



Office of Communications

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July 29, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Huntington to host workshop on economic, fiscal health

HUNTINGTON -- Huntington officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on Aug. 5 and 6, 2014, as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program.

The city recently updated its comprehensive plan, Plan 2025, and these workshops aim to provide Huntington with tools and techniques to implement the vision of reinvestment in local infrastructure, housing and business. The workshops will focus on how shifting development patterns towards more compact, transit-oriented development could benefit the local economy and local government finances.

“The City of Huntington is committed to seeking the tools and training to help develop strategies that reduce negative outcomes from a combined stormwater and sanitary system and encourage quality housing and business development,” Mayor Steve Williams said. “We’re excited to work with Smart Growth America to find solutions to these and other local issues that will make our city even more attractive in the future.”

Huntington residents are invited to join the workshop’s first day for an introductory presentation that will feature an overview of the fiscal and economic benefits associated with smart growth practices. The event will be at 6 p.m. Aug. 5, 2014, at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena Conference Center.

“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. “Through Plan 2025, Huntington has adopted a clear vision of the development and investment it wants to achieve. We look forward to engaging community



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members in a discussion of how they can best use sustainable development to benefit the community's economic bottom line.”

In January 2014, the City of Huntington was one of 18 communities out of 98 that applied that were 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.

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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