

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 3, 2014

City of Indianapolis, IN hosts workshop to inform Plan 2020: The Bicentennial Plan for Indianapolis

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Indianapolis, IN — The City of Indianapolis is embarking on Plan 2020: The Bicentennial Plan for Indianapolis, an unprecedented initiative to update and integrate the City's core planning documents. To complement this effort, Indianapolis officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on June 11 and 12, 2014 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop will focus on how shifting development patterns towards more compact, transit-oriented development could benefit the local economy and local government finances, both of which are important components of Plan 2020.

"Plan 2020 provides the community an opportunity to think about what our city will be in the next century," said Brad Beaubien, Planning Administrator for the City's Department of Metropolitan Development. "An increasingly global economy is changing demographics, preferences, and opportunity. We must develop our places, our institutions, and our people to compete on this new playing field. Smart Growth America's assistance helps us learn from national thought leaders on the future of American cities."

Indianapolis residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for a presentation that will feature a broad overview of the fiscal and economic implications of different development patterns for the metropolitan area. The event will be held June 11, 2014 at 5:00 PM at the Old Indianapolis City Hall (202 North Alabama Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204).

"Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local leaders keep their communities livable, sustainable and vital places," said Roger Millar, Vice President at Smart Growth America. "The City of Indianapolis seeks to enhance its economic competitiveness through its Plan 2020 initiative. With this workshop, we hope to provide the City with tools to help support and inform these efforts."

In January 2014, Indianapolis 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. Two other nonprofit organizations—Global Green USA and Project for Public Spaces—also have 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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