

Regional Community Development News July 26, 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. CONSOLIDATING GOVERNMENT: More sticks needed? - Press of Atlantic City - Atlantic City, NJ, USA

File this one under leaden trial balloons : Last week, Gov. Jon S. Corzine suggested the state could borrow as much as \$7 billion, backed by half of the recent sales-tax increase, to reward municipalities and school districts that merge or find other ways to permanently cut spending.

Corzine's proposal, reported in the Star-Ledger of Newark, was immediately attacked by some Republicans, who rightly questioned whether such borrowing for aid is even constitutional. And the fact is, the last thing debt-ridden New Jersey needs is more borrowing even if it is paid back with dedicated sales-tax revenue.

But borrowing aside, earmarking billions as an incentive to get municipalities and schools to consolidate could prove fruitless. First, no one knows whether the savings of consolidation would be worth anywhere near that cost. But also, the state has been providing smaller incentives and urging consolidation for years. But New Jersey still has 566 separate municipalities, 616 separate school districts, 212 fire districts and 190 local authorities.

Why? Because lawmakers and governors have treated this issue with kid gloves, trying to coax and woo municipalities to merge with carrots rather than with sticks. But the resistance from local officials, public employees and often even residents to giving up the smallest degree of local control is huge. Fact is, if any significant cost savings are to be achieved by consolidation, bolder action is needed action that may include sticks and mandates.

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2. What if, indeed: A chance to end mediocrity - Toronto Star - Ontario, Canada

After the Sunday Star ran its 'What If?' special in April, readers sent us close to 400 emails with their own ideas for improving Toronto. We handed them to Paul Bedford, Toronto's former chief city planner, who mentors on urban issues. Here are his thoughts

The late Jane Jacobs once said, "If Canada did not have strong and prosperous city regions, it would be a third world country." Over the next 30 years, 80 per cent of Canada's population and economic growth will be in the six city regions of Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton. These places must be successful for Canada to succeed, and if there was one overwhelming message in the hundreds of emails I read, it was that Torontonians have a real passion for the future of their city and region.

And their biggest frustration? Our collective inability to act on good ideas and get on with making things happen.

With a municipal election only four months away, a new City of Toronto Act in force, unprecedented development pressure, and a new provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Toronto Area, this is a good time to ask some tough questions about our collective future.

Why are we not making more progress in getting good ideas implemented? Why do we seem to be just muddling through? Despite a booming private sector economy, we are suffering from a culture of poverty within local government that is holding us back. We must find a way to break through this mindset in order to move forward.

Perhaps a glimpse into Toronto's potential may help to bring about the changes needed.

What the people said

There is no shortage of good ideas that could transform the look and feel of Toronto for the better. It is clear people desperately want our leaders to tackle our problems head on ...

3. Kansas City Region Sends Hospital Trailers to St. Louis Area - Kansas City infoZine - Kansas City, MO,USA

Kansas City metro area hospitals sent five hospital surge capacity trailers - with cots, pillows, blankets and personal hygiene supplies for up to 600 victims - to the St. Louis area yesterday to help with emergency operations as that city recovers from recent storms and power outages. The supplies will be used in emergency shelters for special-needs populations, including the elderly, disabled, medically infirm.

Trailers were deployed from Independence Regional Health Center, Liberty Hospital, North Kansas City Hospital, Saint Joseph Medical Center, and Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill.

Officials at Missouri's Emergency Operations Center contacted the **Mid-America Regional Council** for assistance at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, and the trailers were on the road by 7:30 p.m. MARC coordinated transportation of the trailers with the Missouri Department of Transportation. The trailers were delivered to a staging area at the Monsanto facility in Creve Coeur, Mo., and the cots and other supplies will be mobilized from there to emergency shelters.

Kansas City area hospitals are home to nine of the 20' trailers, which were purchased with regional Health Resource Service Administration (HRSA) bioterrorism grant funds administered by MARC. The trailers serve as mobile warehouses to be used when an emergency event strains hospitals' surge capacity.

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4. Blacksburg, Roanoke leaders' community views differ - Roanoke Times - Roanoke, VA,USA

Roanoke's and Blacksburg's futures are so closely connected that their leaders need to work together, former Roanoke Mayor Noel Taylor said two decades ago.

