



# 13th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth

Building Safe, Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Communities

**February 13-15, 2014**

Denver, Colorado

A national, multi-disciplinary conference that approaches community design from a public health and safety perspective.

## The Public Health Track



*“The New Partners conference is not “just another health meeting.” It’s a unique opportunity to share innovative ideas and new strategies with educators, urban planners, elected officials, architects and developers about how to create healthy, active and lively communities. These will not happen unless we work together for good solutions. A good solution like smart growth can solve many problems. New Partners is powerful, and life changing.”*

– Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH, Professor/Chair, Environmental Health Sciences, UCLA School of Public Health

[newpartners.org](http://newpartners.org)

**Transportation Pollution, Neighborhood Health and Smart Growth: How Close Is Too Close?**

**Thursday, 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

How close is too close? What can we do about it? We will tackle the community health conundrum of achieving the physical activity benefits of walkable, bikable places while facing the health impacts of highways, rail, ports and airports too close to where we live, work, play and go to school. We will use clear metrics concerned citizens and designers need to understand; and examine strategies needed to glean the health benefits of concentrating development without adverse exposure to pollutants.

**Beyond Silos: Public Health Planners Working Together to Create Healthy Communities for All**

**Thursday, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Healthy community design can help improve the quality of life by giving everyone a variety of healthy, accessible and affordable options where they can live, learn, work and play. Planners and public health professionals often have similar missions to improve the well-being of all members of their community, but rarely work together in policy decision-making and the development of projects. This session will provide insight into the tools, data, methods and strategies that planners and public health professionals are using to cross the boundaries between silos.

**Building Health Equity into All Policies**

**Friday, 10:15-11:45 a.m.**

There is a growing awareness across America that good health goes well beyond the doctor's office. Historic inattention to health in policy and planning consistently results in poor health outcomes, and egregious health disparities in communities of color and low-income communities. This session will share lessons learned by Richmond, CA, in their efforts to build health equity into all government activities. This session will help planners, health professionals



and community-based organizations act strategically to improve health equity.

**When Food Deserts Become Just Desserts**

**Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Millions of Americans live in food deserts where fresh foods are not readily available on a daily basis. This session will explore three initiatives that have addressed food deserts head-on and demonstrate that we can provide a more sustainable way of providing fresh foods to the entire population. Gain a better appreciation for how community activists, local governments and the private sector perceive the nuances of this issue and how their diverse perspectives bring forth unique, yet complementary solutions.

**Activating Public Spaces to Reduce Crime and Violence and Improve Public Health**

**Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

In most communities, public spaces such as streets, sidewalks and parks provide the greatest opportunity for engaging in everyday physical activity. Yet, in many communities residents don't use these public spaces for fear of crime and violence. As a result, residents don't engage in adequate physical activity and their health suffers. Learn how the East Palo Alto health and police departments developed a strategy



to reduce crime and the fear of crime, increase everyday physical activity and engage residents in public spaces.

**Neighborhood Planning by Design: Building Infrastructure for Health and Sustainability**

**Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

What are the real impacts of "smart growth" and transit-oriented development on the sustainability and health of surrounding low-income neighborhoods? Examples from Oakland, Denver and Minneapolis will illustrate how neighborhood planning has been successfully used to shape city transit-oriented and sustainability development efforts while achieving more equitable outcomes.

**Learn and Stroll: Walking Big Ideas and Everyday Tools to Increase Walking in Communities**

**Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

Some of us walk for transportation to school or work. Others walk for the joy of being outdoors, for exercise, to clear our own minds, or to brainstorm ideas at work. We walk in groups, with friends, or alone. Whatever our purpose, we all care about safety – well-marked intersections and slow moving traffic. In this walking session, we will have five subject leaders on the latest science and art of walking. This interdisciplinary session will focus on a breadth of areas impacting walking, including policies, science, health, cultural change, empowerment, and tools and techniques to advocate in your community for a more walkable community or neighborhood.

**Together, Better, Smarter, Safer: Planning for Transportation and a Healthy Community**

**Saturday, 1:45-3:15 p.m.**

Planning for Healthy Communities is becoming a top priority for many transportation planners nationwide. This session will highlight work by the FHWA to assist states and local communities to plan transportation that promotes healthier communities through increased physical activity, improved air quality and safety, and more equitable access to health-related destinations.



