

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues Jan. 08, 2008

FYI

SMART TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT PLANNED - The [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) invites you to learn more about Smart Transportation as it applies to the update of the transportation plan for Envision Lancaster County. The Summit is being held on **Tuesday, February 19, 2008** at the [Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#) **6:30-9:00 p.m.** Smart Transportation provides choice and convenience and is coordinated with the way the community is growing. The movement already is catching on in many places across the country. **Smart Transportation includes transit-oriented development**, a priority for walking and bicycle-friendly communities. **Featured speaker is Allen D. Biehler, Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation.** [For more information.](#)

Placemaking is not just an urban idea. Small towns are adopting this innovative approach, too, as seen in the region around Littleton, New Hampshire. Business and community groups there partnered with the state Department of Transportation, enlisting [Project for Public Spaces](#) (PPS) to use traffic calming experiments as a way to enhance the quality and popularity of downtown.

"If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people and places, you get people and places."

[Project for Public Spaces](#)

The power of this simple idea is that it reflects basic truths that are rarely acknowledged. One such truth is that **more traffic and road capacity are not the inevitable result of growth.** They are in fact **the product of very deliberate choices that we have made to shape our communities around the private automobile.** We as a society have the ability to make different choices--starting with the decision to design our streets as comfortable places for people.

TAX-FREE COMMUTER BENEFITS EXPANDED - Jessica Bair of the Central Penn Business Journal reports that The [Internal Revenue Service](#) has increased **the amount of tax-free money that employers and employees can set aside for commuter benefits.** The amount has risen to **\$1,380 per employee for 2008**, according to [Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania](#). This means midstate employers or commuters **can take pre-tax payroll deductions of up to \$115 a month per employee** to pay for **vanpools, transit passes or other qualified transportation costs.** **Commuters save money by reducing their federal taxable income and commuting costs, while employers save by reducing payroll taxes.** Commuter Services promotes alternative-transportation options for commuters in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties. For more information, call (866) 579-7433 or visit www.pacommuterservices.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS
HOURGLASS
TRANSPORTATION
FORUM – Traffic. What’s the Delay?

Thursday, January 31, 2008 – 6:30 p.m. - Franklin and Marshall College –Hear what experts say about living with ever-increasing traffic. Can we build our way out of congestion? How will it affect the future of Pennsylvania and Lancaster County? Featured speakers are [Walter Kulash](#), Traffic Engineer and Community-Planning Consultant and [Allen Biehler](#), Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation. [For more information.](#)

SMART TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT – Tuesday, February 19, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Lancaster County Planning Commission. [For more information.](#)

HOURGLASS CITY REVITALIZATION FORUM – The Secrets of Charleston’s Success
JOSEPH P. RILEY, Jr.
Mayor of Charleston, SC
March 6, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.
Liberty Place Theater –[Mayor Riley](#) is widely recognized as one of the most visionary and highly effective governmental leaders in America. He is a leading expert in urban design and livability issues. [For more information.](#)

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decision-making for Lancaster County*
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