



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

FOR

OLD TOWN ROCK HILL
SITE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
2006-2009

Project Quick Facts

Total Grant Amount: \$200,000
Purpose: Identify and assess brownfield sites
Affected Community: Old Town Rock Hill
Web Address: www.ci.rock-hill.sc.us/ecdev/oldtown.asp

Information Repository

Purpose: Provide public access to relevant documents for review
Physical Location: Catawba Regional COG
215 Hampton Street, Suite 200
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Web Address: www.catawbacog.org/brownfields.asp

Examples of information that will be available

Quarterly Reports to EPA (narrative & financials)
Calendar of Events (public meetings & assessment activities)
Reports to Partners
Best Practices (research materials & web-links)

Project Spokesperson

Robert C. Moody, AICP
P.O. Box 450
Rock Hill, SC 29731
803.327.904
rmody@catawbacog.org

Catawba Regional will perform public involvement activities, consistent with the Assessment Grant Proposal and subsequent Cooperative Agreement, to ensure consideration of community concerns in assessment planning and execution. The public will be kept informed of project progress and results and will be encouraged to participate.

1.0 Outreach: The project manager will serve as the designated spokesperson for the project and will work to establish an Information Repository (IR) convenient to the site(s) and place relevant documents into the IR so the documents are available to the public for review.

1.1 Information Repository: The physical location of the IR is in the offices of Catawba Regional Council of Governments, located at 215 Hampton Street, Suite 200, Rock Hill, SC, 29730. This facility is centrally located in Old Town Rock Hill and is staffed during regular business hours Monday-Friday.

1.2 Designated Spokesperson: Robert C. Moody, Senior Planner with Catawba Regional Council of Governments will serve as the designated spokesperson. Mr. Moody will also serve as the project manager and is the primary contact with EPA and the project consultant(s).

2.0 Project Partners: Community groups have proven to be among the most effective tools for fostering re-investment in and returning the health and prosperity to the City of Rock Hill's urban core. Partnerships also open new possibilities for using scarce resources more effectively, bringing a community closer together, reducing high-cost urban sprawl development, and providing the information and resources to residents that will allow them to create solutions to community problems. While the Catawba Regional Council of Governments is the recipient of the cooperative agreement, the following partners play a vital role in the success of the project: City of Rock Hill, Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Urban Rock Hill Weed and Seed Steering Committee, Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods, Community Builders (formerly Old Town Roundtable) and Winthrop University.

2.1 City of Rock Hill: Stephen Turner, Director of Economic and Urban Development 803.329.7097: The City of Rock Hill's City Management and Economic & Urban Development Departments have and will continue to be partners in this project. The City of Rock Hill has been instrumental in the initial site selection, community outreach activities and assisting with the research and provision of information for the purposes of this application. The City of Rock Hill has experience with management of both EPA Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grants and has an open offer with Catawba Regional to assist with site access agreements, RFPs, contractor selection and any other activities associated with this project.

2.2 Highland Park Neighborhood Association: Dawn Faile, President, 803.981.9191: For the purposes of the proposed project, the Highland Park Neighborhood Association will continue to notify residents of cleanup and

redevelopment plans/activities and scheduled information sessions with Catawba Regional to provide activity updates and status reports. The neighborhood association will also work closely with Catawba Regional staff to ensure consistent, effective communication is taking place and that residents are armed with all the information they need to make informed decisions.

