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Kimberly aims to implement cool planning program with aid from Smart Growth America's technical assistance

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Kimberly, ID — City staff will meet Monday, March 12 from 6–8 p.m. at the new Rock Creek Fire Station with representatives from Smart Growth America as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program aimed at assisting the City of Kimberly implement a cool planning program.

The presentation and discussion to follow will highlight how Kimberly can best plan for growth while enhancing community livability and economic sustainability. Staff will discuss how Kimberly can: *Get Centered* (creating a vibrant and attractive town center), *Grow Compact* (avoiding sprawl and minimizing vehicle miles traveled) and *Make Streets Complete* (making city roads safe for pedestrians and cyclists).

“We are very excited to have been selected for this incredible opportunity,” said City Administrator, Polly Hulsey. “This assistance will allow professionals from around the country to converge on Kimberly and to meet with City leaders, business owners, builders, realtors and our citizens to help us maximize our resources, while helping guide us in the right direction for our future. We invite anyone interested to attend the program to provide input and join us in planning Kimberly’s future.”

In September 2011, Kimberly was one of 15 communities nationwide selected from a pool of 90 applications by Smart Growth America to participate in the technical assistance program. Stretching from Maine to Washington State, these 15 communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

“Smart Growth America is committed to providing the tools and training to help community leaders keep their cities and towns livable, sustainable and vital places,” said Roger Millar, Director of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute. “Kimberly is focused on supporting existing businesses by providing safe and inviting settings for commercial activity that are close to housing and schools. They have requested assistance in framing a community conversation to allow all stakeholders to see the community in its entirety rather than just focusing on the impact of growth on their specific business or property.”

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the US 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 this year 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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