



November 3, 2011

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JWN Executive Board,

Last week I met with your board chair, Paul Conte, to discuss a number of issues related to the JWN. One of the topics we covered was the City's recent application for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Challenge Grant for the Whiteaker – Westside Corridor Plan.

Paul identified two areas of concern for the JWN regarding this grant. The first was related to the six proposed activities and whom we identified as "key participants" in those activities. Paul has the full grant application and has shared that with you. The six areas I'm referring to are:

1. Corridor Profile
2. Business Retention and Development
3. Affordable Housing Retention and Development
4. Enhance Transportation Access and Infrastructure
5. Promote Compact Development
6. Corridor Plan and Replication Guide

While the City did not specifically name neighborhood associations under each work activity, the first paragraph of our application describes our intention for "capturing community values and charting a course to realize our collective best outcomes." I want to assure you that the City intends to include neighborhood associations as "key participants" in all six grant activities.

If we are successful in receiving this grant, one task will be to determine the boundaries of the study area. Paul expressed a strong desire for the JWN to be consulted and involved in setting the southern boundary of the study area. The grant application is very general in identifying the corridor. Some of the activities will not require a specific boundary, but to the extent we draw a line on a map, the JWN will be a key participant in boundary decisions that abut or intersect the JWN.

I was encouraged to hear that the JWN board sees the value and opportunity this potential funding source and work activities has for the neighborhood. I look forward to working with you on this and other projects and am hopeful we will secure the funding for this important work.

Best regards,

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