case studies, and other resources related to planning, economic development, transportation, and sustainable development can be accessed at www.NADO.org and www.SCLearningNetwork.org. At the conclusion of the peer exchange, please be sure to fill out an evaluation form to assist us in planning future events.

Cover image courtesy of Flickr photographer Randall Chancellor, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jrandallc/>

About the Sustainable Communities Capacity Building Program

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the NADO Research Foundation is one of 11 core teams providing capacity building and technical assistance to HUD and EPA sustainable communities award recipients through the Sustainable Communities Learning Network. The capacity building teams are forming networks among the grantees to exchange ideas on successful strategies, lessons learned, and emerging tools. This work will strengthen the capacity of grantee communities to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, make more effective investments in water and wastewater infrastructure, and build vibrant, healthy, and economically prosperous neighborhoods. Grantees and their partners can access resources, network with their peers, and find information about upcoming events on the SC Learning Network, available at: <http://SCLearningNetwork.org/>.

This program is a component of the *Partnership for Sustainable Communities*, an innovative interagency collaboration launched by President Obama in June 2009 between HUD, EPA, and DOT to lay the foundation for a 21st century economy by creating more financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable communities. More information about the Partnership and additional resources can be found at <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/>

Sponsors

This convening was coordinated by the NADO Research Foundation as part of the Sustainable Communities Learning Network through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed at this event do not necessarily reflect the views of HUD. Special thanks to all of those who assisted in the development of this convening, including all speakers and facilitators lending their expertise and time.



Sustainable Communities
 Learning Network

About NADO and the NADO Research Foundation

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) is a national membership organization for the nation's 500+ regional planning and development organizations focused on strengthening local governments, communities, and economies. Regional planning and development organizations—known locally as regional planning commissions, councils of governments, area development districts, or similar terms—play a key role in regional and community economic development, business development finance, technology and telecommunications, transportation planning, workforce development, GIS analysis, disaster preparedness, and a variety of other types of services and support for member local governments.

Founded in 1988, the NADO Research Foundation is the nonprofit research affiliate of NADO. The NADO Research Foundation identifies, studies, and promotes regional solutions and approaches to improving local prosperity and services through the nationwide network of regional planning and development organizations. The Research Foundation shares best practices and offers professional development training, analyzes the impact of federal policies and programs on RDOs, and examines the latest developments and trends in small metropolitan and rural America. Most importantly, the Research Foundation is helping bridge the communication gap among practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.



400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 390
Washington, DC 20001 | 202.624.7806
Info@NADO.org | www.NADO.org
www.RuralTransportation.org
www.KnowYourRegion.org
@NADOweb | facebook.com/NADO.org

Table of Contents

Agenda.....	4
Location Information	6
Participant Profiles	7
HUD Sustainable Communities Grantees.....	7
EPA Technical Assistance Recipients	15
Additional Participating Projects.....	17
Convening Participant List	20

South Central Regional Convening Agenda

Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown
Colorado Conference Room (18th Floor)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Networking Breakfast**
Coffee and breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**
Brett Schwartz, Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation
Megan McConville, Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation
- 9:15 a.m. Morning Keynote: 2014 Outlook - Trends in Effective Messaging for Sustainable Communities**
As we enter 2014, learn about the critical trends shaping demand for sustainable communities and discuss the best ways to harness them to advance your work.
Robin Rather, CEO, Collective Strength (Austin, TX)
- 10:15 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. Grantee Success Stories: Sharing What's Working (5x5 Presentations) – Part 1**
Participants will each have five minutes and five Powerpoint slides to highlight one key success story from their project in this fast-paced series of short presentations followed by Q&A
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon Presentation: Measuring the Impact of Development Scenarios**
The Sustainable Places Project, working with other regional HUD grantees, built a suite of planning tools to better understand the impacts of development patterns. The open-source tools were tested in Austin and four smaller cities, and are now ready for other communities to explore. CAPCOG will discuss key findings from its demonstration plans and discuss next steps towards implementation.
Chad Coburn, Program Manager, Capital Area Council of Governments (Austin, TX)
- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Keynote: HUD's Focus on Place-Based Initiatives**
Tammye H. Treviño, Regional Administrator, HUD Region VI
- 2:15 p.m. Break and meet outside hotel to board bus for tour**
- 2:30 p.m. Tour of Colony Park neighborhood**
The Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative is a three-year planning process that will culminate in the Master Plan for 208 acres of publicly-owned land in East Austin. Tour the project site to learn more about efforts to transform this area into a sustainable and livable mixed-use, mixed-income community.
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn Day One**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Networking

Coffee and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Grantee Success Stories: Sharing What's Working (5x5 Presentations) – Part 2

Participants will each have five minutes and five Powerpoint slides to highlight one key success story from their project in this fast-paced series of short presentations followed by Q&A

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Making the Case for Sustainability and Economic Development

For planners engaged in sustainability initiatives, getting participation and buy-in from local businesses and economic development organizations can be difficult. This group discussion session will explore practical techniques for linking sustainability goals to economic outcomes as a way of building support for planning and implementation.