New  
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**2014**

## Smart Growth: A Prescription for Healthy Communities and Vibrant Economies

☐ Saturday, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Explore the complementary benefits that come from strategies that improve public health, create green, family-wage jobs, and assure inclusive environments and opportunity for all. Given that the demand for health care will likely increase with current chronic disease and demographic trends, the most effective long-term way to manage costs and assure affordable access for everybody is to improve the health of our population in the first place.

We can reduce chronic disease by helping people become more active and eat better.

By investing in a 21st-century active mobility infrastructure that makes it easier to walk and ride transit, connected regional food systems, and lifelong education and health improvement, we can also grow new economic opportunities while we invest in making our people and our communities healthier. When we develop better access to regional healthy and locally grown food, we also reduce environmental impacts and improve the prosperity and social well-being of residents and their communities.

### More sessions of interest to health professionals

*In addition to sessions designed specifically around health issues, you will find a number of related smart-growth topics useful to your work and community:*

- ◆ Crime Prevention in Smart Growth: You Can't Have One Without the Other
- ◆ The Economic and Health Benefits of Parks
- ◆ Smart Recipes for Smart Growth: Increasing Healthy Access and Local Food Systems
- ◆ Growing Food Connections for Sustainable Communities
- ◆ The Next Generation of Transit Riders for Environmental Justice
- ◆ A General Plan Meets Smart Growth: TOD, Millennials and Boomers, Oh My!
- ◆ Y-PLAN Tools for Engaging Youth in Smart Growth Planning, Implementation and Change
- ◆ Integrating Green Infrastructure with Sustainable Transportation Options
- ◆ Smart Growth 101: An Introduction to Smart Growth
- ◆ How to Complete Streets and Build Community
- ◆ A Collaborative Model for Complete Streets in Rural Towns

## Optional Tours

You may also be interested in taking one of the conference's optional tours on Thursday and Sunday, including these two that have health and active-living implications. Visit the conference web site for tour details and fees.

### From the Roots to the Rooftop: Bringing Healthy Food to Denver's Communities

☐ Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn about a variety of innovative approaches to growing, processing, distributing and selling local food in an urban community. Some are in food deserts and increase access to affordable healthy food in underserved neighborhoods, while others ensure that fresh local food can be enjoyed year-round. They also contribute to community prosperity and sustainability.

### Healthy Living by Design: Creating a Culturally Vibrant and Distinctive Westwood

☐ Sunday, 8:00-11:30 a.m.

A largely Latino and working-class neighborhood, Westwood faced a shortage of grocery stores and parks, vacant storefronts and a dangerous traffic corridor to walk or bike. But great things are happening to make Westwood a healthier and more vibrant place – through planning and design strategies focused on healthy and active living that capitalize on its cultural heritage and promote health equity.

## Advancing Healthy, Equitable Food Systems: Building Capacity, Partnerships and Resources

☐ Wednesday, 1:00-5:30 p.m.

Across the country, how and where food is produced, processed, distributed and accessed has implications for the health and livelihood of residents, regardless of where they live. Accordingly, food systems have become increasingly important to the smart growth movement, as rural to urban communities and regions reflect on development and plan for their future.



This half-day workshop will explore local and regional food systems through the lens of smart growth. Learn more about building the capacity of local governments to engage in food system development, including strategies for environmental and policy change at the local and regional level. Community organizations, planners, local elected officials and businesses will share how they're forging partnerships and identifying resources to increase access to healthy, affordable food for all while also creating economic opportunities and promoting responsible land use.

Take away inspiration from innovative models and practical guidance about the process, tools, funding, resources and, ultimately, implementation that can support work in your own communities.

**Pre-registration and a \$35 fee are required. Afternoon coffee and a reception are included.**

### Opening Keynote

The workshop will kick off with remarks about the connections between smart growth and food systems. What does this mean for urban and rural communities? In working toward more healthy, equitable food systems, what have we done well and what can we do better?

### Changing Food Systems, Behind the Scenes

Join us for conversations about successes and challenges in developing more equitable food systems. Speakers will offer perspectives on their experiences fostering economic opportunities and community development through "good food" production, processing, distribution and access. Hear how relationships, resources and roadblocks have impacted these efforts, and apply lessons learned in your community.

