

Regional Community Development News – July 19, 2006 [regions_work]

A weekly compilation of news links about and for regional communities pursuing local and regional development. Published on line since November 11, 2003.

1. **Maine's on the right track** - Bangor Daily News - Bangor, ME, USA

...

Maine needs a solid action plan of economic development, one that reflects the concerns of all Mainers. It has to include getting our kids into college and helping them earn their degree, making smart investments in innovative new fields to create jobs, reforming government at all levels to make it more efficient and effective, and targeting tax breaks to working families, rather than the wealthy.

But most of all, our economic development strategy must include open and honest leadership that transcends party affiliation. Partisan tunnel vision will continue to hold our state back until we learn to set aside differences for the good of all Maine people.

The path to prosperity can't be paved with good intentions, but with serious leadership that creates opportunity through education, invests in people, innovation, and Maine small businesses, and builds a stronger, more competitive Maine.

As the first person in my family to earn a college degree, I know that education is the key to opportunity. Despite the progress we have made in increasing access to higher education, less than half of Maine's high school graduates go on to college. From creating an affordable and flexible community college system to increasing funding for adult education and retraining programs, we are working to bridge the knowledge gap for today's traditional and transitional students.

But there is still much more we can do to open the doors of higher education to Maine students. Even a modest increase in state funding to Maine's community colleges would dramatically decrease tuition, allowing more people to access quality affordable higher education.

We must also consider how to keep these opportunities networked for optimum growth. Our students must have the best opportunities for education tailored to the brightest futures in new and evolving industries. Building partnerships between our students and local small businesses and entrepreneurs allows Maine people to develop new skill sets that better suit business needs across the work force.

Research and development gives our state the opportunity to build a diversified economy where Yankee ingenuity, the heart of Maine's business climate, is aptly rewarded. The Bangor Daily News was absolutely right in its recent editorial on the need for research and development opportunities as a key economic development tool here in Maine. Best of all, it allows Maine to capitalize on its most precious resource - its people. Maine needs to make innovative, smart investments from within in order to yield prosperity with new jobs.

Maine's small businesses know that to be competitive, they must be resourceful and efficient. The same should hold true for every level of government. We need to create a culture of cooperation and sensible **regionalization** that focuses our energy on the most important issues, and cuts duplicative administrative services and costs.

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2. THE NEXT MILLION Already an open space leader, Bay Area advocates want more

San Francisco Chronicle - CA, USA

Bay Area conservationists have set a bold goal of preserving another 1 million acres of land within 30 years, an unprecedented effort that would profoundly shape where and how we live by doubling the region's permanent open space.

Never before has so vast a metropolitan landscape been protected, and the very idea alarms some who say a region with a critical housing shortage and ghastly commutes cannot afford to set aside 46 percent of its land.

Conservationists argue preservation and growth can occur simultaneously. They concede there will be compromises all around as they work with landowners, developers and policymakers. And they know reaching their goal will require a level of money and public will that may be difficult to muster.

Yet they do not see these challenges as insurmountable and believe setting aside so much land is essential to retain the region's natural splendor as the population grows by a projected 1.6 million in the next 25 years. And though it took more than a century to protect the first million acres, conservationists say the second million must be protected within 30 years if it is to be protected at all.

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3. New thinking needed for new Hagerstown - Hagerstown Morning Herald - Hagerstown, MD, USA

...

As we all know, time and history conspire to demand changes in the way we live and function. So it is with the Hagerstown metropolitan area.

The problem we face today is that there are four governments operating in metropolitan Hagerstown. These include the city of Hagerstown, the towns of Funkstown and Williamsport, and, of course, Washington County.

Each of these entities is charting its own course with regard to a variety of important issues, including land-use planning, development and maintenance of utilities and governmental finance. The local independence of these bodies, while stubbornly defended by many in these jurisdictions, is becoming a hindrance to progress on greater community issues.

...

In the upcoming election cycle, let us seek leaders who understand the physical reality of the new Hagerstown. Let us find people who understand that to accomplish anything we must share power, and place a high priority on multilateral, regional solutions.

