



## ■ Phoenix ■ Tempe ■ Mesa ■

### OVERVIEW

The Sustainable Communities Working Group (SCWG) is a one of a kind state, local, regional and non-profit partnership seeking to make equitable Transit Oriented Development (TOD) a reality in areas well served by mass transit.

Some of the SCWG Partners include:

- Arizona Departments of Housing and Transportation
- Cities of Phoenix, Tempe, and Mesa
- Metro Light Rail
- ASU Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Raza Development Fund (RDF)
- Urban Land Institute
- Downtown Phoenix Partnership
- Phoenix Community Alliance
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Discovery Triangle
- St. Luke's Health Initiative
- East Valley Partnership
- Valley Forward
- State Farm
- Phoenix Industrial Development Authority

TOD style design provides people and families with an alternative to traditional suburban housing and community development. This alternative includes a mix of housing choices in urban environments that are connected to employment centers, essential services, and transportation options. Successful TOD will be a catalyst for investment, jobs, and economic opportunities along the light rail corridor.

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUND

The SCWG has created a revolving *Sustainable Communities Fund* to incent, leverage and guide development of equitable TOD in areas well served by high capacity transit. The *Fund* is capitalized at \$20 million, with an eventual goal of \$50 million, which will include equity, program related investments, and grants and loans from local and national sources. This *Fund* provides the Valley's first financial incentives focused on changing the Valley's development patterns through the new equitable TOD paradigm.

The *Sustainable Communities Fund* may be used for the following:

- Affordable residential development at light rail station areas;
- Essential related development such as grocery stores for access to fresh and healthy food, child care facilities to support working families, health care facilities to increase access to health care, etc.; and
- Project costs associated with providing sidewalks, bike paths, shade structures and other community improvements that make it easier for people to walk, bike and take the train and buses to their jobs, services, amenities, and recreation.

### CRITICAL PARTNERSHIPS

Harnessing the strength of a multi-disciplined coalition is the best way to advance sustainable development patterns. The SCWG is building critical partnerships with a diverse array of stakeholders to:

- 1) Coordinate housing and transportation policy, planning, and decision-making at all levels of government; and
- 2) Create public-private partnerships with the business and non-profit community to spur transit oriented development connected to equitable housing and transportation.

