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June 4, 2012

Mr. Roger Millar, PE, AICP
Vice President, Leadership Institute
Smart Growth America
rmillar@smarthgrowthamerica.org

RE: SGA Building Blocks Technical Assistance: Status Report #1

Mr. Millar,

First off, thank you and your organization for travelling to our fair City and providing the expertise that would not otherwise be available to our staff, citizens, and business owners.

To begin with, the information provided during the workshop is being implemented in a Downtown Main Street Rehabilitation Project which will include the construction of new ADA-compliant curb ramps and associated bulb outs to increase pedestrian safety and vehicular maneuverability. A planned component of the project is to designate a street section in the heart of downtown as a 'market area' and finish the surface with stamped, colored concrete to delineate the special use area. The street section chosen is very near the large City park, but abuts Main Street so as to attract passers-by to events.

Longer-term plans include increasing the 'walkability' of Main Street South through the Safe Routes to School program to provide a safe pedestrian area for school children that connects one of the most populated areas of the City with the Kimberly School District campus. The City Code will also be reviewed and modified to further encourage multi-family and multi-use structures in the downtown area. The concept of infilling undeveloped pockets in the City rather than permitting new subdivisions in the outlying, existing agricultural areas is one that I feel is key to a well-planned City, however, I know that it will take much work to direct development to the lands that are typically more expensive than the farmgrounds on the edges of the City of Kimberly.

Thank you again for your hard work and enthusiasm during the intense day and a half your group spent in Kimberly. We are grateful to Smart Growth, Otak, and each of you. All of Kimberly hopes you'll come back and visit sometime!

Sincerely,

Jenny Nickerson, CBO MCP
Planning & Zoning Director
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