

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: UNION STATION TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, Authorization to apply for and Execute HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (\$225,000) (Economic Development Administrator).

REPORT: 1444-04

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND:

The federal departments of HUD, DOT and EPA formed a strategic partnership for Sustainable Community Initiatives to make grant funding available to regional partnerships to plan and execute projects that promote 6 Livability Principles. The federal agencies are looking to break down the "silos" between departments and disciplines and are encouraging regions to think holistically about future growth.

The NY-CT Sustainable Consortium is applying for approximately \$5 million in Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program funds to create a regional sustainability plan and to begin to execute several transit oriented development projects along the Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road lines. The Consortium is staffed by the Regional Plan Association of New York (an 80 year old non-governmental organization) and includes New York City, and the Connecticut cities of Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport and New Haven, as well as Mount Vernon and White Plains along the Metro-North line, and Nassau and Suffolk Counties and on Long Island. As one of the most economically productive, efficient and innovative economies the New York Mega-region, which includes New Haven, must use its capabilities to inform a broad sustainability agenda that supports the HUD Livability principles:

The Sustainability Plan will look at the existing plans for the consortium cities and MPO regions and determine gaps in the analysis and plans, creating work programs to fill those gaps. Major concerns like the impact of sea level rise will be looked at across all of the consortium towns. Implementation funds will be used for a series of Transit oriented developments in the consortium towns. The City will use its portion of the execution funds, \$225,000.00, matched by \$50,000 in city capital funds, to advance the Union Station Transit Oriented Development which prospectively includes new parking, office, retail and housing development.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

The City supports and endorses the HUD Livability principles in which include:

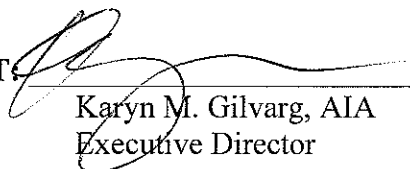
- 1) PROVIDE MORE TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
- 2) PROMOTE EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- 3) ENHANCE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS
- 4) SUPPORT EXISTING COMMUNITIES
- 5) COORDINATE AND LEVERAGE FEDERAL POLICIES AND INVESTMENT
- 6) VALUE EXISTING COMMUNITIES AND INVESTMENT

ADVICE:

The Commission believes the inter-agency strategic partnership will promote a coordinated approach to federal investments in urban areas, and that the NY-CT Sustainable Consortium will increase knowledge and cooperation between cities, while promoting transit accessible development. The Commission recommends approval of the Sustainable Communities Initiative grant application.

ADOPTED: September 22, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director