



Members of the LCTF Meet with HUD Secretary Donovan

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, members of the Livable Communities Task Force met with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan. The Secretary briefed the members on HUD's role in the DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The members then discussed ideas for how Congress could be a partner in the efforts to promote sustainable communities.

[House of Representatives passes legislation funding the Sustainable Communities Initiative](#)

On Thursday, Dec. 10, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3288, Department of

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. This bill included \$150 million for the Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative. The purpose is to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and to increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning.

[U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Livability Grants](#)

On Tuesday, December 1, the Department of Transportation announced a new \$280 million grant program for urban circulator projects, such as streetcars, to support communities, expand business opportunities, and improve quality of life while creating jobs.

The money represents the first batch of funding by the Obama Administration for its Livability Initiative, a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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Hill Briefing: Creating Green Communities

November 19, 2009

Briefing from 9:00am-10:00am
Breakfast available starting at 8:30

B338 Rayburn

The health of our planet, our economy and our families depend on how we plan, design and construct our communities. Interest among local leaders and the public in sustainable approaches to community growth and development has never been higher, and the need for

new federal policies to promote green, sustainable communities is clear.

We hope you will join us at a breakfast panel discussion to explore the future of green communities and the policies needed to promote them. The National Building Museum and the American Planning Association have recently published *Green Community*, a collection of thought-provoking essays that illuminate the connections among personal health, community health, and our planet's health. According to the exhibit, a green community conserves its land, offers multiple options for transportation, provides open space for recreation and cultivation, and uses its natural and cultural resources wisely.

Based on the National Building Museum's exhibition by the same name, the briefing will feature a panel of experts moderated by Susan Piedmont-Palladino, Curator of the Green Communities exhibit and Professor at the Virginia Tech Architecture Consortium. The panelists include:

- Jason Jordan, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, American Planning Association
- F. Kaid Benfield, Director, Smart Growth Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council
- Tom Daniels, Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania
- Jonathan Rose, CEO, Jonathan Rose Companies, LLC, New York City

Copies of the book will be available for staff at the briefing. The book and the briefing offer specific examples of how to create green communities and discuss the policy choices we face in advancing sustainability.

If you would like more information, please contact Janine Benner in Rep. Blumenauer's office at x54811.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

Hill Briefing: Strengthening Communities through Vacant Property Revitalization

Thursday, October 29, 2009, 2:30pm
2253 Rayburn House Office Building

Sponsored by Reps. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Brian Higgins (D-NY) and the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition

Speakers:

- Mary Cronin, Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition
- Jennifer Leonard, National Vacant Properties Campaign
- Phil Kidd, Mahoning Valley Organizing Project (OH)
- Terry Gillen, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PA)
- Joe Schilling, Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech

Subject: Hundreds of cities and towns across the country struggle with significant pockets of vacant and abandoned properties, which pose health and safety threats, weaken local and regional economies, and decrease the quality of life for those that live nearby. Reusing these properties offers a renewed sense of hope to make neighborhoods across the country good places to live. But many cities struggling with long-term population decline, job loss, and abandonment often lack the resources to conduct comprehensive strategic planning and program implementation. Even with stimulus and CDBG funds, there is no federal funding stream to develop the kinds of solutions necessary to solve the ripple-effects of long-term population loss and vacancy that many cities face. This briefing will describe how H.R. 932 will

help invest in the comprehensive planning, regional collaboration, and innovation, brewing in the “living laboratories” across the nation. Hear how communities are developing forward-looking approaches to rebuild local economies, create urban food systems, and supply public amenities like parks.



The National Building Museum has extended [Exhibit](#) through November 29th.

Exhibit description: The health of our communities, our planet, and ourselves depend on how we plan, c

On October 5th, [President Obama signed an executive order](#) setting sustainability goals for Federal agencies

and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to set a 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target within 90 days; increase energy efficiency; reduce fleet petroleum consumption; conserve water; reduce waste; support sustainable communities; and leverage Federal purchasing power to promote environmentally-responsible products and technologies.

[Moving Cooler: An analysis of Transportation Strategies for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

This analysis of Transportation Strategies for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, released on July 28th, was commissioned by a diverse group of stakeholders representing transportation experts, industry, federal agencies, and environmental organizations and other NGOs. As transportation and climate legislation is being developed in Congress and in states, this new groundbreaking report will inform the debate.

U.S. DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities

On March 18th, the [Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development](#) announced the formation of a partnership to promote sustainable communities.

On June 16th, [EPA announced that it would join the partnership](#) . Through a set of guiding livab



Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan