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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Commissioner James Redeker to Speak about Smart Growth

New Haven, CT—Commissioner James Redeker of the state Department of Transportation will be speaking to the public on his agency's visions for creating a sustainable development model supported by smart land-use decisions that integrate rational mass transit and economic development on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 6:30 P.M at 45 Church Street in downtown New Haven.

Mayor John DeStefano will provide the welcoming remarks at the free event, which is second in a three part Speaker Series that speaks to the prospect of furthering a Smart Growth agenda as the fiscally responsible solution to our state's economic and environmental threats.

According to Mayor DeStefano, "Sustainable development is not just smart policy, it is vital to our economic recovery as a state and nation. Our state cannot succeed without strong, vibrant cities. Transit-oriented development that coordinates transportation, housing, and access to jobs is a key component to sustaining that success."

Nichole Strack, 1000 Friends' Executive Director, stated, "Our state's residents need jobs, and at the same time, we live in a reality marked by economic constraint and limited natural resources. 1000 Friends promotes transit-oriented development as one solution to the two seemingly competing interests."

Susan Mellow, 1000 Friends' Chair of Directors, added, "The Administration has signaled that it understands that the old ways must change. We are beginning to move away from abandoning our urban centers for ever-outward spiraling strip malls and landscapes dominated by highways because they are not the way to a bright economic or environmental future."

1000 Friends of Connecticut, a statewide Smart Growth education and advocacy non-profit, will host one more event next January featuring Commissioner Catherine Smith of the Department of Economic and Community Development in Hartford. For more information, visit the group's web site at www.1000Friends-CT.org.

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