Technical Assistance:
How to Help Communities and States Get to Smart Growth

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
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- What is the SGIA program?
- Coordination with HUD and DOT: aligning policies at the federal level
- Test out cutting edge ideas and expand knowledge base
- Lessons learned
Program Goals

1. Support communities who want to implement smart growth policies

2. Create regional examples of smart growth that can catalyze similar projects in the area

3. Identify common barriers and opportunities for smart growth development and create new tools that other communities can use.

4. Projects serve multiple benefits – one focus with several coordinated results achieved.

5. EPA gains knowledge about a specific problem; it increases our understanding of how communities address barriers to smart growth.
What is SGIA?

• Smart Growth Implementation Assistance programs: cities, states, regional governments, tribes, etc.
• 27 communities thusfar
• 2010 – 3-4 new SGIA communities
• Identify applicants that are ready for implementation
2009 Communities

- State of California
- City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
- City of Louisville, Kentucky
- Montgomery County, Maryland
What does “ready” mean?

- Commitment to smart growth - political will
- Clear project - discrete and manageable
- Steps to implement changes identified from the start
- Broad partnership to make it happen

Important model for success
Ready gets Results

• Phoenix, AZ
  Development of tools for transit oriented development

• College Park, MD:
  City funding Form Based Code; County is funding planning for implementation of many recommendation.

• Capital Region Council of Government, CT
  Strategies for affordable housing that improve choice and options

• Spokane, WA:
  Considering realignment of downtown grid

• Houston, TX:
  METRO and DPW considering developer partnerships on TOD sites

• California Dept of Transportation:
  Development of a Mobility guidebook for considering transportation funds
Searching for Political Will

• Other technical assistance programs use the same model to select “ready” applicants:
  – Smart Growth Leadership Institute
  – National Vacant Properties Campaign
  – Governors’ Institute on Community Design

• Potential to apply model to state or regional assistance programs
Who provides SGIA?

- Staff from EPA, HUD and DOT
- Specialized teams assembled for each TA site
Basic TA process

1. What kind of growth is coming?

2. What land use & building options could accommodate that growth?

3. What transportation options could serve those land use options?
What makes the SGIA Program successful?

Brings together stakeholders
• The right “push” at the right time

Relatively small projects at the right time can produce substantial change
• Teams are:
  – Multi-disciplinary. A transportation policy is a development policy is an environmental policy is an economic development policy.
  – Practitioners
  – Incredibly smart and hard-working
Applying for SGIA

EPA announced a new Request for Applications (RFA) this week. Submissions are due April 9, 2010.

For more information, visit: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia

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