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Workshop helps leaders design cities

From staff reports

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About 50 Upstate leaders attended a "Design-Based Planning Models" workshop Friday at the Mary Black Foundation.

Rick Bernhardt, director of the Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn., planning department, held two sessions on how cities and counties could implement successful and sustainable communities.

Bernhardt said Nashville-Davidson County, which is a consolidated government, has successfully integrated the Transect Model for long-term, communitywide planning efforts. The city of Spartanburg used the Transect Model in developing its downtown master plan, which is under review.

The model categorizes areas in a city or county in six groups from natural (T1) to the urban core (T2).

Bernhardt explained that there are five planning elements in building successful communities: involving the public, establishing a vision, being proactive, being thorough and consistent and making the process easy.

Bernhardt stressed connectivity and practical building design that makes sense and puts people first.

Upstate Forever and JM Smith Corp. sponsored the workshop.

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