

Community Development Committee

Meeting Date: June 3, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 12, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Sub-recipient Agreement with Springsted Incorporated for Transit Corridor Development Data System

District(s), Members(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference:

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nora Riemenschneider, Project Coordinator, Corridors of Opportunity, 651-602-1361

Division/Department: Community Development / Corridors of Opportunity

Proposed Action

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG) Sub-recipient Agreement with Springsted Incorporated for a Transit Corridor Development Data System project, totaling \$40,000.

Background

Summary

This project will enable the Metropolitan Council to provide an online interactive map of the existing and planned transit-oriented developments on the regional transitway system. Interested residents, developers, funders, local government partners and others will be able to use this web-based tool to (1) view the amount of TOD that is occurring in the region, and (2) to learn more about each project. This project will also provide the Council with an on-going and sustainable system to collect, maintain and share verified TOD data.

Context for the Project

Corridors of Opportunity is focused on supporting efforts to encourage housing, economic development and real estate investment along the region's existing and planned transitways. One way that the initiative can assist in these efforts is to enable regional partners to collect and maintain development data along the region's transitways. Stakeholders have expressed interest in using this data to illustrate:

- a. The amount and pace of development occurring along transitways
- b. The types of development occurring along transitways
- c. The kind and amount of public investment (TIF, LIHTC, Livable Communities, other subsidies) that supports individual projects
- d. The value of these developments and impact on the tax base
- e. Supportive infrastructure investments along transitways by type and dollar amount (e.g. streetscape improvements, greenspace, other betterments)

It is envisioned that this data – in tabular, chart, and graphic/mapping form will be used in several ways:

1. As an information tool to support Council applications for federal funding resources (e.g. New Starts, other transit focused programs in MAP-21) and for media requests.
2. As a marketing tool to developers who are able to see the investment activity taking place along transitways
3. As a management tool for cities and other interested parties to track development activity and progress along transit corridors, identifying gaps and opportunities.
4. As a communication tool to illustrate the “beyond the rail” impacts of transit investments.

TOD Data and Mapping Roles and Tasks

A summary of core tasks that Springsted Incorporated will execute under this sub-grant includes the following:

1. Review existing efforts to collect and catalog development data along transitways
2. Convene a stakeholder group up to four times to develop and agree upon a data sharing protocol.
3. Verify, update and expand a preliminary dataset, which includes all known development within ½ mile along the Central and Hiawatha LRT Corridors from 2000-2012, including projects that are built, under construction, and in the planning stage. The dataset will be initially expanded to include other LRT and BRT corridors that will be completed in the next 4-6 years. Additional corridors may be added at a later point.
4. Work with Metropolitan Council staff to create products that communicate the transit corridor development data to the public. This includes an online interactive map, to be hosted on the Metropolitan Council’s website.
5. Document the Transit Corridor Development Data System developed in tasks 1-4 so it can be used in the future for additional transit corridors in the future.

Rationale

The Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board approved to amend the Corridors of Opportunity work plan to support this work out at their meeting on March 30, 2013. Springsted Incorporated was selected by an evaluation panel via a competitive process. The evaluation panel was comprised of staff from Metropolitan Council and a local jurisdiction. Staff will provide documentation about the selection process upon request.

Funding

This proposed action will grant Springsted Incorporated a \$40,000 sub-recipient award. These funds are part of the \$5 million HUD award for the SCRPG.

The proposed source of funds for this work is a portion of the \$143,000 originally budgeted for the Scenario and Visualization (SAVi) project. This project was cancelled when a usability evaluation by the University of Minnesota CURA, and focus groups with community representatives found that the SAVi tools were not the most needed or appropriate at this time. Of the \$143,000 that was budgeted to SAVi, \$68,082 has already been allocated to Economic Development Services to examine the integration of economic development in Thrive MSP 2040. Of the remaining \$75,588, the Transit Corridor Development Data System project proposes to utilize \$40,000.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.