Brian Kelsey, Director of Economic Development, NADO Research Foundation and Principal, Civic Analytics

11:30 a.m. "Round Robin" Working Lunch in Peer Groups

Grantee-led small group discussions about best practices, technical assistance, and additional needs

1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

- Conversations with Federal Representatives (*HUD, EPA, DOT, USDA, EDA*)
- Extreme Weather Preparedness and Climate Adaptation Strategies (*Sascha Petersen, Managing Director, American Society of Adaptation Professionals*)

2:00 p.m. Key Takeaways / Next Steps

Addressing both short-term and long-term goals

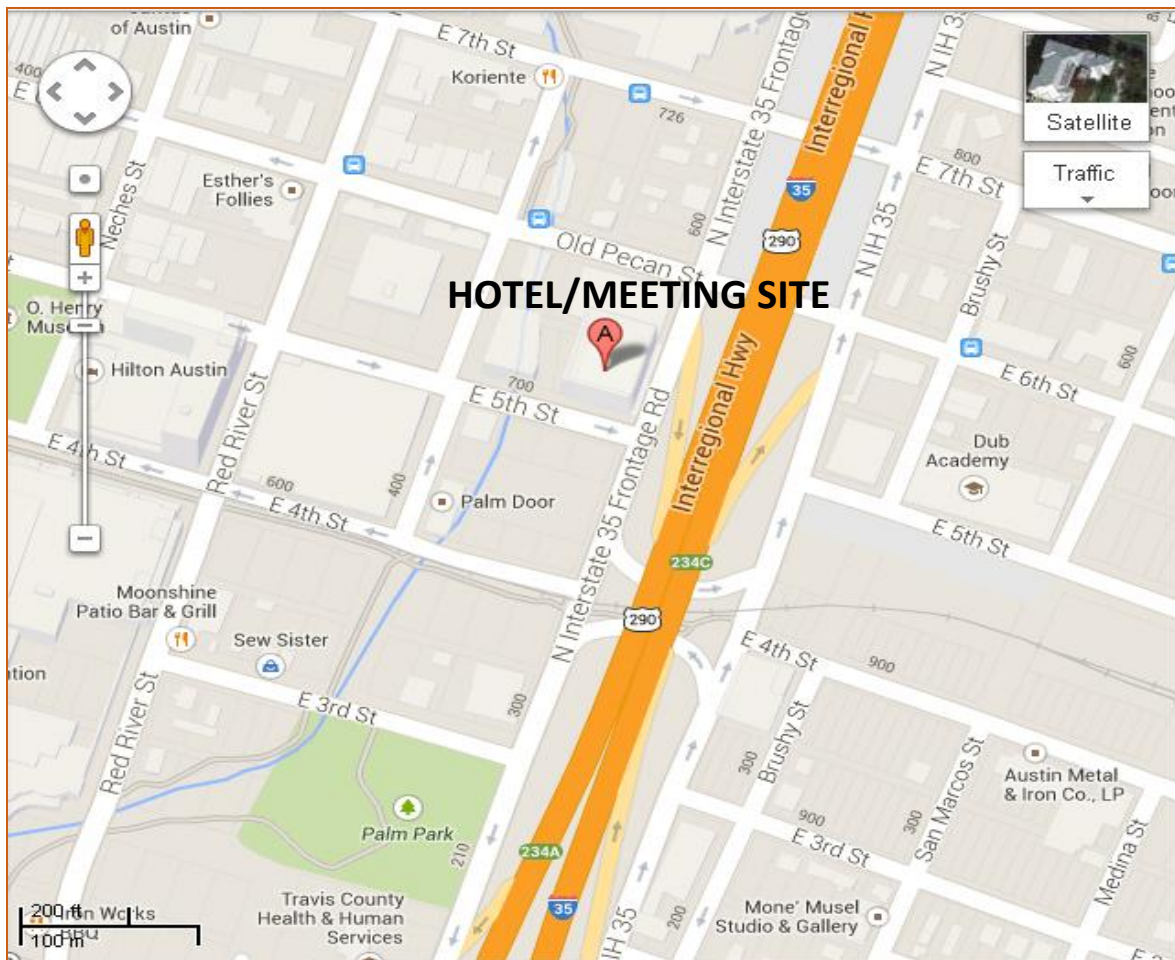
2:30 p.m. Adjourn

Location Information

Accommodations: **Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown / Convention Center**
500 N. Interstate 35
Austin, TX, 78701
512.480.8181

Meeting Space: The Colorado Conference Room (18th Floor)

Attire: Business Casual



Project Profiles

HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative Grantees

COLONY PARK SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

LOCATION: Northeast Austin, Colony Park-Lakeside Neighborhood

LEAD GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: City of Austin Office of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

PROJECT PARTNERS: Colony Park Neighborhood Association, University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Austin Community College, Austin Housing Finance Corporation

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 1

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: Approximately 20,000

GRANT TYPE AND YEAR AWARDED: FY11 – Community Challenge Grant

PROJECT SCOPE: The Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative is a three-year Community Planning Process that will culminate in a Master Plan for 208-acres of publicly-owned land in Northeast Austin, in addition to 50 acres of parkland, on Loyola Lane between Johnny Morris Road and Decker Lane. The development will incorporate best practice strategies for energy-efficient building design, water conservation and zero-waste technology, and standards to create a model sustainable and livable mixed-use, mixed-income community. The project will include completion of a Master Plan, resulting in rezoning; engineering for subdivision and site planning for review and approval by the City of Austin; infrastructure construction plans; and architectural design guidelines for new sustainable residential and commercial development.

The proposed project will support and furthers the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s six “livability principles:” to provide more transportation choices; promote equitable, affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; support existing communities; coordinate policies and leverage investment; and value communities and neighborhoods.

Project Goals:

1. Further land-use planning and development of 208 acres of publicly-owned land at Colony Park inspired by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Livability Principles.
2. Foster cross-department/agency coordination and create successful models of comprehensive systems change to support sustainable and equitable development.
3. Support capacity building and community transformation goals of Colony Park area residents and stakeholders.

SUCSESSES: The Colony Park Sustainable Community Project has resulted in the creation of an effective partnership between the Office of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) and the Colony Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA). This partnership is characterized by a shared decision-making process between NHCD staff and CPNA members that has resulted in the development and implementation of a public engagement plan spearheaded by the University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) – at the behest of CPNA – as well as a public vetting process for the Design

Consultants hired by the City of Austin. Through discussions between CPNA, NHCD, and the City of Austin Contract Management Department (CMD), the process for hiring a Design consultant was structured to allow for increased community input on the selection of the consultant team. The process produced both a staff recommended selection and one preferred by the majority of stakeholder residents who attended an open event wherein the two finalist teams presented their pitches to the public. With the ultimate decision left to the Austin City Council, council members were unanimous in their selection of the community-preferred team, which differed from the staff recommendation. By embracing an inclusive process, NHCD has been able to build trust with residents and stakeholders, particularly CPNA, allowing for greater collaboration between the two-parties.

The project has also been successful in bringing various City departments together to share information, priorities, and plans for the project area, resulting in upfront buy-in from those departments which should hopefully speed up the regulatory review of the project.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: Northeast Austin and Colony Park in particular face a myriad of challenges. Currently the area has seen the highest increase in the rates of morbidity and mortality (between 2000 and 2010) of any zip code in the City. As a series of neighborhoods on the fringe of the City, there is a lack of access to healthy food, significant health services, and a land-use pattern hostile to non-motorized forms of transportation. In addition to health issues, there is significant poverty in the area, with a high concentration of manufactured housing and tax credits properties coupled with long commuting times to jobs, which puts an increased burden on working families. Crime and gang activity are problematic in the area as well. Moving forward beyond the present date, affordability may become a serious issue as Austin's housing market continues to outperform many cities around the country, which has led to a tight rental market and a rising cost of living.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: Our consortium is engaged in ongoing capacity building efforts targeted at increasing the organizational effectiveness of local neighborhood associations, helping them to improve recruitment and advocate more forcefully on their behalf, in addition to helping them create community development corporations to become involved in the development of the project site and project area.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Margarita Decierdo

Commissioner, Community Development Commission
Colony Park Neighborhood Association
Austin, TX

Teri Durden

Planner, City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
Austin, TX

Carrie Elliott

Senior Program Coordinator, UT – Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
Austin, TX

Sandra Harkins

Project Coordinator, City of Austin
Austin, TX

Brandon Reed

Member, Colony Park Neighborhood Association
Austin, TX

Zachary Stern

Planner III, City of Austin, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
Austin, TX

Melvin Wrenn

Member, Colony Park Neighborhood Association
Austin, TX

SUSTAINABLE PLACES PROJECT

LOCATION: Austin, Texas region

LEAD GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: Capital Area Council of Governments

PROJECT PARTNERS: City of Austin, University of Texas, CAMPO, many others

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 5-county region

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: 1,800,000

GRANT TYPE AND YEAR AWARDED: FY10 – Regional Planning grant

PROJECT SCOPE: The Sustainable Places Project aimed to align housing, jobs, and transportation options in a way that complements existing community values. We carried the CAMPO 2035 activity center concept forward to implementation on three fronts:

1. We partnered with other regions and universities to build a scenario planning tool and a suite of complementary applications for public engagement, 3D visioning, housing demand modeling, and more.
2. We executed planning demonstration projects at selected Activity Center sites to implement best practices for and overcome obstacles to more compact, mixed-use, mixed-income development with a geographical balance of jobs and housing linked to local and regional multimodal transportation networks. The City of Austin also used the analytic tools to further an economic development case for a new urban rail system.
3. A broad-based engagement program of regional forums and tool training was conducted to build awareness and consensus around integrating land use with transportation planning, coordinating economic development regionally, balancing jobs with housing availability, demonstrating density, planning for open space, and closing the gap for underprivileged population in the areas of health, education, housing, jobs, and transportation.

