## CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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August 16, 2010

Secretary Shaun Donovan

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Washington DC 20410

(202) 708-1112

Dear Secretary Donovan,

On June 24, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the launching of a \$100 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. According to the press release, the program is "...the first of its kind designed to create stronger, more sustainable communities by connecting housing to jobs, fostering local innovation and building a clean energy economy." The funding will support regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; as well as public health and environmental impacts. The program places a priority on partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships including arts and culture, philanthropy, and bringing new voices to the regional planning process.

This letter expresses our support of the Central Texas Sustainability Consortium, led by the Capital Area Council of Governments and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, in seeking funds through a Regional Sustainability Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the following purposes:

- Developing an analytical network of tools and models to help our region better plan for sustainable economic development and growth and better measure the impact of development and infrastructure investments in our area;
- Support the successful development of regional Activity Centers (as defined in the CAMPO 2035 long-range transportation plan); and

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 Improve regional collaboration to identify and help close gaps in existing local plans in ways that will help Central Texas achieve desired region-wide success in areas such as housing, jobs, energy and infrastructure investments.

On behalf of the Board of the Central Texas Chapter of the Congress of New Urbanism, I support the goals of this effort and the willingness of the communities of Central Texas to work together to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Sean Compton, LEED AP

President, Central Texas Chapter CNU