Today, despite valiant efforts by a few people to make cooperation happen, the two metropolitan areas pursue separate goals more than many people think.

A study by the former Center for Regional Studies in Blacksburg finds that "there are significant differences between the leaders' views and relationships in the New River Valley and Roanoke."

Leadership would be the axle that would draw two hubs -- Roanoke and Blacksburg -- into an alliance, the study asserts, quoting community leaders who said that separately they are too small to have much voice in state and national politics and economic development.

"This suggests that the prospects of regionalism in an area that encompasses both Metropolitan Statistical Areas are more problematic than previously known," the study's key finding says.

Cathy Greenberg, executive director of the center, said, "Many people will say they already knew the communities didn't work together, but this survey gives that some validity."

Because it's hard to pinpoint all of the leaders in the communities, this study was conducted with questionnaires handed from one leader to another person he or she regarded as a fellow leader.

The study concluded that Roanokers feel Roanoke is the hub of the region, while a majority of Blacksburg-area leaders feel their community is the hub.

...

The report, released this week, comes after the 2-year-old Center for Regional Strategies essentially shut down on June 30 after Virginia Tech withdrew its support.

That support was withdrawn after the center released a report in May that generated controversy about whether the university was neglecting its Southwest Virginia roots by contemplating a new research center in Northern Virginia.

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RCs : [Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission](#) [New River Valley Planning District Commission](#)

5. [Amid flood of images, planner got a bird's-eye view](#) - Boston Globe - United States

The Mother's Day weekend deluge that dumped up to 15 inches of rain across Northeastern Massachusetts may be only a memory to most people who experienced it, but the [Merrimack Valley Planning Commission](#) hopes to turn the event into lessons learned.

The commission has spent the past three years mapping the Merrimack Valley through aerial photography, and the agency's director, Gaylord Burke, knew that pictures of the flooding could be of interest to area planning and public works officials.

So as rivers across the Merrimack Valley reached historic crests on May 15, he called Pictometry International Inc., the New York company hired to handle its mapping project. Thirty-six hours later, a plane with six digital cameras mounted to its underside was crisscrossing the Merrimack Valley from Lawrence to Salisbury, Methuen to Ipswich.

The commission, based in Haverhill, now has 5,500 aerial images that include the Ipswich, Merrimack, and Powow rivers and the numerous neighborhoods they threatened. The day's work cost \$24,500, money the nonprofit agency does not usually keep in its rainy-day fund.

``When we just jumped into this, we knew that for us it was a bit of an expense," Burke said. ``But we also knew it would be valuable to have these photos. It was a unique circumstance. It was the first time in 70 years that we had floodwaters like this."

...

6. East Allen rejects regional proposal - Allentown Morning Call - Allentown, PA, USA

East Allen Township derailed land-use plans for nine other Northampton County municipalities Thursday, as supervisors shot down the Lehigh Valley's largest regional comprehensive plan.

The 3-2 vote to reject the "Nazareth Area ... 2030" plan triggered applause in an audience filled with East Allen farmers. Many township landowners have vehemently opposed the plan for months, convinced it could slash their property values while forcing the township to give up its autonomy.

"In my mind, I think the township's saying, 'Don't do it,'" said Supervisor Mark Schwartz, who forced a vote on the plan Thursday night.

Seven other municipalities had already adopted the plan, which took the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission three years to draft at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars.

Created at the request of the 10 municipalities in the Nazareth Area Council of Governments, the plan was intended to control sprawl and improve traffic while preserving farms and other resources.

The proposal could be salvaged, but much of the regional land-use plan might have to be redrawn to compensate for holes left by East Allen.

...

7. Clever nation notion - The Australian - Sydney, Australia

THE 21st-century task facing Australia is how to leverage its assets to succeed in the globalised age, and this requires a flexible economy, a highly educated work force and a sound system of governance.

John Howard's best insight in his Committee for Economic Development speech this week was his claim that "most successful nations thrive not on fixed plans but on well-governed flexibility". There are still social and economic engineers who reject this. Yet in an age of rapid change, smart nations will maximise their flexibility while nations chained to the past will cling to rigid planning that denies better options.

