

16th Annual



New Partners  
for Smart Growth  
Conference

Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies  
for Creating Great Communities

February 2-4, 2017 | St. Louis, MO

CONFERENCE SESSIONS ON

## Access to Healthy, Equitable Food

### Improving Food Equity in Three Innovative Communities

□ Thursday, February 2, 1:30-2:45 pm

All across the country, local officials and planners, farmers and ranchers, food-insecure residents and civic organizations are coming together to strengthen their food systems. Come learn from three diverse, urban and rural “communities of opportunity” who are growing food connections and bridging the gap between food production and food security through policy and planning.

### Urban Agriculture: Infrastructure and Impact

□ Friday, February 3, 10:15 am-12:00 pm

Communities throughout the nation have many vacant lots that are lying fallow. What if we could use those lots for food production and/or green stormwater infrastructure, community-green spaces? What if this could provide jobs, reduce homelessness, improve the environment, and enhance communities? Learn how green infrastructure and urban agriculture are being used to meet the needs of individuals struggling with homelessness, as well as reducing flooding and managing stormwater through the active partnership among City and non-profit organizations.

### The Wheels on the Bus Go to the Grocery Store

□ Friday, February 3, 1:30-2:45 pm

Communities rightly see food access and active transportation as interconnected, suggesting that approaches to solving them should be as well. Getting to healthy food venues is a challenge for many people, particularly for low-income communities, communities of color and people in rural areas, which tend to have lower rates of vehicle ownership and are less likely to have grocery stores nearby than their middle- and upper-class counterparts. This session will impart actionable strategies for transit agencies, public-health professionals, government officials and planners, and create space to brainstorm additional solutions to link active transportation and food access.

### Regional Planning to Build Local Food Economies and Healthy Communities

□ Saturday, February 4, 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Recently, there has been remarkable growth in local food policy councils, municipal food-policy directors and federal support for local and regional food systems. From convening stakeholders, to designing and implementing programs for improved healthy food access, to leveraging expertise in data collection and analysis; these organizations are supporting collaboration,



presented by  
**Local Government Commission**  
Leaders for Livable Communities



investment and policy change to the benefit of local food economies, smart growth and agricultural land preservation. During this session, several COG/MPO planners from around the country will share

how they are engaged in regional food-systems planning, with a specific look at the real and theoretical connections this work has to preserving critical agricultural lands. A USDA economist will situate these efforts in the broader landscape of regional food-system work happening across the country.

### Food Innovation Clusters: Creating Robust and Resilient Regional Food Systems

□ Saturday, February 4, 1:45-3:00 pm

Food innovation clusters are emerging as an effective smart-growth and economic-development strategy to cultivate and coordinate food and agriculture activity in a particular locality. Food innovation clusters are geographic concentrations of food-oriented businesses, services and community activities that often represent most or all of the supply-chain activities from production to consumption with the intent of spurring regional food-systems development and increased access to healthy, local food to underserved and marginalized communities. The panelists will discuss how they are addressing supply-chain infrastructure gaps, creating market opportunities for local and regional producers, increasing healthy food access, and fostering new partnerships through rural-urban economic linkages.

## Tour. Scaling Up Local Food in St. Louis

■ Thursday, February 2, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Hop on the bus for a mobile workshop touring sites of local food projects. This tour will highlight numerous facets of the St. Louis food system, from seed to table. Visit the region's first food hub, converted from a hospital kitchen, that also serves as a community-kitchen business incubator for local entrepreneurs; the interactive, farm-to-fork GROW exhibit – the first permanent exhibit of this size in the U.S. focused solely on agriculture – at the St. Louis Science Center; and EarthDance Farms, the oldest organic farm west of the Mississippi. Preregistration is required. Cost: \$15