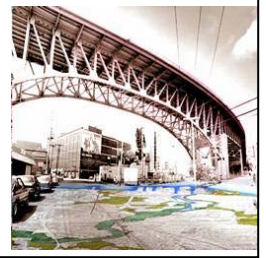




REIMAGINING & RESHAPING CLEVELAND Community Challenge Planning Grant Application



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview. The “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project will create a plan and strategy to remake Cleveland as a smaller but sustainable and economically vital urban center. Cleveland’s new land use pattern will intensify development in targeted mixed-use, walkable, transit-accessible districts, while re-purposing excess land for open space uses such as local food production, greenways, storm water management, neighborhood stabilization, yard expansion, parks and renewable energy generation. The plan will answer the question being faced by many so-called “shrinking cities” across the country:

“How can an urban center that has lost half its population maintain and even strengthen the characteristics that make for great urban places – density, diversity, cohesiveness, walkability, livability, a mix of uses, and transit access?”

The plan will build on the work of the recently completed “Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland” vacant land re-use project and will be coordinated with Cleveland’s “Sustainability 2019” initiative as well as the ongoing Northeast Ohio Regional Sustainable Communities Program, of which the City of Cleveland is a key participant. Most importantly, the plan will focus on *achievable outcomes* that translate recent research on the future of “transitioning” cities into innovative action-oriented programs, collaborations, strategies and regulatory reforms.

The plan will include *citywide elements* as well as *district-specific elements*. The district-specific elements of the plan will be designed to apply the citywide principles and recommendations to particular neighborhoods and districts as demonstration projects that can be replicated elsewhere in Cleveland and in comparable situations in other cities across the nation.

Outputs/ Deliverables. The “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project will produce the specific outputs or deliverables described below. The following elements will be citywide in scope.

- **Sustainable Development Pattern Plan.** Cleveland’s 2007 land use plan is premised on the conventional assumption that all vacant land will be developed during planning period, principally with residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses. Building on the base of recently completed research, the “*Reimagining and Reshaping Cleveland*” project will update that land use plan on the basis of the new recognition that much of today’s vacant land simply will not be absorbed by traditional development in the foreseeable future. The new development plan will also recognize the need for short-term, mid-term and long-term land use scenarios, in response to evolving market demand.

The updated citywide land use plan will identify areas of excess vacant land to be utilized for particular types of open space use – including urban agriculture, greenways, stormwater retention, renewable energy generation, parks, yard expansion, and interim enhancements for neighborhood stabilization. This element of the plan will be coupled with recommendations for strategies, programs and regulatory changes to implement the proposed re-uses at a scale commensurate with the scale of the challenge.

Just as importantly, the updated land use plan will target infill development and revitalization to selected districts marked by concentrations of mixed-use urban development, with housing and transportation options for people of all incomes, races, ages, and ability levels. Quality of life (i.e., “livability”) in these targeted districts will be improved by punctuating the development pattern with

pockets of green space, urban gardens and interim upgrades to vacant sites awaiting redevelopment – providing more amenities than was possible when the city’s population was greater and less open space was available. This element of the plan also will be coupled with recommendations for strategies, programs and regulatory changes to achieve the desired outcomes expeditiously.

- **Healthy Neighborhoods Plan.** More and more it is understood that the physical characteristics of a “place” have a significant impact on the health and the social well-being of its residents. Conventional city planning has often paid inadequate attention to this dynamic, particularly with respect to negative health outcomes that result from conditions common in with urban neighborhoods where low-income and minority populations are concentrated.

The “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project will assess health equity in Cleveland’s neighborhoods as a key component of “livability” and will develop criteria and methods to operationalize health equity impact assessments as standard practice in the review of development proposals, the preparation of neighborhood plans and the adoption and implementation of City policies and programs. Other elements of the Healthy Neighborhoods Plan will include recommendations to increase bicycle use, particularly in low-income and minority neighborhoods, and recommendations to maximize the benefits of urban farming and farmers’ markets in neighborhoods where fresh produce is otherwise not readily available.