This heralds the looming crisis of democracy, now apparent. The democratic technique of the older, rich nations is a perpetual bargain that trades votes for government guarantees of security, benefits and protection. These operate as an insurance against technological and economic innovation and foster a political culture that sees globalisation more as an evil than an opportunity. Once this culture is entrenched, the road to national decline is comfortably rapid. These tensions are going to escalate in all democratic societies.

Globalisation has been the underlying question of Australian politics for the past 20 years. It is implicit in much of Howard's agenda, notably his pursuit of industrial relations flexibility, his search for new options in energy policy and the modest reforms to keep our tax system internationally competitive. The 2007 election will be a contest over different models to manage globalisation.

Australia is a regional power with global interests. ...

8. TRANSEUROPOLITIK: 'Reinventing Central Europe' - Newropeans Magazine - Paris, France

The notion of public good has fallen to pieces in Hungary. In order to reestablish it, to draw up a new social contract, we need to encourage new patterns of behaviour and employ new techniques. This is the essence of the movement called 'Reinventing Central Europe'.

Regional instead of central authority

The newly revived historic regions such as the Bánát or Western Pannonia can provide a new model for the as yet unformed frontier regions; they may represent a strategy of escape from the vicious circle of divided existence and mutual exclusion for those trapped in historical and/or political dead-ends. The metaphor of regions linked to each other

like the Olympic rings accurately presents the new, potential boundaries of coexistence in the European Union. We should not visualize these regions mechanically, positioned side-by-side as nation states, but rather as new units entwined like the Olympic rings, supporting and sustaining each other. With their garlands of cities, open institutions, universities and research centres, these intertwined regions could strengthen social cohesion, sustaining with force and appeal the intellectual radiation of a larger region. This larger region is Central Europe. Successful regions could be the leaders in co-ordinating relations and networking in Central Europe: ...

... It is unusual to become part of a strange and novel post-state economic and political community based on **network governance**, constant negotiation and reflection ...

9. NIMS deadline - Duncan Banner - Duncan, OK, USA

The deadline for community agencies to become compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is Sept. 15. And while many fire and police departments have begun NIMS training, the requirement also extends to schools, hospitals, and town and city governments.

Perry Brinegar, Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) director, said, You are going to have to be NIMS compliant to continue to receive federal grants.

Brinegar said the goal of the NIMS training was to get everyone in the United States trained to the same level to be able to communicate and understand situations in the same way.

The program came about through Homeland Security as a presidential directive, he said.

To ensure the agencies go through the correct amount of training, 11 councils of governments or districts, including ASCOG, are being used as points of contact....

10. U.S. regional communities - sub-State, State or multi-State - in news articles. Highlighted words are Google search terms. In this and the following section, links to websites of organizations are added to the news excerpt when this is the first time an organization has been found. A goal of this newsletter is to find every regional council in the U.S. in a news story. In most cases, where a full name is present a Google search will quickly get one to that organization.

a) It was a busy year for regional development

Redwood Falls Gazette - Redwood Falls, MN, USA

... The SRDC concept, which was established in the early 70s, was set up to help spur economic growth. Although SRDC has had its ups and downs over the years, this past year has been a good one, ... "The reason we do what we do is because of you," said SRDC Executive Director Jay Trusty. "You are us."

b) City of Mercer? Metro government concept could bring big benefits

Bluefield Daily Telegraph - Bluefield, WV, USA

Just think about it. Instead in living in one of the southern counties that is constantly neglected and sometimes abused by state powers that be, suppose we lived in West Virginia's largest city with millions of dollars in grants coming in, plenty of jobs and an excellent economy. That's what a Princeton lawyer says could happen if the local area would take advantage of a new law approved by the state legislature earlier this year the Metro-Government Law ...

c) It's time for state to wade in

Albany Times Union - Albany, NY, USA

... Engineers have made a number of suggestions for the Ashokan. One was to raise the dam on the reservoir to create more volume. Another was to require the city to keep enough capacity in the reservoir to absorb the impact of major floods. A third was to establish systems to divert and hold turbid waters longer so that they can settle. So we know what should be done. Now it's up to the state to act like the dog -- not the tail -- in this arrangement, and make demands.

