

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

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## FYI

**AMERICA IN 2050: URBAN, SUBURBAN, OR BOTH?** – (*Fast Company*) On July 7<sup>th</sup>, [Joel Kotkin](#)--a futurist and (sub)urban historian--squared off in a debate against [Christopher Leinberger](#), a developer, consultant and proponent of "walkable urbanism." The topic: "America 2050: What Will We Build." **The pair tangled on four key issues: demographics; housing supply & demand; transport; and density.** Kotkin was in hostile territory: a roomful of Manhattan architects and academics belonging to the Forum for Urban Design.

**Kotkin** is commonly labeled an apologist for sprawl, he's more like a Gorbachev, seeking to reform an unsustainable institution from within. He **believes that sheer population growth will save the economy** as America adds another hundred million people in the coming decade, mostly through immigration.

Leinberger produced his own statistics, refuting Kotkin's numbers and demonstrating that the percentage of married couples with children versus those without had hovered around a 50-50 split when suburbia was constructed in the 1950s; today the ratio is more like 33-67, on its way in the coming decades to 14 percent with children and 86 percent without -- obviating the need for yards and good schools. **Suburbia is massively overbuilt, awaiting a second baby boom that isn't coming.** [To read the full article.](#)

**PUTTING SMART GROWTH TO WORK IN RURAL COMMUNITIES** – (*ICMA*)- Communities across the country want to get the most out of future growth and development. **Residents and leaders from all types of communities** – from urban to suburban to rural – **want to achieve the best possible economic, social, environmental, and public health outcomes.** This desire is particularly evident in rural communities that may be experiencing changes in their traditional landscapes and ways of life. In communities with less diverse economies, the choices between "what was" and "what could be" are critical. **The reverberations of simple decisions or even of inaction can be relatively dramatic.** This new publication was designed to provide rural decision-makers with a resource for balancing competing goals while creating more vibrant, sustainable communities. [To read the full report.](#)

**URBAN ILLS: NO AMERICAN MONOPOLY** – (*Smart Growth Resource*) **Each city is a unique blend of history, culture and architecture.** But put three dozen urban planners and scholars from around the globe into one room and you discover that their concerns sound astoundingly similar. Despite major differences in history, urban form, customs and governance between their cities and U.S. metros, their answers might easily have come from planners in Atlanta, Cleveland, Charlotte or Chicago. In the U.S., with our primitive rapid transit, our expensive — and expansive — large-lot suburban neighborhoods and our rapacious appetite for oil-based energy, we're apt to imagine that other countries' cities have found more effective solutions to problems that bedevil our urban areas. [To read the full article.](#)

## OTHER INTERESTING ARTICLES

**The Reverse Commute** – (*The American Prospect*) The Obama administration is trying to rein in suburban sprawl. But is it any match for 70 years of unsustainable development? [To read the full article.](#)

**DOT Announces \$293 Million for New Transit Solutions, Economic Development Nationwide**  
A \$293 million investment announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood means that residents in dozens of communities nationwide will soon enjoy major transit improvements, including new streetcars, buses, and transit facilities. The investment is part of the Obama Administration's livability initiative to better coordinate transportation, housing and commercial development investments to serve the people living in those communities. It is being made through two competitive grant programs, the Urban Circulator Grant Program and the Bus and Bus Livability Grant Program. [To read the full article.](#)

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