

# Smart Growth & Injury Prevention Roundtable

## SUMMARY REPORT



Washington, D.C.  
July 14, 2009



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## BACKGROUND

On July 14, 2009, the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) convened a group of twenty-six subject matter experts, stakeholders, and state and national leaders to discuss their perspectives and experiences with developing and implementing Smart Growth initiatives. Participants included representatives of state health departments, federal agencies, local governments, consulting firms, national non-profit organizations, and public health associations.

The purpose of the one-day meeting in Washington, D.C. was two-fold:

1. To identify ways in which transportation and land-use planners can work effectively with public health professionals to make injury and violence prevention a priority in planning and decision-making; and
2. To determine ways in which public health professionals – especially those working in injury and violence prevention – can better engage in Smart Growth efforts in their states and communities.

During the meeting, participants:

- \* Gained a fuller understanding of how various professionals working in public health and safety (e.g., injury and violence prevention, environmental health, transportation/land-use planning, etc.) have defined Smart Growth and identified an array of potential of health, social, and economic benefits for communities;
- \* Shared their personal and professional experiences with aspects of Smart Growth;
- \* Learned how injury and violence prevention practitioners in state health departments have successfully implemented programs and developed policies to support Smart Growth;
- \* Identified barriers that may inhibit transportation and land-use planners from considering injury and violence prevention principles during planning and decision-making processes;
- \* Identified barriers that may prevent public health professionals (particularly those working in injury and violence prevention) from engaging in Smart Growth efforts;
- \* Brainstormed possible solutions for barriers that were perceived as primarily inhibitory;
- \* Provided ideas for tools and resources that should be developed to help transportation and land-use planners to better understand injury and violence prevention, as well as help public health professionals better understand Smart Growth; and
- \* Made suggestions for at least one initiative they thought STIPDA and NHTSA should undertake as a result of the Roundtable meeting.

The Smart Growth & Injury Prevention Roundtable was made possible through financial support from NHTSA. This report summarizes presentations that set the stage for the roundtable, ideas and issues raised during group discussions, and recommendations for next steps.