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# COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ED

April 16, 2012

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Sustainable Communities Grant Consortium Agreement**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution pertaining to the execution of a joint agreement with various agencies and government units within Erie and Niagara Counties. The agreement outlines responsibilities of the signatories in the completion of various tasks described in a Sustainable Communities Grant received by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Thomas J. Dearing at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw  
Enclosure

cc: Maria R. Whyte  
Thomas J. Dearing

8E-14

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Sustainable Communities Grant Consortium Agreement  
**Date:** March 30, 2012

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### SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature adopt the attached resolution authorizing the County Executive to sign a Sustainable Communities Grant Agreement with the following signatories:

- Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Lead Agency
- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Fiscal Agent
- University at Buffalo Regional Institute
- Erie County
- Niagara County
- City of Buffalo, NY
- City of Niagara Falls, NY
- Empire State Development
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York, Inc.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to the County General Fund. Erie County is committing \$116,388 of in-kind services over three years toward various tasks outlined in the grant.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, serving as fiscal agent for the Consortium, obtained \$2,133,205 monies from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. It will fund a three-year planning effort to prepare a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RSPD) that addresses housing, economic development, transportation, energy, work force development and other elements. The RSPD will build off of the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth which provides a baseline analysis of growth conditions and patterns within policy areas, and recommends strategies to attain a more livable, sustainable region.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program is part of an effort by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to help improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide.

“Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara” is an initiative to promote sustainable, vibrant, and healthy communities in the region. The Buffalo Niagara Consortium members, community organizations, and leaders will be engaged in these efforts from early 2012 through 2015.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council would be unable to proceed with the grant and preparation of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County Executive will execute the Consortium Agreement and forward the document to the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council for further processing.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

RE: Sustainable Communities Grant  
Consortium Agreement

WHEREAS, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) has received a Regional Sustainability Planning Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,133,205; and

WHEREAS, the grant will allow preparation of a Regional Sustainability Development Plan for Erie and Niagara Counties; and

WHEREAS, an important element of the planning process will be to expand and improve the focus of the Framework for Regional Growth prepared for Erie and Niagara Counties in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Erie County benefits from the Agreement by obtaining important updates to the Framework for Regional Growth which serves as the County's primary planning document, and

WHEREAS, said updates will focus on housing, transportation, and agriculture/food access; and

WHEREAS, an organizational element of the grant program is the formation of a Consortium of government units, agencies, and stakeholders to advise the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council and NFTA on grant matters; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning will provide \$116,388.00 of in-kind staff services to the three year effort; and

WHEREAS, said services are itemized as follows:

1. Deputy Commissioner	\$74,337
2. Director of GIS Services	\$11,761
3. Planner	\$12,647
4. Coordinator, Pollution Prevention Program	\$11,761
5. Director of Business Assistance	<u>\$5,882</u>
TOTAL	\$116,388

and

WHEREAS, formal establishment of said Consortium requires execution of a Sustainable Communities Grant Agreement by all members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive is authorized to execute a Sustainable Communities Grant Agreement with any and all organizations, agencies, and municipalities comprising the Sustainable Communities Grant Consortium; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the County Comptroller; the County Attorney; and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.