



SPECIAL EDITION

OCTOBER 28, 2010

PUBLIC NOTICE

MPO AWARDED \$2 MILLION TO CREATE REGIONAL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday, October 14, 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is one of forty-five recipients of grant funding through the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*. The \$2 million grant will be utilized to develop a regional plan for sustainable development (RPSD) for the MPO's metropolitan planning area, which encompasses 542 square miles.

The MPO led a consortium of local stakeholders to apply for the grant. The consortium's steering committee includes representatives from the MPO; Dallas, Polk, and Warren counties; Carlisle, Des Moines, Johnston, Urbandale, and West Des Moines; the Greater Des Moines Partnership; the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines; and, the Center on Sustainable Communities. This consortium will continue to lead the planning efforts now that grant funding has been awarded. The consortium also recognizes and thanks Iowa's congressional delegation for their work in securing this grant.

The grant will be used to create an RPSD that will provide a comprehensive framework for future development of the region, creating new and integrating existing regionally-planned components. Grant funding will facilitate the creation of regional housing, environmental, and land use plans. It also will provide the opportunity to produce a long-range regional transit plan and a strategic plan for economic and workforce development, both of which are vital components of the area's RPSD. The formulation of the RPSD ultimately will provide the chance to link these key endeavors to one another as well as to other existing regional plans. Additionally, the RPSD will suggest updates to existing plans in order to align all regional planning efforts. The RPSD, with its time horizon stretching to 2050, will relate the findings of the aforementioned studies and plans to the overall multi-disciplinary vision, goals, and initiatives underway in the greater Des Moines metropolitan area.

This is the first year for the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*. The program drew 225 eligible applications, which were reviewed by multidisciplinary teams of federal agency and philanthropic organization representatives. More information is available online at <http://www.dmampo.org/sustainability.html>. If anyone has questions or comments, please contact the MPO staff by telephone at (515) 334-0075 or via email at bwilcoxon@dmampo.org.