




CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone
FROM: Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director 
DATE: May 25, 2010
SUBJECT: Minor Amendment to HUD 2010-2011 Action Plan

The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) respectfully requests that you forward a minor amendment to the HUD Action Plan for 2010-2011 to the Board of Alderman for their review and consideration. This amendment will allow the funds allocated to “Pearl and Florence Open Space” project included in the recently adopted plan to also be used for acquisition, in addition to the previously approved uses of design and construction. This amendment will include a modification to the narrative and program matrix.

PROPOSED REVISION

On May 13th, the Board of Aldermen adopted the 2010-2011 HUD Action Plan which included a new project called “Pearl and Florence Open Space” in the amount of \$375,000. The description of this project was for “design and construction of an accessible, passive green space and community garden in the neighborhood around Pearl Street and Florence Street in East Somerville”. At the time, it was anticipated that the City’s Capital Plan would fund the acquisition of the property in question. However, the Capital Plan is still under review and consideration by the administration in a very challenging fiscal climate. By expanding the project description, HUD CDBG funds can be used for acquisition as soon as July 1st of this year when HUD funds become available. In the future, once design is complete, either capital funds or CDBG funds could be allocated for construction. It is requested that the BOA amend the project description for this project to incorporate acquisition as an allowable use of the funds.

RECOMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Alderman approve a minor amendment to the 2010-2011 HUD Action Plan to allow acquisition as an approved use of funds under Pearl & Florence Street Open Space project.

Kemp Nut Park Parcel Acquisition:

Planning for the Kemp Nut/Ed Leathers Park reconstruction project was initiated in 2003, and construction efforts commenced in 2007. While the Kemp Nut/Ed Leathers Park has been completed along associated reconstruction of Skilton Avenue, the City is now purchasing two adjacent parcels to be joined with this park to create increased usable open space and enhanced access to this site. CDBG funding of \$140,000 will be carried over for this purpose.

Harris Park Design:

CDBG funding of \$133,660 is being carried forward in 2010-2011 to be used for site appraisals, testing, environmental remediation, design, and other efforts leading to the construction of a new, relocated Harris Park in East Somerville.

111 South Street:

The City allocated \$55,000 for the design and or construction of a new Off-Leash Recreational Area in 2007-2008. Park amenities are to include secure areas in which to bring a dog, as well as dog supplies to clean up after a dog and other pet-friendly features. Somerville intends to carry \$47,160 of this funding forward for the 111 South Street project into 2010-2011

Morse Kelly Park:

Carryforward funding in the amount of \$22,000 will be utilized for design of a renovated .45 acre Morse Kelly Park on Summer Street in a CDBG-eligible area. The amount of green area will be increased, together with a community gardening space, and improvements to the existing hard surfaces among other changes.

North Street Playground:

For 2010-2011 the City proposes to carry forward \$76,000 in funding for design work at this playground park. Which is adjacent to the Clarendon Hill Apartment which are managed by the Somerville Housing Authority.

Quincy Street Open Space

For 2010-2011 the City proposes to use \$225,000 in funding for design and construction of an accessible, passive green space in the very active neighborhood around Quincy Street and Union Square. This will be used in conjunction with the anticipated \$20,204 in carryforward already allocated to this project.

Pearl & Florence Street Open Space

For 2010-2011 the City proposes to use \$375,000 of CDBG funding for acquisition, design and construction of an accessible, passive green space and community garden in the neighborhood around Pearl Street and Florence Street in East Somerville.

0 New Washington Street:

The City will be utilizing \$626,695 in carry forward funds for construction of a new Off-leash Recreational Area (OLRA) and passive park in Somerville. The construction contractor has been selected and work will begin in spring 2010.

Groundwork Somerville:

This program represents funding for a school gardening program. In 2010-2011, the City plans to allocate \$10,000 in CDBG funds toward this program together with an existing \$10,000 in carryforward.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS

Expansion of Local Historic Districts:

In 2010-2011, the City will continue implementation of the expansion of local historic districts. This would include working with the Middlesex Registry of Deeds, the Massachusetts Historic Commission, and the City's Assessor's Office. The 2010-2011 One-Year Action Plan includes new funds in the amount of \$10,000 to be used together with \$10,000 of prior year's unspent CDBG funds the City expects to carry forward on this project.