SUCCESSSES: Plans for Activity Centers in Lockhart, Dripping Springs, Hutto, and Elgin were approved by city councils in December. From creative new park ideas in the heart of Dripping Springs and Lockhart to

innovative strategies for public lands in Hutto and Elgin, these cities have created visions for growth and addressed the code revisions, infrastructure improvements, and economic strategies needed to get there.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: Our economy grew during the recession from 2008-2011, but suburban poverty is increasing, and with it the difficulties of providing social services far from the urban cores. There is concern that job growth, fueled from people moving to the region, masks a population of current residents left behind in the economy. This is the impetus for Activity Center implementation efforts and better planning to link transportation, housing, and higher education options.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: Building on its long history of supporting economic development throughout Central Texas, CAPCOG is excited to introduce a new program designed to support the creation of vibrant and prosperous places. Recognizing that for many communities the most direct path to economic growth is through successful “place making” and through strategic efforts to prime key neighborhoods for development, CAPCOG has established the Prosperous Places Program (P3), taking advantage of a newly created planning and analytics toolkit. This innovative suite of analytics tools has been built to identify opportunities for development and to evaluate the long-term effects of various growth scenarios on communities across a wide range of important issues. The analysis is used to support plans that promote a sense of place and aligns housing, jobs, and transportation options in a way that complements existing community values and strengthens the economy.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Chad Coburn

Program Manager, Capital Area Council of Governments
Austin, TX

Bob Paterson

Assistant Professor, UT Austin
Austin, TX

Sarah Wu

Program Coordinator, UT Center for Sustainable Development
Austin, TX

DALLAS TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

LOCATION: City of Dallas (multiple locations)

LEAD GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: City of Dallas

PROJECT PARTNERS: Dallas Area Rapid Transit, private developer community, non-profit developers, Dallas Public Library

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 1

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: 1,300,000

GRANT TYPE AND YEAR AWARDED: FY10 – Community Challenge grant

PROJECT SCOPE: We used our Community Challenge grant to complete five area plans that encompassed

seven Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) stations. Each of these area plans have traditional planning recommendations, an example of an adaptive reuse project, and a catalyst project that could spur development and change quickly. We used the remaining time and funds to support preconstruction activities to bring these catalyst projects to construction.

SUCSESSES: The catalyst projects are the most unique component of our grant and we expect at least three of these projects to be under construction later this year. This will put new affordable housing on the ground in two locations and support a new medical clinic. Three other projects are likely to go to construction in 2015, including a mixed-use development anchored by a new branch of a Dallas Public Library. In addition, this grant has led to a new level of cooperation and interaction between various city departments, which is a practice the City will continue in the future.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: We had challenges at the outset getting appropriate community participation which required us to revamp our community outreach component. We also have had some challenges finding market rate developers to look at the areas that are highlighted in our area plans.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: By supporting preconstruction activities with the grant funds, we believe the catalyst projects will move quickly to implementation, leaving a lasting legacy for this grant. In addition to the catalyst projects identified in each area plan, other projects proposed for the area plan's study areas have conformed to the area plan recommendations. Finally, as mentioned previously, multi-department teams within the City of Dallas enhance the City's ability to support projects, planning, and bringing change to neighborhoods.

CONVENING PARTICIPANT:

Heather Lepeska
Project Manager, City of Dallas
Dallas, TX

reNEW EAST ARKANSAS

LOCATION: 12 counties in East Arkansas

LEAD GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: East Arkansas Planning and Development District

PROJECT PARTNERS: Building Communities, ReSeed Advisors, J-QUAD Planning Group, Younger Associates, University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Institute for Economic Advancement (UALR-IEA), Arkansas State University Delta Center for Economic Development (ASU-DECD), Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), Southern Bancorp Community Partners, Ciaramitaro and Associates, Clinton School of Public Service

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 107 municipalities, 12 counties

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: 390,274

GRANT TYPE AND YEAR AWARDED: FY11 – Regional Planning grant

PROJECT SCOPE: East Arkansas Planning and Development District (EAPDD) has formed the East Arkansas Regional Planning Partnership to oversee *reNEW East Arkansas* in the 12 counties the District serves as a result of the successful receipt of a FY2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

The *reNEW East Arkansas* program supports a community and multijurisdictional planning initiative that integrates housing, land use, economic development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. This planning initiative assists area jurisdictions and the region in addressing challenges that are interrelated but rarely addressed comprehensively. These challenges include community competitiveness and revitalization; access to jobs, education, and services; energy and other resource conservation; and environmental impact.