d) Jewett a finalist for clean-burning power plant

Waco Tribune Herald - Waco, TX, USA

A site near Jewett was named one of four nationwide finalists for a \$1 billion near zero-emissions coal power plant, ... the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, which teamed up with FutureGen Texas and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments to prepare the site proposal....

e) Regionalism brought to forefront in water debate

Kannapolis Independent Tribune - Kannapolis, NC, USA

Regionalism is a term that has been echoed around the Greater Charlotte area. It has come in the form of economic development and utility and governmental services. And basically, it means the Charlotte region should operate as one large community, assisting one another when need be. But its strength has been tested with the proposal

from Concord and Kannapolis to draw water from the Catawba and Yadkin riverbasins.

...

f) Bay Area planning for the future

San Mateo County Times - San Mateo, CA,USA

As the Bay Area braces for one million more residents by 2020, transportation officials are hoping a portion of them will commute across the Bay by ferry. ... ports of South San Francisco, Redwood City, Hercules, Richmond, Berkeley, Alameda, Treasure Island and Antioch/Martinez all could become commuter hubs for ferry service to San Francisco. ...

g) Building the Right Regional Framework for Preparedness and Response

Heritage.org - Washington, DC,USA

... And that is why I would suggest that in the **regional organization** there be **regional** directors who are the direct representatives of the Secretary of the ...

h) Leaders in 6th dist. favor regionalization

Haddon Herald - Haddonfield, NJ,USA

... Consolidation has long been considered a potentially effective way to reduce the expense of municipal government but it has been blocked for years by proponents of strong home rule. But recent polls and the last round of school budget elections indicate New Jersey residents are desperate these days for any form of property tax relief. ...

i) NET RMA welcomes four new counties

Tri County Leader - Whitehouse, TX,USA

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved the addition of four counties to the North East Texas **Regional Mobility** Authority (NET RMA). ...

j) Police chiefs form 'No Boundaries' oversight panel

The Saginaw News - Saginaw, MI,USA

Countywide policing has spawned a countywide command, backers of the "No Boundaries" public safety tax proposal announced today. The Saginaw County Police Chiefs Association has formed a seven-member board to oversee countywide law enforcement, as envisioned under a proposed 1.6-mill levy that would form roving police units ...

k) No Boundaries: No-brainer

The Saginaw News, MI

... This newspaper long has advocated increased regional cooperation. So it's with no small degree of pride that we support the upcoming countywide "No Boundaries" public safety tax request. County officials are asking residents to approve a 1.6 mill tax for 10 years to make our region safer. ...

l) Economic alliance tries to serve all members but leaves some unsatisfied

Virginian Pilot - Norfolk, VA,USA

... Nearly 17 months into a merger that created one regional economic development agency for Hampton Roads, some family counseling might be needed. That should come

as no surprise, considering the localities vary in size, age, land availability and goals. ... the largest among them appears to be the least happy. ...

m) Municipal leaders to join for recovery

Press & Sun-Bulletin - Binghamton, NY,USA

While neighbors help neighbors recover from the recent flood, local governments are embracing a similar spirit of cooperation. The Greater Binghamton Council of **Governments** ... will hold a special meeting Aug. 3 to discuss flood-related needs and how governments can help each other. ... But it goes beyond that, ...

n) 'Regional cooperation' to lure movies

2TheAdvocate - Baton Rouge, LA,USA

... Louisiana's growing presence in the motion picture industry the key to attracting additional moviemaking to the Baton Rouge area is regional cooperation. Cooperation beats competition, said Linda Thurman, business development president for Emerald Bayou Studios, based in Baton Rouge, during a crash course on the movie industry...

o) Multi-state group considers Tenn-Tom water supply

Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal - Tupelo, MS,USA

... Access to that water is essential for growth and development. That's why attorneys, developers, elected officials, bureaucrats and others from three states gathered Tuesday at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority's headquarters to discuss how their communities can have enough water to grow. ...

p) County panel suggests easing rural zoning laws

Seattle Times - United States

Proposed changes to rural zoning laws would make it easier for King County farmers to house workers and for people to operate home-based businesses. ... Relations between Sims and the property owners have been strained since the council enacted tough development rules under a new critical-areas ordinance two years ago. ...

