announced that the Twin Cities region had been awarded a 3-year, $5 million grant from the program. The goal of the grant is to help the Metropolitan Council and other regional stakeholders build on existing regional planning efforts to advance multimodal transportation choices with access to jobs and housing, transit- and pedestrian-friendly development, environmental preservation, and energy efficiency (see announcement below).

Carissa Schively Slotterback is assistant professor of urban and regional planning at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and served on the research team for this project. Her research examines stakeholder involvement and the use of information in planning decision-making processes, with a particular focus on collaborative planning and impact assessment. Among her current research projects is a study of regional sustainability planning processes.

The research team for this study included study co-chairs Edward Goetz, director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and Laurie McGinnis, director of the Center for Transportation Studies; researchers Jason Cao, Yingling Fan, and Carissa Schively Slotterback, assistant professors in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; research manager Kaydee Kirk, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs; and graduate research assistants Jody Tableporter, Andrew Senn, and Jennifer Day, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Funding for the project was provided by a grant from the McKnight Foundation to CURA and the Center for Transportation Studies.

To download a copy of the final report from this project, visit www.cura.umn.edu/publications/L2010-1.pdf.

Community Engagement and Evaluation for the Twin Cities Sustainable Communities Program

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) has been tapped to provide community engagement and evaluation for a $5 million federal grant that supports planning along the Twin Cities region’s growing network of transit corridors. The grant will help the Metropolitan Council and other stakeholders build on existing regional planning efforts to advance transit- and pedestrian-friendly development, provide access to jobs and housing, and promote environmental preservation and energy efficiency.

The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing (MCNO), a program of CURA, will provide leadership on engagement efforts. MCNO staff will work with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability and Nexus Community Partners to lead a team that will collaborate with organizations, individuals, and government agencies to increase participation in regional planning by immigrant communities, communities of color, and low-income communities. Project partners will develop guidelines and recommendations designed to support the work of community members that will ensure access to the information and resources needed to become meaningfully involved in decision making about their own communities.

Edward Goetz, CURA director, and Laurie McGinnis, Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) director, will also form a data and evaluation team for the project that will work with the policy board and staff at the Metropolitan Council to devise measures of sustainable development, identify data sources, and conduct baseline studies that demonstrate the impact of sustainability planning in regional transit corridors.

Funding for the project, to be implemented in 2011–2013, was awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Metropolitan Council on behalf of a regional consortium including Minnesota Housing, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the McKnight Foundation, and with support from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative and the Ford Foundation. The grant is one of the first initiatives to emerge from the Obama administration’s $100 million Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an interagency collaboration between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Transportation intended to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change. For more information about the initiative, visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/index.html.