



December 5, 2013

Dear Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning:

With President Obama's federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities embarked on a new grant program in FY 2010, awarding 87 grants to communities and regions around the country. Forty-five regions received Regional Planning grants and 42 received Community Challenge grants in FY2010, including 14 TIGER grants in coordination with the U.S. DOT.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the achievements of the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning under the HUD FY2010 Regional Integrated Planning Grant Program. You are part of a historic effort to create strong, sustainable communities by connecting housing to jobs, fostering local innovation, and creating a more prosperous future for your community.

Together, HUD's first cohort of Sustainable Communities grantees:

- Represent urban, rural, suburban and tribal communities in 42 states and the District of Columbia
- Have conducted significant and widespread public engagement in the planning process holding nearly 2,000 meetings during the grant cycle
- Have identified 316 brownfield sites for remediation, including 137 located in predominately low-income or minority communities
- Have incorporated public health and cultural assets in their planning processes
- Have emphasized affordable and affirmative housing opportunities in the planning process and have projected the creation of approximately 76,000 new units of affordable housing near transit upon implementation of the plans
- Leveraged additional funding that has increased total resources for the 2010 grant program from \$138 million to approximately \$281 million.
- Increased transportation choice by adding 1,600 miles of pedestrian/bike infrastructure in their communities with an additional projected total of 2,650 miles upon implementation of plans
- Prioritized the creation of new job opportunities for community residents through corridor and commercial reinvestment strategies will support the addition of nearly 3 million projected jobs with the implementation of plans
- Reshaped the conversation on community investment strategies by bringing voices traditionally marginalized in the planning arena into leadership and governance positions in the process

We thank you for your hard work as you embark on the final phase of your grant project. Your efforts will improve the quality of place in your communities and the quality of life for their residents. You have inspired communities all around the country.

We celebrate your leadership and look forward to continuing to work with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Salin Geevarghese".

Salin Geevarghese, Acting Director
Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities

