



TRANSPORTATION & CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States

Agreement of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States to Support Sustainable Communities

June 7, 2011
Mystic, CT

WHEREAS, the heads of transportation, environmental and energy agencies in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) region recognize the need for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century in order to prevent major impacts of climate change globally;

WHEREAS, the TCI Agency Heads further recognize the efficiency and value of partnering with one another across our region as well as with federal and local agencies to achieve our goal of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector;

WHEREAS, collaboration among our states will aid our current efforts to develop state and local land use strategies that encourage increased commercial and residential housing density and encourage transit-friendly design, improve the performance of existing transportation modes while enhancing neighborhoods and urban centers, and promote mixed-use development that supports viable alternatives to driving;

WHEREAS, adopting state policies and programs supportive of sustainable community principles will help communities build a clean energy economy and become more sustainable by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from the transportation sector, minimizing their reliance on high-carbon fuels, and addressing the challenges of vehicle miles traveled;

WHEREAS, efforts within TCI jurisdictions to promote sustainable communities will be enhanced by our commitment to work together;

WHEREAS, in our densely populated region, many metropolitan areas and transportation systems cross state lines. By working together, TCI jurisdictions will be recognized as national leaders on sustainability and be poised to compete globally in the clean energy economy;

WHEREAS, the TCI Agency Heads recognize that considerable authority and decision-making with regards to land use rests with local communities and, as such, necessitates that TCI's efforts be undertaken in close partnership with local communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that TCI Agency Heads agree to work together to promote sustainable communities through enhancement of state level transportation policies that combine a smart growth land use planning approach with sustainable development concepts:

- *Smart growth* promotes compact mixed-use development patterns that support biking, walking and transit use while preserving and protecting natural resources and improving the quality of life of residents living in cities, towns and villages of all sizes.

- *Sustainable development* enhances current and future environmental, economic and social well being, locally as well as globally, promotes distinctive and equitable communities, and integrates energy use and climate change into community design.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that TCI efforts to promote sustainable communities will advance transportation systems that:

- **Expand clean, safe and affordable transportation options** - Increase safe and affordable, multi-modal transportation options that expand access for all residents, lower greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, increase energy efficiency in the transportation sector, reduce reliance on foreign oil and deliver improved air quality and public health;
- **Promote economic prosperity** – Target investments in transportation systems and other infrastructure to support economic growth and development, while reducing long term environmental, public health and energy costs;
- **Enhance natural resource protection** – Promote a smart growth planning approach supported by sustainable state transportation, environmental and energy decision making to help cities, towns and villages protect precious natural resources, waterways, open space and active farmland, and enhance access to natural and cultural resources. Encourage development and growth where current infrastructure already exists to help revitalize existing neighborhoods and provide a distinct sense of place;
- **Strengthen communities** – Encourage land use practices that include all modes of transportation – cars, buses, trains, bikes and our own two feet - that build communities around existing and planned transit, reduce automobile dependence and traffic congestion, incorporate complete streets design, minimize the amount of land devoted to roads and impervious pavement, and support development of housing options that address the needs of residents of all ages and incomes;
- **Minimize environmental impacts** – Site, construct and manage transportation, infrastructure and development projects in ways that limit emissions and wastes, promote construction practices and recycling that are designed to conserve natural resources, minimize waste and pollution, and maximize efficiencies in the use of land, energy, water and materials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, within our states, we commit to work in partnership with our colleagues in community development, economic growth, and housing and land use agencies to promote state level transportation, land use, environmental and energy policies that foster the development of sustainable communities. We will undertake these efforts through partnerships with federal agencies, local governments, regional and rural planning entities, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations and through meaningful and transparent planning processes that include the participation of broad and diverse stakeholders.