

ULI MN/Regional Council of Mayors Housing Initiative 2012 Work Plan

"WE FORM AMERICA'S NATURAL PRAGMATIC CAUCUS, CLOSE TO THE GROUND, HUNGRY FOR RESULTS, PRIZING PLACE OVER PARTY, SOLUTION OVER DOGMA, AND COLLABORATION OVER CONFLICT." BRUCE KATZ

Through the generosity of the Family Housing Fund, ULI MN along with the Regional Council of Mayors has created a dynamic learning community to demonstrate the competitive advantage of a full range of housing choices - a diverse mix of housing types, sizes, and prices - in connected, livable communities. Along with our public and private sectors partners we are raising awareness and implementing tools and strategies to help shift the understanding in suburban municipalities that housing choice is an integral imperative to economic prosperity. There is certain urgency to this work, given the repercussions of the economic recession, dramatic changes in demographics and shift in market preferences.

1. Deepen Regional Collaboration and Action

Regional Council of Mayors - Continue to engage the 47+ member Regional Council of Mayors through the Housing Initiative in support of a full range of housing options and align the Housing Initiative within the Jobs, Transportation and Environment Initiatives. Expand federal, state and regional public/private partnerships around regional collaboration and action strategies.

Navigating the New Normal. Expand and deepen the reach of learning opportunities by holding quality, focused and interactive workshops for city officials that provide a practical approach to the new challenges of (re)development. Hold one session per month at an RCM city with a concentration around the impact of the new normal, importance of demographic changes, competitive advantage of a full range of housing choices and working in partnership with the development community to achieve local and regional housing goals and economic competitiveness. Program funded with support from the Family Housing Fund, MN Housing and Metropolitan Council.

Minnesota Housing Policy Toolbox. Expand reach and content of the web based tool box that provides local tools and strategies, along with local best practices, in support of the development and preservation of a full range of housing choices. This includes financing strategies, design concepts and communication tools. Align Housing Policy Toolbox within

other on-line technical resources being developed within the region. Visit at <http://minnesota.housingpolicy.org/>

Rethinking Housing. Continue to partner to identify and develop innovation in buildings, places, and systems throughout the Twin Cities region including financing, design and delivery of housing choices.

Annual Housing Summit. Increase participation and support for the Housing Initiative by attracting national expertise and alignment of our work on a national scale at the Annual ULI MN/Regional Mayors Housing Summit.

2. Demonstrate the Economic Importance of a Full Range of Housing Choices

Corridors of Opportunity/SW LRT Community Works Partnership: As member of the Corridors of Opportunity partnership supported by HUD Sustainability Communities and the Living Cities Integration Initiative, promote collaboration and system change to provide sustainable, vibrant, and healthy communities using the region's emerging transitway system as a development focus. With a specific focus on **Southwest LRT Corridor**, work in partnership with Southwest LRT Community Works, to provide technical assistance, cultivate partnerships, build champions and harvest best practices supporting the following activities:

- ✓ **Comprehensive Corridor Investment Strategy.** Development capacity and demand analysis; investment prioritization; coordinated financing mechanisms.
- ✓ **Land Use and Transit Integration.** Adoption of practices that integrate land use and infrastructure planning and LRT engineering.
- ✓ **Corridor-Wide Housing Action Plan.** Joint policies, tools and strategies to support a full range of housing choices that respond to market demand and demographic trends.

Opportunity City Program (Community Change information). Build on the community change information and housing audit to expand technical assistance to suburban cities and dialogue with policy leaders that results in the implementation of tools and strategies supporting a full range of housing choices. Work with cities to achieve progress leading to the preservation and production of a full range of housing choices in the suburban areas as the economy improves. Convene Opportunity City communities to develop strategies related to apartment preservation in coordination with the Preservation Plus Initiative. Work with the Anoka Hennepin School District and the City of Coon Rapids to integrate school data with community change data and develop strategies for collaboration related to the integration of land use, school and community services.

3. Respond to the New Normal - Remove Barriers and Seize Opportunities

Reinvesting in the Region. Along with our partners, implement an action plan to build a **bold new tool box** making it easier to (re)develop strategies to grow jobs, support a full range of housing choices and build tax base for the wellbeing of our region organized around regional goals, resources and collaboration, local government (re)development policies and practice, land assembly and financing and tools.

Expand Opportunity for Housing Choice: Develop strategies that inform local and regional policy decisions around the **impact of increased aging in place and attraction of young professionals and families** supporting healthy living and sustainable neighborhoods. Evaluate ways to support new housing typologies.

Culturally Sensitive Housing. Partner with the University of Minnesota, developers, Realtors and suburban communities to better understand how to respond to cultural differences in housing needs through housing that supports various ways of living, i.e. culturally sensitive housing and communities.

Apartment Preservation. Engage the public and private sectors, with specific assistance from the Opportunity Cities, to support access to expanded resources and development of innovative regional strategies for the preservation and renovation of naturally occurring and subsidized affordable rental housing in partnership with the **Family Housing Fund -Preservation Plus Initiative.**

Housing + Transportation Cost Calculator/Jobs + Housing Connections. Launch the customized **MSP Housing + Transportation (H+T) Cost Calculator** tool by May 2012 to easily calculate the combined housing and transportation costs based upon key data inputs associated with living and working location choices. Facilitate public/private partnerships to expand access and use of the cost calculator. Work to integrate throughout the Corridors of Opportunity work plans. Imbed the calculator into the online Housing Policy Toolbox and promote this important tool throughout the ULI network as a model to highlight the impact of combined housing and transportation costs.

4. Engage and Convene partners

Housing Initiative Advisory Group. Continue to expand participation and diversity within the Housing Initiative Advisory Group to ensure that public and private partners are represented in leading the work plan of the Housing Initiative. The Housing Initiative Advisory Group provides feedback and advice on the Housing Initiative work plan progress and performance.

RCM City Staff Leadership/Regional County Housing Authorities. Quarterly convening of RCM City Staff Leadership along with metro-area County HRA/CDA director level staff to expand the learning environment necessary for meaningful impact and change. Identify opportunities for information sharing and collaboration. Secure county support for local action surrounding key Housing Initiative strategies. Provide updates regarding the important work of the RCM Initiatives including housing, jobs, environment and transportation. Seek input and guidance on action strategies.

List of Key Staff and Partners:

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