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City of Memphis, TN to host workshop on designing Complete Streets

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Memphis, TN —Last year, Memphis passed the nation’s 500th Complete Streets policy. To help move the policy to implementation, Memphis officials and residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on June 18 and 19, 2014 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop aims to provide the City with tools to not only address the various design elements of Complete Streets, but also to directly communicate the benefits of Complete Streets to the public. Complete Streets are planned, designed, operated and maintained to be safe, comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities, whether they are walking, bicycling, driving, or hopping on public transportation.

“We’re honored to receive this technical assistance from Smart Growth America as we work to make our streets safe and accommodating of all residents, regardless of how they choose to get around,” said City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. “This assistance will play a critical role in the development of our Complete Streets Design Manual currently being developed.”

Memphis residents are invited to join the workshop’s first day for an introductory presentation that will provide an overview of Complete Streets, with a specific focus on design considerations. The event will be held June 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library (3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111).

“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. “It’s an exciting time to work with Memphis as the City enact its Complete Streets policy. Our technical assistance will inform the City’s current work creating a Complete Streets Design Manual and help Memphis build public understanding of and support for Complete Streets.”

In January 2014, Memphis 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.

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