Historic Preservation Access Studies and Designs:

The City is proposing to carry forward the previously allocated \$9,360 in CDBG funds for this project. This scope of work was revised last year to include accessibility studies in Union Square and/or other areas of the City.

Historic Façade Improvements:

The City of Somerville is allocating \$50,000 to establish a new program to assist property owners in the East Somerville and Union Square NRSA's, and low- and moderate-income property owners citywide, who own Local Historic District (LHD) designated homes. The funding will be used to facilitate and encourage property owners to rehabilitate their homes to historic design standards. This program will provide grants up to \$5,000 to owners to pay for the difference between inferior yet readily available modern materials and the architecturally appropriate and higher priced materials and/or encourage them to make additional improvements to their properties. The program will require at least a 1:1 match from the property owner.

City of Somerville
 Program Year 2010 (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010)
 Projects
CDBG, HOME, AND ESG PROGRAM

Activity Name	Address	Descrip	Reprogrammed CDBG Funds	Reprogrammed HOME Funds	PY09 CDBG Carryforward	PY09 HOME Carryforward	Total Carryforward & Reprogrammed	PY10 "New" CDBG Entitle	PY10 CDBG Program Income	Total CDBG	PY10 "New" HOME Entitle	PY10 HOME Program Income	Total HOME	Total ESG	Total Program	HUD Matrix Code	Citation
LOWER BROADWAY STREETScape PROJECT	EAST SOMERVILLE NRSA	Streetscape improvements along Broadway from McGrath Highway to the Boston city line.			631,318		631,318	40,000		671,318			-		671,318	03K	570.201c
UNION SQUARE INFRASTRUCTURE	UNION SQUARE NRSA	Environmental Assessment, Financial Feasibility, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Other Studies and Designs relating to the re-development of Union Square.			78,585		78,585	139,909		218,494			-		218,494	21A	570.206
Total Transportation & Infrastructure Project Costs			9,598	-	810,327	-	819,925	222,045	13,266	1,055,236	-	0	-	-	1,055,236		
			10%		25%		16%		2%	15%					11%		

0 NEW WASHINGTON STREET	0 NEW WASHINGTON STREET	Design and Construction of Off Leash Recreation Area and passive park in East Somerville NRSA.			626,695		626,695			626,695			-		626,695	03F	570.201c
111 SOUTH STREET	111 SOUTH STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02145	Design and Construction of Off Leash Recreation Area and park in a CDBG eligible area.			47,160		47,160			47,160			-		47,160	03F	570.201(c)
CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE LOT	112 CENTRAL STREET	Remediation, design & construction contingency of the former Cambridge Health Alliance site in conjunction with grant application for \$200K from the EPA.			2,000		2,000			2,000			-		2,000	03F	570.201c
COMMUNITY PATH DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	COMMUNITY PATH FROM EAST SOMERVILLE/CAMBRIDGE LINE TO CEDAR STREET	Design and construction of a segment (between Cedar to Central) of the Community Path through a new park.			104,895		104,895			104,895			-		104,895	03	570.201c
DICKERMAN PARK	CRAIGIE STREET AT KIMBALL STREET	Design costs related to site improvements at existing park in CDBG eligible neighborhood.			22,000		22,000			22,000			-		22,000	03F	570.201c
GROUNDWORK SOMERVILLE	93 HIGHLAND AVE. SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Landscaping and planting improvements in schools and other eligible public areas.			10,000		10,000		10,000	20,000			-		20,000	03F	570.201c
HARRIS PARK	EAST SOMERVILLE NRSA SOMERVILLE, MA 02145	Environmental testing, appraisals, design, and other activities for park in CDBG eligible area.			133,660		133,660			133,660			-		133,660	03F	570.201c
KEMP NUT PARK / SKILTON AVENUE CONSTRUCTION	WALNUT STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Construction and design costs related to site improvements at park in CDBG eligible neighborhood. Includes improvements to Skilton Avenue.			54,311		54,311			54,311			-		54,311	01	570.201a
KEMP NUT PARK PARCEL ACQUISITION	WALNUT STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Acquisition of parcels of land adjacent to Kemp Nut/Ed Leathers Parks to expand park.			140,000		140,000			140,000			-		140,000	01	570.201a
MORSE KELLY PLAYGROUND	SUMMER STREET	Design costs related to site improvements at existing park in CDBG eligible neighborhood.			22,000		22,000			22,000			-		22,000	03F	570.201c
NORTH STREET PLAYGROUND	NORTH STREET	Design costs related to site improvements at existing park in CDBG eligible neighborhood.			65,000		65,000			65,000			-		65,000	03F	570.201c
PEARL AND FLORENCE STREET PARK	PEARL & FLORENCE STREET	Acquisition, Design and construction of an accessible, passive green space & community garden in E Somerville					0		375,000	375,000			-		375,000	01.03F	570.201a,c

