

August 23, 2011

Sara Hudson, Economic Development Specialist
Big Sky Economic Development Authority
222 North 32nd Street
Billings, MT 59101

RE: City of Billings Participation in the East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD) HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership and Funding Commitment

Dear Sara;

On August 22, at its regular business meeting, the Billings City Council voted to participate in the East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD) HUD-DOT-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership. The City Council also approved committing \$100,000 annually for 3 years of East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD) tax increment funds as a match for the U.S. HUD Community Challenge Planning grant.

City staff will serve on the Partnership on behalf of City Council for the duration of the grant as both an advisor and a resource. It is our understanding the Council will be kept informed and provided opportunity for input on the allocation of the Sustainable Communities Fund in so far as it affects City funds.

We appreciate the efforts the Partnership has contributed to promoting affordable housing, environmental safety, economic development and transportation options to businesses and residents of the EBURD. We wish you continuing success towards these ends.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hanel
Mayor