The City Planning staff will partner with the Cleveland Public Health Department and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, which has taken a lead role in health equity planning for Cleveland and its suburbs in association with the national “Place Matters” initiative.

- **Sustainable Zoning.** Although Cleveland’s current zoning district regulations are flexible enough to permit mixed-use development, they do not mandate the type of mixed-use, higher-density, pedestrian-oriented and transit-oriented development that is necessary to create truly sustainable urban neighborhoods. This component of the “*Reimagining and Reshaping Cleveland*” project will result in the preparation and adoption of zoning district regulations that mandate this sustainable form of urban development in targeted locations that are identified as part of the plan. Complementing these regulations will be a Green Design Overlay District that will be finalized and implemented under this component of the project. Finally, attention will be given to exploring regulatory options to limit fast food businesses while encouraging more healthful food offerings in inner-city neighborhoods.

The following work products will focus on particular geographic districts in Cleveland. Selection of target districts will be refined and may be revised during the first phase of the project.

- **Transit-Oriented District Plan.** This plan will focus on a neighborhood prototype that is directly served by rapid transit as well as by bus lines, with the goal of facilitating further transit-oriented development in a walkable, mixed-use district, with improvements in the quality of life and housing opportunities for residents of all incomes, ages and ability levels. The target district for this plan will be the area around the rapid transit station at West 25th & Lorain in the Ohio City neighborhood on Cleveland’s near west side. This mixed-income, racially integrated, ethnically diverse neighborhood is anchored by the historic West Side Market and is the site of large-scale public housing as well as renovated historic homes. The plan will make recommendations for capitalizing on the transit access and the presence of a major regional asset as catalysts for strengthening the mixed-use district, while ensuring that the benefits are fully shared by the neighborhood’s lower-income and minority residents.
- **Innovation Zone Plan.** This plan will focus on the Euclid Corridor district between downtown Cleveland and University Circle, an area that has been designated by the State of Ohio as a “Hub of Innovation.” The spine of this district is the recently completed, FTA-funded “bus-rapid transit” line, now known as the ‘Health Line.’ Already completed plans for the district propose to attract biomedical and technology-oriented companies that benefit from proximity to the medical institutions of University Circle to the east and the downtown central business district to the west. This element of the “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” plan will recommend strategies to integrate market-rate and affordable housing into a technology-oriented district that promotes walkability and maximizes use of the bus-rapid transit system to catalyze development and provide access to jobs.

- **Arts District Plan.** This plan will focus on a neighborhood prototype where the “arts” can be the catalyst for neighborhood revitalization. The target neighborhood for this plan will be the emerging *Waterloo* arts district in Cleveland’s North Shore Collinwood neighborhood, applying lessons learned from recent successes in other Cleveland arts districts (Detroit-Shoreway, Tremont, Murray Hill, etc.). The goal will be to promote infill development and revitalization to strengthen the arts district and the surrounding neighborhood as a walkable, mixed-use, vibrant place. The plan will include an element that focuses on extending revitalization from the arts district itself to adjacent residential areas, including the provision of affordable housing for artists and other current and prospective residents. The plan will be prepared so as to serve as a model that can be replicated in similar neighborhoods.

WORK PLAN & TIMELINE

The project will be conducted over a 36-month period beginning on October 1, 2011 and concluding by September 30, 2014, with all grant funds committed to contracts by September 30, 2013. Project activities are anticipated to occur in accordance with the schedule shown below. (The project start date will be delayed if required by HUD with respect to the grant award date).

YEAR	2011				2012				2013				2014		
QUARTER	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3			
Establishing partner teams & creating participation plan	◆	◆													
Preparing & issuing RFPs for consultant work	◆	◆													
Sustainable Development Pattern Plan		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Healthy Neighborhoods Plan			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Sustainable Zoning				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆					
Transit-Oriented District Plan				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Innovation Zone Plan				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Arts District Plan					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆					
Project summary, presentation adoption and dissemination											◆	◆			

More specifically, the chronology of principal Work Plan tasks will be as follows:

- Meet with project partners to refine the work plan and timeline and form project teams.
- Work with project teams to prepare a detailed plan for citizen participation and information sharing, with special attention to low-income, minority and other often marginalized populations.
- Prepare and issue RFPs for each of the citywide components, and hire consultants.
- Begin citizen participation process for each citywide component, about one month after work starts.

