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How development patterns impact West Des Moines' budget

Upcoming presentation analyzes the financial returns of different development scenarios and what strategies could generate better returns in the future

CONTACT: Lucinda Stephenson, lucinda.stephenson@wdm.iowa.gov, (515) 222-3418
Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org, (515) 334-0075
Alex Dodds, adodds@smartgrowthamerica.org, (202) 679-6816

West Des Moines, IA—West Des Moines' choices about development are a big part of what make this city a great place to live. They're also an enormous and important part of the city's budget, and one we should understand thoroughly. What financial returns are we getting for our current development patterns? What should we know as we consider new ways to grow in the future?

New research from Smart Growth America examines West Des Moines' current development patterns and identifies what the city could gain financially from growing in different ways. The research examines four different strategies for West Des Moines' growth over the next 20 years, and analyzes the fiscal implications of each.

The research shows that the walkable urban scenario would generate an estimated total annual net fiscal impact of \$11.2 million—\$3.7 million more than the low density scenario. This estimate is conservative, and the benefit to the city could actually be even greater. More information about the research and Smart Growth America's analysis is available in the full report at www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/fiscal-implications_west-des-moines.pdf.

West Des Moines area residents are invited to a public presentation about this new research. Analysts from Smart Growth America will discuss their analysis of West Des Moines' development and what it means for the city's finances.

WHAT: A presentation on the fiscal impact of different development patterns in West Des Moines

WHEN: Thursday, May 28, 2015
7:30 – 9:00 AM

WHERE: West Des Moines City Hall (City Council Chambers),
4200 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, IA

WHO: Patrick Lynch, Research Director, Smart Growth America

West Des Moines was awarded this assistance, at no charge, as part of a grant program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The study of development patterns is in keeping with the goal of creating a resilient regional economy as outlined in The Tomorrow Plan, the region's plan for the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines over the next 40 years.

Smart Growth America's Research Director Patrick Lynch will be available for comment in advance of the meeting.

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With a population of more than 63,000, **West Des Moines, Iowa** is located at the crossroads of Interstates 35 and 80. As the ninth largest city in the state, West Des Moines residents live in Polk, Dallas, Warren and Madison counties. For more information, visit www.wdm.iowa.gov.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. The MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves

projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion. For more information, visit dmampo.org.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for, and leading coalitions to bring better development 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. Learn more at smartgrowthamerica.org.