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## **Kenosha County to host workshop on developing a Complete Streets policy**

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*Kenosha, WI* — Officials and residents of Kenosha County, in partnership with Downtown Kenosha, 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 will provide the City with tools and strategies to develop a Complete Streets policy in line with the City's Downtown Strategic Development Plan, which forms the basis of efforts to revitalize Kenosha's downtown. A Complete Streets policy will help the City plan and design its streets to be safe, comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities, whether they are walking, bicycling, driving, or hopping on public transportation.

"Development of a Complete Streets policy will strengthen our commitment to being a healthy and safe community with a strong quality of life, and to welcome people by all modes of travel," said Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser. "Improving connectivity to Downtown Kenosha is an essential step toward implementation of the Downtown Strategic Development Plan. We are excited to partner with Smart Growth America and look forward to opportunities to make our downtown accessible to everyone."

**Kenosha residents are invited to join the workshop's first day** for an introductory presentation that will provide an overview of Complete Streets policies. The event will be held May 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Civil War Museum (5400 1st Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140).

"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. "This technical assistance will provide Kenosha leaders with tools to develop a Complete Streets policy and set the community on the path to implementing it. The community is especially well-positioned for this workshop, as staff are already in the midst of planning for greater connectivity and accessibility in downtown Kenosha."

In January 2014, Kenosha County was one of 18 communities 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](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org).

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