

## **Applicant Abstract: Charlottesville Region Sustainability Implementation Plan**

**Lead Applicant:** Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (Council of Governments) and Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

**Major Partners:** City of Charlottesville (central city), Albemarle County (general purpose government with largest population), University of Virginia

**Other Partners:** Jefferson Area Board on Aging (Area Agency on Aging), Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development (Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Organization), Rivanna River Basin Commission (Virginia Watershed Commission), Local Energy Alliance Program (nonprofit)

**Memorandum of Agreement:** All partners receiving funds from the grant or contributing leverage to the grant have signed a single MOA. An electronic copy is included in the Appendix. The MOA commits each partner to support the application, participate in the role identified in this application, provide verified leverage as identified in the application, and comply with all HUD requirements and federal regulations.

### **Application Data:**

- Applicant Type: Small-Sized Region, Rural Communities, and Small Town Areas
- Total Project: \$1,499,996
- Grant Request: \$999,997
- Leverage Funds: \$499,999 (50% of HUD grant request)
- Funding Category: Category 2.
- Other HUD funds to be applied: Administrative funds from Charlottesville HOME Consortium for preparation of the Consolidated Plan (5-year update due May 2013) and annual Action Plans
- Other federal funds applied from Department of Transportation Funds for MPO Transportation Planning
- Project is coordinated with City of Charlottesville application for TIGER II funds for the extension of Hillsdale Drive. Although less than one mile in length this project provides a key connective route for transit, bicycles and pedestrians
- TJPDC intends to apply for funds in 2011 for implementation of the Regional Transit Authority

### **Summary of Objectives and Expected Results**

The existing Regional Plan for Sustainable Development in the Charlottesville/Albemarle metro area is the Sustainability Accords. These policies were adopted in 1998 as a result of a four-year process with broad regional support and wide participation by members of the public. These established sustainability principles for the region. The Sustainability Accords were subsequently used to establish sustainability goals in the Comprehensive Plans of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, as well as the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. In addition, many planning activities have referenced and built upon the Accords in the years following. These include the Local Climate Action Planning Process (LCAPP), Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) Redevelopment Plan, Conceptual Plan for Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Local Energy Alliance Program Strategic Plan, Regional Solid Waste Plan, Charlottesville-Albemarle County-University of Virginia Affordable Housing Joint Task Force,

Charlottesville-Albemarle County Regional Water Supply Plan, MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (UnJAM). Four problems have been identified that are preventing sustainability initiatives from moving into implementation within the region.

- A. Problem:** Sustainability planning has been proceeding, but under a series of separately focused initiatives. Many good recommendations with political legitimacy already exist as a result, but they are not well integrated and most have not moved into implementation. **Solution:** This problem will be addressed by a cross-cutting review of sustainability planning documents. **Proposed Products:** Sustainable planning content is consolidated into a single source, addressing full complement of Livability Principles in a cross-cutting fashion.
- B. Problem:** Sustainability goals have been established in major plans (Comprehensive Plans for Charlottesville and Albemarle County, MPO Long Range Transportation Plan) in the region but strategies for implementation have not been developed and adopted. In addition, Charlottesville and Albemarle County plans are not coordinated. **Solution:** (1) Review of Comprehensive Plans in both City and County through lens of sustainability goals. (2) Alignment of plans through common sustainability, land use, housing, economic development and transportation plan sections. **Proposed Products:** (1) Common Land Use – Transportation Vision; (2) Development of Sustainability Strategies (3) Updates of the Comprehensive Plans of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, as well as the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan to incorporate sustainability strategies.
- C. Problem:** Sustainability is not being fully implemented in either the built environment or in the habits of citizens and businesses. **Solution:** (1) Assess land use codes for the City and County in light of a consistent set of sustainability principles. Recommend implementable code improvements to bridge identified gaps in current code; (2) Review policy options for incentives or marketing that would alter individual and institutional behaviors that stand in the way of achieving sustainability goals. **Proposed Products:** (1) Code and Ordinance Sustainability Recommendations document that will serve as plan for future revisions to Charlottesville and Albemarle County codes to implement sustainability strategies; (2) Plan for Behavior Change that applies social marketing principles to changing behaviors in support of sustainability and seek grant funds to implement plan.
- D. Problem:** Lack of available metrics to identify the region’s status in pursuing sustainability. **Solution:** Establish a consistent set of sustainability indicators that can be applied broadly to the region and to individual development and project proposals. Establish a process for collecting data and making it publically available. Periodically analyze trends to assess degree of success in meeting sustainability goals. **Proposed Products:** (1) Sustainability Performance Measurement Methodology; (2) Data Sharing Agreements; (3) Sustainability Baseline for Charlottesville/Albemarle metropolitan area; (3) Two subsequent updates of Sustainability Baseline; (4) Ongoing analysis of project sustainability following completion of project.