



Tool: Regional planning for small communities

Provider: Smart Growth America

Summary:

Regional planning for small communities is a one-day workshop to help small communities understand how to plan for and manage growth in a regional context. The workshop helps regions develop the capacity to identify where growth is most likely to occur and to create strategies for managing growth that preserve community character while enhancing economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Description:

Small cities and the counties that surround them are often at a loss as to how to plan regionally for growth in the urban area, in the surrounding rural area, and on the urban fringe (the area that is not yet urbanized but is within reach of urban services). The planning effort will identify parameters of importance to the region and provide data and a framework for a transparent and informed community discussion.

This workshop presents concepts for small community regional planning, including:

- data collection
- scenario development
- development suitability analysis
- policy development
- public engagement

The workshop draws on the latest smart growth resources, successful case studies and prior implementation experience. Using hands-on working sessions with local officials, the workshop will articulate community goals and develop the capacity to identify suitability criteria that resonate with the community and the region.

Through this workshop communities will gain the tools to:

- Preserve open space
- Protect critical environmental areas and sensitive land
- Reduce urban runoff
- Reduce VMT
- Respond to an evolving market
- Provide housing choice
- Make efficient use of infrastructure

After the technical assistance is completed the regional planning team will follow-up with the community with a memo highlighting implementation progress and next steps.

