

Exhibit A- Executive Summary

City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama

File Name: ExhibitAExecutiveSummary

In order to empower the community today and in the future, the City has developed a **SMART** plan—Strategy for **M**aking **A** Resilient Tuscaloosa. This plan is focused on becoming a model city through a comprehensive resilience approach to connectivity through housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization, technology, education, community areas and much more. Elements of this model, or **SMART** city include 49 activities within 3 unique areas of the MID area, indirectly benefitting the region, that address vulnerabilities while increasing resilience, environmental, social and economic values by eliminating barriers to social status, employment, education, healthcare, transportation and housing.

Partners bringing specialized expertise will assist the City with the activities proposed in the **SMART** plan—sustainable housing for underserved populations such as low-income and unwed mothers; workforce development and financial assistance for small businesses; roadway improvements addressing capacity needs and providing connection to the region’s 6 surrounding rural counties; hardened public facilities that simultaneously and efficiently serve the needs of vulnerable populations such as children and elderly; technology to support education, healthcare, employment, etc.; and shared-use paths that create green spaces, alternate modes of transportation, promote social cohesion and healthy lifestyles and address environmental issues such as flooding, heat island effects and water quality.

Above all, people are the focus—partnerships working alongside leveraging strategy and long-term commitments will fill gaps in unmet needs, ensure equal opportunity for all populations and bind the community together. Above all, people are Tuscaloosa.

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