



U.S. Department
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**Federal Transit
Administration**

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REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 2012-20

**Subject: Sustainable Communities: Free Technical Assistance Available for
Plans, Policies and Practices**

Program Area: Sustainable Communities

Date: April 10, 2012

Free technical assistance is available to help communities implement smart growth strategies that attract growth, protect the environment, improve public health, facilitate job creation and economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Competitively-awarded grant funds from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities' Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program to Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) and a consortium of partners will provide technical assistance to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

The Building Sustainable Communities Consortium, at <http://buildingsustainablecommunities.org>, includes Forterra, at <http://www.forterra.org>, Greenbelt Alliance, at <http://www.greenbelt.org>, Envision Minnesota, at <http://www.envisionmn.org>, and the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, at <http://www.ma-smartgrowth.org>. Technical assistance will be provided to communities in four regions throughout the country: Central Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, the San Francisco Bay Area in California, the Twin Cities Metro Area and Greater Minnesota and the Greater Boston Area in Massachusetts. The technical assistance will be grounded in a deep knowledge of each region and will seek to advance the Sustainable Communities Partnership's Livability Principles on the web site <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/aboutUs.html#2>. The specific assistance provided will vary based on the needs of a particular community and the tools available in the region, but may include policy and code audits, natural resource inventories, policy guides, educational videos, workshops and trainings, facilitation, or other technical assistance relevant to helping a community accomplish their livability and sustainability goals.

Use the links below to learn more about the technical assistance being offered in each region:

- California: application information at <http://www.greenbelt.org/technical-assistance-to-cities>

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- Massachusetts: application information at http://ma-smartgrowth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=99&catid=18.
- Minnesota: application information at <http://www.envisionmn.org/technical-assistance>.
- Washington: application information at [http://www.forterra.org/what we do/build community/free technical assistance](http://www.forterra.org/what_we_do/build_community/free_technical_assistance).

Applications must be received by April 30, 2012 at 5:00 pm by the appropriate regional partner organization. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified in May 2012 regarding the acceptance or rejection of their request for technical assistance. The Building Sustainable Communities Consortium reserves the right to reject incomplete applications or applications not meeting the criteria.

For further information, contact Region 10's Ned Conroy at 206-220-4318 or email ned.conroy@dot.gov or John Witmer at 206-220-7964 or email john.witmer@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



for R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator