Making Good and Doing Well with Regional Planning:
Direction, Tactics and Implementation Lessons

New Partners for Smart Growth
January 31, 2015
MAPC region:
• 101 municipalities
• 1,440 square miles
• Nearly 3.2 million residents
• 1.8 million jobs (per 2010 Census)

Metro Boston Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Consortium: 170 members including municipalities, state agencies, CBOs, universities, business interests, foundations, public housing authorities, and others

Purpose: Implement MetroFuture, MAPC’s 30-year plan for growth and preservation, through:
• place-based planning and zoning
• developing new tools and models
• pursuing state-level policy change
• building capacity of local leaders
• tracking the region’s progress through indicators
About the Region

• Nearly 3 million residents
• 1.6 million jobs
• 7 counties, 181 cities and townships

Regional Implementation Grant

• Partnership to make the region’s transit corridors places of opportunity for people of all incomes and backgrounds
• Greater participation and more inclusive decision-making
• Planning integration
• Organizational change among consortium partners
New River Valley Livability Initiative

- Regional Planning Grantee
- 200,000 pop in region
- Virginia Tech (30K students) and Radford University (10K students)
- Creative Public Engagement
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Asset-based Economic Development
- Partnering with Community Foundation
CMAP region:
- 284 municipalities
- 8.2 million residents
- 10.6 million residents by 2040
- 5 million jobs by 2040 (+31% from 2010)

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (2010)
- Implementation of **GO TO 2040** via Local Technical Assistance Program
  - 153 local projects to date
  - Regional policy updates and detailed reports to set local priorities
• Corridor Action Strategies
• Regional Equity Network
• Affordable Housing
Puget Sound
$3.8 million
3 million people
$5 million Category 2

Twin Cities
3 million people
$5 million Category 2

Chicago Metro
8 million people
$4.3 million Category 2

New River Valley
200,000 people
$1 million Category 1

Metro Boston
3.1 million people
$4 million Category 2

What Did We Learn about Regional Planning?
USDA and Sustainable Communities

• **Rural Development** agency is the infrastructure bank for rural America and can impact how communities shape their future.

• **Programs** include: Utilities (electric, water, telecom/broadband), Affordable housing, Community Facilities (incl schools, medical, cultural, civic), business (loan guarantees for small businesses).

• **Regional Strategies** encouraged in select USDA programs (2014 Farm Bill).

• **Local and Regional Food Systems.** Loans and grants to help implement strategies in rural and urban communities. Includes funding for farmers markets, “hoop houses,” business loan guarantees for food businesses, assistance to farmers in a variety of capacities.

• Field based leadership. Contact your Rural Development State Director and tell them what you are doing and explore regional approaches (including urban/rural) to economic development.  

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