

M I D - S O U T H R E G I O N A L  
**GREENPRINT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE MID-SOUTH REGIONAL GREENPRINT BEGINS  
FAIR HOUSING AND EQUITY ASSESSMENT**

*HUD-Required Deliverable to Address Equity and Opportunity that Will Create a More Sustainable and Livable Region for All*

On Tuesday, November 12, 2013, the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability will kick off development of a “Regional Fair Housing and Equity Assessment”, a study required by HUD as a condition of the Mid-South region’s receipt of HUD’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The study will identify and assess the region’s following:

- Racial/ethnic segregation and integration;
- Racially concentrated areas of poverty;
- Disparity in access to opportunity;
- Public investment triggers that impact access to opportunity and demographic changes; and
- Existing fair housing issues, services and activities.

The process is heavily influenced by the opinions and perceptions of local residents, whose input is solicited through public meetings and an online survey.

Six public meetings are scheduled between Tuesday, November 12, 2013 and Thursday, November 14, 2013. The public meetings will be held in various locations throughout the Greater Memphis Area and are targeted toward members of the general public. Meetings details are:

- West Memphis, AR – Tuesday, November 12, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the West Memphis Neighborhood Center, 14<sup>th</sup> St. and Polk Ave, West Memphis, AR.
- Memphis, TN – Tuesday, November 12, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Hickory Hill Community Center, 3910 Ridgeway Rd, Memphis, TN.

- Memphis, TN – Wednesday, November 13, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Dave Wells Community Center, 915 Chelsea Ave, Memphis, TN.
- Gallaway, TN – Wednesday, November 13, 2013 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Gallaway Housing Authority, 200 Jackson St, Gallaway, TN.
- Memphis, TN – Thursday, November 14, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the North Frayser Community Center, 2555 St Elmo Ave, Memphis, TN.
- Memphis, TN – Thursday, November 14, 2013, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Gaston Community Center, 1046 S 3rd St, Memphis, TN.

Input received at the public meetings will be used by the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability and its consultants to provide an analysis of segregation, racial and ethnic concentrations of poverty, access to areas of high “opportunity”, distribution of planned and recent infrastructure investments, and other regulatory and private market barriers to fair housing choice that exist in the Mid-South Region. In addition to the input received from the community, the approach will also include data analysis, a deliberative process that considers the findings of the analysis and a “bridge” to implementation that will include the identification and integration of strategies and actions designed to address regional disparities in fair housing and access to opportunity as part of the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan. A draft of the complete Fair Housing and Equity Assessment for the Greater Memphis Areas will be posted on the Mid-South Regional Greenprint website for public comment in May, 2014.

*In November 2011, Shelby County Government was awarded the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant in the amount of \$2,619,999 for the Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Plan. The plan is designed to enhance regional livability and sustainability by establishing a unified vision for a region-wide network of greenspace areas, or Greenprint, which serves to address long-term housing and land use, resource conservation, environmental protection, accessibility, community health and wellness, transportation alternatives, economic development, neighborhood engagement, and social equity in the Greater Memphis Area.*

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