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(Sept. 18, 2012) Reconnecting America Contributes To New Book Exploring Entrepreneurial Approach To Building Sustainable Communities

Reconnecting America President & CEO John Robert Smith and Chief of Staff Allison Brooks have co-authored "Transit-Oriented Development Is Good Community Development," which explores how, in this new era, we have the opportunity to redefine and build communities that are well supported by quality transportation systems and that will serve the life needs of today's grandparents and tomorrow's grandchildren.

"Foresight in transportation planning is critical for a community's success," Smith said. "It can serve as a catalyst for economic development, providing connections and opportunities for all who live and work there, regardless of income level. Having transportation choices gives people access to jobs, education and healthcare, in addition to drawing new employers."

The article by Smith and Brooks is part of a book published today by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF). *Investing in What Works for America's Communities*, which is available at <http://www.whatworksforamerica.org>, features dozens of innovative ideas that can improve economic prosperity, from new policies, to technology, to integrated community efforts.

"We realize there is no 'silver bullet' solution to poverty," said David Erickson, director of the Center for Community Development Investments at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. "Our hope is that the ideas in this book will spur new ways of thinking and collaboration that will empower everyday people and lift up their neighborhoods. Just as the nature of poverty has changed, those of us working to address poverty need to continue evolve to help transform both people's lives and the places where they live."

The article is available on the Reconnecting America website at <http://ractod.org/Uhlumh>

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About Reconnecting America

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.