



Regional Plan Association

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Organizing Discussion in the New York Region of the National Urban Policy

A Project Outline

Goals

1. To promote wide public understanding of the reasons for a National Urban Policy.
2. To explain the Carter Administration's National Urban Policy as well as alternatives to it.
3. To identify the key levers for city revitalization and the obstacles to its achievement.
4. To identify the effects of the National Urban Policy on the New York Region.
5. To organize a task force of business and civic leaders in the Region to consider and react to the National Urban Policy.

Process

1. In line with the above goals, Regional Plan would prepare written and audiovisual material describing the National Urban Policy and the reasons for its preparation. Alternatives would be presented. The key element will be the revitalization of cities in the New York Region and how the urban policy will and will not affect that.
2. A Task Force of 100 or more would be formed. Members would be selected from Regional Plan's membership, business, civic groups, and other interested parties. The Task Force will be presented with the written and audiovisual material and asked to consider the importance of the urban policy, key obstacles to its implementation, and the feasibility of a national strategy to promote business-civic support of elements that the Task Force supports.
3. An important component of the Task Force's work would be to review specific examples of how the New York Region can make use of the National Urban Policy, such as rehabilitation of urban infrastructure. These examples would be developed by Regional Plan staff for consideration by the Task Force.

4. Regional Plan would become, as part of this project, a secretariat for enlarging public education on the urban policy, mainly through business and civic leaders. The Association would work with public interest groups that have common policy positions, primarily the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

Budget

Regional Plan Association proposes to initiate this work with an initial budget of \$30,000. It is hoped that half of this amount can be secured from federal agencies and be matched by a foundation grant.

The Association already has invited President Carter to address its Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner next spring, on the first anniversary of the National Urban Policy. We hope to have the results of this project in hand in time for a report at the Dinner.

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June 2, 1978