q) Cooperative effort splinters

The Citizen's Voice - PA,USA

DALLAS TWP. When officials from Dallas Borough and Dallas, Kingston and Lehman townships formed the Back Mountain Area Council of Governments in 2002, they looked forward to a new era of working together and planning for the future. But the new era ended and relations among the members grew strained this week ...

r) Development Agencies Have Different Shapes, Sizes

State Journal - Charleston, WV,USA

... West Virginia has smorgasbord of different types of economic development entities. Some represent just one county, while others represent several at the same time. Some are non-profit, private agencies. Others are quasi-governmental boards. And sometimes both types of agencies represent communities. ...

s) NASDAQ/Greater Dallas Chamber index launches

North Texas e-News - Texas, USA

The Greater Dallas Chamber, in collaboration with The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. (NASDAQ:NDAQ), today unveiled a new one-of-a-kind regional technology and life

sciences index, the **NASDAQ/Greater Dallas Chamber Index ("the Index")**. ... publicly held technology and life sciences companies in Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW). ...

t) Backers Of New Arena Emphasize Regional Benefits

KCRA.com - Sacramento, CA,USA

... "What we are looking at doing here in Sacramento is being able to offer a downtown to the region that offers an urban lifestyle, and part of that means that you get to walk to things, you get to take transit to things," Fargo said. ...

u) Tigard to protest Bull Mountain boundaries

The Times - Portland, Oregon,USA

... Our position is that those properties under our control should not be in the new city, said Tom Coffee, Tigard's community development director. He added that having city-owned lands under the authority of another jurisdiction would complicate land use decisions regarding the property. ...

v) Costly cell equipment is stolen in region

San Diego Union Tribune - United States

... The burgeoning thefts are starting to alarm some cell phone companies and raise concerns about how to better secure hundreds of cell sites in the **region**. ...

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

a) Biodiversity Experts to Create Global Intergovernmental Advisory Panel

Environment News Service - USA

Warning that "a large number of populations and species are likely to become extinct in the present century," biodiversity scientists and policy experts from 13 countries today proposed a global coordinating mechanism to provide a united, authoritative scientific voice to inform government decisionmaking internationally. A consultation process ...

b) Ministers split on regional government

Guardian Unlimited - UK

... Ms Kelly backs directly elected mayors to run new city regions and is supported by a report on the north-east of England due out today from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development which backs mayors as a way to revive stalled regional economies. ...

c) Cameron: Regions are 'very bad idea'

Leeds Today - UK

Ambitious Government plans to create city regions run by powerful mayor-style leaders has been slammed by the Tory leader as an attempt to revive rejected elected regional assemblies. ...

d) MPs call for a champion to help regions

Sheffield Today, UK - Jul 24, 2006

... But they warn in the document Evolution and Devolution; securing social justice through **regionalism** and socialism, that it may not work for every single area. ...

e) How regionalism is holding back China

Asia Times Online - Kowloon, Hong Kong

... regional protectionism or regionalism is by no means a new thing under the current Chinese leadership. On the contrary, it has existed throughout Chinese history. Hence the old Chinese saying, "Mountains are high and the emperor far away." Even under ... Mao Zedong, China could never get rid of regionalism. ...

f) Governor Revives State Planning Ghost

Kommersant - Moscow, Russia

At the yesterday's meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Krasnoyarsk Region's Governor Alexander Khloponin suggested setting up a Strategic Planning Council that would coordinate strategic development programs of regions. But the cabinet has a body that focuses on these tasks now. It is Vladimir Yakovlev's Regional Development Ministry. ...

g) 22 - Mega-regions: NG-LGUs partnership toward RP's attaining

Balita.org - Minsterley, UK

Mega-regions, supra-regions or sub-economies -- whatever it is called -- it aptly describes the national government's new development planning strategy in strong partnership with the local government units (LGUs) in a bid to spur economic growth in the countryside and eventually lead the Philippines to achieving First World status in the next two decades. ...

h) Ali Atienza pushes for sports regionalization

Sun.Star - Philippines

PRESIDENTIAL Assistant on Youth and Sports Ali Atieza is pushing for the **regionalization** of sports programs all over the country. ... He said athletes from the countryside have lesser opportunities than those based in Metro Manila. Thus, he sees the need of holding regional meets. ...

i) New states council to liaise with govt

The Age - Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Australian states and territories will form a new council to deal with the federal government after complaining the current system is disorganised. State and territory leaders agreed at last week's Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Canberra to set up the new Council for the Australian Federation. ... "This new council will recognise that Australia is a continent, not just a country," Mr Rann said.

j) Who are Rising Tide North America?

