

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

March 9, 2004

FYI

HISTORIC PRESERVATION: GOOD MEDICINE FOR TOUGH TIMES – For decades, Pennsylvania communities have been losing their industrial base, their jobs, and their population while their agricultural and rural municipal neighbors have siphoned off many of these assets and transformed the landscape into residential subdivisions, commercial strip developments, and expansive shopping malls. Crisscrossing this landscape are roads, interstates, and highway interchanges. The transformation occurs either incrementally or at phenomenal speed. Historic buildings that have been in existence nearly unchanged since the eighteenth century are demolished overnight and in their place are one-size-fits-all national retail chain structures. Cornfields are turned into asphalt lakes for shopping mall parking, scenic rural roads into four lane highways, and the public is either indifferent or desperate to reverse a trend we all are complicit in creating. This workshop on March 27th, sponsored by [Bucks County Community College](#) and the [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#), will address some of the issues of sprawl and its consequences with effective approaches that local government officials, historic preservation advocates, and environmental activists have practiced and employ to address: Infill construction in historic urban contexts; Environmental and resource friendly development; Reuse of historic buildings by appropriate interpretation of the International Existing Building Code; Protection of historic resources through the judicious use of historic preservation ordinances and zoning; and Citizen activism to respond to the impact of highway improvements and construction. For Program Information contact: Michel R. LeFevre (717) 787-0771 – mlefevre@state.pa.us

URBAN LAND INSTITUTE PREDICTS MAJORITY OF NEW GROWTH WILL OCCUR IN SUBURBAN AREAS - Having done "a phenomenal job in facilitating urban revitalization -- in re-energizing urban areas -- over the past several years," we must now "recognize that 50 to 90 percent of all new growth is going to occur in the suburbs," writes [Urban Land Institute](#) (ULI) Chairman Harry Frampton. Nevertheless, "this segregated-use, low-density development pattern has morphed into suburban forms marred by increasing congestion, long commutes, air and water pollution, inadequate transit options, and a decline in open space." "This development pattern is clearly not sustainable," the chairman writes, stressing, "The logical alternative is smart suburban growth."

ULI will seek the following results in the suburbs: higher residential densities and more mixed-income housing, closer to commerce and transportation; more and higher concentrations of mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly projects; region wide green infrastructure systems, providing connected open space for passive and active recreation; preservation of more farmland, natural habitat, watersheds and recreational space; transportation and land use systems with varied mobility options, including walking, biking and driving, and a sharp focus on shorter trip times; constructive civic engagement, meaning public input into community design and soundness and predictability of the development process; regional greenfield strategies, developed by planners, officials, developers and residents cognizant of smart growth and its role in local quality of life; and regional or countywide strategies to retrofit the suburbs with more transit and other transportation options, and better connectivity among communities.

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 18, 2004
7:30-9:00 a.m. – Regional Initiatives – Lessons Learned** – Attendees will learn how business and municipal leaders can incorporate the lessons learned by the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC) and the Smart Growth Coalition into their efforts in fostering a cooperative environment that recognizes the distinct needs of our local communities while encouraging economic development and growth. Sponsored by The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Location - Four Seasons Golf Course & Banquet Facility, Landisville. For more information www.lancasterchamber.com

March 20th, April 3rd, April 24th and May 4th, 2004 -Pennsylvania Historic Preservation & Heritage Partnerships 2004 Workshop Series – “Rehab, Revitalize & Reuse: Preservation & Heritage Working for Pennsylvanians”, [For more information](#)

**Saturday, March 27, 2004
9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. -Historic Preservation: Good Medicine for Tough Times** – Bucks County Community College – To register call (215) 504-8668.

**Tuesday, April 6, 2004
4:00-6:00 p.m. - Regional Transportation Summit** Transportation challenges don't know County borders – many are regional in nature. That's why The Lancaster Chamber and Harrisburg Regional Chamber are teaming up for this summit at the Whitaker Center for the Arts. To register, email <mailto:cpattison@hbrc.org>

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