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City of Alcoa Garners National Recognition for Planning Efforts

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[Alcoa, TN] – The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) announced today that the City of Alcoa’s efforts to make their community a more walkable, attractive destination has helped the region win a national competitive award.

Smart Growth America—a national nonprofit that promotes better cities, towns and neighborhoods—named Alcoa and the TPO among its 14 winners that will receive a free technical assistance workshop in 2015. Through the program, the city will get hands-on assistance from national experts on how to cultivate smarter investments that will spur quality growth and development.

“We were excited to learn that the City of Alcoa was one of 14 communities selected to participate in this competitive program. This opportunity will provide invaluable assistance and further the City’s implementation efforts for achieving responsible growth,” stated City of Alcoa Assistant City Planner Jeremy Pearson.

In addition to the direct benefit that this technical assistance will provide to the City of Alcoa, the TPO will use the workshop outcomes to engage other communities in the region, thereby spreading the ideas about quality downtown development and redevelopment to those seeking similar assistance.

“This award is a testament to the hard work the Knoxville region has already done through the Plan East Tennessee effort,” said Roger Millar, Vice President of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute. “Our program was more competitive this year than ever before, and the Knoxville region and specifically, the City of Alcoa, stood out as a community doing great work. We’re excited to be able to help you continue on to the next stage of this work.”

Smart Growth America received over 120 applications for technical assistance from 35 states for its 2015 workshops. The other winning communities include: Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization, WY; City of Bentonville, AR; City of Charlottesville, VA; City of Columbia, MO; City of Fort Pierre, SD; City of Franklin, TN; City of Indianapolis, IN; City of Knoxville, TN; City of Sanford, FL; City of SeaTac, WA; City of Spokane, WA; Macon-Bibb County, GA; and Tucker County Planning Commission, WV.

About Smart Growth America’s free technical assistance

Smart Growth America offers 12 types of technical assistance workshops that help communities build stronger local economies, protect the environment, preserve sense of

place and improve overall quality of life. Technical assistance is funded through a grant to Smart Growth America from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program. The Building Blocks program funds quick, targeted assistance to communities that face common development problems. Through the program, Smart Growth America has already provided free assistance to over 50 communities across the United States, from Hawaii to Maine.

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.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) coordinates a comprehensive, multimodal transportation planning process for the Knoxville Urban Area. Member jurisdictions are Knox County and the urbanized areas of Anderson, Blount, Loudon and Sevier Counties, including representation from Alcoa, Clinton, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Loudon, Maryville, Oak Ridge, Farragut, Tennessee Department of Transportation and East Tennessee Development District.

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