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For Immediate Release

APA Idaho Chapter Congratulates Three Idaho Communities

Grants Awarded for Technical Assistance, Transportation and Sustainable Development Grants Announced for Kimberly, American Falls and Fremont County

(Boise, Idaho) American Planning Association Idaho Chapter President Daren Fluke, AICP, congratulated three Idaho communities who received federal and other grant funding in 2011. "These Idaho communities are outstanding examples of places that are leveraging local funds with federal funding sources to create new visions and projects for how communities and regions can plan for and create a better quality of life for their residents and for generations to come," said Fluke.

- City of Kimberly received a technical assistance grant from Smart Growth America (SGA). SGA is a national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. Kimberly will receive a 1- or 2-day training session with a smart growth expert on the issue of its choice. This technical assistance was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program.
- City of American Falls was awarded a \$2.3 million grant by the federal Department of Transportation. The grant award will transform five blocks of the downtown area to complete streets that will safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation. The project will narrow travel lanes, widen sidewalks, create bike lanes, and add streetscaping. Sidewalks will be made ADA-compliant.
- Fremont County was awarded a \$1.5 million grant under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, administered by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development. The purpose of the grant is to develop a Plan for Sustainable Development of the Western Greater Yellowstone Area. This partnership includes Fremont County, the cities of Rexburg, St. Anthony, Ashton, Island Park, Driggs and Victor, Teton County, the Idaho Department of State Lands, Teton County (WY), the Yellowstone Business Council, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant will be used to develop a clear, cross-jurisdictional framework that will allow for implementation of the plan and its elements, including a standardized code for "meaningful and effective" sustainability plans for each of the participating jurisdictions.

"These types of grants support communities that are creating a community conversation about how best to align their housing, transportation, environment, and other infrastructure investments," said Fluke. "On behalf of the APA Idaho Chapter we congratulate the elected officials, community leaders and citizens of Kimberly, American Falls and Fremont County for their hard work and dedication to the principles of building communities of lasting value."

The American Planning Association Idaho Chapter currently represents 243 planners across the state of Idaho in urban and rural communities. The mission of the Idaho Chapter is to bring the best community and regional planning practices to Idaho's communities.

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