Infoshop News - USA

Changes will be made by people, not institutions. For this campaign to succeed, local communities need to take initiative and make this global struggle relevant to their towns and bioregions. ...

k) Dangerous dog changes 'can't be rushed'

ABC Online - Australia

... authorities in New South Wales will consider a range of recommendations from an emergency summit on dangerous dogs. ... key welfare and law enforcement groups met in response to the fatal mauling of a four-year-old girl ... councils have unprecedented power to enforce dog laws, but some are not aware of their options. ...

l) European Union applies for Saarc observer status

Gulf Times, Qatar

The European Union (EU) has formally applied to the Saarc Secretariat in Dhaka for getting an observer status in the South Asian regional grouping, ... a formal letter seeking an observer status to Bangladesh's ministry of foreign affairs, as Dhaka currently holds the chairmanship of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc). ...

m) Association for Professional Environmental Auditing to become the First National Chapter of the Canadian Environmental Auditing Association

CNW Group

... to form the first chapter of CEAA in Canada. The focus of this agreement is to promote professionalism in the disciplines of environmental auditing and environmental site assessment and to encourage the certification ... providing Atlantic Canada with national representation and a voice for an Atlantic perspective on issues of professional practice ...

n) Things you need to know

Jamaica Observer - Kingston, Jamaica

... hosting of Cricket World Cup (CWC) by nine Caribbean Community countries ... goal of the host governments to ensure "a secure and safe environment" (SSE), as well as the creation of a "single domestic space" (SDS). The SDS is being designed for the specific purpose of facilitating hassle-free intra-regional travel ...

o) Latest tsunami shows need for complete warning system: UN regional group

UN News Centre

Following last week's tsunami that killed hundreds of people on the south-central coast of the Indonesian island of Java, the head of a United Nations regional development commission called today for more comprehensive coverage from the warning systems now being developed in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake ...

p) Shake Off Outdated Concepts of Independence

Chosun Ilbo - Seoul, South Korea

Prof. Yoon Young-kwan ... "Despite becoming the 10th largest economy in the world, the consciousness of South Korea remains in turn-of-the-19th-century resistant nationalism and passive concepts of independence, desperate to get out from under the influence of the Great Powers. We have to pursue positive independence taking advantage of our relations with these powers to achieve our national interests." ...

q) String Attached: Gates AIDS Gift Requires Collaboration

Forbes - USA

A vaccine for the destructive HIV/AIDS virus ... **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, is hoping a daisy chain of highly collaborative research consortia will work together to speed the creation of a treatment. ... All the recipients of Bill Gates' largesse will be obliged to share their findings, even if they had been working on competing projects. ...

r) A Peer-Driven Approach to KM

Line 56 News - USA

Innovation, life-long learning, and greater organizational agility are driving public and private sector organizations to adopt **Communities of Practice** (CoP). ... Peers are one of the most important sources of expertise and insight in an organization. They brainstorm together, innovate, and problem solve. ...

s) Fame & Fortune: Futurist Alvin Toffler

Bankrate.com USA

... *Toffler*: Knowledge knocks the props out from under conventional economics. All of this stuff that Wall Street talks about and economists teach has to be re-examined because of the increasing importance of knowledge. Economics has frequently been called the science of the allocation of scarce resources. The problem is that knowledge isn't scarce; it's essentially inexhaustible. We don't use up arithmetic. This stands on its head, the central assumption of industrial-age economics. ...

t) Anthrax Moving Into PA Region

650 CKOM News Talk Radio - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

It's been wiping out cattle in the Melfort area for several weeks. Now, Anthrax has travelled north-west to the RM of Prince Albert. ... there is a potential for spores to develop in virtually any part of the prairies. ... Stevens advises producers to consult with their vets about the virus, as there is a vaccine available to them.

u) The EU's relations with the Andean Community

EurofundingMag - Paris, France]

The European Union and the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) have built up over the years, a comprehensive institutional framework covering an extensive political dialogue with a special emphasis on the joint fight against drugs, intense cooperation and a favourable trade regime. ... since the mid-1990 s. ...

v) UNDER-THE-RADAR WIKI WEB SITES AID COLLABORATION, IMPROVING ...

