

Building Blocks: Making Smart Growth Happen at the Local Level

**New Partners for Smart Growth
Conference**

February 7, 2012



EPA Funding and Investments



Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program:

- Provides quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application.
- This technical assistance helps selected local and/or tribal governments implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life.



Denver Housing Authority is partnering with the Nature Conservancy to increase public access to waterfronts in distressed communities.

How We Define a Tool



Such assistance could include:

- An agenda, presentations, or exercises that help facilitate discussion around a series of inputs and outputs.
- Ideally, includes data or information that can be analyzed, resulting in potential next steps for policy change.
- Not just a series of presentations, but an action-oriented process.

Short-term Technical Assistance



Targeted technical assistance with specific next steps for implementation

EPA-led assistance



Spring 2011

- 354 applications received
- 30 communities assisted
- 8 tools provided

Fall 2011

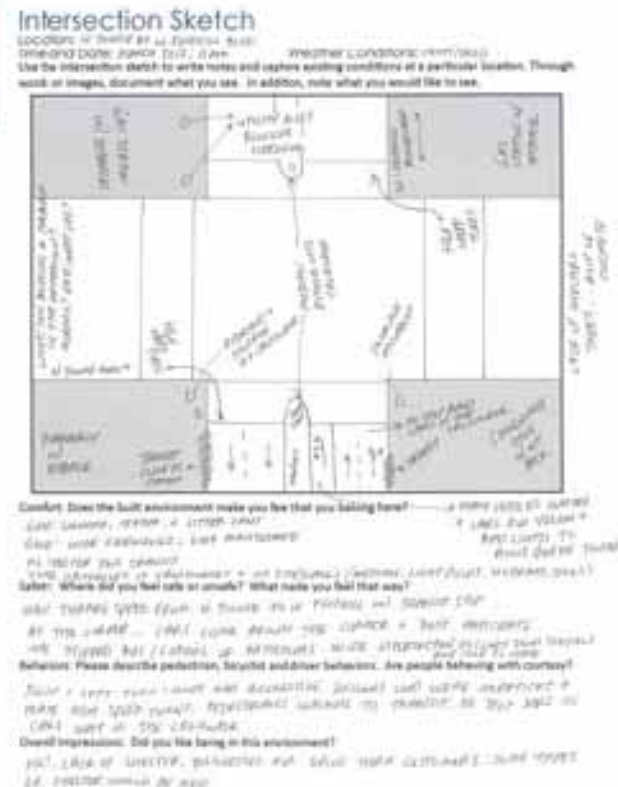
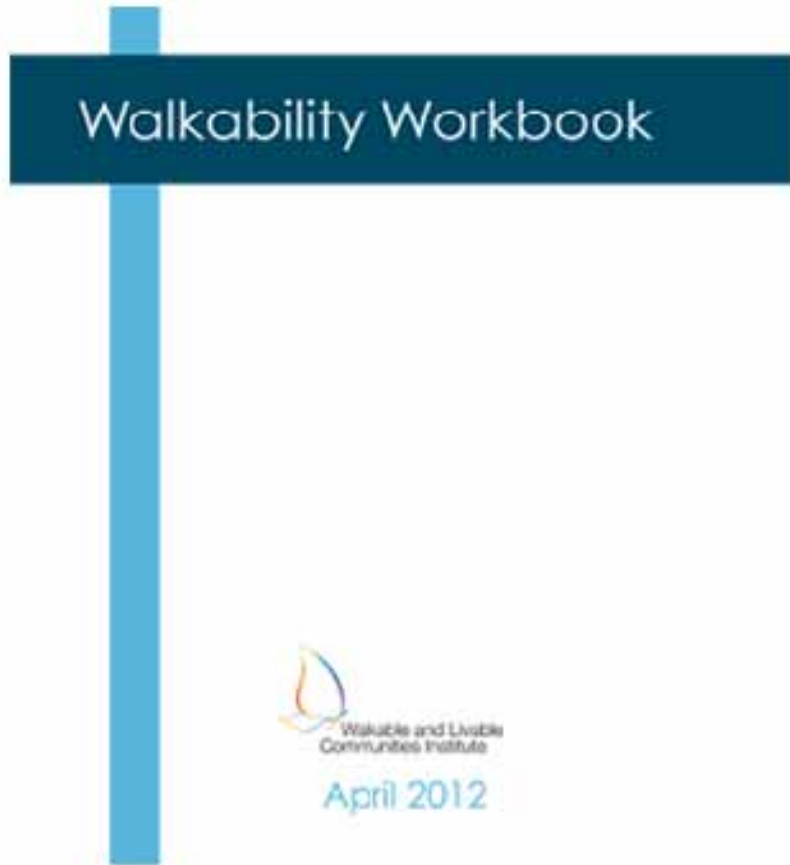
- 103 additional applications received
- 56 communities assisted
- 10 tools offered