I know what you're thinking at this point. Hasn't Bob Maginnis written this editorial before? We're all for intergovernmental cooperation, but how do we get the love-fest to break out?

One avenue I feel needs further investigation is support for a concept I will call, for lack of a better term, "**binding regional intergovernmental planning.**" There are certain government functions, such as capital budgeting for our utilities, that seem to cry for regionalized coordination.

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4. Superintendent Warns Against Deregionalizing, 'Build to Suit' - Voices - Woodbury, CT,USA

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"For more than a year," Dr. Carmelich wrote, "members of the communities of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington have been discussing the possibility of resolving the school district's elementary school facilities inadequacies either through a concept referred to as "build to suit" or by deregionalizing grades K-5.

"It is my position that both of these concepts will materially weaken the ability of Regional 12 to effectively serve its students.

"Because regional school districts must contend with multiple town governments, often with competing needs, the process of educating the children without the autonomy legislated to regional school districts would become exponentially more difficult.

"'Build to suit' is not the same as de-regionalization - it removes the authority of the school district to effect needed change in its school buildings and it encourages towns, with different levels of resources, to build to suit themselves.

"The idea behind 'build to suit' is that each town would, theoretically, assume financial responsibility for the elementary schools buildings that they own and would make renovations according to the educational specifications as provided by the regional board of education.

"The towns are well aware that the school district would be hard-pressed to find alternative and appropriate spaces to educate its students if the town-controlled school buildings were not available for that use.

"Thus, the school district would be negotiating needed changes against towns that have the full knowledge that the board of education has no recourse other than to accept what the town is willing to do regardless of educational specifications or generally accepted educational practice.

"More directly, the school board will be forced to accept whatever level of workmanship, construction materials, construction practices, or instructional space that the towns provide.

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5. Our Views: N.O. culture hurts recovery - 2TheAdvocate - Baton Rouge, LA,USA

...

New Orleans doesn't have credibility in this crisis. The city has to earn it by producing a sensible and comprehensive citywide plan that can integrate as other parishes are further along in doing with the overall LRA planning process.

It's vital that the plan be both New Orleans-specific and regionally focused. By that, we mean that the plan must reflect and project into the future the best parts of New Orleans' heritage and traditional neighborhood layout. But integration into a regional plan is vital if the state's money, and that of federal taxpayers, is to be spent efficiently during this long process of recovery from the hurricanes of 2005.

It is vitally in New Orleans' long-term interest that the city be a team planner with its suburbs and with the state in improving not just rebuilding its transportation system and public institutions. Too many people decamped from the city proper to the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain long before the hurricanes.

Now there has been a new exodus of jobs and families to the Baton Rouge metropolitan area.

...

6. Tourism overhaul in works - Cambridge Times - Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

Will Cambridge Tourism be turfed in favour of a new regional organization?

This week, Cambridge council gave the go-ahead to the development of a new tourism organization which would co-ordinate tourism services across Waterloo Region and market the region as a tourism destination.

While the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce endorses the idea of a regional tourism organization, it has some serious reservations.

In a letter to council, chamber president Brian Butcher said the chamber - which operates Cambridge Tourism - "has serious concerns about the initial draft proposals for funding and operations, especially any proposal that would not completely integrate the critical areas of visitor services and destination marketing".

The chamber also voiced concern about the potential shift in funding that might take place where emphasis would be put on destination marketing at the expense of visitor services.

...

7. Regional Team to Attend 2006 Institute for Transportation Coordination in D.C. Kansas City infoZine - Kansas City, MO, USA

A group of six individuals involved in various aspects of transportation planning in the Greater Kansas City region has been selected to attend a Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) transit institute later this month in Washington D.C.

Jefferson City, Mo. - *infoZine* - The institute will provide training on how to coordinate services between local governments, nonprofits, workforce entities, and private and public transit agencies.