San Jose Mercury News - CA, USA

... of Socialtext, said about 2,000 customers, including Symantec, SAP, Nokia and Ikea are using its enterprise wikis to replace expensive **collaboration** tools. ...

w) Social software and learning

Guardian Unlimited - UK

A new report from Futurelab suggests that the emergence of individuals learning and collaborating through social software such as blogs and wikis could lead to a new approach in education.

x) Anne Arundel Co. Dog Parks Debate Dog Size

WJZ - Baltimore, MD, USA

... The issue at hand is what constitutes a "small" or "large" dog. As it stand right now, there is already a fence separating small dogs from the larger ones, but the responsibility of determining which category a dog fits into remains in the hands of the dog owners. ...

12. Sub-State Regions - Ohio - U.S. Census Midwest Region; East North Central Division, FIPS Code 39

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in Ohio. 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) [Ohio Regional Councils NARC](#)
- b) [OH - Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#)
- c) [Ohio Dept. of Transportation Districts](#)
- d) [Ohio Economic Development Regions](#)
- e) [OH - Regional Economic Devel. Offices](#)
- f) [OH Homeland Security Planning Regions](#)
- g) [OH - Hospital Bioterrorism Plng Regions](#)
- h) [Physiographic Regions of Ohio](#)
- i) [Ohio Legislative District Maps](#)
- j) [OH - Regions School Improvement Srvcs](#)
- k) [OH - Council for Exceptional Children Regions](#)
- l) [OH - Family Resource Hub Network](#)
- m) [OH Area Agency on Aging Regions](#)
- n) [Ohio Historical Society Places by Region](#)

13. Announcements and Links

- a) [Cascadia Scorecard 2006](#) - Sightline Institute

The 2006 Scorecard focuses on the connections between sprawl and health, examining an emerging body of research indicating that car-centered urban design in the Northwest contributes to a high death and injury toll from car crashes; and a high obesity rate, among other ills.

b) Network Governance, Citizenship and Free Trade - Cornell University

As government shifts from direct provision to use of third parties for service delivery, new challenges with respect to management, accountability and citizenship are raised. It may actually be harder to exercise control or ensure accountability when government is part of an interdependent network. This is why many scholars use the term governance rather than government to describe current conditions. These network governance arrangements alter the nature of citizenship as well, creating a democratic deficit. This section concludes with an overview of the recent free trade agreements and their impact on democracy and governments' ability to use third parties for public service provision.

...

14. Density

a) Experts: Affordable housing needs public transportation

Bradenton Herald - FL, United States

For any affordable housing program to be successful, a good public transportation system needs to be available. ... said zoning laws instituted in the 1920s promoted single-family homes, spreading out the population density. ...

b) Does West Bay's future point upward?

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, FL, USA

The city's plan for a "city center" in the area would increase density and perhaps allow buildings of six stories or more.

c) Cox says Focus Group density is too great

Pahrump Valley Times - Pahrump, NV, USA

... Cox said if Focus Group wants to build 4,000-square-foot lots, they will be able to build eight homes per acre, and that's too high a density. ...

d) Don't be dense about density

Wisconsin State Journal - Madison, WI, USA

Density is becoming a battle cry in Madison. ... Greater housing density Downtown and elsewhere in the city also reduces the need and cost of commuting. ...

e) High-density cities can be beautiful:

HoweStreet.com - Canada

... **Density** equals better use of existing roads, sidewalks and all the sewers and water mains below. ... Density doesn't always lead to unique designs or livability. ...

f) City's character is looking up

Nashville City Paper - Nashville, TN, USA

... the topic of much debate as it would be an exception to this planning rule, which is designed to continue to allow for maximum residential density in downtown. ...

