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Missoula County to host workshop on parking management in the Fairgrounds/Midtown Missoula area

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Missoula, MT — Missoula County officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on July 23 and 24, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop aims to help the City and County of Missoula implement parking management strategies in Midtown, a section of the city designated as an Urban Redevelopment Area. Taking into account current parking assets, the community will be able to plan accordingly for impending expansion projects.

"The Missoula Fairgrounds and Midtown Missoula are really excited to start exploring alternative solutions to conventional parking problems," said Steve Earle, the Missoula Fairgrounds Director. "This part of Missoula holds 160 acres of citizen-owned resources but has not received the attention it deserves for the past twenty years. This workshop will help us plan for the best possible access to this property."

Missoula County residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of strategies for parking management in Midtown. The event will be held July 23, 2013 at 5:00 PM at the Missoula Fairgrounds Event Center (1101 South Avenue West, Building #35).

"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. "The area around the Fairgrounds has had parking issues for years. The County is working with the City, the local business community and the adjacent neighborhoods to foster appropriate redevelopment. This workshop will help them apply smart growth principles to addressing the community's parking needs."

In November 2012, Missoula County 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 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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