The Mid-America Regional Council identified the participants following CTAA's guidance about who can participate as part of a regional team. CTAA selected only 20 teams throughout the country. Team members are: ...

8. Cornyn wants U.S. taxpayers to fund Mexican development -
WorldNetDaily.com

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has quietly introduced a bill to create a "North American Investment Fund" that would tap U.S. and Canadian taxpayers for the development of public works projects in Mexico.

Despite assurances this week from White House press secretary Tony Snow that President Bush opposes the idea of a European Union superstate for North America, the effort, by one of the president's loyal supporters in the Senate, is sure to spark new questions about negotiations between the leaders of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico on issues ranging from security to the economy.

"Currently, a significant development gap exists between Mexico and the United States and Canada," Cornyn said. "I believe it is in our best interests to find creative ways to bridge this development gap."

Cornyn introduced the bill just before the July 4 holiday admitting in his introductory comments that Congress is not likely to adopt his plan quickly. In fact, Cornyn previously attempted to create the new international fund in legislation he introduced in 2004. It soon thereafter died in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where the latest version is headed.

...

9) Society forms to look at area's governance - Vernon Morning Star - B.C.,
Canada

Fed up with the bickering between local governing bodies, a group of area residents are forming a committee to study the way the North Okanagan is governed.

Calling itself the Society For the Future Governance of the North Okanagan, the five-member directors are actively seeking membership into their society.

"We've been talking to a lot of people upset with the way the various bodies governing in the North Okanagan are not working together, not getting along," said Vernon accountant Pat Lett, who is joined on the society executive by former Coldstream councillor Jack Borden, former Armstrong Mayor Eric Hornby, Fraser Financial Group president Gary Huston and ex-Kal Tire partner Richard Hamilton.

The memberships are being sold at \$100 and the society hopes to attract 1,000 members. That would give the society \$100,000, plenty to pay a consultant independent of all governing bodies in the North Okanagan to conduct a study.

...

10. U.S. regional communities - sub-State, State or multi-State - in news articles. Highlighted words are Google search terms.

a) Train would link Ohio cities

Cincinnati Enquirer - Cincinnati, OH, USA

State officials are promoting - and already planning for - a \$3.2 billion high-speed passenger rail line linking Cincinnati to Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland. ... Is their project pie-in-the-sky? "That's exactly the question I ask," said Mark Policinski,

executive director of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, ...
"The only way this happens is with a massive federal investment." ...

b) With Huge Bay Cleanup Dream A Bust, Leaders Alter Strategy

Washington Post - United States

The leaders of Maryland, Virginia and the District conceded Friday that their attempt to win a Florida Everglades-style federal rescue of the Chesapeake Bay has all but died, but they pledged individual efforts to restore the region's vital watershed.... Kaine said discussion of the Chesapeake Bay was part of a broader conversation among the three leaders about the need for regional cooperation. The meeting in Richmond was the sixth such summit, dating from Warner's term.... The officials also talked about the need for improving the region's transportation system. ...

c) LA's elite back in play as new Civic Alliance

Los Angeles Daily News - Los Angeles, CA,USA

... **Civic Alliance**, the group brings together some of the most influential leaders in the city ... One of the things that has been missing in Los Angeles is a chance to have a conversation about where we are going as a city and what we are doing. ... it also is an effort to have more people involved in key policy aspects that affect the region....

d) Many variables cloud future of water agency

Arizona Daily Star - Tucson, AZ,USA

... "The **regional organization** could be a wholesale water provider to begin with, doing things of common benefit to all" while individual water companies continue ...

e) Talking water

Pueblo Chieftain - Pueblo, CO,USA

ARKANSAS BASIN **Roundtable** members are starting to talk about addressing not only potential water supply projects, but the environmental, social, economic and ...

f) Regional Transit: Light rail it is

Seattle Post Intelligencer - USA

... \$3.9 billion 11-mile cross-lake light rail line would be one of a number of projects in the proposal Sound Transit is slated to put before **regional** voters in ...

