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Senate subcommittee passes appropriations bill with strong funding for community development programs

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Washington, DC – Earlier today the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) introduced their fiscal year 2014 funding bill, which provides critical support for transit, low-income housing and community development programs. The $54 billion bill provides funding to repair our bridges and roads and makes strong commitments for TIGER, Amtrak and the New Starts Program, among other transportation and development initiatives.

Specifically, the bill includes strong funding for important community development programs, including $3.1 billion for Community Development Block Grants and $75 million for integrated planning and investment grants at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It also included $550 million for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER grant program.

In response to the bill’s introduction, Geoff Anderson, President and CEO of Smart Growth America, issued the following statement:

“The Senate’s bill is a vote in favor of economically prosperous communities. Community development programs at HUD and DOT are creating jobs, revitalizing downtowns and attracting private investment, and the Senate’s bill clearly supports these worthwhile goals.

“If passed, this proposal would help regions continue the economic rebound they are finally beginning to see. It would also mean critical investments in our nation’s transportation infrastructure that would improve choices for families and make roads safer for everyone who uses them.

“By stark contrast the House’s version of this bill, introduced last week, would eliminate all funding for these crucial programs effectively cutting the legs out from under communities just as they’re getting to their feet.

“The Senate’s proposal will provide a productive return on investment for American taxpayers by making targeted investments in crucial programs for communities and citizens that need them the most. It’s exactly the kind of program that should be preserved in the tough fiscal climate Congress faces today.”

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

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