

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 14, 2012

Deerfield Beach aims to implement ‘Complete Streets’ with aid from Smart Growth America’s technical assistance

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Deerfield Beach, FL — Community stakeholders will meet February 15-16 with representatives from Smart Growth America as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program aimed at helping the City of Deerfield Beach develop a Complete Streets policy.

Adopting a Complete Streets policy for the city’s roadways means that every transportation project will make the street network better and safer for drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

“The City of Deerfield Beach is in undergoing a revitalization in terms of infrastructure projects,” said Mayor Peggy Noland. “A Complete Streets policy will assure that the city’s roadway objectives are kept in the forefront with every new project, making Deerfield Beach a better place to live.”

In September 2011, Deerfield Beach was one of 15 communities nationwide selected from a pool of 90 applications by Smart Growth America to participate in the technical assistance program. Stretching from Maine to Washington State, these 15 communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

“Smart Growth America is committed to providing the tools and training to help community leaders keep their cities and towns livable, sustainable and vital places,” said Roger Millar, Director of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute. “Turning the City’s existing streets into ‘Complete Streets’ will enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for commuters of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport.”

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the US 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 this year 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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