

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 4, 2014

## **City of Salisbury, MD to host walkability tour focused on the Downtown area**

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*Salisbury, MD*—The City of Salisbury's vision for its Downtown is one that is both walkable and sustainable. To complement Downtown revitalization efforts, Salisbury 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. Promoting pedestrian and cyclist activity Downtown is a priority of the City in order to encourage residents to visit the area and patronize local businesses. Through a partnership with Smart Growth America, the City of Salisbury and its residents will work to identify solutions to challenges facing pedestrians and cyclists navigating the area.

"We want more people knowing how to discover our Downtown businesses," said James Ireton, Jr., Mayor of the City of Salisbury. "Smart Growth America will provide us with the resources to focus our efforts on making it easier for more people to live, work, and play Downtown."

**Salisbury residents are invited to join the workshop's first day** for an introductory presentation that will discuss the current state of Salisbury's pedestrian and cyclist network and the importance of walkability in achieving the City's vision of a revitalized Downtown. The event will be held June 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Government Office Building in Room 301 (125 North Division Street, Salisbury, MD 21801). Residents are encouraged to return the following day for a walking tour to provide insight on challenges pedestrians and cyclists encounter. The walking tour will be held June 12, 2014 at 11:30 AM beginning at the Government Office Building.

"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 Salisbury recognizes that walkability is a key component to revitalizing its Downtown. This technical assistance is a great opportunity to address the pedestrian and cyclist experience in the Downtown in order to increase activity in the area and ultimately to help inform the City's Downtown master planning process."

In January 2014, Salisbury 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.

Salisbury City Council President Jacob Day stated, "We are excited to be in an elite class of cities receiving this support from Smart Growth America. Salisbury's economy can thrive with greater investments in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and with a greater density of economic activity in the core. This grant will help us plan our evolution."

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](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org).

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