



Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities



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New Partners for Smart Growth
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Presentation Overview



- Background on Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Partnership's support for rural communities
- Next steps



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- Formed in June 2009:
HUD, DOT, EPA
- Coordinate and leverage housing, transportation, and environmental policies, programs, and investments



HUD-DOT-EPA PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GUIDING LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES

- ✧ **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
- ✧ **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
- ✧ **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
- ✧ **Support existing communities.** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.
- ✧ **Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.** Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy
- ✧ **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

Challenges Facing Rural Communities

- Changing economies
 - Decline of traditional economic base, questions about what's next
- Fewer farms and farmers
- Loss of forest and other natural and working land
- Some communities are growing, some are shrinking
 - Rapid growth at metro edges
 - Shrinking population in some communities
- Limited access to jobs, services, and transportation
- Limited planning capacity



Federal Investments in Rural Communities



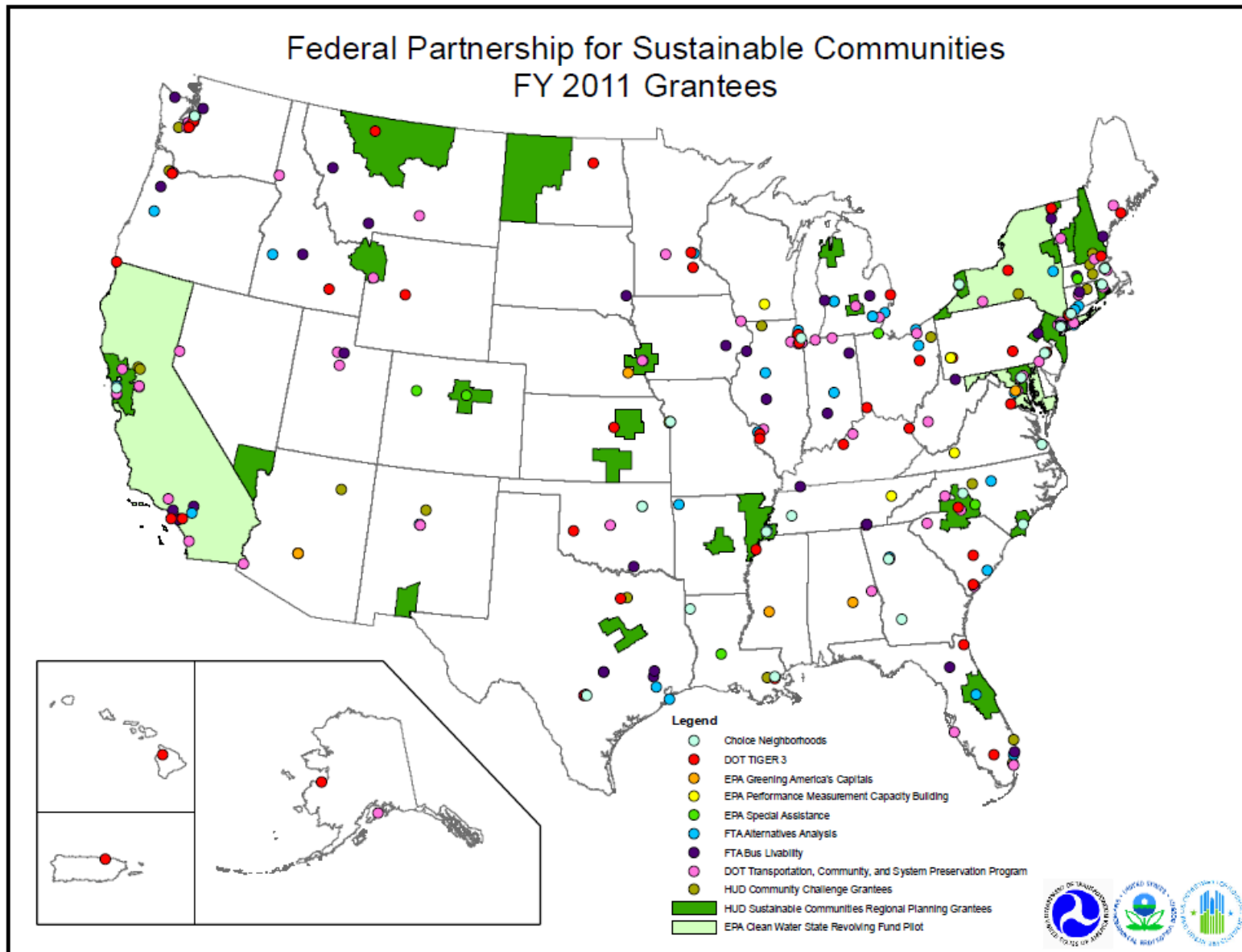
- Federal investments in rural communities leverage other public and private sector investments – they serve as a **catalyst** for future development.
- The **location** of federal investments is important. Investing in existing places can:
 - build on previous investments,
 - save communities money, and
 - meet market demand.
- How can we ensure that federal programs and policies are coordinated to achieve better outcomes in rural communities?

Partnership's Support for Rural Communities

- Working with USDA Rural Development to think through how the Partnership's activities can best serve rural America



Partnership Grants and Assistance



Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities

Contents



- How the Livability Principles Support Rural Communities
- HUD, DOT, EPA, and USDA Programs at Work in Rural Communities
- Case Studies of Federal Support for Sustainable Rural Communities
- Rural Performance Measures
- Next Steps for the Partnership



The Livability Principles in the Rural Context



- **Enhance economic competitiveness.**
 - Leverage unique natural & land-based resources to raise rural standard of living.
- **Support existing communities.**
 - Direct investment to towns, villages and historic Main Streets and preserve the surrounding landscape.
- **Provide more transportation choices.**
 - Take advantage of towns' compact, mixed-use designs and locations along major corridors to renew intra- and inter-community transportation options.
- **Promote equitable, affordable housing.**
 - Revitalize & diversify aging housing stock to attract and retain residents at all stages of life.
- **Value communities and neighborhoods.**
 - Conserve and build upon unique and historic features like downtowns, Main Streets, barns, and iconic rural landscapes.
- **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.**
 - Federal investments are extremely influential, and must support community goals and be coordinated across agencies. Support communities' efforts to plan/codify goals.

Partnership's Next Steps



- Facilitate coordination between HUD/DOT/EPA regional staff and USDA state staff to implement grants
- *Leveraging the Partnership for Rural Communities*
- Smaller Places Summit—March
- Training programs
- Continue to look for ways to incorporate Livability Principles into policies, programs, and funding decisions



Thank you!

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