- Prepare and issue RFPs for each of the district components, and hire consultants, working with neighborhood-based stakeholders.
- Begin citizen participation process for each of the district components, focusing on each of the targeted neighborhoods.
- Complete each plan component, with continuing citizen and stakeholder engagement.
- Share findings with local organizations and agencies as part of capacity building.
- Seek adoption of the completed plans by the Cleveland City Planning Commission.
- Work with partner departments and organizations to begin implementation.
- Disseminate project findings for the benefit of regional and national audiences.

ADDRESSING CURRENT CONDITIONS

The “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project is designed to address the challenges confronting Cleveland today and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Challenges. Current demographic and property-based data indicate the severity of the challenges currently confronting Cleveland.

- **Population Loss.** Once the 5th largest city in America, with over 900,000 residents, Cleveland now ranks 45th, with a 2010 US Census population of 396,815. The long-term loss of population has continued into the most recent decade, with Cleveland losing a greater percentage of its population – 17.1% – between 2000 and 2010 than any of America’s 100 most populous cities other than Detroit and post-Katrina New Orleans.
- **Manufacturing Loss.** Although manufacturing continues to play an important role in Cleveland’s economy, the number of manufacturing jobs in the city has fallen more precipitously than has population, from a peak of approximately 220,000 in 1950 to approximately 30,000 today.
- **Poverty.** Among major American cities, Cleveland’s poverty rate ranks second highest in the nation. The most recent data, from 2008, shows Cleveland’s poverty rate for individuals at 30.5%, compared to a national rate of 13.2%. Per capita income in Cleveland was \$16,545 in 2008 compared to a national figure of \$27,589. [American Community Survey]
- **Property Abandonment.** The loss of population and manufacturing jobs, along with the recent foreclosure crisis, has resulted in the creation of approximately 20,000 newly vacant (“vacated”) lots in Cleveland. Between 1,000 and 2,000 buildings have been demolished in each of the past four years. In addition, over 25,000 foreclosures since the beginning of 2007 have resulted in a sharp increase in the number of vacant buildings, estimated at approximately 15,000 today. These changes have acted to erode the urban character and vitality of many parts of the city.
- **Unhealthy Neighborhoods.** As population and income have declined in many Cleveland neighborhoods, so has the availability of full-service supermarkets and other grocery stores selling fresh vegetables and fruits – creating sizeable “food deserts” where fast food and processed food dominate the readily available food options for many residents. Just as significant is the fact that the condition of housing for many residents falls below decent housing quality standards.
- **Automobile-Oriented Infrastructure.** Although Cleveland has made significant strides toward becoming a more bicycle-friendly and walkable community, the city has a long way to go in developing safe bicycling and walking systems that can reduce automobile use and improve public health. Today the proportion of commuting trips made by bicycle in Cleveland is 0.65%, compared to 4-6% in America’s most bikeable cities. The proportion of commuting trips made by walking in Cleveland is 4.7%, compared to 10-15% in America’s most walkable cities. [ACS 2008]

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DISTRICT: WEST 25th & LORAIN



Historic West Side Market



Great Lakes Brewery Café



West 25th Rapid Transit Station

ARTS DISTRICT: WATERLOO IN NORTH SHORE COLLINWOOD



Beachland Ballroom Concert Hall



Waterloo Art Gallery



Streetscape Project

INNOVATION ZONE: EUCLID CORRIDOR DISTRICT



Cleveland Clinic Heart Center



Euclid Corridor Median



Tech Center Building Conversion

Opportunities. Despite the losses in population and jobs, Cleveland remains a vibrant city whose economy is fueled by world-class assets and significant locational advantages in an urban core that anchors the nation’s 16th largest metropolitan area, with nearly 3 million residents.

