

Regional Community Development News – August 16, 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. Warnings of sprawl come true - Buffalo News, United States

More than 500 vacant buildings clutter Cheektowaga's landscape. Violent crime doubled in the Town of Tonawanda the past five years and spiked in Cheektowaga. Kenmore's main drag is pockmarked with empty storefronts. Tonawanda lost a larger percentage of people since 2000 than Buffalo. West Seneca and other older suburbs weren't far behind.

We knew it was coming. The pity is we didn't do anything about it.

Nine years ago, we heard that - unless we slowed sprawl and turned development into the city - the woes of Buffalo would spread to neighboring suburbs.

Welcome to the future.

"This is a direct result of pushing resources farther away from the center city," civic leader Kevin Gaughan said.

Gaughan founded the 1997 Chautauqua **Regionalism** Conference, where urban experts described the price of doing nothing: Buffalo would keep falling. Its closest suburbs would become more like the city - plummeting property values, more absentee landlords, more crime, fewer people. Distant, outer-ring suburbs would grow, straining tax loads as more roads, sewers, water lines, schools and fire houses were built.

Think of the region as a doughnut. The hole in the middle is shallow-pockets Buffalo. The hole gets bigger as folks leave the city and older suburbs for Clarence, Newstead, Orchard Park or East Aurora.

Welcome to Erie County, the geographic equivalent of Tim Hortons.

There was talk after Chautauqua of growth boundaries and protecting farmland from subdividing developers. There was talk of ...

2. Regional living coming more into our view - Cumberland Times-News - Cumberland, MD, USA

Some interesting things have been happening this past week that may help bring Allegany, Garrett, Mineral and other West Virginia counties into a much more regional focus.

In recent years, there has been much more cooperation across these artificial borders that divide government jurisdictions and it has mostly come from the people who live and work in the region and realize that what happens on either side of the river or county line has an impact on them.

Many of us live in one jurisdiction and work in another. ...

... "We're taking baby steps," she said of the effort to expand to a more **regional** consciousness. ...

3. Our Views: Rural areas must work regionally - 2TheAdvocate - Baton Rouge, LA,USA

In the United States in general, and in Louisiana in particular, it seems that the easiest way to justify any kind of government spending, no matter how dubious, is to label it “economic development.”

We saw that in the most recent session of the Legislature, in which various pork-barrel projects got a rubber stamp, often under the premise that they would help bring jobs to struggling local economies. Legislators from rural areas often have argued that their districts have a particular need for state government handouts because rural regions have special challenges in creating jobs in the new economy.

...

The urgent need for rural areas to work across traditional political and institutional boundaries in expanding their economies has been underscored by a report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Kan.

The white paper argues that while rural residents of America often have prided themselves on independence, country towns and counties — or parishes — will have to collaborate and think regionally if they want to increase their chances for prosperity.

“Rural places often lack what economists call agglomeration,” say the report’s authors, Federal Reserve Bank staffers Stephan Weiler, Jason Henderson and Katie Cervantes.

“Agglomeration is an advantage that emerges from clusters of people and similar firms in close proximity. In urban areas, the agglomeration of people reduces the average cost of production by offering a wider array of personal and business services, and larger labor markets Small and remote rural communities lack agglomeration. Thus, their pools of labor, entrepreneurs, firms, innovation, infrastructure, and financial capital are severely limited.”

The solution? By bundling their resources and economic development plans with neighboring rural communities, rural areas will have an easier time gathering the necessary talent and incentives to make them attractive to entrepreneurs.

...

Report: Innovative regional partnerships in the rural Tenth District

4. Officials agree to make corridor a loop - Fort Worth Star Telegram - Fort Worth, TX,USA

State officials say they’re ready to do what North Texas leaders have asked for months: convert the Trans-Texas Corridor into a new outer loop toll road around Fort Worth and Dallas.

The planned toll road would include a new east-west road spanning the southern tip of Tarrant and Dallas counties, then connect with new urban outer freeways in the Metroplex, rather than bypassing populated areas and running through rural northeast Texas.

The breakthrough in a months-long argument between state and local leaders came Friday on the final day of the annual transportation summit in Irving.

Phil Russell, director of the Texas Department of Transportation's turnpike division, said during a lunchtime speech that he would ask the Federal Highway Administration to redraw the Trans-Texas study area in the next month or so to include the outer loop. The federal agency is the lead in an ongoing study to build the North Texas-to-San Antonio toll road and must be consulted before the project's scope can be changed.

"I think we're going to work it out," Russell said before the speech.

Russell congratulated the [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#), the official planning body for Dallas-Fort Worth, for coming up with a workable alternative for Trans-Texas.

...

5. Cities team up to meet housing requirements - Examiner.com – USA

San Mateo County's cities are joining forces to meet state-mandated requirements for affordable housing in a move that may allow some cities to swap funding or other resources in exchange for building fewer units.