The program features a substantial community outreach component, particularly in traditionally marginalized communities. This outreach has resulted in 20 community and/or county-based economic development strategic plans utilizing a unique methodology designed by Building Communities. This initiative will be supported by the development of a regional inventory of underutilized assets enhanced by digital modeling tools to help communities envision the greater outcomes such assets can provide as strategies are implemented. Common issues raised during planning meetings over an 18-month process will drive the development of a regional development plan grounded in livability and sustainability principles. This regional plan will meet reciprocity goals established by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Concurrent with and integrated into this process are regional studies addressing issues including housing, transportation, local food, and access to each of these. These studies are being conducted by qualified firms which are partners in the grant or are identified through an RFP process. Collection and management of data will be carried out so as to ensure decisions are well-informed and communicated across all jurisdictions to guide the progress of plan implementation and maximize success.

To date, in addition to completing 20 community-based strategic planning processes, we have held two regional housing stakeholder workshops, more than 40 one-on-one stakeholder visioning interviews, two regional transportation and land-use scenario planning workshops and 12 East Arkansas Regional Planning Partnership meetings. More than 1,500 volunteers have been involved in the process from its inception logging more than 10,000 hours of service. Throughout the process, leaders and local officials are being introduced to economic development concepts and information to which they have previously not had access. The program has also brought new individuals, notably youth, healthcare professionals, public school officials, and traditionally marginalized audiences, to the planning process. We are continuing to evolve and evaluate our process to bring even more of these people to the table in their local communities and together as a region.

Since *reNEW East Arkansas* began, East Arkansas Planning and Development District communities have created, applied for, and implemented over \$23,000,000.00 in infrastructure investments with technical assistance from EAPDD. Projects such as paved streets for the first time ever in the city of Jericho; water and sewer upgrades in Manila to prepare for new residential and commercial developments to support the steel industry; a multimodal port in West Memphis to move grain and other commodities for global competitiveness; and an adult education center located in Trumann to raise the education level of its citizens. These projects are just the beginning for our region.

SUCCESSSES: One major success of *reNEW East Arkansas* is the emerging awareness of regionalism's importance across our 12 counties. Elected officials, consortium members, and citizens, including the traditionally marginalized, are seeing the value of working together and speaking with one voice to create greater impact and leverage resources more effectively. Comments regarding regional approaches in applying for grants or working on projects are more commonplace. It is a significant shift that regionalism has entered

the lexicon in East Arkansas. This is a region that has not always worked well together. Resources have been so scarce that competition has been the norm; Jonesboro, a major area of growth, has traditionally been pitted against areas in decline. Meetings of *reNEW East Arkansas'* consortium provide a venue for members and attendees to share ideas and opportunities that have impact across jurisdictional lines. Common themes are emerging across the region as communities identify planning strategies which has led to dialogue and the sharing of ideas.

The reNEW East Arkansas program has also given locally-driven steering committees the opportunity to define what "sustainability" means for them. For some communities, the ability to have quality everyday necessities is the first key to long-term sustainability, important to achieve before attempting to reach bigger dreams. These communities have also been able to identify their true priorities based on extensive community engagement that has resulted in more than 1,500 people from all sectors in the community coming together to define such needs.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: Our region faces several significant challenges that the reNEW East Arkansas program is working feverishly to address. One of these core challenges is a lack of leadership capacity. Leaders throughout east Arkansas struggle due to the lack of basic necessities in many of the extreme rural areas of the region. This challenge is exacerbated by a major gap in technology including limited broadband infrastructure, the access to the right data to make informed strategic decisions for their respective communities, and the capacity to fully utilize that data. The data management element of the *reNEW East Arkansas* program will assist communities by giving them access to important data and also knowledge of how to use this information when applying for investment opportunities or making critical decisions of how to leverage local resources for potential projects. This program has already allowed our leaders to begin improving their leadership capacity by attending community and economic development training and to network with others throughout the region and state that can help them learn the best methods to achieve their goals.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: To continue capacity and implementation beyond the grant period, the East Arkansas Regional Planning Partnership is hosting a capacity building regional summit in April. This gathering will give local leaders a chance to network with experts in several key areas of capacity building and also with state and federal officials.

Also, a data management platform is being developed that will give local and regional leaders access to key information sets that will assist them when competing for investment opportunities, both at the state and federal level. It will also give them access to the right information to make effective and informed decisions when opportunity arises, whether it be an industry or business interested in locating in their community.