Winter 2013

- 121 applications
- 45 communities selected
- 9 tools offered



Developing Training Resources Around the Tools

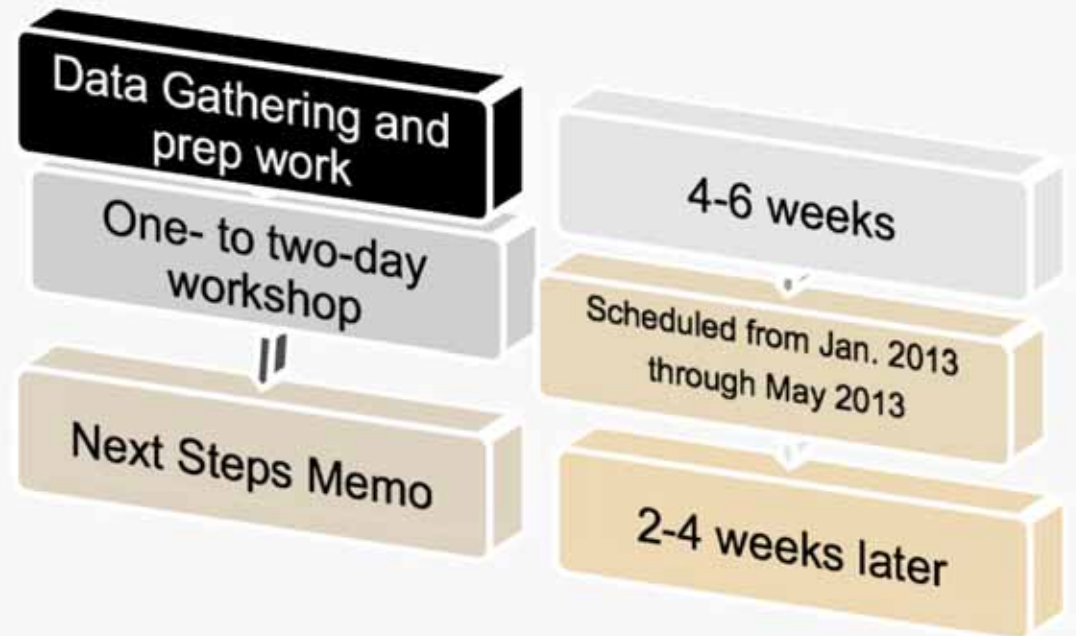


<http://www.walklive.org/project/walkability-workbook/>

Direct Assistance from EPA



- Nine tools
- Contractor-led assistance
- New and previously tested tools
- EPA is working to finalize tools



Nine Tools



Offered to 45 communities (third round):

1. Planning Bikeshare Programs
2. Supporting Equitable Development
3. Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging
4. Parking Audit
5. Creating a Green Streets Strategy
6. Using Smart Growth to Produce Fiscal and Economic Health
7. Green Building Toolkit
8. Sustainability Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas
9. Land Use Strategies to Protect Water Quality





U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



Smart Growth

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Background

Many communities around the country are asking for tools and resources to help them achieve their desired development goals, improve the quality of life for their residents, and make their communities more economically and environmentally sustainable. In response to this demand, EPA developed the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities seeks to provide quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application. This technical assistance will help selected local and/or tribal governments to implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. The purpose of delivering these tools is to stimulate a discussion about growth and development, strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable communities approaches, and provide ideas on how to change local policies and procedures to make communities more economically and environmentally sustainable.

The assistance will be offered in two ways in 2012:



Keep up to date through our webpage...

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>



Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities (Technical assistance led by grantees)

FORT&RRA



Coordination
with EPA





Our Presenters

1. Barbara Goode, Kansas State University
2. Raymond Lai, University City, Missouri
3. Scott Allen, Blue Springs, Missouri
4. Philip Myrick, Project for Public Spaces
5. Roger Millar, Smart Growth America
6. Jeff Aken, Forterra