



**November 23, 2011**

### **Shelby County Receives Federal Grant for Greenways Planning**

Shelby County Government has been awarded a \$2.6 million grant that will be used to plan a regional network of greenways, bikeways and other eco-friendly areas in and near Shelby County. The grant was approved this week by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**“It is important that we develop a comprehensive land use plan that will spur economic development and improve housing and transportation in Memphis,”** said United States Congressman Steve Cohen. **“These new federal funds will help Shelby County develop a Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability plan that will grow our city in a way that makes it easier for Memphians to find work, quality housing and utilize mass transit to improve their quality of life.”**

**“The goal is to establish parks, greenways and other spaces in Shelby County. We are pleased to receive the grant. Ours was the only Tennessee community to receive the federal money,”** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

**“This grant will create a better quality of life for Memphians and make the entire area more desirable,”** said City of Memphis Mayor AC Wharton, Jr.

Emphasis will be given to develop connecting greenways and bikeways in distressed neighborhoods, reducing blight and linking neighborhoods together.

The Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development, through its Office of Sustainability, applied for the grant last month. A consortium of greenway organizations, related businesses and local and state governments will lead the planning effort which begins in July 2012.

In all, 25 organizations will establish the *Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Consortium*. Government agencies include Shelby County, City of Memphis, City of Bartlett, Town of Collierville, the City of West Memphis, Memphis Area Metro Planning Organization and the West Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Other consortium members include the Hyde Family Foundation, Community Development Council of Greater Memphis, Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, and Memphis Regional Design Center.

For more information, contact Paul Young, Administrator, Memphis & Shelby County Office of Sustainability at (901) 576-7417 or Michael Pagan, Communications Director for Congressman Cohen at (202) 226-7916.

**(End of News Release)**