City of Somerville
 Program Year 2010 (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2010)
 Projects
CDBG, HOME, AND ESG PROGRAM

Activity Name	Address	Descrip	Total CDBG	PY10 "New" HOME Entitle	PY10 HOME Program Income	Total HOME	Total ESG	Total Program	HUD Matrix Code	Citation	HUD Objective	HUD Outcome	Matching Federal Grant	Matching State Grant	Matching Private Funds	HUD Matrix Code	Regulation
LOWER BROADWAY STREETScape PROJECT	EAST SOMERVILLE NRSA	Streetscape improvements along Broadway from McGrath Highway to the Boston city line.	671,318			-		671,318	03K	570.201c	Create Economic Opportunities	Accessibility/Availability		479,000	625,000	03K	570.201c
UNION SQUARE INFRASTRUCTURE	UNION SQUARE NRSA	Environmental Assessment, Financial Feasibility, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Other Studies and Designs relating to the re-development of Union Square.	218,494			-		218,494	21A	570.206	Create Economic Opportunities	Accessibility/Availability		285,039		21A	570.206

Total Transportation & Infrastructure Project Costs			1,055,236	-	0	-	-	1,055,236					-	764,039	625,000		
			15%					11%									

0 NEW WASHINGTON STREET	0 NEW WASHINGTON STREET	Design and Construction of Off Leash Recreation Area and passive park in East Somerville NRSA.	626,695			-		626,695	03F	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
111 SOUTH STREET	111 SOUTH STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02145	Design and Construction of Off Leash Recreation Area and park in a CDBG eligible area.	47,160			-		47,160	03F	570.201(c)	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE LOT	112 CENTRAL STREET	Remediation, design & construction contingency of the former Cambridge Health Alliance site in conjunction with a grant application for \$200K from the EPA.	2,000			-		2,000	03F	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
COMMUNITY PATH DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	COMMUNITY PATH FROM EAST SOMERVILLE/CAMBRIDGE LINE TO CEDAR STREET	Design and construction of a segment (between Cedar to Central) of the Community Path through a new park.	104,895			-		104,895	03	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03	570.201c
DICKERMAN PARK	CRAIGIE STREET AT KIMBALL STREET	Design costs related to site improvements at existing park in CDBG eligible neighborhood.	22,000			-		22,000	03F	570.201c						03F	570.201c
GROUNDWORK SOMERVILLE	93 HIGHLAND AVE. SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Landscaping and planting improvements in schools and other eligible public areas.	20,000			-		20,000	03F	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
HARRIS PARK	EAST SOMERVILLE NRSA SOMERVILLE, MA 02145	Environmental testing, appraisals, design, and other activities for park in CDBG eligible area.	133,660			-		133,660	03F	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
KEMP NUT PARK / SKILTON AVENUE CONSTRUCTION	WALNUT STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Construction and design costs related to site improvements at park in CDBG eligible neighborhood. Includes improvements to Skilton Avenue.	54,311			-		54,311	01	570.201a	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				01	570.201a
KEMP NUT PARK PARCEL ACQUISITION	WALNUT STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02143	Acquisition of parcels of land adjacent to Kemp Nut/Ed Leathers Parks to expand park.	140,000			-		140,000	01	570.201a	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				01	570.201a
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NORTH STREET PLAYGROUND	NORTH STREET	Design costs related to site improvements at existing park in CDBG eligible neighborhood.	65,000			-		65,000	03F	570.201c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				03F	570.201c
PEARL AND FLORENCE STREET PARK	PEARL & FLORENCE STREET	Acquisition, Design and construction of an accessible, passive green space & community garden in E Somerville	375,000			-		375,000	01,03F	570.201a,c	Create a Suitable Living Environment	Sustainability				01,03F	570.201a,c