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Senate transportation bill includes strong support for smart growth strategies

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Washington, DC – The Senate voted today on its version of the federal surface transportation bill, passing the measure 74-22. In response, President and CEO of Smart Growth America Geoff Anderson issued the following statement:

“I applaud the Senate for passing a transportation bill with bipartisan support that makes sense for our economy.

The Senate’s bill invests in repair of aging transportation infrastructure. That’s a wise financial decision and a step toward achieving a national priority of a more efficient and reliable transportation system. These investments will help the United States and American businesses stay competitive in a global 21st century economy.

The bill will help communities improve and revitalize their Main Streets, supporting local businesses and town centers across the country. The bill will give local communities the opportunity to create safe and low cost transportation options, like building sidewalks and bike paths – particularly important as gas prices continue to climb.

A pilot grants program will help local leaders think strategically about locating more homes and shops near public transit, and give Americans more choices for how to get to work and home again. And the bill takes critical steps toward a performance-based system that will make our transportation more efficient and effective, and help make sure our national investments are sound.

Smart Growth America congratulates the Senate on making such excellent progress on this long-overdue bill. We encourage the House of Representatives to follow suit and keep this legislation moving forward.”

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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.