- **Urban Form & Public Transit.** In the quest to create mixed-use, walkable, transit-oriented, sustainable neighborhoods, Cleveland starts its journey half way to the finish line – with the “good bones” of traditional urban neighborhoods and a well-developed public bus and rail transit system in place (including Ohio’s only local rail transit system).
- **Available Land and Buildings.** The flip side of property abandonment is the availability of land and buildings for redevelopment and re-use. With its largest supply of vacant land and properties in a century, Cleveland now has an historic opportunity to remake itself as a more economically relevant and sustainable community, with an improved quality of life for its residents. This opportunity is enhanced by the fact that about 8,000 of the vacant lots are in the City’s “Land Bank.”
- **Locational Advantage.** Cleveland is located within 500 miles of nearly half the nation’s population and is served by an unusually strong network of interstate highways, rail lines, Great Lakes shipping, an international airport, a downtown regional airport, and fiber optic lines. Cleveland is the central city of the nation’s 15th largest metro region, with a population of 2,881,937.
- **Biomedical Growth.** The City of Cleveland is home to the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and Case Western University Medical School, all nationally renowned medical institutions. The two hospitals are expanding rapidly, with significant job growth in both medical care and medical research. The region is now home to over 600 biomedical firms and has attracted over \$800 million in biomedical equity investment since 2003.
- **Arts & Culture.** The City of Cleveland is home to one of the world’s great orchestras, as well as a world-class art museum and theater complex, and an unparalleled collection of museums and institutions clustered in University Circle. More recently, emerging local arts districts have become the catalysts for revitalization in several neighborhoods.
- **Manufacturing Skills.** Although many manufacturing jobs have been lost, Cleveland retains a large pool of workers whose manufacturing skills can be applied to industries in emerging and sustainable economic sectors, such as in the manufacture of wind turbine parts, solar panels, LED lighting, hybrid and electric vehicles, etc.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The success of the “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project will first be measured in terms of the timely and appropriate completion of each of the project’s components, as shown in the project timeline. Cleveland’s City Planning office will monitor progress on the completion of project components and will report that progress to the grantor agencies.

Second, the success of the project will be measured by the adoption and implementation of policy, programmatic and regulatory recommendations made in each of the project’s components. The City will document that implementation during and after the plan preparation process and will report that information to the grantor agencies.

Third, the long-term success of the project will be measured by community-level outcomes that result from the plan’s implementation. Among the intended long-term outcomes are the following:

- Increasing the proportion of commuting trips made by bicycle or walking and, correspondingly, reducing motor vehicle miles traveled, particularly in targeted neighborhoods.

- Increasing the supply of affordable, decent quality housing units in direct proximity to rapid transit stations and bus stops and within a 30-minute commute of major employment centers.
- Increasing employment in urban core districts well served by public transit and public infrastructure.
- Increasing the acreage of land devoted to urban agriculture, greenways and stormwater management.
- Increasing participation in creating and implementing development plans by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes.

The Cleveland City Planning office will track and measure these outcomes during and after the project period, working in conjunction with local university data centers, including Cleveland State University's Northern Ohio Data & Information Service and Case Western Reserve University's Center on Poverty and Community Development.

LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES

The “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project will address the six Livability Principles (labeled “a-f”) in the following manner.

a. Provide More Transportation Choices. *Develop safe, reliable and affordable transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce energy consumption and dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.*

The Cleveland Plan will make public transit service more effective and efficient by intensifying development density in targeted districts, particularly in transit-oriented development districts. These higher-density, mixed-use districts will also facilitate travel by walking and bicycling, as will the development of greenways and bikeways connecting local destinations.

b. Promote equitable, affordable housing. *Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.*

The Cleveland Plan will promote development and rehabilitation of affordable housing in mixed-use and transit-accessible districts through preparation of district-specific plans and strategies that can be replicated across the city. The City Planning office will collaborate with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Cleveland Housing Network and neighborhood-based organizations in planning for equitable and affordable housing.

c. Enhance Economic Competitiveness. *Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.*

The Cleveland Plan will create and enhance mixed-use urban districts capable of attracting knowledge-sector workers and entrepreneurs seeking contemporary urban living and working environments. The presence of these individuals will fuel business start-ups and expansion in various knowledge-sector enterprises, in locations accessible to inner-city residents seeking employment.

d. Support Existing Communities. *Target Federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit oriented, mixed-use development, and land recycling—to increase*

community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.

