

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues Oct. 11, 2007

FYI

THE LONG ROAD TO YES – PROBLEMS WITH THE PERMITTING PROCESS AND THE NEED FOR SPECIFIC PLANS IN PENNSYLVANIA:

A new [study](#) by Ronald T. Bailey, Senior Research Fellow at the [Franklin & Marshall College](#), [Floyd Institute for Public Policy Analysis](#), [Center for Opinion Research](#). The General Assembly amended the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code in 2000. One of the changes made to the statute was to authorize local governments that participate in multi-municipal comprehensive plans to also prepare and adopt specific plans. **Because the ability to create specific plans in Pennsylvania is relatively new, most county and municipal officials are not aware of the potential utility of this planning tool.** This [study](#) investigates how the permitting process for subdivisions or land developments has evolved in Pennsylvania. The investigation **documents how the frequent lack of local government capacity and the enactment of other state and federal laws since 1968 has resulted in an increasingly complex and uncoordinated process.** The investigation studies whether specific plans could be used in Pennsylvania to better coordinate and expedite development reviews. The [research](#) also looks at how specific plans are used in other states and how these practices could be applied to Pennsylvania.

METRO-YORK CLOSER LOOK: REGIONAL PLANNING

STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES – Next month, [Metro-York](#) – a project of [York Counts](#) – will release recommendations toward improving municipal finances and schools in the heart of York County. The ideas have undergone serious review and refinement since the [Metro-York Education and Municipal Workgroups](#) presented their findings to the project's leadership Committee. There will be three to five recommendations. The **public learned about one recommendation in early October – regional policing.** The suggestion from Metro-York participants is that the city and surrounding townships consolidate police departments into a unified force. For years, police have said that criminals don't respect municipal boundary lines. [To read more.](#)

2007 GREAT PLACES IN AMERICA -The [American Planning Association](#) (APA) celebrates the first [10 Great Streets](#) and [10 Great Neighborhoods](#) designated through its new national program, Great Places in America. Launched in Spring 2007, [Great Places in America](#) celebrates **places of exemplary character, quality, and planning.** Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard of communities. The designated neighborhoods and streets are defined by several characteristics, including **good design, functionality, sustainability, and community involvement.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

What Are the Local Public Health Concerns in Lancaster County? – Wednesday, October 24, 1007 – 4-6:00 p.m., Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster – Local health care providers and environmental and agricultural experts will discuss the local public health issues and describe how a local public health department could address these concerns.

Lancaster County Housing Summit – Housing Choices 101: What Everyone Needs to Do! - Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – 8 am to 3 pm – Eden Resort Inn
For more information contact David Loughery (717) 509-8038.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

[COMPLETE STREETS CONCEPT GATHERS STEAM](#)

- The idea of creating "complete streets" for cyclists, pedestrians, mass transit, and cars is gaining popularity across the country.

[A 'NEW DEAL' NEEDED FOR AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE](#) -

Maintaining and rebuilding America's infrastructure could cost over \$1 trillion. What's needed is the political will to create a "Federal Infrastructure Bank".

*Enabling informed growth management
decision-making for Lancaster County*

Call our office (717) 295-0755, or visit <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org>

HOURGLASS

FOUNDATION