We are committed to providing ongoing training and support for our public and private leaders beyond the life of this grant. EAPDD has also strategically realigned its staff to better serve the needs of its communities. This alignment will help EAPDD adequately and accurately develop projects and opportunities that are directly tied to the locally-driven community and economic development strategic plans that the 20 communities have developed as part of the reNEW East Arkansas planning process. EAPDD also will take the same approach in aligning projects developed through its Economic Development Administration (EDA) Revolving Loan Fund and Environmental Services programs. There are also plans for the formation of a non-profit foundation that can assist communities in the long-term development of their strategies and initiatives, long after the HUD grant has closed.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Melissa Rivers

Executive Director, East Arkansas Planning and Development District
Jonesboro, AR

Jamie Wright

Special Projects, East Arkansas Planning and Development District
Jonesboro, AR

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGIONAL PROSPERITY PLAN

LOCATION: 9-county San Francisco Bay Area

LEAD GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: Metropolitan Transportation Commission

PROJECT PARTNERS: Association of Bay Area Governments, local jurisdictions, business and labor groups, workforce investment boards and community colleges, economic development agencies, transit agencies, community-based organizations, and elected officials

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 9 counties and 101 cities

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: 7,000,000

GRANT TYPE AND YEAR AWARDED: FY11 – Regional Planning grant

PROJECT SCOPE: The primary objective of the program is to address inequities experienced by low-income and minority populations in the region, as they relate to access to housing and economic opportunities. The program will develop a Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy to expand mobility and opportunity for low- and moderate-income workers; tools and resources to promote the production and preservation of affordable housing near transit; and policies to address neighborhood stabilization in communities at risk of displacement. The program has also allocated \$3 million for pass-through sub-grants to fund pilot projects at the local level that implement priority strategies, while building capacity in those communities to engage with local and regional decision-making processes. The program is currently in its second year of implementation.

SUCCESES: A key success of the program to date has been the collaboration, partnerships, and working relationships established among stakeholders who traditionally have not worked together. This is key to the success of any multi-jurisdiction, multi-sector, and multi-stakeholder program in a region as diverse and large as the Bay Area.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: This program is addressing the following four priority issues: funding for the production and preservation of affordable housing; risk of displacement of low-income residents living in high-opportunity transit served areas; access to and availability of middle-income jobs for low- and moderate-income workers; and capacity of community members and groups to represent their perspectives and priorities in local and regional decision-making processes.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: While the project is still in the second year of implementation, the Prosperity Plan consortium has started to engage both major funders in the region as well as key organizations and agencies that would have a strong role in implementing project recommendations. The consortium is also

sponsoring capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and training events to build capacity of local agencies and organizations to continue the work beyond the grant period.

CONVENING PARTICIPANT:

Vikrant Sood

Program Manager, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Oakland, CA

EPA Technical Assistance Recipients

EPA BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – GREEN BUILDING AND NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

LOCATION: Vinton, Texas

LEAD PROJECT ORGANIZATION: Village of Vinton, TX

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 1

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: 1,981

PROJECT SCOPE: The Technical Assistance focused on informing the community about smart growth and green building approaches. The purpose of the TA was to assist the community in identifying the areas which were prohibiting growth and find alternative strategies to promote growth. Over 2.5 days the consultants assisted in a process to guide the participants towards identifying obstacles, needs, and a vision for the future of the community.

SUCCESES: Our project successfully identified the need to update local ordinances and the importance of reviewing the “Plan” on a more regular basis as the conditions surrounding Vinton change. The participants were able to see the various interests and changes that could be done to stimulate growth even with the lack of infrastructure. Long term, participants saw the need to plan for the future and the negative impact the infrastructure could have if a plan was not in place to control development.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: The lack of a municipal-wide water and wastewater system was the easiest challenge to identify. Through the homework exercise and workshops participants were able to see that growth could be achieved without those two elements in place. Participants were exposed to the need to create a new Master Plan for the city. This will be a challenge for the community in protecting the agriculture interests with the service and housing needs of the community.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: Following the “Next Steps” outline provided, Vinton has put together a steering committee to begin the process of updating the Master plan and the building/development ordinances related to growth. In addition, the committee has established a timeline for the next nine months to achieve the final product. Staff has begun to identify regional resources to assist the committee that includes developers, builders, retired planners, and other cities that have implemented Green Building Codes.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Stella Dominguez
Village of Vinton
Vinton, TX

Pete Flores
Village of Vinton
Vinton, TX

Additional Participating Projects

ROSE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

LOCATION: Texarkana, Texas

LEAD PROJECT ORGANIZATION: City of Texarkana, Texas and Housing Authority of Texarkana, Texas

PROJECT PARTNERS: City of Texarkana, Texas, Housing Authority of Texarkana, Texas, Texas A & M University – Texarkana, Texarkana Independent School District, Texarkana College, Rose Hill Neighborhood Improvement Association, Bowie – Miller County Literacy Council, Texarkana – Bowie County Family Health Center, Volunteer Center, CHRISTUS – St. Michael Health Systems, Wadley Regional Health Systems, NE Texas Workforce Development, Texarkana Parks and Recreation Department, Texarkana Homeless Coalition, Boys and Girls Clubs, Area Churches, Carleton Residential Properties, BGO Design Group, Terracon Environmental, HUD CPD and PHA, and EPA Brownfields.