15. Subscription link stories.

a) Supervisor rethinks regional - Press-Enterprise (subscription) - Riverside, CA, USA

A Riverside County supervisor said Thursday that it might be time for the Inland region to consider withdrawing from the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization.

Supervisor Marion Ashley said Riverside and San Bernardino counties are living in the shadows of more politically influential coastal counties that are also members of the Southern California Association of Governments.

As the designated metropolitan planning organization, the association, also known as SCAG, is mandated by the federal government to research and draw up plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous-waste management and air quality.

Ashley has asked Eric Haley, director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, to study whether the two Inland counties should form a freestanding metropolitan planning organization. A report is expected back by October.

"We have 4 million people living between the two counties. We are urbanized, and yet we are isolated," Ashley said.

Ashley said SCAG has consistently imposed unreasonable affordable-housing expectations on the Inland counties and recently assigned unrealistic commercial-airline passenger numbers to March Air Reserve Base near Moreno Valley.

"We have no control," Ashley said.

But some observers say the Inland region has gained significant clout within SCAG during the past five years because of the area's economic and population growth.

Economist John Husing, a former consultant for SCAG, said the movement of goods by trucks and trains begins at the ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach, but it has a significant impact on Inland traffic and air quality.

"To separate and not be involved intimately in discussions would be an error," Husing said. "You can't have a voice if you're not at the table."

Bob Wolf, a Moreno Valley businessman and a former chairman of the California Transportation Commission, said SCAG's policy decisions are sometimes "LA-centric" and "at times have discounted the needs of the Inland Empire."

"In my mind, there is nothing to be lost in taking a look at whether the Inland Empire should form its own metropolitan planning organization. I would not discount conversations with Imperial and San Diego counties if now is the time for an MPO to be focused on here," Wolf said

....

b) The grass roots are organizing to save their places from sprawl - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (subscription) - Milwaukee, WI, USA

The march of suburban sprawl across southeastern Wisconsin has been reflected in a spate of recent news stories, including:

A million-square-foot shopping mall announced for Pabst Farms, the 1,500-acre planned community of single-family homes and businesses on once-agricultural farmland at state Highway 67 and I-94.

An office, retail and residential project twice as large as the Pabst Farms mall proposed on Delafield open space at I-94 and Highway C extending to the edge of Lapham Peak State Park in the Kettle Moraine.

The City of New Berlin's surprise, precedent-setting request to pipe Lake Michigan water across existing legal and geographic boundaries.

The City of Waukesha Plan Commission's preliminary approval for a 300-acre annexation for \$100 million of upscale housing close to the Vernon Marsh, one of the region's premier surviving wetlands.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's adoption of an updated regional transportation plan with 446 miles of new or widened major highway lanes in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties, though state funds to pay for them have deep projected deficits.

You might conclude that there is only one spending mind-set - "go-go development" - in the region despite spiking gas prices, rising road-building costs and mounting opposition to taxes and government spending.

But there is an alternative message in southeastern Wisconsin pushed by a growing number of grassroots groups along I-94 from Milwaukee to the Jefferson County line.

Made up of volunteers, these organizations have a broad, non-partisan conservation agenda - one that combines the classic conservative tenets of public-sector tax and spending restraints with basic environmental, or resource conservation, all aimed at preserving neighborhood-scale living, whether in a rural setting, a small town or big city. ...

c) Finding solutions for the future of freight - Knoxville News Sentinel (subscription) - Knoxville, TN,USA

In a meeting of the minds Tuesday, more than two dozen public officials, scholars and industry leaders discussed the future of freight movement in the Knoxville region.

The upshot of the first meeting of the Knoxville Regional Freight Advisory Committee was this: The solutions to the region's freight problems require creative thinking and input from the private sector.

"There's going to have to be a shift in the way we do things because there's not enough federal or state dollars to go around," TVA transportation economist Chris Dager told the group.

The advisory committee is an initiative of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the Lakeway Area Metropolitan TPO, which includes Hamblen and Jefferson counties.

A TPO is a federally mandated organization that develops long-range transportation plans and disburses federal funds for local projects. Knoxville's TPO office is located within the Metropolitan Planning Commission and staffed by MPC planners.

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16. Google News for Regional Middle East *Results 1 - 10 of about 10,700*

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.

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