The Cleveland Plan focuses exclusively on strengthening existing communities in the urban core of the metropolitan area, making more efficient use of infrastructure that has become underutilized as a consequence of long-term population and job movement from the core to outlying areas of the region. The plan will also facilitate the recycling of recently vacated land for infill development in targeted mixed-use districts and for urban agriculture and other green space uses in weaker market areas that are less accessible to public transit.

e. Coordinate Policies and Leverage Investment. *Align Federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.*

The City will coordinate its planning with activities of the HUD-funded *Regional Sustainable Communities Program for Northeast Ohio*, which will consider strategies to promote development in urban core areas with excess infrastructure capacity, while limiting sprawl-style development that necessitates extension of infrastructure to outlying areas. At the local level, the proposed target area plan for the Euclid Corridor district seek to leverage a \$200 million Federal and State investment in one of the nation’s first bus-rapid transit lines to spur transit-oriented development that meets goals for livability and sustainability. Finally, Cleveland’s plan will facilitate re-use of excess land for renewable energy generation.

f. Value Communities and Neighborhoods. *Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.*

The principal focus of the Cleveland Plan is the preparation of plans and strategies to enhance the health, safety and walkability of urban neighborhoods. The plan will accomplish this through a combination of citywide and district-specific analyses and recommendations. “Health equity audits” will be developed for citywide use and will be applied to districts targeted for special attention in the plan.

BUDGET

The request for funds under the Community Challenge Planning Grant program is \$350,000. The grant funds will be matched by a minimum of \$151,000 in dedicated staff time by members of the City Planning Commission office and other City of Cleveland offices. In addition, a minimum of \$119,000 in staff time has been committed by 14 local organizations and agencies that will partner and collaborate with the City of Cleveland in the project. In addition, two cash grants totaling \$15,000 have been committed in equal shares by the Cleveland Foundation and the George Gund Foundation. (See attached letters of commitment and support).

The anticipated budget allocations for components of the “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” plan are as shown in the table on the following page.

PLAN COMPONENT	Consultant Cost	Staff Time Value	Total
Sustainable Development Pattern Plan	\$82,000	\$65,000	\$147,000
Healthy Neighborhoods Plan	\$55,000	\$45,000	\$100,000
Sustainable Zoning	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
Transit-Oriented District Plan	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$80,000
Innovation Zone Plan	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$80,000
Arts District Plan	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$80,000
Public Engagement ¹	\$45,000	\$55,000 ⁴	\$95,000
Required Travel ²	\$3,000	-----	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$365,000³	\$275,000	\$640,000

¹ An estimated \$5,000 of the funds for public engagement will be expended directly by the City to facilitate the citizen participation and capacity building components of the plan.

² This item covers the three required trips by the applicant to Washington DC for grant-related meetings

³ \$15,000 of this amount is covered by cash grants from two local philanthropic foundations

⁴ \$5,000 of this amount will consist of mailings and maps provided by the City for public engagement

COLLABORATION

In preparing the “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” plan, the Cleveland City Planning Commission will collaborate with a broad and diverse group of organizations and agencies representing subject areas addressed in the plan. These partners will include, among others, the following. (Letters of commitment are attached for those marked with an asterisk).

- Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition* (and the approximately thirty neighborhood-based community development corporations it represents)
- Neighborhood Progress, Inc.* (a non-profit providing technical assistance and development services to Cleveland’s neighborhoods)
- Cleveland Housing Network* (a non-profit providing affordable housing)
- Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority*
- Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority*
- Cuyahoga County Board of Health*
- Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency* (greater Cleveland’s MPO)
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District*
- Fund for Our Economic Future (a non-profit facilitating regional economic development)*
- ParkWorks* (a non-profit facilitating green space development)

- Policy Bridge* (a public policy group focusing on issues relevant to the minority community)
- Kent State University’s Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative* (lead author of the “Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland” document)
- Cleveland State University’s College of Urban Affairs*
- Greater Cleveland Partnership (the local chamber of commerce)*
- Case Western Reserve University’s Center on Poverty and Community Development
- Ohio State University Extension Service
- The Cleveland Foundation*
- The George Gund Foundation*

The City Planning Commission office will also work in partnership with several City departments, including Community Development, Economic Development, Community Relations, Public Health, Public Works, Building & Housing, Public Utilities, and Sustainability, as well as the Mayor’s office and City Council.

