

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2013

Complete Streets Movement Celebrates Adoption of 500TH Policy in the United States

*National Complete Streets Coalition and Smart Growth America to host
celebration in Washington, DC to commemorate historic milestone*

CONTACT: Craig Chester, 202-215-8858 cchester@smartgrowthamerica.org

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America will mark the adoption of the country’s 500th Complete Streets policy with an event celebrating communities across the nation that have committed to building safer, more accessible streets for all road users. The panel discussion and reception in Washington, DC (and livestreamed via the web) on August 14, 2013 will focus in part on Memphis, Tennessee, whose new Complete Streets measure became the 500th of such policy in the United States. The event speakers will look back at the communities that have passed these policies, commemorate the City of Memphis and look toward the future of the Complete Streets movement around the country.

“The adoption of over 500 Complete Streets policies by localities, regions and states proves that communities across the country are dedicated to making sure our streets are safe for all users. When these commonsense policies are implemented everyone benefits - pedestrians, bikers, the disabled and the elderly – and it is inspiring to see such a groundswell of support,” said Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA).

Matsui and Congressman David Joyce (R-OH) introduced the bipartisan Safe Streets Act of 2013 in Congress earlier this year, which would require states and regional planning agencies develop complete streets policies for federally funded projects within two years.

“Cities and states have been leading the way, but now it is time for the federal government to step up and show that it, too, is committed to the safety of our streets and to preventing needless and avoidable tragedies,” said Matsui.

“I am emboldened by the fact that over 500 Complete Streets Policies have been adopted in the United States. Incorporating these progressive policies into practice is crucial to sustaining manageable and equitable growth. More municipalities embracing Complete Streets ensures a safer and healthier future for citizens of all ages and abilities,” said Gabe Klein, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation and National Association of City Transportation Officials Board Member.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| WHAT: | 500th Complete Streets Policy Celebration and Discussion |
| WHEN: | Wednesday, August 14, 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 PM EST |
| WHERE: | A live webcast will be streamed at 3:00 pm EST, Wednesday, August 14 |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>here: http://bit.ly/16zFXK7</p> <p>or</p> <p>Join us in person in Washington, DC on August 14 at the American Public Transportation Association headquarters. Register at: http://bit.ly/1bf09Ep (RSVP required)</p> <p>You are also invited to join on the conversation with the #500policies hashtag on Twitter.</p> |
| WHO: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Wagenschutz, Bikeway/Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Memphis, TN • Rich Weaver, Director - Planning, Policy & Sustainability, American Public Transportation Association • Art Guzzetti, Vice President - Policy, American Public Transportation Association • Colleen Hawkinson, AICP, Manager, Strategic Planning Branch, District Department of Transportation (DC) • Darren Smith, Policy Representative, National Association of Realtors • Jeff Miller, President and CEO, Alliance for Biking & Walking • Roger Millar, Vice President, Smart Growth America |

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, seeks to fundamentally transform the look, feel and function of the roads and streets in our community, by changing the way most roads are planned, designed and constructed. Complete Streets policies direct transportation planners and engineers to consistently design with all users in mind, in line with the elements of Complete Streets policies.

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.

#