

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Sarah Stiteler, AICP, Senior Planner, 556-2469
Date: April 20, 2012
Subject: **Briefing, Growing Transit Communities, East Corridor Task Force**

At the April 25, 2012 meeting, staff will provide a status update on the progress to date of the Growing Transit Communities East Corridor Task Force.

Background

In October, 2010, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ron Sims announced the award of \$4.9 million to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to support regional planning for more livable, prosperous and sustainable communities in the Puget Sound area.

Redmond is one of 18 co-applicants for the PSRC application. Other co-applicants in addition to the PSRC include: the cities of Seattle, Everett, Tacoma and Bellevue; King County; ARCH, King County Housing Authority, Seattle Housing Authority; Cascade Land Conservancy; Community Development Collaborative/Impact Capital Equity Partnership; North Seattle Community College; Public Health - Seattle and King County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department; UW – Runstad Center; ULI – Seattle District Council.

The grant will support planning and development of sustainable transit communities in the central Puget Sound region. Over the next 10 to 20 years, 100 new transit stations will be constructed throughout the region in 25 high capacity transit corridors. These transit investments present a significant opportunity to shape the region's urban form and ensure transportation improvements support sustainable development and foster vibrant, healthy neighborhoods. To maximize these investments, this grant provides funding to:

- Promote equitable community planning;
- Encourage and facilitate a wide variety of housing choices along light rail corridors;
- Develop corridor action strategies to coordinate development, housing, jobs, and community amenities and work to attract transit-oriented development along the North, East, and South light rail corridors (light rail stations in Bellevue and Redmond are proposed as two case study projects for the East Corridor); and
- Provide new tools and resources to bridge the gap from goals and policies to specific actions and steps to assist local communities in planning and building local support for sustainable development.

East Corridor Catalyst Demonstration Project

Over the past several months, members of the East Corridor Task Force have been working to identify project ideas for catalyst demonstration projects in the East Corridor. The purposes of demonstration projects are to address key corridor challenges and take the next steps to catalyze the implementation of equitable transit communities in East Corridor station areas and transit nodes. At the March, 2012 meeting, Task Force members came to consensus on an approach to conduct research and develop tools to address key corridor issues. A draft scope of work component for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is attached. The scope was discussed by the Task Force at the April 19, 2012 and approved with some minor edits. Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) will publish the RFP next week, with work expected to begin later this spring.

For additional information, please review the attached Request for Proposals.

Please contact Sarah Stiteler, sstiteler@redmond.gov, or 425-556-2469 if you have any questions.