

CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item F
July 2, 2012

SUBJECT: Approve the authorization for the City of Novi's participation in the SEMCOG Sustainable Community Recognition Program.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Managers Office *SS*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: *[Signature]*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Through its Sustainable Community Recognition Program, SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, recognizes member communities that have taken initiative to incorporate sustainable activities into their practices. For the City of Novi, sustainability means achieving economic prosperity while protecting the environment and providing a high quality of life for residents. SEMCOG reviews the eligible activities and awards recognition and endorsement to the communities who meet the standards for maintaining sustainability.

SEMCOG has developed a Sustainable Community Recognition Program to help local governments achieve and maintain sustainability. Any SEMCOG member community is eligible to participate. This includes counties, cities, villages and townships. There is no fee to participate in the program. Some of the eligible activities include: implementation of green infrastructure on public property, transportation safety audit, walkable/bikeable audit, asset management plan, distribution of public outreach information, etc. City of Novi has already successfully completed 10 out of the 16 activities. Please see the attached activity sheet for further information.

Recognition from SEMCOG will enable the City of Novi to continue the leadership in the region by ongoing forward-thinking changes in our community and integrate SEMCOG-supported practices into our operations. Additionally, the recognition will help inform residents about the initiatives being implemented throughout the community.

Upon City Council's authorization to participate, SEMCOG staff will meet with the City staff to discuss which of the eligible activities have been completed and others that Novi wants to pursue.

Following review of completion of the eligible activities by the community, SEMCOG will present a certificate of recognition at a future City Council meeting. Additionally, a press release will be sent to local media outlets, and City of Novi will be recognized on the SEMCOG Web site.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the authorization for the City of Novi's participation in the SEMCOG Sustainable Community Recognition Program.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Casey				
Council Member Fischer				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Margolis				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Wrobel				

City of Novi

County of Oakland, Michigan

**SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments)
Sustainable Community Recognition Program**

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on _____, _____, at ____ o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers _____

ABSENT:

Councilmembers _____

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____.

WHEREAS City of Novi seeks to improve the long-term sustainability of our community; and

WHEREAS City of Novi seeks to achieve economic prosperity while protecting the environment and providing a high quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS City of Novi seeks to inform residents about innovative initiatives being implemented in our community; and

WHEREAS City of Novi seeks to continue to utilize several programs and data sets offered by SEMCOG; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and City Council hereby authorize and support the City of Novi commitment to participate in the SEMCOG Sustainable Community Recognition Program;

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2012, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
Clerk, City of Novi



Background

SEMCOG provides information and assistance to member local governments in Southeast Michigan in the areas of transportation, environment, governmental efficiency, and community and economic development. For local governments, sustainability is about achieving economic prosperity while protecting the environment and providing a high quality of life for residents. Implementing SEMCOG-supported initiatives helps local governments achieve and maintain sustainability.

Why should my community participate?

- Get information to back-up and validate your decisions as local officials.
- Be a leader in the region by making forward-thinking changes in your community.
- Integrate SEMCOG-supported practices into your operations, and receive recognition for doing so.
- Inform constituents about the initiatives being implemented in your community.
- Maximize your SEMCOG membership dues.
- Improve the long-term sustainability of your community.

What communities are eligible to participate?

Any SEMCOG member community is eligible to participate. This includes counties, cities, villages and townships. There is no fee to participate in the program.

How does the program work?

Once your community has signed up to participate, SEMCOG staff will meet with officials from your community to discuss which of the eligible activities (listed below) to pursue. SEMCOG will work with you and your staff to complete the eligible activities that you have selected.

Completion of 5-7 of the eligible activities will get your community recognized at the bronze level, completion of 8-10 activities at the silver level, and completion of 11+ eligible activities will get your community recognized at the gold level.

Following completion of the eligible activities by your community, SEMCOG will present a certificate of recognition at a meeting of your board, council or commission. Additionally, a press release will be sent to local media outlets, and your community will be recognized on the SEMCOG Web site. Communities that achieve the gold level of recognition will have opportunities to share their experience and expertise with other SEMCOG member communities.

How does my community sign up to participate?

Step 1. Have your council, board or commission pass a resolution (see a sample at www.semco.org/members) stating your community's intent to participate. SEMCOG is available to discuss the program at that meeting.

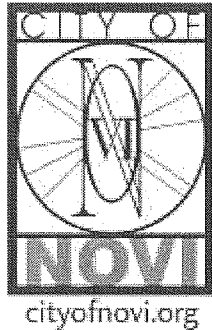
Step 2. Contact Karen Wieber (313) 324-3345 or Amy Malmer at (313) 324-3308.

Sustainable Community Recognition Program

What are the eligible activities?

