



*Thomas
Jefferson*

Planning District Commission

Sustainable solutions to regional issues

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March 4, 2010

John Hammond, Mayor
Town of Columbia
P.O. Box 779
Columbia VA 23038

Dear Mayor Hammond,

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) is pleased to offer its support for a planning grant for the Town of Columbia. TJPDC highly values the planning process and is aware of the Town's recurring losses due to flooding, decline in population and business activity, and deterioration in the condition of buildings. There is a real and significant need for planning for the Town's future.

In addition to this letter of support, TJPDC has already begun working with the Town in this letter of interest process, and will be assisting the Town with the update of the Comprehensive Plan, applications for funding, grant administration, and project management. TJPDC has also applied for funding through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to prepare the five-year update of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This planning work is anticipated to begin in July 2010, providing the opportunity for the Town of Columbia to identify mitigation actions for repetitive loss properties, consistent with the overall Town plan, to qualify for hazard mitigation funding. A CDBG Community Improvement Grant is allowable as match for a hazard mitigation project and the intent is to move through the planning process to result in applications for a CDBG Community Improvement Grant and a Hazard Mitigation Grant, to be carried out in tandem.

TJPDC looks forward to continuing to work with the Town of Columbia and offers its support for the CDBG Letter of Interest for a planning grant. The Commission approved this letter of support at its March 4, 2010 meeting.

Sincerely,

Steve Williams
TJPDC Executive Director