g) Checklist: Things Corzine should do that he didn't commit to

Asbury Park Press - Asbury Park, NJ,USA

... functions. Develop a plan, in conjunction with regionalization, to integrate school systems on the basis of socioeconomic factors. ...

h) Tourism brings in big bucks

Hickory Daily Record - Hickory, NC,USA

Tourism is becoming an increasingly important part of our economy, said Dee Blackwell, an analyst with the Western Piedmont Council **of Governments**. ...

i) Natural Heritage Gateway Signs Planned For Blue Ridge Region

Boone Mountain Times - NC, USA

... culturally significant. Twenty gateway signs will be posted across the **region**, and 83 signs will be posted at sites in the mountains. In ...

j) Getting Real About Gotham's Economy

City Journal - USA

... Gotham may slowly be losing its focus as the center of the regional economy, as jobs and opportunity expand in the suburbs, should be distressing to budget watchers and the city's business leaders, among others. But that erosion shouldn't be surprising. ...

k) Organization Kicks Off Woodstove Change Out Program

WHIOtv.com - Dayton, Ohio, USA

DAYTON, Ohio -- Officials with the **Regional** Air Pollution Control Agency announced Thursday morning the kickoff of the Greater Dayton Woodstove Change Out ...

l) Planner to Enter Private Practice

Washington Post - United States

David Jenkins, who as executive director of the **Tri-County Council** of Southern Maryland steered the council through a period of major growth and economic ...

m) 'Regional cooperation' looks pretty one-sided

Columbus This Week Newspapers - Columbus Area, OH, USA

... I am concerned that the most recent version of the Big Darby Accord Plan is a further indication of what Columbus means by regional cooperation: More high-density housing, without requiring annexation, putting additional pressure on already overcrowded suburban school districts such as the Hilliard City and South-Western City School Districts. ...

n) Kenton Co. Takes Regional Approach To Adult Businesses

WCPO - Cincinnati, OH, USA

A northern Kentucky county is asking six cities to adopt legislation regulating sexually oriented businesses as part of a **regional** approach to complying with a US Supreme Court decision....

o) Dispatches From the Future

EMS Magazine - College Park, MD, USA

... Lifecom is a regional dispatch center and public service answering point (PSAP) for American Medical Response and seven smaller ambulance services spread over two counties with a combined population of nearly 1.2 million. The center will begin serving fire departments in San Joaquin County in August. ...

p) Fla. Beefs Up Emergency Response Team Preparedness

Insurance Journal - San Diego, CA, USA

... task forces, including providing each with a tractor-trailer **response** truck stocked ... rescue teams and supplement the 28 existing **regional** hazardous materials teams, ...

q) Charter panel proposes major changes in EW governance

Journal Inquirer - Manchester, CT, USA

EAST WINDSOR - After more than a year of study, the Charter Revision Committee is proposing that a town administrator be hired to handle the town's day-to-day operations, taking that responsibility from the first selectman. ...

11. Other in the news: Highlighted words are Google search terms.

a) Globalization of Terrestrial Information

International Reporter - New Delhi, India

The Indian Space Research Organisation ... expressed concern at high-resolution satellite images offered by Google. ... "What can the Indian government do to prevent terrorists or hostile forces from viewing high resolution photographs of its sensitive installations? The answer, in practical terms, is Absolutely Nothing At All." ...

b) New British policy to fight world poverty

The New Nation, Bangladesh

... The White Paper, entitled 'Eliminating world poverty: Making governance work for the poor', responds to four big challenges: first, the importance of good governance in poor countries; second, how to improve security, growth and public services to reduce poverty; third, the need to tackle climate change; and fourth, reforming the international system so that it is better equipped to deal with international problems....

c) 10 Auto Cooperation Projects To Be Implemented Under JMEPA

Bernama - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A total of 10 automotive **cooperation** projects will be implemented under the Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement (JMEPA) to help position Malaysia as an attractive investment destination and production hub. "Progressive liberalisation in the automotive sector will be complemented by industrial collaboration between the two countries," ...

