

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

April 24, 2008

FYI

AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR THE COMMONWEALTH: UNLEASHING THE ASSETS OF METROPOLITAN PENNSYLVANIA - A new [report](#) from the [Brookings Institution](#). As our state and federal leaders visualize a prosperous future, four key assets matter -- innovation, human capital, infrastructure and quality places. These assets help increase the productivity of firms and workers, boost the incomes of families and workers, and can help Pennsylvania and the United States grow in more fiscally and environmentally responsible ways.

**Pennsylvania's Metro Areas
Have Yet to Achieve Their Full Economic Potential
- How Is Lancaster Doing?**

The Lancaster metro area remains a strong manufacturing and agriculture center for the state, with significant export jobs in heavy and light manufacturing.

The region contains a number of innovation-related assets, including a relatively solid share of workers in research and development and decent patenting activity, despite not capturing a pool of funding from venture capital or federal research agencies.

The area's strong industry-based workforce development strategy, land use and farmland preservation policies, and downtown revitalization strategies have helped strengthen the area's economic assets and quality of life. To that end, **greater Lancaster enjoyed the second fastest population and job growth among the six metro areas in the past decade.**

To stem the continued loss of manufacturing jobs and prosper, the region could **bolster some of its assets**. It has a relatively small share of its workforce with a college degree—only 22.9 percent of adults have a BA or higher and just 28.7 percent of adults have an associates degree or higher—and a relatively thin network of air, rail, and broadband infrastructure to serve a more modern, dynamic economy.

Source: [Metropolitan Policy Program at BROOKINGS](#)

COMPLETE THE STREETS - The streets of our cities and towns ought to be for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper. But **too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars, or worse, creeping traffic jams.** They're unsafe for people on foot or bike — and unpleasant for everybody. Now, in communities across the country, a movement is growing to **complete the streets**. States, cities and towns are asking their planners, engineers and designers to build road networks that welcome all citizens. [For more information on the complete streets movement.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Government Study
Commission
Public Meetings Draft
Home Rule Charter**

Tuesday, April 29 –
7:00 p.m. – Mount Joy Borough

Saturday, May 3rd -
9:00 a.m. – Garden Spot Village,
Leola

TALKING TOURISM –(CPBJ)
A group of tourism and economic-development experts will gather in May to offer advice on how to transform community assets into experiences that will boost the economy. The experts will present at a conference called "[Destination Pennsylvania: The Governor's Conference on Tourism](#)," being organized by Gov. Ed Rendell. **The event will take place May 4-6 in Gettysburg.** Topics to be discussed include how to develop and promote the character of a destination and how to create an entrepreneurial culture. Speakers include representatives from National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Destinations and the Allegheny Trail Alliance. [For more information.](#)

[Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Annual Conference - Bringing the Future into Focus – June 8-11, 2008](#)
Gettysburg, PA. [For more information.](#)

**INTERESTING
REPORTS**

[Susquehanna River Basin 2008
Water Resources Program](#)

**Enabling Informed Growth Management
Decision Making for Lancaster County**

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