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Reconnecting America To Provide Free Place-Based Sustainability Technical Assistance In Seattle And Phoenix

(April 22, 2013) Reconnecting America, as a partner in [Livability Solutions](#), has been selected to provide technical assistance to the Seattle Department of Planning & Development and Valley Metro in Phoenix as part of a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under their [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program](#).

In Seattle, Reconnecting America and its Center for Transit-Oriented Development partner, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), will train Planning & Development Department staff in transit-oriented development (TOD) data and implementation tools in order to help promote walkable, vibrant, and affordable neighborhoods around major public transportation hubs in the region.

In Phoenix, Reconnecting America and CNT will train Valley Metro staff in the use of TOD data and implementation tools to track indicators and build capacity in the region for more efficient, vibrant neighborhoods around the region's expanding light rail network.

The Building Blocks Technical Assistance Program allows communities to receive quick, targeted help on specific issues related to creating sustainable communities. Reconnecting America was selected to help these communities because of its expertise in transit-oriented sustainable development and its success in building local capacity.

"Both Seattle and Phoenix are undergoing major expansions of their public transportation systems and have strong momentum and local support for transit-oriented development," said Reconnecting America Program Director Catherine Cox Blair. "This technical assistance will allow us to work with local practitioners to identify tools and strategies that can help them implement and achieve the goals of sustainability laid in their transit and TOD plans."

Livability Solutions is a coalition of professionals from 10 leading nonprofit organizations with deep experience in sustainable development. Their common purpose is to work with communities on transportation, land use, placemaking,

environmental issues, and public involvement, with the goal of achieving livability, smart growth, and sustainability.

This technical assistance is made possible by a grant to Project for Public Spaces from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Sustainable Communities under the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. The Building Blocks program funds quick, targeted assistance to communities that face common development problems.

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Reconnecting America is a national nonprofit that is helping to transform promising ideas into thriving communities – where transportation choices make it easy to get from place to place, where businesses flourish, and where people from all walks of life can afford to live, work and visit. Reconnecting America is the managing partner of the Center for Transit-Oriented Development, the only national nonprofit effort funded by Congress to promote best practices in transit-oriented development. Reconnecting America is also a founding partner of Transportation for America, a broad coalition of housing, environmental, equal opportunity, public health, urban planning, transportation and other organizations focused on creating a 21st century national transportation program. For more information visit our website, www.reconnectingamerica.org.