

## LCTF Action on Oil Spill

On the heels of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, members of the Livable Communities Task Force [sent a letter to House Leadership](#) in support of swift action to address the nation's dependence on oil, which must include improved transportation options and enhanced community livability.

The transportation sector accounts for almost three-quarters of U.S. oil consumption, and Americans consume over 10 percent of the world's oil just driving around. For the sake of our national security, economy, health, and the environment, we must work to reduce the number of miles we drive. This means providing more public transit options and identifying ways the federal government can enhance community livability.

## Funding for Livable Communities

Last week, the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its FY 2011 funding bill and included funding for many of the Obama administration's livable communities initiatives. Earlier this year, members of the Livable Communities Task Force sent a [letter](#) to the Subcommittee in support of these programs. Funding requested by the LCTF and included by the Subcommittee includes:

- \$150 for HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative
- \$20 million for DOT's Office of Livable Communities
- \$200 million for livable communities programs within the Federal Highway Administration
- \$306.91 million for livable communities within the Federal Transit Administration

## **LCTF Members Meet with Transportation Secretary LaHood**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, LCTF Members met with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to discuss the Department of Transportation's livability efforts. They talked about DOT's role in the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, the TIGER grant program, and various local transportation projects.



**Secretary LaHood with Members of the Livable Communities Task Force**

## **Rep. Himes Welcomes Rep. Blumenauer to Connecticut for Transit Discussion**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, LCTF member Rep. Jim Himes (CT-4) welcomed LCTF Chairman Earl Blumenauer to Norwalk, CT for a discussion with area experts on developing and implementing a pro-growth transportation strategy for Southwest Connecticut. Along with local sustainable development experts, stakeholders highlighted impediments to local economic growth – congestion, for example – and identified opportunities to improve livability, public health and economic competitiveness.

### **Historic Tysons Corner Plan Approved**

After seven years in the making, a plan for a sustainable redesign of Tysons Corner finally passed! Fairfax County, Virginia helped establish a model for such transformational planning by approving a plan to turn Tysons Corner, which is currently 1,600 feet of office parks and parking lots, into a mixed use city with high density, good urban design, state of the art stormwater management, and green buildings. After holding educational forums by top national experts, reviewing traffic analysis, and making sure the plan included adequate transit service, bike lanes, affordable housing, parks, and other community amenities – the plan is ready to move ahead. Approval of the plan culminates a 5 year citizen planning effort initiated by former Board Chairman and current LCTF member Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA-11).

Regards,

*Earl Blumenauer and Members of the Livable Community Task Force*