



Summary of Denali Commission Planning Workgroup History and Direction

Purpose: Support the practices of good planning at all levels; planning that is locally-driven, promotes cost-effective infrastructure that can be locally maintained, is environmentally sustainable, enhances the growth of a diverse economy, and assists agency responses to their defined need.

The Planning Workgroup arose from the “Planning and Standardization” emphasis of the Interagency MOU signed in 2000. Its initial focus was based on the following initiatives:

1. Develop a business plan template.
2. Adopt a pre-construction checklist, potentially to be implemented by cooperating agencies.
3. Adopt a community plan checklist.
4. Develop core definitions to increase understanding of terminology used by MOU partners.
5. Support the Building Our Communities Conference.
6. Develop and implement the IAID Mapping project.
7. Distribute and promote utilization of the documents listed above.

By early 2004, the first five projects listed above had been developed by the Workgroup and new priorities were adopted, which were:

1. Identify the major planning/development issues related to the overlapping jurisdictions and authorities, including conflicts, opportunities for coordination, and methods of coordination.
2. Continue to promote and enhance the community mapping effort (IAID), to include infrastructure and development patterns, natural hazards and environmentally sensitive areas. Promote the consolidation of mapping efforts among communities and agencies (FEMA vs. IAID vs. DNR vs. BIA). Formulate strategy to keep the maps updated.
3. Identify major regional planning initiatives that should be supported by the funding agencies and that have economic, workforce development and community enhancements. Coordinate funding for the projects identified in these plans. Monitor the process of regional planning and coordination.
4. Develop/refine suggested approaches and methodology, building on the current “toolbox” materials, to conduct community planning that directs and coordinates development. Include in this investigation the possible methods of funding and implementing community plans. Initiate community planning forums and training.

5. Promote the completion of 14(c)(3) plans for communities that have yet to complete these important community planning documents. Attempt to work with the federal and state agencies in getting resolution to this issue.

The following year, the Planning Workgroup had added to its priorities “promoting the pre-construction checklist with project funding agencies.”

OBJECTIVES FOR 2006-2007

1. Investigate the feasibility of a program to provide skilled planning facilitation to communities that lack internal capacity to develop and implement plans.
2. Analyze relationship of need, capability/capacity, and investment of public funds at regional and community levels.
3. Develop strategies and resources for improved communication on planning issues and requirements between agencies and communities.
4. Support local and regional land planning efforts that enhance community and economic development by promoting 14(c)(3) land conveyances and other transactions that provide clear title to land.

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