

File:
Race

Bruce -

Katie is now trying to
make this a part of
the race initiative!
(see last bullet)

Elena

THE METROPOLITAN INITIATIVE

Background:

- Initiative emerged from the sustainable communities work of the President's Council on Sustainable Development;
- Part of an emerging consensus in support of "forging metropolitan solutions to urban and regional problems" (see attachment).

Basic Assumption:

- The time is right for bold experiments to bring together cities and their suburbs to produce economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality.

Three Specific Questions:

We want to launch 4 to 6 pilots to address three specific questions:

- 1) How can we help create **smart citizens** by using federal information and technical assistance programs to give people in a region the tools to solve local problems?
- 2) How can we promote **smart money** by targeting existing federal spending to effectively address the needs of a metropolitan region?
- 3) How can we encourage **smart regulation** that meets federal goals in a manner consistent with the unique circumstances of metropolitan regions?

Explicit Goals:

- To redefine the relationship between the federal government and metropolitan regions;
- To identify the common ground that exists between cities and suburbs by creating regional partnerships to clean up brownfields, reduce traffic congestion, move people from welfare to work, prevent crime, and curb urban sprawl.

Implicit Goal:

This implicit goal could be made explicit:

- To promote racial healing by engaging urban and suburban constituencies in a partnership to identify common ground on issues related to economic security and quality of life.