d) MIT vows to press its scientists to collaborate

Boston Globe - United States

... Emerging areas such as neuroscience are forcing scientists, used to fierce competition, to collaborate **across boundaries** -- between departments, between fields ...

e) New West among region's most-walkable cities

Burnaby Newsleader - British Columbia, Canada

... The new walkability index and accompanying **map** of Greater Vancouver is the creation of Dr ... who hopes it will help transform civic planning in the **region** and spur ...

f) Algerian-Moroccan dispute frustrates regional integration

IPS

The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), a North African regional grouping, has just marked its 12th anniversary, but political divergences among its members have frustrated the political and economic integration promised when the union was established on February 17, 1989 by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. ...

g) Algeria seeks greater share of crude profits after surge in prices

Gulf Times - Doha, Qatar

Algeria, long seen as an energy investment hot spot, has taken a step towards resource nationalism with plans to unravel a reformist law and claw back some profits from foreign operators. ...

h) Geographic Names Transliteration Rules to Be Approved Shortly

Focus News - Sofia, Bulgaria

The rules for transliterating geographic names will be approved shortly. Bulgaria's Regional Development and Public Works Minister Asen Gagauzov will undertake this task and will manage and control the work of the Executive Road Agency with regard to the translating of the road signs according to the transliteration rules. ...

i) Long road of recovery sets agriculture up for an evolving future

The Herald - Glasgow, Scotland, UK

"The Scottish agricultural industry is in new territory ... growing world population with rising demand for meat and an increasing need for crops grown for fuel production. These forces will inevitably change Scottish agriculture, but will see the industry evolving and changing into the 21st century rather than going into terminal decline."

j) The participation of civil society in the EU debate

Times of Malta - Valletta, Malta

... regional forum in Malta aims to bring together 'receptors', 'multipliers' and other stakeholders from various countries, but in particular from Malta. The intention of the forum is that, through the innovative use of "**Open Space**" methodology, a free and creative exchange of views should take place. ...

k) Tolls proposed for all major bridges in Greater Vancouver

CBC News - Canada

The **Greater** Vancouver Regional District is considering a proposal to put toll booths on all the major highway bridges across the Lower Mainland as part of a ...

l) Mandarin intellectuals

Prospect Magazine - London, UK

... Ultimately though, what guarantees the intellectual role of the civil servant, the reason for the security of this refuge, is neither the pay nor the conditions, but the complexity of the business of governing. ...

m) Globalization of political economy has made regional cooperation an inescapable option

PeaceJournalism.com Nepal

... for human beings. Globalization of political economy has made **regional cooperation** an inescapable option. Individual countries of ...

n) 'Democracy builders' are drawing ire

Arizona Republic - Phoenix, AZ, USA

... This counteroffensive has included recent crackdowns on US and other Western democracy organizations, as a number of **governments** tighten the legal constraints ...

o) Independent Kosovo a model for breakaway regions worldwide

Serbianna.com - Michigan, USA

... "An independent Kosovo would be a precedent, it is going to be a problem for regional stability not only for the Balkans but for other **regions** in the world ...

p) Regions see infrastructure as vital in strategic plan

ABC Online - Australia

A series of community meetings has identified infrastructure and work force as the main issues that regional areas want addressed in the [South Australian Strategic Plan](#). ... although work force and infrastructure were the main issues brought up by regional areas, some towns had more specific issues. ...

q) [Robot backers turn to Linux](#)

ZDNet - USA

What the world needs now, according to a Japanese research group, is a low-cost programmable robot. To spur more development of robots at the hobbyist level ... The combination of Linux and the servo motors, according to AIST, will help reduce the cost of creating robots for educational and research applications. ...

r) [US as a Nation Left Behind on Ed Tech?](#)

Digital Divide Network - Newton, MA, USA

... There are many reasons for the digital divide, but most are related to the primary cause: poverty. ...

s) [2006 Global Information Security Survey results](#)

