A consortium of community partners received a $3.75 Million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the 13-County Houston Galveston Planning Region.

The grant is part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings EPA, HUD, USDA and DOT together to ensure that the agencies’ policies, programs and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together.

Members of the consortium include Bay City Community Development Corporation, Blueprint Houston and Center for Houston’s Future, Chambers County, City of Galveston, City of Houston, City of Huntsville, Fort Bend County, Greater Houston Builders Association, Gulf Coast Economic Development District, Harris County, Houston Advanced Research Center, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston Tomorrow, Houston Wilderness, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), Montgomery County, Neighborhood Centers, Inc., Port of Houston Authority, Sam Houston State University, Texas Southern University, United Way of Greater Houston, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) and Waller County Economic Development.

Plan development will be driven by extensive public engagement, technical advisement and fact-based analysis.

Hands-on work groups, including subject matter experts and regional representatives, will assist in completion of the grant workplan, the major elements of which are displayed to the right.

Work groups will meet independently as well as collectively to coordinate efforts, share ideas and review recommendations.

Resulting recommendations will be forwarded to a Governmental Advisory Committee, made up of elected officials, for further action.

Public engagement will be critical to the entire planning process, beginning with a public visioning exercise to develop regional goals and gain consensus on a regional vision for sustainability.

Public engagement will begin early 2012.