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Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Poplar, MT to host workshop on planning for sustainable growth

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Poplar, MT—Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on May 6 and 7, 2014 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop seeks to provide tribal leaders with the necessary strategies to achieve long-term sustainable growth within the reservation, especially given the development pressures created by the Bakken oil boom.

“The Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Tribal Executive Board is excited about the opportunity for the tribal staff and community leaders to gain more knowledge and expertise in the area of community planning,” said Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board Chairman A.T. Stafne.

“The goal is to develop local solutions to help our entire community grow in ways that will provide benefits now and for generations to come,” said Tribal Economic Development Office Acting Director Shawn Olson. “This workshop will give us more tools to leverage community assets and plan for our future. The Fort Peck Reservation is very diverse, covering four counties, and encompassing the tribal capital, a county seat, and several other small towns and rural areas. We look forward to working with Smart Growth America to discuss innovative strategies that fit our unique region. This is a tremendous opportunity to engage residents and local leaders in creating an action plan for sustainable growth that is beneficial for our region. We encourage area leaders, both Native and non-Native, to register for this workshop and join the discussion.”

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Reservation area residents are invited to join the workshop’s first day for an introductory presentation that will share strategies on how to plan for smart growth. The event will be held May 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Fort Peck Community College in the Greet the Dawn Building (605 Indian Avenue, Poplar, MT 59255).

“Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local community leaders keep cities and towns livable, sustainable and vital places,” said Roger Millar, Smart Growth America Vice President. “The Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Reservation is facing some important opportunities and challenges, so the time is ripe for a discussion of smart growth tools the community can employ to plan for future growth in the most strategic way.”

In January 2014, the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes were one of 18 applicants selected by Smart Growth America to participate in the free technical assistance program. Stretching from New Hampshire to Idaho, these 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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