

**Transportation Committee**

**Meeting date: January 28, 2013**

**For the Council Meeting of N/A**

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** January 21, 2013

**Subject:** Information on the Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Not Applicable

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Susan Hoyt, Community Engagement, Corridors of Opportunity

**Division/Department:** Community Development/Corridors of Opportunity

**Proposed Action**

There is no action or direction requested from the Committee. The purpose of this report is to provide information about the community engagement approach developed and implemented by the Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement Team (CET) using grants to community based organizations to engage around transitway planning and future development opportunities along transit corridors.

**Background**

The three year HUD Sustainable Communities Grant, Corridors of Opportunity, prioritized \$750,000 for engaging underrepresented communities (low income, new immigrant communities, communities of color and persons with disabilities) in the land use and transitway planning process. The HUD grant designated a Community Engagement Team (CET) to advise the Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board on this work. The CET members are:

- Repa Mekha, Nexus Community Partners
- Russ Adams, the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Ned Moore, the Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing, CURA (initially Margaret Kaplan)

The CET worked with community based organizations, who are comprised of underrepresented community members, to develop a grant program for community engagement around the seven transitways in the Corridors of Opportunity (Northstar, Central, Hiawatha, Bottineau, Gateway, Cedar and Southwest). The grants allow community based leaders to determine how to engage their own communities in identifying how these major public investments in transportation can benefit them. The Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board approved twenty three community engagement grants involving over forty organizations. The average grant is \$30,000.

This new approach to engaging underrepresented communities has gained regional and national recognition for its potential to reach and empower underrepresented communities including building capacity within them.

**Presentation**

- Introduction of the Community Engagement Team – Susan Hoyt
- Presentation - David Kang, Asian Media Access (Bottineau Corridor)

## **Rationale**

Reaching and engaging persons who are not typically part of government outreach activities is critical so their voices can be heard in the land use and planning processes around transit and transitway projects. Since traditional approaches to this type of engagement typically do not work, the Corridors of Opportunity took the approach of allowing community based organizations to determine how best to engage their own communities around these issues rather than relying on government officials to create these opportunities. This engagement does not replace other public engagement that regional, county and city government undertake.

## **Funding**

The \$ 5 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant funds the \$ 750,000 in community engagement activities for the Corridors of Opportunity.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.

## **Attachments:**

- 1 List of Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement Grantees
- 2 Map of Grantees along existing and planned future transitway corridors

**Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement Grantees**

Grantee	Formal Partner(s)	Corridor	Project Title	Dollars
Asian Media Access		Bottineau	Asian Pacific Community Network (APA ComMNet)	\$30,000
African Career, Education, and Resource, Inc. (ACER)	City of Brooklyn Park	Bottineau	Making Transit Meaningful	\$30,000 \$30,000
Harrison Neighborhood Association	Heritage Park Neighborhood Association, Lao Assistance Center	Bottineau	Transit Equity Partnership	\$45,000 \$45,000
Asian Economic Development Association		Bottineau, Central	Organizing for Transit and Equitable Development	\$45,000
Advocating Change Together		Central	Advocating Change Together	\$39,700
Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation	Just Equity	Central	Historic Rondo/Equitable TOD Campaign	\$60,000
West Bank Community Development Corporation	Somali Action Alliance	Central	Don't Pass Us By	\$47,086
Inter-congregation Communities Association	Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Joint Community Police Partnership	Southwest	Blake Road Neighborhood Discussion Circles	\$30,000
New American Academy		Southwest	SW Corridor Immigrant Opportunities Outreach & Engagement	\$30,000 \$40,000
The Prosperity Campaign	Hmong Am. Prtship, Casa de Esperanza, Cultural Wellness Ctr, Am. Indian Fam Ctr, Dayton's Bluff & Payne/Phalen	Gateway	Eastside Organizations	\$40,000 \$25,000
Cleveland Neighborhood Association	Works Progress	Bottineau	Bus Shelter Toolkit and Outreach	\$10,000
Masjid An-Nur	N/A	Bottineau	En-LIGHT-enment	\$10,000
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	Northside Transportation Network	Bottineau	Northside Bottineau Transitway Organizing	\$30,000

## Attachment 1 (cont): Grantees

Grantee	Formal Partner(s)	Corridor	Project Title	Dollars
La Asamblea de Derechos-Civiles	N/A	Bottineau, Cedar, Southwest	Emancipation Campaign: Corridors to Freedom	\$10,000
Union Park District Council	Skyline Tower Advantage Center, Skyline Tower Leadership Team	Central	Building Skyline Tower Power	\$28,000
Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)	Seward Neighborhood Group	Hiawatha	Anpetu Was'te Cultural Arts Market	\$35,000
Neighborhood Development Alliance	West Side Community Organization (WSCO)	Robert Street Transitway**	Robert Street Transitway Alternatives Analysis	\$20,000
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)	N/A	Other (The Interchange), Bottineau, Southwest	Good Job Opportunities in Corridor Development	\$10,000
MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing)	Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, Discussions that Encounter	Southwest, Bottineau	Interfaith Housing, Transit and Equitable Development Organizing	\$30,000
23 Community Engagement Grants				\$ 719,786

### Map of Approved Community Engagement Grantees