1. Develop a *neighborhood stabilization plan*: Neighborhood stabilization plans are developed to guide the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes.
2. Implement *green infrastructure* on public property: Plan and manage a network of wilderness, parks, greenways, and conservation easements in your community in order to support native species, maintain ecological balance, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to a high quality of life.
3. Conduct a transportation *safety audit* of a road intersection or area in your community, and implement recommendations: Road safety audits allow communities to identify and address safety problems so residents and visitors can drive, walk, and bike safely.
4. Conduct a *walkable/bikeable audit* of an area in your community, and implement recommendations: Livable communities generally have facilities promoting safe pedestrian and bicycle travel and connecting people to jobs, entertainment, stores, schools, and recreation.
5. Develop a *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) Plan*: A plan to implement and evaluate pollution prevention and other water quality practices.
6. Develop a community *transit coordination plan*: Improve the mobility of all people in your community, particularly older adults, young people, people with disabilities, low-income workers, and those without regular access to a car.
7. Use *SEMCOG data* to develop your community Master Plan, Strategic Plan, or Capital Improvement Plan: Long-term planning allows your community to develop short-term solutions in anticipation of future needs.
8. Distribute *public outreach information* (Ours to Protect, Ozone Action, or MiRideshare) to residents: Actions your residents can take to improve the region's air and water quality.
9. Incorporate *Low Impact Development (LID)* components into your planning and zoning processes: The goal of LID is to manage rainfall at its source, using a variety of design techniques.
10. Develop an *access management plan* for a transportation route in your community: Access management reduces potential for crashes and maximizes existing road capacity by limiting the number of access points (commercial driveways and median crossovers), carefully placing and spacing access points, and designing the road and access points to serve all users (drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders).
11. To improve air quality in the region, adopt a policy that requires certain actions by your local government departments on *Ozone Action days*: On Ozone Action Days, local governments can take certain actions that can help reduce the creation of ozone that day and keep it at levels that meet the national air quality standard.
12. Develop an *asset management plan* for the road infrastructure in your community: Asset management improves the performance and effectiveness of our roads through continual monitoring of physical inventory and condition assessment.
13. Use *benchmark data* to compare your costs to others, and implement changes to meet those benchmarks: Compare your local government to others within the SEMCOG region and around the country.
14. Incorporate *measures of citizen satisfaction* into your budget and service provision decisions: Measure resident priorities and satisfaction levels in order to assess services, improve performance, and build public trust.
15. Develop a *multi-year budget or budget forecast*: Budgeting or forecasting on a multi-year basis provides insight into the future scenarios facing your local government in order to develop long-range solutions.
16. Achieve a *Community Self-Assessment* score of 50 or greater: This survey tool gives local governments a better understanding of their effectiveness in providing services at a cost-effective level.

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
FROM: SEHRISH SALAH-UD-DIN, FELLOW
SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM
DATE: 6-27-12

On Monday June 25, 2012, a meeting was conducted to discuss the details of the completed SEMCOG activities. Barb McBeth, Deputy Community Development Director confirmed activities that the city has already achieved/completed. The purpose of this meeting was to outline the SEMCOG activities in detail. As a result, we were able to extract the main points from each of the ten out of the sixteen completed activities which are listed below.

In terms of the **Green Infrastructure**, the City of Novi placed a Protection Ordinance incorporated with Oakland County for the Woodland and Wetland areas. Oakland County compiled a map with the preservation of wetlands. The program is called "Green Infrastructure;" this program identifies green infrastructure within communities. We now use this in our Master Plan for land use.

As far as the **Safety Audits**, we conduct yearly safety audits of street intersections in regards to identifying hazards pertaining to traffic safety. A safety traffic committee which consists of staff from community development and engineering look at every intersection and diagnose the crash studies for that year; the study is completed quarterly. The committee looks at the different timings of the light and constantly looks for improvements to be made; this is an ongoing continuous process.

A **Walkable/bikeable audit** was conducted in conjunction with the Non-motorized Master Plan. This is a Sidewalk prioritization plan where all the sidewalks are inventoried and the

missing links are identified. The audit is completed annually as it provides information to assist in the capital improvement plan.

Our current **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI)** was updated in late 2009 as a condition of our storm water discharge permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The purpose of the City of Novi's SWPPI is to bring together the goals and actions from the Sub-watershed Management Plans (SWMPs) for the Upper and Middle Rouge River, Huron Chain of Lakes and Upper Huron/Kent Lake Watersheds, Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP) and the Public Education Plan (PEP) into a single document containing the City of Novi's commitments necessary to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.

We use the available **SEMCOG data** and incorporate it into our master plan. As far as the **Public Outreach Information** is concerned, we participated in the Ozone Action plan in the past but can we can improve the promotion of the awareness program in the future. In terms of rideshare, the Rideshare lot at the corner of Beck and 12 mile was promoted in the past.

For the **Low Impact Development (LID)**, we have constructed bio-swales at two municipal locations to improve the quality of storm water in an effort to in turn improve habitat and protect our waterways. One bio-swale is located just west of the gun range at the Field Services Complex and was constructed in approximately 2008. Plus, there a series of linear bio-swales that were constructed at the Novi Public Library in 2009-2010. The purpose of a bio-swale is to collect storm water run-off so that silt settles-out and pollutants get filtered by underlying porous soils and plants before the water either goes into our City storm water collection system and Novi's water courses, and/or before it infiltrates and recharges the groundwater aquifer beneath it.

The City has incorporated the **access management plan** in our design, construction standards rules, guidelines, and restrictions for many years. The transportation plan is part of the master plan. While, the **asset management plan**, is through our DPS, utilities, and storm water and sewer department.

To **measures citizen satisfaction**, City of Novi participates in the National Citizen Survey; this is completed every 2 years and will be completed this year. The City Council adopted a **multi-year budget** that projects in the three future years beginning with FY 2012-2013.