

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

April 26, 2010

FYI

EXPANDED HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION AFFORDABILITY INDEX MOST COMPREHENSIVE SNAPSHOT OF NEIGHBORHOOD AFFORDABILITY – From the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](#) (CNT) an update of their [Housing + Transportation Affordability website](#) to now cover over 330 metros in the U.S. with expanded and improved data. The analysis shows that only two in five American communities—or 39 percent—are affordable for typical households when their transportation costs are considered along with housing costs. The [Index](#) for the first time examines 337 metro areas across the country—161,000 neighborhoods and 80 percent of the U.S. population—to provide the only comprehensive snapshot of neighborhood affordability by taking into account the transportation costs associated with neighborhood location and design.

THE FUNDING OF STATE AND LOCAL PENSIONS: 2009 - An analysis by the [Center for State & Local Government Excellence](#) of the effects of the 2008 economic downturn on state and local government pension plan funding, along with future projections. The [brief](#) finds that **plans, which were headed toward full funding, have been knocked off track by the financial crisis, the effects of which will be felt until 2013.** The brief's key findings are: 1.) **State and local plans, which were headed toward full funding, were knocked off track** by the financial crisis. 2.) Their **funding ratio dropped** to an estimated 78 percent in 2009 from 84 percent in 2008. 3.) **Funding will likely continue to decline** to 72 percent by 2013. 4.) **Reversing this decline will be difficult**, as plans face constraints in increasing revenues from either contributions or taxes. [Read more.](#)

SURVEY RESULTS SHOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH – Sponsored by [ICMA](#) (International City Manager's Association) and [NLC](#) (National League of Cities), this [Economic Development 2009 Survey](#) features the responses of 852 local governments, including municipalities of 10,000 or greater and counties of 50,000 or greater. The findings include the following notable results: 1) **Cautious optimism expressed about future economic growth:** When asked to project the growth in their local government's economic base over the next five years, 53% believed they would achieve "slow growth" (less than 10%) while 21% believed they would achieve "moderate growth" (10-25%). Nearly 18% indicated that their jurisdiction's growth would remain "stable" (no growth or decline), and **only 6% forecasted a decline.**

2) **Responsibility for economic development on public sector shoulders:** In approximately two thirds of the responding localities, the **local government was the main engine** for economic development, versus 20% of communities in which a nonprofit development corporation had lead responsibility.

3) **Disconnect between budgeting and economic development:** When asked if the local government budget allocation process was linked to economic development priorities, nearly 58% of respondents said "no," and only 42% said "yes."

4) **Common barriers to economic development include fiscal woes and lack/cost of land:** When asked what barriers to economic development their jurisdiction had encountered, the three most common responses were "cost of land" (53%), "availability of land" (52%), and "lack of capital/funding" (50%).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Efficiency Workshop – Thursday, May 13, 2010 – 8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Warwick Township Municipal Building, Lititz, PA – Join the Berks Lancaster Green Building Association for a **one day workshop on water efficiency and LEED® certification for buildings and sites.** Cost \$35.00. Presentations include LEED Water Efficiency, Storm water Credits, Storm water management BMP Tour, Rainwater harvesting and Lancaster county Roof Greening Project. [To register.](#)

The Future of the Past – New Economic Realities for Traditional Revitalization – June 13-16, 2010 Downtown Lancaster. [Pennsylvania Downtown Center's](#) 2010 Annual Statewide Conference – Lancaster County Convention Center. [For conference information and registration info.](#)

Building One Pennsylvania – A Statewide Summit on Regional Equity – Friday, July 16, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, Lancaster, PA. Fee \$15.00. The summit will give **visibility during this critical election year to the common challenges faced by our communities, and to launch an organizing structure for advancing the state and federal policy agenda that will revitalize and strengthen Pennsylvania.** For more information contact: dave@goodschoolspa.org or (717) 394-1619.

Enabling Informed Growth Management
Decision Making for Lancaster County

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

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