

2012-2013 Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program

Introduction

In 2012, CDTC will be entering its twelfth year of integrated, community based land use and transportation planning through the award winning Linkage Program. As CDTC staff begins the process of preparing the 2012-2014 Unified Planning Work Program, initial decisions need to be made regarding the future of the Linkage Program to allow time for a solicitation and to program projects for the next year. The coming year may be challenging with continued overall uncertainty in federal transportation funding, the potential for CDTC staff involvement in numerous regional planning initiatives (e.g. NYSDERA and HUD applications for a variety of activities are pending) and the initiation of five Linkage Program projects committed to in previous years. All of this may potentially stretch CDTC's planning resources, especially its limited staff. As a result, CDTC staff is recommending a more focused Linkage Program with slightly reduced resources for the 2012-2013 federal fiscal year.

Proposed Approach

CDTC staff recommends reserving \$150,000 in federal planning funds for consultant initiatives, complemented by roughly \$100,000 in CDTC staff technical assistance for the 2012 program. This represents a reduction in federal funds by \$50,000. The program will be entirely focused on implementation activities related to existing Linkage Program or other completed local planning work. Communities will be able to apply for, but are not limited to, the following:

- Strategic zoning code changes/zoning code overlays
- Site design standards or guidelines
- Official mapping
- Operational modeling

Other types of follow up planning work related to implementing a Linkage Planning study or other local planning work is eligible but will only be considered after all worthy candidate projects related to the above four activities have been funded. Municipal wide initiatives will continue to be limited and federal funds will continue to be capped though at a slightly higher level. The maximum total study cost will be \$90,000 (a \$10,000 increase) with a cap on the federal share at \$67,500 matched with \$22,500 in local cash (75% federal, 25% local). A sponsor can add in additional local cash for a larger effort or to reduce the federal share and increase the competitiveness of the application.

All other major technical aspects of the Linkage Program will remain the same as in the previous year. A solicitation will likely occur in December with a January deadline. Funding decisions will be made at the February Planning Committee meeting.