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 1

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: Approximately 5,000

PROJECT SCOPE: The Rose Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project is a five-phase initiative of the Texarkana Texas Public Housing Authority and City of Texarkana, Texas. The goal of the project is to enhance the housing stock, increase economic development, and improve the quality of life in this target area.

Beginning in 2003 with the reconstruction of approximately twenty single-family homes by the City and a multimillion dollar investment in the public schools in the area, revitalization efforts were continued through a partnership between the Housing Authority and City. These efforts have resulted in the development of close to 500 energy efficient units which replaced 1940's era projects. Additionally, the PHA has constructed 25 single family homes, while the City has reconstructed another 30 homes in the target area since 2005.

Project funding includes a \$20 million HOPE VI grant, over \$30 million in tax credit equity, additional private investment, a six year commitment of all Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funding by the City, City General Revenues and Bond proceeds, City Economic Development Grants, and EPA Brownfield funding. It is estimated that the total investment in the redevelopment effort since 2007 approximates \$70 million.

No sustainable communities planning grants, community challenge grants, or formal EPA technical assistance was used in the project. Despite the lack of these resources, project partners began and continued the development process in within the context of designing and redeveloping Rose Hill as a sustainable neighborhood. The selection of Rose Hill as the target neighborhood was driven by factors related to the partner's ability to sustain redevelopment efforts. Factors such as the grid, housing ownership, types, and architecture, walkability and connectivity, recreation, educational facilities, existing and future commercial development were all considered in the selection process. Planning efforts have increased sustainability of this neighborhood and surrounding area. The most recent addition to the Rose Hill multifamily housing inventory (Rose Hill Ridge) holds LEED Platinum certification.

While the City played a supportive role in the development of the PHA new housing stock, its contribution in planning and in resource development were critical to the project success. The combined efforts of all partners have set a course from decline to development for this historic neighborhood, but ten years of

revitalization efforts does not offset sixty years of neglect and decline. The revitalization of Rose Hill continues, and has now spread to surrounding neighborhoods which have many similar challenges.

SUCCESES:

- Improved housing stock
- Increased property values and tax base
- Reduced police calls
- Increased economic activity – increased sales tax revenue
- Business expansion and increased job availability (within neighborhood)
- Removal of contaminants

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES:

- Leadership (elected leadership which has vision and commitment)
- Workforce development
- Redevelopment
- Transportation planning

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION:

Existing partnerships continue to focus on addressing needs in other neighborhood. We have become good at sharing a vision and leveraging each parties’ resources.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Craig Lindholm

Executive Director, Community Redevelopment and Grants, City of Texarkana
Texarkana, TX

Holly Wall

Grant Program Specialist, City of Texarkana
Texarkana, TX

LIVABLE CENTERS – SECOND WARD

LOCATION: Houston’s East End

LEAD PROJECT ORGANIZATION: Greater East End Management District

PROJECT PARTNERS: FTA

COUNTIES/MUNICIPALITIES SERVED: 1

PROJECT POPULATION AREA: Approximately 90,000

PROJECT SCOPE: In 2009, the East End Management District in partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) conducted a Livable Centers Study in the old Second Ward area of Houston. The study involved an extensive public engagement process that involved area stakeholders, community groups, and elected officials.

The East End Livable Centers study asked the neighborhood residents and businesses to identify the changes they wanted for their neighborhood. They spelled out five major improvement projects for the East End's Second Ward. In addition to improving Guadalupe Park and making Navigation the new main street, the residents and stakeholders recommended projects included major improvements to pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to transit and to existing discontinuous hike and bike trails; major intersection improvements to create a more walkable environment; and addressing the poor connectivity of the Second Ward to the new light rail, east downtown and downtown.

In order to begin the implementation of the Livable Centers project the District applied for and received a \$5 million stimulus grant (ARRA) for sidewalks and beautification in the Second Ward area centering around Navigation Blvd. The main goal of this project was to create community connectivity to both light rail transit and bus transit. This major transit beautification project is complete now and is celebrated by the neighborhood.

SUCSESSES: A part of the project was improving Navigation Blvd so it would again become "el Corazon de la comunidad", the heart of the community. Since the project was completed in September 2013, the community has held a large street festival and 3 other smaller community events on the Blvd. (East End Street Fest, Dia De Los Muertos, The Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Las Posadas).

