

LANCASTER Keeping Current

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Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

March 2, 2004

FYI

THE NEED FOR REGIONAL ANTI-CONGESTION POLICIES – A new [policy brief](#) taken from a chapter in the forthcoming book, “*Still Stuck in Traffic*”, to be released in March. The book was written by Anthony Downs, Senior Fellow at the [Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy](#). This brief illustrates that traffic congestion is essentially a regional phenomenon requiring regional approaches to mitigate its impacts. It examines the governance options necessary to act regionally and the conditions required to implement such policies.

THE IMPACT OF RAIL TRANSIT ON URBAN LIVABILITY – A new report, “*Great Rail Disasters: The Impact of Rail Transit on Urban Livability*”, written by Randal O’Toole, an adjunct scholar with the [Commonwealth Foundation](#). This [report](#) released in conjunction with the [Center for the American Dream](#) provides an analysis of congestion, cost, safety, and other data for all of the nearly two-dozen U.S. urban areas that have rail transit – including Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

REGIONAL VISIONING PROJECTS – Check out the highlights of the regional visioning efforts emerging around California and across the nation. [Case studies](#) listed on this site can serve as a foundation for integrating land uses, transportation systems, infrastructure needs and public investment strategies. These unprecedented efforts require a commitment from local elected officials working together with residents, community and business leaders and other stakeholder.

THE STATE OF THE NATION’S INTERCITY RAIL: How Federal Investment will Improve Travel Choice and Relieve Traffic Congestion - A [report](#) released February 11th by the [Surface Transportation Policy Project](#) (STPP) argues that dedicated federal investment in the nation’s rail infrastructure is critical to America’s mobility and economic growth due to two critical trends: growth in freight shipments and declining air service. Funding intercity rail as part of TEA-21 renewal would benefit freight and passenger mobility, potentially taking 15 million trucks per year off our highways and saving drivers nearly \$20 billion per year in time and fuel costs by 2020.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT; TRANSIT, FIXING ROADS AND BRIDGES OFFER GREATEST JOB GAINS – A [report](#) released by the Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP), found that investments in road and bridge repair create 9 percent more jobs per dollar than building new roads or bridges. In addition, for public transportation, job creation jumps to 19 percent more than the figure for new road and bridge projects.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 3, 2004, 8:00 p.m. – Seachrist Lecture- Interwoven Destinies, America’s Cities, and the Nation’s Future – Henry Cisneros, former secretary, HUD – The Barshinger Center at Franklin & Marshall College. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Jordan.humphrey@fandm.edu

Friday, March 5, 2004
Into the Woods – Out on the Town, Nature, Culture and Heritage Building Regional Identity and Enhancing Tourism

Summit 6 – A South Central Assembly Summit at Shippensburg University. For more information <http://www.southcentralassembly.org>

Thursday, March 11, 2004, 12:30-1:30 p.m. - The Making of a Great Place: Memory and Prophecy – A Smart City Broadcast, Sponsored by Envision Lancaster County. Godfrey Advertising Building, 4th Floor. To register contact Gail Rapp by calling (717) 299-8333 or via e-mail rapp@co.lancaster.pa.us

Interesting Websites

- [Center for Transportation Excellence](#)
- [Penn State Center for Intelligent Transportation Systems](#)
- [Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration](#)
- [Tea3.org](#)

Enabling informed decision-making for Lancaster County

Call our office at (717) 295-0755 or write to hourglass.foundation@verizon.net

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