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Carlisle, IA to host workshop on walkability

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Carlisle, IA —Local residents and officials in Carlisle, IA will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on September 23 and 24, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop will provide recommendations to enhance the community's walkability, and hence safety, particularly in the area adjacent to Iowa 5, a very busy highway that bisects the city.

"Carlisle is very interested in implementing smart growth solutions. The economic and environmental well-being of our residents and businesses depends on a thoughtful and reasonable pattern of growth across our region," said Mayor Ruth Randleman. "In fact, we see smart growth solutions as the only responsible way to address the needs of our pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists."

Carlisle residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of the state of the city's pedestrian facilities and how a walkability audit will help improve them. The event will be held September 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM at Carlisle City Hall (195 N. 1st St., Carlisle, IA 50047).

"Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local leaders keep their communities livable, sustainable and vital places," said Roger Millar, Smart Growth America Vice President. "Carlisle is working to create safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, including students walking and cycling to school. This workshop aims to assess the current state of the city's sidewalk infrastructure, including along and across Iowa 5, and offer suggestions for an action plan to increase walkability, safety, and therefore walking and cycling."

In November 2012, Carlisle 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 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 purposefully 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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