### Promising Practices

Planners, policymakers and practitioners will highlight strategies that enhance success. Choose from concurrent sessions that emphasize food system planning and assessment, institutionalization and policy change, and evaluation and metrics.

### Making It Happen

Following a series of conversations about smart growth opportunities through healthy, equitable food systems, the closing plenary will connect participants with financial tools and resources available to support their ideas. Learn about the availability and impacts of public, private and philanthropic investments.



*This workshop is made possible by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Food & Community program, and additional support by LiveWell Colorado and the Local Government Commission.*

## Special Features

### FREE Transit Passes



The Regional Transportation District (RTD) is generously providing complimentary bus and light-rail passes for all conference attendees from Wednesday, Feb. 12, through Sunday, Feb. 16.

### Technology Fair: Public Engagement Tools for Smart Planning

Try out cutting-edge tools for scenario planning and public engagement, and talk to leading developers and users about how to put these tools — including mapping and alternative analysis, interactive 3-D visualization, online surveys and mobile apps — to work to engage stakeholders typically not reached through public meetings. This open house is organized by PlaceMatters, along with the EPA and the Open Source Planning Tools Collaborative.



### Parklets 2.0: Taking Transformed Spaces Indoors!

Led by the ASLA, LGC, EPA and U.S. Forest Service, New Partners will once again include several intriguing indoor parklet experiences. These interactive models will showcase how a parklet can transform a couple of under-utilized parking spaces into exciting opportunities for creating more vibrant (parking) spaces in your community. Learn how other cities are turning asphalt into small, on-the-street spots of greenery and temporary seating into parklets that enliven the streetscape and extend gathering places and outdoor seating for restaurants.



# THE 13TH ANNUAL **NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH** CONFERENCE

## ■ ABOUT THE EVENT

This conference will bring local elected officials, planners, transportation professionals and traffic engineers, health professionals and public health advocates, parks and recreation professionals, urban designers, social equity advocates, school officials and school board members, community leaders and many others together to explore new approaches to community design from a comprehensive public health and safety perspective.

This dynamic event has grown significantly since it began several years ago, and gets its strength from the variety of participants and speakers who cross disciplines to share experiences and insights, and valuable tools and strategies to encourage the building of healthier communities. Today, there are more reasons than ever to join hands with new partners and work toward our common goal of creating safe, healthy and livable communities.

## ■ PROGRAM AND AGENDA

The three-day program is loaded with a mix of plenaries, interactive break-outs, implementation workshops, trainings and networking opportunities. You will have access to the latest on cutting-edge smart growth issues, healthy eating and active living initiatives, implementation tools and strategies, best practices, case studies, interactive learning experiences, new partners, new projects and new policies.

The LGC is sponsoring a fund to provide a limited number of need-based scholarships to cover registration fees, to be given to participants who would not otherwise be able to attend. Priority will be given to individuals representing small nonprofits, community-based and grassroots organizations, and local governments. Please visit the conference web site for details on eligibility and how to apply.



The Local Government Commission is committed to local community revitalization by fostering innovation in environmental sustainability, economic prosperity and social equity.

*Presented by the Local Government Commission • Supporters include:*



Printing provided by LGC ■ printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks ■ editing+design:dave davis ■ photos: Visit Denver, LGC, Dan Burden, Lee Sobel

## Register Now!

[newpartners.org](http://newpartners.org)

Early-bird registration rates are available through December 20. Visit the conference web site for registration and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

## ■ SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of need-based scholarships to cover registration fees are available to participants who would not otherwise be able to attend, with priority given to small nonprofits, community-based and grassroots organizations, and local governments. A Diversity Scholarship Fund provides a limited number of registration scholarships and travel stipends for leaders from disadvantaged communities and groups working on social and environmental justice issues. Visit the web site for eligibility and how to apply.

## ■ CONFERENCE LOCATION

Conference sessions and hotel accommodations will be at the Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel. The group rate until Jan. 10, 2014, is \$156 single/double occupancy. Call (888) 421-1442 to make a reservation and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

## ■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rachael Ryen, Event Coordinator  
Local Government Commission  
(916) 448-1198 x 327  
[rryen@lgc.org](mailto:rryen@lgc.org)