CAPACITY

Staffing. The project team will be led by staff of the Cleveland City Planning Commission, working in collaboration with several other City departments and a broad range of local organizations and agencies. (See the section entitled “Collaboration”).

Lead staff on the project team will include the following:

- *Robert N. Brown, Director, AICP, 36 years of professional city planning experience*
- *James F. Danek, Assistant Director, 29 years of professional city planning experience*
- *Fred Collier, Chief City Planner, 15 years of professional city planning experience*

Support staff will include city planners George Cantor, Marka Fields, Michael Bosak, Kim Scott, and Trevor Hunt, cycling and pedestrian specialist Martin Cader and GIS specialist Kris Lucskay. Grant funds will be used to hire consultants with national experience in key project subject areas, along with local university-based researchers and statisticians.

Recent Project Experience. The designated project staff from the Cleveland City Planning Commission has prepared and completed a number of recent planning projects comparable to the proposed “*Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland*” project. The most significant of these projects are the following:

- ***Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan (2003-2007).*** The project staff prepared this comprehensive citywide plan, which was adopted in 2007 and now guides all development and revitalization activity in Cleveland. The plan was prepared with the benefit of extensive collaboration and over fifty community meetings held in neighborhood locations. The theme of the plan was “creating connections” to improve the quality of life for city residents and to increase economic vitality – “*connecting people, places and opportunity.*”
- ***Census Complete Count Program (2009-2010).*** The project staff coordinated Cleveland’s 2010 Census Complete Count Program during 2009 and 2010. Outreach to minority, low-income and marginalized communities was the focus of the project’s activities. During the process, US Census Bureau staff pointed to the Cleveland initiative as a model for inclusiveness and collaboration. Project support was provided by the Cleveland Foundation.

- **Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland (2008-2010).** The City Planning staff joined staff from Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative and local non-profits Neighborhood Progress and ParkWorks in a nationally recognized project that broke new ground in reconsidering the use of vacant land in urban centers that have experienced long-term, systemic population loss. The project is focusing on identifying sustainable open space uses of land, on either an interim or long-term basis. These uses include urban agriculture, greenway connections, property enhancements, stormwater management, renewable energy generation, contamination remediation, etc.
- **Zoning for Sustainability.** City Planning project staff has written and secured adoption of zoning regulations that advance efforts to introduce urban agriculture and fresh food sales in city neighborhoods. Project staff has also participated in preparing and implementing innovative zoning regulations that promote walkability and mixed-use development.
- **EPA Brownfield Areawide Planning Pilot Program.** The Cleveland City Planning Commission received this EPA grant in August 2010 for the local "Opportunity Corridor" District. The project started promptly and is currently proceeding on time and on budget, with the City Planning office administering a professional services consultant contract.
- **Transportation for Livable Communities Grant Program.** The Cleveland City Planning Commission has received and administered ___ grants in the past ____ years from the local MPO to partner with neighborhood development organizations in preparing plans that promote livability through transportation improvements, including non-motorized options.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Recent research regarding the creation of sustainable and healthy communities has highlighted the need for collaboration between local agencies and organizations that have traditionally pursued separate and parallel courses of action. It is now understood that city planners, public health officials, housing administrators, environmental scientists, social workers, transit administrators and others must pool their capabilities to address the inter-connected issues that determine the "livability" of communities. The *"Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland"* project will bring together these disparate professionals and their organizations in a unique collaboration focused on Cleveland and its neighborhoods.

The collaboration established in this project will increase the collective capacity of the participating organizations to improve the quality of life and the "quality of place" in Cleveland. To ensure continued collaboration in the implementation of the project's recommendations, the partnership teams formed to participate in the project will continue to meet and interact on a regular basis after completion of the initial projects.