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES: This low-income impoverished area is severely lacking in physical infrastructure investment. High school graduation rates are very low, and job opportunities for residents within the community are limited.

MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION: In partnership with the City of Houston, the management district was a participant in the application for a \$15,000,000 TIGER grant to improve the hike and bike network through the East End. In 2012, the city of Houston was awarded the TIGER grant of which \$5.6 million will be spent in the East End to make major improvements for both bicyclists and pedestrians. This grant will also pay for the renovation of Guadalupe park, one of the original goals of the Livable Centers project.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS:

Patrick Ezzell

Director of Economic Development, Greater East End Management District
Houston TX

South Central Convening Participant List

FirstName	Last Name	Professional Title	Organization	City	State	E-mail
Chad	Coburn	Program Manager	Capital Area Council of Governments	Austin	TX	ccoburn@capcog.org
Margarita	Decierdo	Commissioner Community Development Commission	Colony Park Neighborhood Association	Austin	TX	decierdo82@gmail.com
Stella	Dominguez		Village of Vinton	Vinton	TX	
Teri	Durden	Planner	City of Austin Neighborhood Housing & Community Development	Austin	TX	teri.durden@austintexas.gov
Carrie	Elliott	Senior Program Coordinator	UT- Division of Diversity & Community Engagement	Austin	TX	CarrieDElliott@austin.utexas.edu
Patrick	Ezzell	Director of Economic Development	Greater East End Management District	Houston	TX	pezzell@greatereastend.com
Jessica	Falk	Senior Project Officer	Economic Development Administration	Austin	TX	jfalk@eda.gov
Kirk	Fauver	Environmental and Transportation Planning Coordinator	FHWA TX Division	Austin	TX	kirk.fauver@dot.gov
Pete	Flores		Village of Vinton	Vinton	TX	pflores@gisd.k12.nm.us
Sandra	Harkins	Project Coordinator	City of Austin	Austin	TX	sandra.harkins@austintexas.gov
Brian	Kelsey	Director of Economic Development	NADO Research Foundation	Austin	TX	bkelsey@nado.org
Heather	Lepeska	Project Manager	City of Dallas	Dallas	TX	Heather.lepeska@dallascityhall.com
Craig	Lindholm	Executive Director Community Redevelopment and Grants	City of Texarkana	Texarkana	TX	clindholm@txkusa.org
Richard	Lopez	Field Office Director	HUD San Antonio	San Antonio	TX	Richard.L.Lopez@hud.gov
Susan	Maclay	Senior Associate, Planner	The Goodman Corporation	Austin	TX	smaclay@thegoodmancorp.com
Megan	McConville	Program Manager	NADO Research Foundation	Washington	DC	MMcConville@nado.org
Bob	Paterson	Asst. Professor	UT Austin	Austin	TX	rgfp@austin.utexas.edu
Sascha	Petersen	Managing Director	American Society of Adaptation Professionals	Austin	TX	spetersen@iscvt.org
Karen	Peycke	Targeted Brownfields Coordinator & Brownfields Project Manager	US EPA	Dallas	TX	peycke.karen@epa.gov
Robin	Rather	CEO	Collective Strength	Austin	TX	robin@collectivestrength.com
Brandon	Reed	Member	Colony Park Neighborhood Association	Austin	TX	brandonreed@gmail.com

Melissa	Rivers	Executive Director	East Arkansas Planning and Development District	Jonesboro	AR	mrivers@eapdd.com
Chris	Rys	Management Analyst	Economic Development Administration	Austin	TX	crys@eda.gov
Brett	Schwartz	Program Manager	NADO Research Foundation	Washington	DC	bschwartz@nado.org
Vikrant	Sood	Program Manager	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	Oakland	CA	vsood@mtc.ca.gov
Zachary	Stern	Planner III	City of Austin Neighborhood Housing & Community Development	Austin	TX	zach.stern@austintexas.gov
Daniel	Torres	Director, Business & Coop Programs	USDA Rural Development	Temple	TX	Daniel.Torres@tx.usda.gov
Tammye	Treviño	Regional Administrator	US Department of Housing and Urban Development	Fort Worth	TX	Tammye.H.Treviño@hud.gov
Holly	Wall	Grant Program Specialist	City of Texarkana	Texarkana	TX	holly.wall@txkusa.org
Melvin	Wrenn	Member	Colony Park Neighborhood Association	Austin	TX	melgwrenn@aol.com
Jamie	Wright	Special Projects	East Arkansas Planning and Development District	Jonesboro	AR	jwright@eapdd.com
Sarah	Wu	Program Coordinator	UT Center for Sustainable Development	Austin	TX	sarahwu@austin.utexas.edu