ContinuityCentral.com

Data security breaches continue to vex the majority of business technology professionals from around the globe, even though most do not acknowledge their own vulnerability to malicious attacks, according to results of the 2006 Global Information Security Survey published by InformationWeek and Accenture ...

t) [Google Joins OpenDocument Format Alliance, Backs Office Standardization](#)

InformationWeek - Manhasset, NY, USA

Google has quietly joined the [OpenDocument Format \(ODF\) Alliance](#) in recent days, indicating that the search engine colossus will support the alliance's efforts to standardize document formats. ... a decision by Microsoft last week to offer free translation software that would enable its Office software to operate easily with ODF software.

u) [Oregon Experiments With Mile Fee In Place of Gas Tax](#)

Digital Communities Government Technology

... state-installed GPS unit in his Subaru Outback is counting every mile he's logging, and a special transmitter in the car will tell the pump at one of two Portland gas stations how many miles he has traveled. Soon, as part of a state experiment, he'll be paying 1.2 cents for every mile but won't be charged the state's 24-cents-a-gallon gas tax. ... Oregon sees little future in its gas tax ...

12. Sub-State Regions - Michigan - U.S. Census Midwest Region; East North Central Division, FIPS Code 26

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in Michigan. This year each issue features a State with links to maps of regions and regional related resources. The [Census Regions and Divisions of the United States map](#) (PDF) is being used going, region by region from the Northeast to the South to the Midwest to the West.

- a) **MI Planning & Development Regions Map**
- b) **Michigan Association of Regions**
- c) **MI Economic Development & Travel Site**
- d) **MI Dept. Natural Resources Districts**
- e) **MI Dept. of Agriculture - Regions**
- f) **MI - Procurement Tech. Ast. Centers**
- g) **MI Batterer Intervention Services Regions**
- h) **MI Dept. of Corrections - Regions**
- i) **Physiographic Regions of Michigan**
- j) **Michigan Regional Landscape USGS**
- k) **Michigan State University - Regional Location**
- l) **Michigan Regional Councils NARC**

13. Announcements and web links

- a) **2006 OPEN DAYS-European Week of Regions and Cities** October 9-12, 2006

This year's focus is on Investing in Europe's Regions and Cities: Public and Private Partners for Growth and Jobs and the event will, for the time, feature an Investors Café aimed at bringing together business investors and decision-makers from local and regional government.

The 2006 OPEN DAYS, which include a further 70 local events across Europe, are organised by the European Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General and the Committee of the Regions, along with 135 regions and cities as main partners. The event is supported by the European Parliament and the Finnish EU Presidency, as well as leading blue-chip companies, the banking sector and civil society organisations.

b) Map projects regional population growth for 2025 - Mongabay.com
USA

The map, developed by researchers at the Center for Climate Systems Research, a part of The Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York, and Population Action International, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit research and advocacy group, shows "that the greatest increases in population density through 2025 are likely to occur in areas of developing countries that are already quite densely populated," according to a release from The Earth Institute.

c) Regional and Local Transport Department for Transport U.K.

Transport plays a key role in supporting regional and local prosperity, economic growth and enhancing quality of life. To that end, the Department works in partnership with both regional and local stakeholders towards the same shared priority of:

'Improving access to jobs and services, particularly for those most in need, in ways that are sustainable: improved public transport - reduced problems of congestion and reduced problems of congestion, pollution and safety.'

At a regional level, the Department encourages the close integration between regional transport, housing, economic development strategies and spending decisions. We do this to ensure that transport can best support the delivery of wider Government objectives on the economy, the environment and social inclusiveness, and we work with partners to ensure that strategies are well evidenced and supported in their delivery.

At a local level, the Department encourages modernisation of local transport as part of our strategy for a sustainable and integrated transport system, improving accessibility and reducing congestion. We oversee local transport planning and expenditure, helping local authorities and transport operators improve local roads, bus, taxi and light rail services, and walking and cycling facilities.

...

d) Waikato Regional Coastal Plan New Zealand

...