In addition to the capacity building that will result from new collaborations, the findings and recommendations of the *"Reimagining & Reshaping Cleveland"* project will be shared with relevant organizations throughout the city and the region. This will be accomplished, in part, by including a requirement in the work program for each of the six plan components that each consultant will provide a training session for local organizations on the plan's findings and recommendations. This will result in six training sessions designed to improve the technical capabilities of local organizations to carry out recommendations of the project. The project findings will also be placed on web sites to facilitate wider dissemination of information.

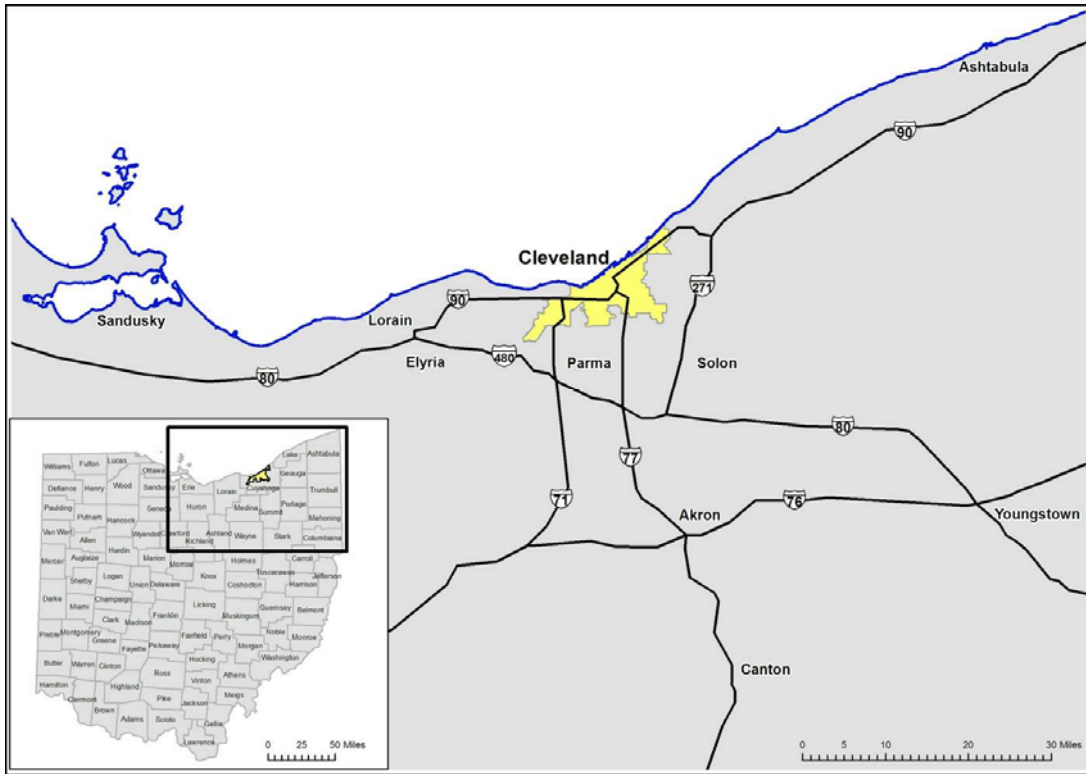
PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

The Cleveland City Planning office will manage the community engagement process in partnership with the City's Community Relations office and Public Health Department as well as approximately 25 neighborhood-based organizations and several nationality-based and ethnicity-based organizations. These offices and organizations are experienced and skilled in reaching out to all segments of the Cleveland community, including low-income, minority and immigrant groups. Recent experience includes the Census "Complete Count" program, jointly administered by City Planning and Community Relations, the Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan, and the Opportunity Corridor Brownfields Areawide Planning Pilot Program.

Meetings will be held in locations convenient to neighborhood residents, including local churches, libraries, recreation centers, schools, etc. The meetings will also be broadcast on the City's cable TV station. Project information will be posted on a web site and on social media sites in order to facilitate public comment and information sharing.

MAPS

CLEVELAND IN CONTEXT



CLEVELAND'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AREAS

