

LANCASTER Keeping Current

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Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

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FYI

NEW REPORT "BACK TO PROSPERITY" LAYS OUT AN AGENDA TO REVIVE PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMY - Stagnant growth, housing sprawl, and increasing abandonment of Pennsylvania's cities and older suburbs are dimming the prospects for high-wage economic recovery throughout the state, according to a new report released by the Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy. Read the Report: <http://www.brookings.edu/pennsylvania>

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW - For the first time, citizens can easily find out how and where state economic development subsidies are being spent, thanks to a new Keystone Research Center Web site, www.keystoneresearchmap.org. The KRC web site lifts the veil of secrecy that too often shrouds business subsidies. For opponents of sprawl and advocates of public accountability in the government subsidy of businesses, the map points the way to a much higher level of transparency. The new KRC report, "**Economic Development Subsidies in Pennsylvania: Do They Fuel Sprawl?**," was commissioned by the Washington, D.C.-based Brookings Institution and summarized in the Brookings report, "**Back to Prosperity**" just released statewide to wide press attention. The stand-alone KRC study contains a wealth of additional detail on the subsidy and sprawl connection in Pennsylvania and nine major metropolitan areas.

VACATING THE CITY: NEW HOMES VS. HOUSEHOLD GROWTH - The relationship between housing construction and household growth is a fundamental and potent factor in the dynamics of urban change, this study by Thomas Bier and Charlie Post finds. Moreover, they conclude that when metropolitan building permits outpace household growth, it generally comes at the expense of the central city and possibly older, inner-ring suburbs. <http://www.brookings.edu/urban>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT: LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD IN FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY - Despite a number of reforms in the past decade, federal rules remain stacked against transit, and funding highway projects is far easier. This brief by Edward Beimborn and Robert Puentes compares how highway and transit programs are treated differently by federal legislation and policy and how those differences lead to an unlevel playing field, distorting good local planning, management, and decision making. <http://www.brookings.edu/urban>

CITIES AND SUBURBS NEED TO FORGE ALLIANCES IN LIGHT OF NEW METROPOLITAN REALITY - From the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia - A Community Development Publication, "**Cascade**". Read the Winter 2003 issue dedication to smart growth and reinventing older communities in Pennsylvania. <http://www.phil.frb.org/cca/capubs/cascade53.pdf>

Upcoming Events

January 14-16, 2004

Reinventing America's Older Communities

Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing. Conference exploring the opportunities and obstacles to vibrant urban communities. Speakers from around the country will explain their solutions to a wide range of obstacles. For more information contact yvetter.cooper@phil.frb.org.

3rd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities

a conference sponsored by the Local Government Commission, Penn State University, Smart Growth Network, and numerous other organizations including LISC, will be Jan. 22-24 in Portland, OR. This national smart growth conference brings practitioners from all sectors for workshops, tours, and keynote speakers. For more conference information, email MKelso@lgc.org.

February 3, 2004 "Dreams of a Livable Future", a Talk on Sustainable Business, Renewable Energy and Environmental Policy will be presented by Paul Hawkin (co-founder of Smith and Hawkin and author of numerous books about ecological and commercial balance including *Natural Capitalism*) at 8:00 PM in the Barshinger Center at Franklin & Marshall College. The lecture is part of the 2003 - 2004 CLAS program - "Citizenship in a Sustainable World". The talk is free and open to the public - for more information, contact Jordan Humphrey at 358-7180.

Enabling informed decision-making for Lancaster County

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