17.11 Cross-Boundary Management

17.11.1 Plan Integration

14. Density

a) Preservation panel debates TDR concept

Idaho Mountain Express and Guide - Ketchum, ID, USA

... city staff and economic development consultant Tom Hudson picked out structures they believe should be preserved and areas that might benefit from less **density** ...

b) Developers look again to swapping for density

Honolulu Star-Bulletin - Honolulu, HI, USA

As the population **density** of Honolulu's urban core increases, developers are once again looking to reach deals with neighboring landowners as a means of ...

15. Subscription link stories.

Reality dictates that we push for greater suburban density - Vancouver Sun (subscription), Canada

Second of two columns.

Here, from what I can glean from its critics, is the conventional wisdom about suburbia: Suburbia is the problem.

Suburbia is culturally arid.

Suburbia caters to the worst instincts of a materialistic society -- eating up agricultural land, encouraging wasteful sprawl and, because of its dependence on the car, contributing to global warming.

Whenever I hear criticisms like these, I always think:

Well, okay, even if I agreed much of that were true -- and I don't -- where, exactly, do the critics of suburbia expect all the suburbanites to go? Criticism is easy, but where, or how, would those critics rehouse two-thirds of the population of the Lower Mainland? What Khmer-Rouge-like resettlement scheme would rid us of the suburban reality? Would the gentrified revolutionaries of the Commercial Drive area sacrifice their fine old restored bungalows to accommodate more highrises? Would the wealthy urbanites of the west side make room for their yokel cousins from Tsawwassen?

No, I don't think they would.

Nor should they be asked to. On a North American scale, the city of Vancouver is a model of densification, and its citizens have every right to feel reluctant about further densification. They have shouldered enough of the burden. They live in a beautiful city that has managed to maintain its green, expansive nature, and Vancouverites, naturally, want to preserve that.

Where the densification should go is in the suburbs. That's where most of us live, including myself; that's where most of us will continue to live.

This, too: Despite its critics, suburbia is a reality that is not going to go away, and we need a public conversation about how best to address that reality rather than continue to engage in snide and easy complaints about minivans and three-car garages.

What we need is a school of Suburban Urbanism.

"What we have to do," said Larry Beasley, Vancouver's co-director of planning, and the man who oversaw the residential densification of the downtown, "is effectively find ways to densify the suburbs.

...

16. Google News for Regional Community

Other menu sections available from this link include: Regional Development; Regional Council; Regional Commission; Regional America; Regional Asia; Regional Europe; Regional Competition; Regionalism; Intergovernmental and other search terms. They can be sorted by date or relevance. These are among the 50 search terms I use to produce this newsletter.

My name is Tom Christoffel. I've worked in the field of intergovernmental cooperation since 1973. As a consequence, "I see regions." *Regional Community Development News* is published weekly based on news reports as of Wednesday. Making visible analysis and actions at multi-jurisdictional regional scales is its purpose. "Think globally, act locally" was innovative in its time. Today the local scale is often too small to address today's needs and opportunities. "Think local planet, act regionally," is my candidate paradigm. (No one said we're only allowed one paradigm.) We can see that regional communities are organized locally and now act both to avoid tragedy in the commons and gain benefits. An effective multi-jurisdictional regional community has DNA: it is geographically Defined; has a common Name and its Alignment is inclusive of smaller communities and participatory in larger communities. So, by scanning this compilation, reading articles and checking organizations - you too will be able to see the regional communities that already exist. News references are found using the Google News search service. Media article links are fair use to transform globally scattered reports to make regional approaches visible. Links go to the publisher and do not compete with it. Such publishers are likely to have related stories and thus be seen by new customers. Regional is an emerging news category. There is no charge for this service and no profit is made from its use, though any user can become more aware of the topic itself.

To read and search previous issues go to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/regions_work/messages The term Development was added to the name in January, 2006.

For a free subscription use this email link no additional information required:

regions_work-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Questions, comments or items to feature in Regional Community Development News?

Please e-mail the editor: Tom.Christoffel@gmail.com or regional@shentel.net

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