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For Immediate Release

Kirkwood City Council Member Maggie Duwe Invited to Active People, Healthy Nation Champions Institute

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Kirkwood, Missouri: In support of the Active People, Healthy NationSM Initiative, Smart Growth America (SGA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity announced today that Kirkwood City Council Member Maggie Duwe, will be part of the inaugural class of the Active People, Healthy NationSM Champions Institute (Champions Institute). The Champions Institute is a program created to help motivated local elected officials equitably define, design, build, and evaluate Complete Streets in their communities. Council-member Duwe was selected, as one of over 20 local elected officials from across the United States (and its territories).

“Being selected to the inaugural class of the Champions Institute is in recognition of Maggie’s commitment to making her hometown a more equitable, accessible, and viable community for all residents,” said John Robert Smith, Senior Policy Advisor at Smart Growth America, and the former mayor of Meridian, Mississippi. Council-member Duwe will learn valuable skills throughout the program, and share their own insights in developing more activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations.”

Over the next six months, participants in the Champions Institute will attend virtual learning sessions that will make them experts in equity-based principles and train them on the fundamental steps to take to achieve activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations in their community, from envisioning to implementation. Participants will also learn about best practices and challenges from across the country, as they grapple with different strategies in a collaborative and supportive peer-learning environment.

Local leaders who are selected for the Champions Institute will have the opportunity to learn from a broad array of national experts and former local elected officials in the areas of public health, policy, street design, and project implementation. At the completion of the inaugural class, participants will be experts in promoting community improvements to create safer streets for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists. Participants will be prepared to support plans, policies, and funding that



promote the CDC's Active People, Healthy NationSM Initiative of expanding activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations, in their communities.

After participants complete their work in the Champions Institute, SGA will provide continuing support to the local champions as they serve their communities. They will act as emissaries to other local leaders, sharing their expertise and ideas to grow a network of Active People, Healthy NationSM Champions across the country who will build and expand activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations across the country.

“I am honored and pleased to be chosen to represent the City of Kirkwood in this amazing learning opportunity. I look forward to bringing new ideas from across the country, to continue to increase safety and fun in Kirkwood,” said Council-member Duwe.

This program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Nutrition, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. This program is designed to support the Active People, Healthy Nation initiative through developing more activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations.

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Smart Growth America envisions a country where no matter where you live, or who you are, you can enjoy living in a place that is healthy, prosperous, and resilient. We empower communities through technical assistance, advocacy, and thought leadership to realize our vision of livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity. For more information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

Active People, Healthy NationSM Initiative is a national initiative led by CDC to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. Active People, Healthy NationSM provides a comprehensive approach to improving physical activity by promoting strategies that work at the local, tribal, state, and national level in partnership with other federal agencies and national organizations. For more information and to join the movement, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/activepeoplehealthynation/index.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity protects the health of Americans at every stage of life by encouraging regular physical activity, good nutrition, and healthy weight. Through support of state and community partners, they provide data, programs that work, and practical tools so that Americans have the best possible chance to achieve healthier lives and avoid chronic diseases.

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