

Partnership for Sustainable Communities 2013-2014 Regional Roundtables Summary



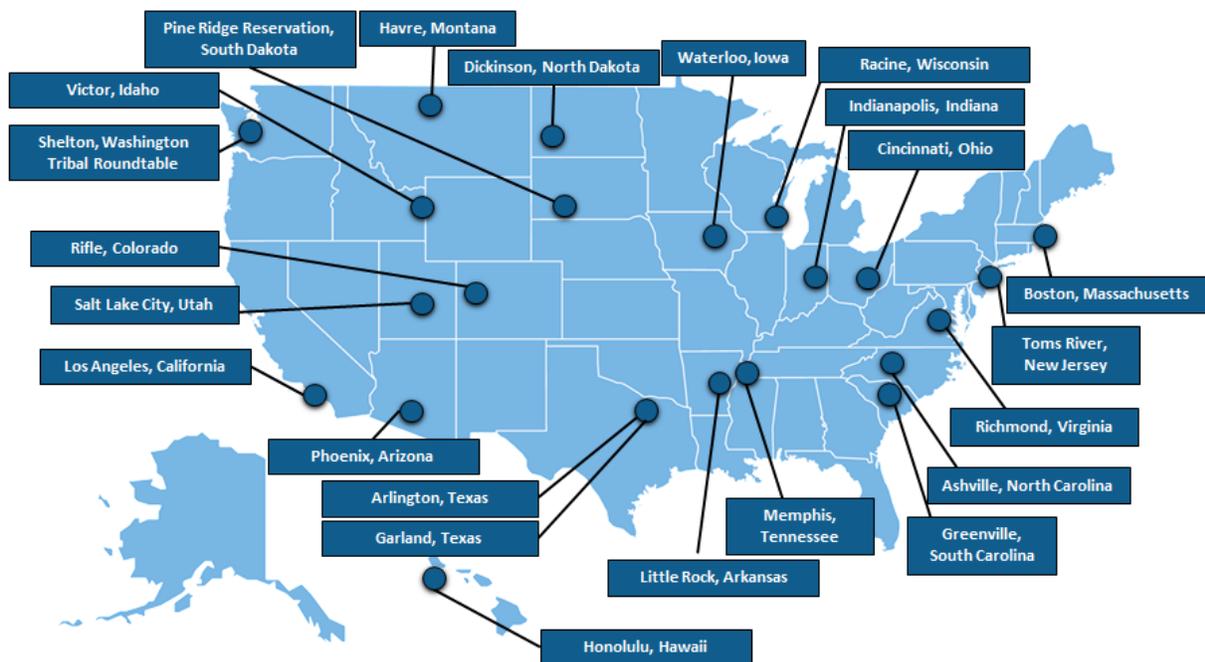
Partnership for Sustainable Communities Roundtable Discussions

Guided by six livability principles (see inset box), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are coordinating investments and aligning policies to help expand opportunity for American communities. In 2013 and 2014, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) held a series of roundtable discussions with communities across the country to learn how best to support communities in achieving their visions for the future. Hundreds of Federal, State and local government officials, tribes, business leaders, nonprofits, neighborhood associations, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, philanthropic partners, community representatives, and members of the public came together in 23 Roundtable meetings to jump start local projects and to let Federal agencies know how they can best support communities.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities Principles:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate and leverage Federal policies and investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

Locations of Roundtables



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What We Heard

We need to get sustainability 'hardwired' into our core programs, such as through rulemaking and grant sourcing.

Businesses looking for 'young talent' look for amenities like bike paths.

The private and public sector will need to work together to address ongoing challenges.

There is an ongoing need for the Federal government to invest in coordinated, place-based collaborations.

The PSC should be helping to make sure that development is ready for the climate of the next 100 years, not what the past looked like.

Agencies should learn more about the needs of rural communities by supporting research and pilot projects rather than attempting to apply urban concepts to rural places.

An important challenge moving forward will be to help suburban areas develop sustainably as they urbanize over the next 10-20 years.

In addition to investing in resilient infrastructure, the Partnership should be helping communities build 'social capital' within neighborhoods, assisting them in engaging with community residents.

Summary Statistics

- 23 PSC roundtables in 22 states
- 11 Federal agencies represented
- Around 740 total participants, including State, county, and local governments; elected officials; nonprofits; neighborhood associations; Metropolitan Planning Organizations; tribal nations; universities; faith-based organizations; business development districts; and other private sector representatives



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Next Steps

Using the feedback received at the roundtables, the Partnership is focusing its future activities around the following key issues:

- Advancing Economic Opportunity and Mobility
- Helping Communities Adapt to a Changing Climate, while Mitigating Future Disaster Losses
- Supporting the Next Stage of Implementation of the Partnership's Community Investments



Local, State, and Federal stakeholders discuss opportunities for sustainable downtown redevelopment during an interactive breakout session of the PSC roundtable in Toms River, NJ. Photo credit: Erika Stahl.

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