



Walk this Way: Walkable Urbanism, the New American Dream

With **Chris Leinberger**, author of *The Option of Urbanism*
Introduction by **Chris Zimmerman**, Arlington County Board

On December 8th, the Washington Smart Growth Alliance’s development recognition jury, along with Chris Zimmerman of Arlington County, will host a meeting of real estate professionals and local officials from throughout the Washington D.C. region to hear a talk by Chris Leinberger about “walkable urbanism”, the topic of his latest book. Leinberger will also provide an update on the T4America campaign he is promoting, which seeks to create a new national vision for a 21st century transportation system that incorporates expanded construction of public transit, bicycle routes, and safe sidewalks, all of which will support walkable urbanism as an option for the future.

With 44 walkable neighborhoods, the city of Washington D.C. ranks 7th among the nation’s 40 largest cities for walkability, but walkable urbanism is found in the region’s inner suburbs such as Alexandria and Arlington as well. Join us in **Arlington**, home to a number of thriving urban villages and examples of walkable places, to discuss options for future regional development.

- **What:** A two-hour interactive session with Chris Leinberger, Chris Zimmerman, leading real estate professionals and local officials. Refreshments will be served.
- **When:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., December 8th
- **Where:** The Stambaugh Center, located in the heart of Clarendon, one of Arlington’s most walkable neighborhoods. The building is on Wilson Boulevard, which recently won distinction as one of 12 “Great Streets” throughout the country recognized by the American Planning Association. Take the Orange Line to Clarendon Metro. The building is located diagonally across Wilson Boulevard from the station. Click [here](#) for driving directions and parking information for 3033 Wilson Blvd., Ste 700-A.
- **Who:** a distinguished audience including the most progressive “smart growth” developers in the region, many of whom have received recognition by the Washington Smart Growth Alliance for their innovative development proposals. They will be joined by local officials in the region with critical roles in planning and land development decisions in their jurisdictions and in planning for the future development of the greater Washington metropolitan region.
- **How to register:** contact registration@SGAlliance.org . Registration fee is \$25.00, cash or check only, payable in advance or on-site.

More on the concept, the book and its author...Walkable urbanism can be defined as “the development approach that creates pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use and mixed-income places. These places can either be regional-serving (anchored by regionally important employment, cultural and civic institutions, retail and urban entertainment as well as residential) or local-serving (residential with local-serving commercial). Both places benefit tremendously by being transit-oriented.” (www.brookings.com)

This concept is the focus of Leinberger’s book, *The Option of Urbanism: Investing in a New American Dream* (2007, Island Press). According to the book’s website, (<http://optionofurbanism.com>), “Americans are voting with their feet to abandon strip malls and suburban sprawl, embracing instead a new type of community where they can live, work, shop, and play within easy walking distance. In *The Option of Urbanism* visionary developer and strategist Christopher B. Leinberger explains why government policies have tilted the playing field toward one form of development over the last sixty years: the drivable suburb.... Highlighting both the challenges and the opportunities for this type of development, *The Option of Urbanism* shows how the American Dream is shifting to include cities as well as suburbs and how the financial and real estate communities need to respond to build communities that are more environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable.”

Leinberger is a developer, professor, consultant, and author whose work has focused on making progressive development profitable. He is director of the Graduate Real Estate Program at the University of Michigan. He is a founding partner of Arcadia Land Company, a progressive real estate development firm, and has written award-winning articles for publications such as *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The Wall Street Journal*.”