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Cuyahoga County to host public workshop on Complete Streets

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Cuyahoga County, OH — Cuyahoga County officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on May 1 and 2, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshops will aim to give Cuyahoga County strategies to create a built environment that focuses on better and more accessible transportation options for all residents.

“We are very excited to partner with Smart Growth America to present the upcoming Complete Streets workshop,” said Glenn Coyne, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. “Providing a multi-modal transportation network is a key component to Cuyahoga County’s guiding principles of designing a place-based development strategy. Under the leadership of County Executive Ed Fitzgerald, the County also recognizes the momentum of the City of Cleveland’s efforts to implement a Complete and Green Streets policy and embraces this opportunity to explore the concept of Complete Streets on the regional level.”

Cuyahoga County residents are invited to attend the Community Open House for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of Complete Streets policies. The Open House will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2013 from 4:00–6:00 PM at Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs in the Roberta Steinbacher Atrium, 1717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. Please RSVP through Eventbrite or Facebook.

“Cuyahoga County has the unique opportunity to create a Complete Streets policy template for communities throughout the county to use, and this workshop will help them do that,” said Roger Millar, Director of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute. “Smart Growth America has helped many cities and towns become and stay livable, sustainable and vital places. We’re excited to make the most of Cuyahoga County’s enthusiasm and goals for the workshop.”

In November 2012, Cuyahoga County was one of 22 communities selected by Smart Growth America to participate in the free technical assistance program. Stretching from Maine to Washington State, these 22 communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.
The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Sustainable Communities, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Three other nonprofit organizations—Forterra, Global Green USA and Project for Public Spaces—also received competitively awarded grants under this program to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to help them use land strategically, make the most of existing resources and invest strategically to catalyze private development.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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