- 2.3 Urban Rock Hill Weed and Seed Steering Committee:** Lonnie Harvey, Chairperson 803.325.2020: The Urban Rock Hill Weed and Seed Steering Committee is composed of residents of neighborhoods in Old Town, City leaders, law enforcement, educational institutions and various nonprofit organizations from the community. The purpose of this group is to serve as the governing body that ensures residents have full knowledge and a voice in what is happening in their neighborhoods, especially for all activities associated with the Urban Rock Hill Weed and Seed project. Steering Committee members will assist Catawba Regional Council of Governments with outreach and communication efforts to the neighborhoods and will also make their services available for any re-use planning activities.
- 2.4 Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods:** Frank Meyers, President: RHCN is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that represents neighborhood associations in the City of Rock Hill and acts as the liaison between the neighborhood and the local government, elected officials and other organizations in the City. Over the past four years, the RHCN has been taking proactive steps towards revitalizing the Arcade-Westside Area of Rock Hill's Old Town area. For the purposes of the proposed project, RHCN is committed to providing technical assistance and facilitator responsibilities for capacity-building and neighborhood involvement activities throughout the two year grant period. They will continue to have active engagement in resource mobilization that will provide leverage to the proposed project.
- 2.5 Community Builders:** Stephen Turner, Director of Economic and Urban Development 803.329.7097: Community Builders, a community nonprofit, was created in response to the growing environmental, economic, and social environmental justice concerns facing Old Town. Community Builders member organizations consist of people who live in the target area, Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation, York Technical College, Winthrop University, Clinton Junior College, RHCN, City of Rock Hill, York County, and Rock Hill School District Three. For the purposes of the proposed grant project, the Community Builders has agreed to provide their continued technical expertise in the diversity of disciplines from which they represent as well as, continue to engage in resource development to support activities associated with the project.
- 2.6 Winthrop University, Department of Social Work:** Dr. Janice Wells 803.323.2650: The professors from the Department have engaged their classes in projects that worked directly with residents living in Old Town and neighborhood revitalization activities as part of their curriculum requirements. For the purposes

of this project, the College of Social Work will continue projects that involve community involvement and will assist in the implementation of proposed community involvement and awareness activities necessary for successful community engagement during implementation.

- 3.0 Project Updates:** Information will be made available periodically via fact sheets, EPA quarterly reports, reports to project partners, the website, the local media outlets and the City of Rock Hill’s website and City Cable Channel.
- 3.1 Fact Sheet:** The project manager will keep the public informed and involved including developing a plain language “fact sheet” prepared and distributed to the affected community at the beginning of the project and an additional fact sheet after the assessment is complete. Additional fact sheets may be prepared if there are new developments or delays.
- 3.2 EPA Quarterly Reports:** Mandatory quarterly filings made by the project manager that chart progress to date, discuss upcoming activities, address any changes or problems that arise and provide a financial accounting of grant expenditures and dollars available.
- 3.3 Reports to Project Partners:** The project manager will periodically make reports specifically to the project partners in order to maintain their interest and support for the project.
- 3.4 Website:** Catawba Regional will host a webpage and supporting documents at (www.catawbacog.org/brownfields.asp) dedicated to brownfields as a complementary tool to the IR. This site will contain links to the information listed in *Section 3.0, Project Updates* and other resources that may benefit the project and/or the public.
- 3.5 Old Town Newsletter:** All project activities will be featured and updated in the new *Old Town Newsletter* that will be published twice a year and distributed Citywide with concentration in the Old Town Area.
- 3.6 Translation or Interpretation Needs:** While language barriers have not previously, been a challenge, the City has a long-standing partnership with the International Center of York County to assist with any translation or interpretation needs that may arise during community involvement activities.
- 4.0 Community Involvement:** Input received from the public will be retained in the IR as part of the public record associated with this project.
- 4.1 Requests for Information:** Information requests will be subject to the Freedom of Information Acts (federal and state) and will be processed accordingly.
- 4.2 Mailing List:** The project manager will establish a mailing list that will include

petitioners, interested residents, site abutters, local and regional news media, municipal officials, state legislators, and anyone else indicating an interest in receiving information about the project and/or specific site(s). The mailing list will be used to announce upcoming public meetings, distribute fact sheets, notices of public comment periods on and the availability of documents in the information repositories and any pertinent information. The project manager will maintain the mailing list and update it as necessary.

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list can contact:

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rmoody@catawbacog.org

- 4.3 Response to Comments:** The project manager will prepare a summary of all comments received on each document available for public comment, and responses to these comments. A copy of this response summary will be sent to all those who submitted comments and will be placed in the IR and the respective site file. The project manager will also send a notice of availability of the response summary to the mailing list.
- 4.4 Public Meetings:** Meetings will serve two purposes: 1) to provide community officials and the general public with a progress report regarding proposed activities at the site, and 2) to provide an opportunity for the public to question and comment on remedial action plans for the site. The project manager will send notices announcing public meetings to individuals on the mailing list, will prepare a meeting summary and file a copy of the summary in the IR.