Livability

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Sustainable Communities

Sustainable communities are places that have a variety of housing and transportation choices, with destinations close to home. As a result, they tend to have lower transportation costs, reduce air pollution and stormwater runoff, decrease infrastructure costs, preserve historic properties and sensitive lands, save people time in traffic, be more economically resilient and meet market demand for different types of housing at different price points. Rural, suburban, and urban communities can all use sustainable communities strategies and techniques to invest in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods, but these strategies will look different in each place depending on the community’s character, context, and needs.

Developing more sustainable communities is important to our national goals of strengthening our economy, creating good jobs now while providing a foundation for lasting prosperity, using energy more efficiently to secure energy independence, and protecting our natural environment and human health. Three federal agencies came together to create the Partnership for Sustainable Communities to help places around the country develop in more environmentally and economically sustainable ways. To guide its work, the Partnership developed six livability principles:

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
Six Livability Principles

• Provide more transportation choices
• Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices
• Improve the economic competitiveness of neighborhoods
• Target Federal funding toward existing communities
• Align Federal policies and funding
• Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities
Provide More Transportation Choices

• To decrease household transportation costs
• Reduce our dependence on oil
• Improve air quality
• Promote public health
Expand Location- and Energy-Efficient Housing Choices

• For people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined costs of housing and transportation
Improve the Economic Competitiveness of Neighborhoods

• By giving people reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs
Target Federal Funding Toward Existing Communities

• Through transit-oriented development and land recycling

• To revitalize communities

• Reduce public work costs

• Safeguard rural landscapes
Align Federal Policies and Funding

• To remove barriers to collaboration
• Leverage funding
• Increase the effectiveness of programs to plan for future growth
Enhance the Unique Characteristics of all Communities

- Invest in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods, whether rural, urban or suburban
Discussion

• Identify opportunities to increase quality of life, economic development and safety using the six principles

• Quantify opportunities for collaboration to increase livability

• Draft solutions and next steps toward implementation