

A banner for the Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative. It features a background image of a modern residential building and a paved walkway with people. The text "Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the top. Below the title, there are logos for SCI (Sustainable Communities Initiative) and DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) with the tagline "We make life better!".

# Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative



## Speakers and Key Project Personnel

### **Rick Garcia**

*Regional Administrator, Region VIII, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*

Rick Garcia was appointed as HUD Region VIII's administrator in 2010. The region, based in Denver, includes the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Rick also serves as senior policy advisor to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and oversees the delivery of HUD's home ownership, affordable housing, community development, fair housing, and Native American housing programs. Prior to joining HUD, Rick served on the Denver City Council, RTD Board and DRCOG Board, which he chaired in 2007.

### **Elizabeth Garner**

*State Demographer, Colorado Department of Local Affairs*

Elizabeth Garner is the state demographer and joined the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in 2004. The State Demography Office produces population and economic estimates and forecast for use by state agencies and local governments. Elizabeth's background is as an economist; prior to working with the state she worked for 10 years with CSU Cooperative Extension managing a data center and producing economic and demographic reports. She received her bachelor's degree in business at the University of San Diego; her master's in agricultural and resource economics at Colorado State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate for the same program. Elizabeth is a Denver native.

### **Elizabeth Kneebone**

*Fellow, Brookings Institution*

Elizabeth Kneebone is a fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings and co-author of *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America* (Brookings Press, 2013). Her work primarily focuses on urban and suburban poverty, metropolitan demographics, and tax policies that support low-income workers and communities. In *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America* she and co-author Alan Berube address the changing geography of metropolitan poverty and offer pragmatic solutions for reforming and modernizing the nation's policy and practice framework for alleviating poverty and increasing access to opportunity. Prior to joining Brookings, Kneebone worked as a research project manager for IFF (formerly the Illinois Facilities Fund), where her work assessed the geographic distribution of need for services and programs targeted to low-income people and places. She holds a master's in public policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University.

### **Randy Penn**

*Mayor, City of Englewood*

Randy Penn was selected as mayor of Englewood in November of 2011, after being elected to serve a second term on the Englewood city council. Randy retired from teaching in 2008 after 35 years as a physical education teacher. Randy was first elected to Englewood city council in 2007, and since that time has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Englewood Transportation Advisory Committee, the Library Board, the Code Enforcement Advisory Committee, the Englewood School/City Committee, the Englewood Education Foundation, Area Agency for Aging, Metro Mayors Conference and the Denver Regional Council of Governments. He also served as the executive director of the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce for four years and continues to serve on the Chamber Board.



**Jim Taylor***Chair, SCI Executive Committee*

Jim Taylor has served as a council member for the City of Littleton for 20 years. Additionally, he served as elected board member and chair of the Colorado Municipal League and as a board member of the National League of Cities. A six-year member of the DRCOG Board, he chaired the organization in 2011. Jim has been actively involved in all phases of the grant and now serves as chair of the SCI Executive Committee.

**Robert “Bob” Watkins***Director of Planning and Development Services, City of Aurora*

Robert Watkins has been a professional planner for more than 33 years. He has led various planning efforts including planning for the Boundary Area of the Fitzsimons Army Medical Base redevelopment and the E-470 Corridor in Aurora and Civil War battlefield preservation in Frederick County, VA. He has been working on planning for transit and station areas since the late 1990s and is on the Board of Directors of the Transit Alliance. Bob also led the effort to incorporate social, economic and environmental sustainability as key components of Aurora's comprehensive plan. The Aurora Planning and Development Services Department has developed special expertise in conducting community-based planning and stakeholder involvement.

**DRCOG Key SCI Project Personnel****SCI Project Director**

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