



## **An Analysis of HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge Grants**

### **Executive Summary**

The past few months have been an exciting time as large and small communities, representing all corners of the country, have worked on developing collaborative planning processes that will address the unique conditions in their region and which will improve the quality of life for the diverse people that live, work and play there.

The impetus for this has been competition for grants springing from the unprecedented partnership announced last year between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In October, HUD and DOT announced the finalists of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning (SCRPG), Community Challenge, and TIGER II planning awards.

Reconnecting America staff has been busy reviewing successful and unsuccessful applications for innovative ideas, common themes and unique concepts. We have also compiled a list of finalists of all the awards with descriptions of the proposed activities.

Our primary focus was on collecting applications for the SCRPG grants since we have been involved in many regional efforts to implement equitable transit-oriented development. Prior to the announcement of grant recipients, we were able to obtain 47 SCRPG applications from across the country through web research and outreach to our contacts at various metropolitan planning organizations. Seventeen of these regions received awards. There was an overwhelming focus on transit corridors and equitable housing development in many of these applications, especially among applications from regions with an existing plan and looking to implement that plan or fill in gaps.

Our key findings:

- Approximately 132 regions around the United States received an award from HUD or DOT through the Sustainable Communities and/or TIGER programs.
- 40 of the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas received an award. Phoenix, Baltimore, and San Antonio were the largest regions to receive no awards.
- Very few regions received more than one award. Many regions that did not receive a Regional Planning grant received either a Community Challenge or TIGER II grant.
- Nine common themes emerged among successful applicants to all award programs: equity, corridor planning, station area planning, comprehensive planning, connectivity, zoning/land use reform, healthy eating, and data sharing and modeling.
- Applications that contained more specific strategies and implementation efforts around these key themes were more successful than those that were more general.

Spreadsheets are available of the Regional Planning, Community Challenge, and TIGER II planning grants here. (insert link to PDF spreadsheets)

To view the official press releases and award descriptions from HUD & DOT, click on the following links:

- Maps showing HUD and DOT Sustainable Communities grant locations:  
[http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/2010\\_hud\\_dot\\_award\\_maps](http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/2010_hud_dot_award_maps)
- DOT TIGERII Planning Awards FY 2010:  
[http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/dot\\_tigerii\\_award\\_spreadsheet](http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/dot_tigerii_award_spreadsheet)
- HUD Sustainable Communities Community Challenge Joint DOT TIGERII Awards FY 2010:  
[http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/hud\\_dot\\_challenge\\_award\\_spreadsheet](http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/hud_dot_challenge_award_spreadsheet)
- HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Awards FY2010:  
[http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/hud\\_scrpg\\_award\\_spreadsheet](http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/hud_scrpg_award_spreadsheet)
- Matrix of Regions Receiving More Than One Grant :  
[http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/matrix\\_regions\\_receiving\\_more\\_than\\_one\\_grant](http://reconnectingamerica.org/public/download/matrix_regions_receiving_more_than_one_grant)
- HUD SCRPG Award Press Release:  
[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-233](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-233)
- SCRPG Award Descriptions:  
[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program\\_offices/sustainable\\_housing\\_communities/Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/Sustainable_Communities_Regional_Planning_Grants)

- HUD/DOT Challenge Award Press Release:  
[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-242](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-242)
- Challenge Award Descriptions:  
[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program\\_offices/sustainable\\_housing\\_communities/HUD-DOT\\_Community\\_Challenge\\_Grants](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/HUD-DOT_Community_Challenge_Grants)
- TIGER II Planning Grant Descriptions:  
<http://www.dot.gov/docs/tiger2planninggrantinfo.pdf>