A 2004 state law allows regional cities to team up to meet housing goals, but San Mateo County is the first in the Bay Area to try it, according to Ken Kirkey, principal planner with the [Association of Bay Area Governments](#). So far, 17 of the county's 20 cities have opted in. The remainder — Brisbane, Daly City and Redwood City, as well as the county Board of Supervisors — are expected to do so by the Aug. 31 deadline, according to Walter Martone, a staffer with the City/County Agency of Governments, which is facilitating creation of the regional group.

ABAG will hand down new housing requirements for very-low-income, low-income, moderate-income and above-moderate-income housing in mid-2007. Countywide, cities fared poorly in achieving the last set of targets established in 1999; ...

6. Weld County growth summit - Longmont Daily Times-Call - Longmont, CO, USA

Representatives from 24 of Weld County's 31 municipalities will meet tonight to discuss growth and land-use partnerships.

Census figures show that Weld experienced the 68th biggest population spike in America between 2000 and 2005, adding 48,082 residents in that time. With 228,943 residents in 2005, the county is expected to more than double its population to 485,000 by 2030.

But disagreements between county commissioners and municipal leaders have also exploded in recent years — especially in southwest Weld County — over how and where new development should occur and who should oversee it.

... 18 months ago there was a push to form a regional council of governments in northern Colorado similar to the Denver Regional Council of Governments. The northern Colorado group would have included municipalities in Weld and Larimer Counties and possibly extended into Wyoming. Feldhaus, speaking only for himself, said today's Platteville meeting may be the beginning of renewed efforts to form that COG.

The main focus, however, is to plan for Weld County growth, he said.

... “I think all the municipalities sense the frustration with dealing with the commissioners,” Andersen said.

7. a) SANDAG board hears report on Tribal Summit - Village News Network - Fallbrook, CA, USA

... purpose of the Tribal Summit was to bring together representatives of tribal nations, the County of San Diego, and the county’s 18 incorporated cities to discuss land use and transportation planning policies of mutual concern. The Tribal Summit also provided an opportunity for tribal input on the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan. More than 120 participants attended the Tribal Summit, including representatives from 12 of the 17 populated Indian reservations in San Diego County and from the Reservation Transportation Authority.

“The Tribal Summit was an important diplomatic milestone,” said Patricia McCoy, who represents Imperial Beach on the SANDAG board and also chairs SANDAG’s Borders Committee.

During the introduction phase of the Tribal Summit, representatives of tribal nations expressed planning issues of concern. Those included respect for tribal sovereignty, recognition that the tribal nations are part of the region, an interest in increased collaboration on issues of mutual concern, the importance of learning about each other’s governance processes, a willingness to pay fair shares but with accompaniment by representation, adherence to new laws such as S.B. 18 (which requires local land use authorities to consult with registered tribes when updating general plans and also adds cultural sites to the definition of open space and allows tribal governments to acquire or hold conservation easements), and the importance of representation in regional decision-making bodies

...

b) Dan Walters: Indian tribes' dual status a slippery slope - Whittier Daily News - Whittier, CA, USA

WHEN California Indian tribes were impoverished and virtually invisible, politicians could ignore them.

When the tribes gained the exclusive right to operate gambling casinos, however, politicians were drawn to them like flies to flypaper - a relationship sweetened with many millions of dollars in campaign checks.

Mostly, the tribes wanted to bolster their monopoly on full-scale gambling, especially all-important slot machines, which are quite literally licenses to print money. But once they had their monopoly, the tribes began to flex their political muscle to seek broader political and legal recognition, an effort that revolves about their somewhat murky status.

Essentially, the casino-owning tribes are governments that operate like private businesses, thus breaching the wall that has traditionally and properly separated the two. In effect, the tribes are governments when it suits them, and businesses when it suits them. ...

8. Editorial: Economic audit underscores need for major changes - Oshkosh Northwestern - Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

The Legislative Audit Bureau released a report highly critical of how Wisconsin manages its economic development programs.

Among other things, the report found a good portion of state economic development grants and loans were confined to a limited number of counties that didn't necessarily meet program requirements and that it was difficult to track the end results of state aid dollars.

...

1. Hold a series of bi-partisan hearings across Wisconsin to find out what is working and not working on economic development.
2. Draft legislation to provide direct oversight by the Department of Commerce of state programs and to provide an annual audit and public report on its activities.
3. Call for regional summits and task area leaders with downsizing the number of agencies and foster stronger regional development agencies.

Business as usual is not getting the job done.

The Final Thought: An audit of state economic development programs underscores the dramatic need for changes on the state and local levels of how we grow business in Wisconsin.

9. Planning czar needs to be a magician - Newsday, NY

It is a good thing that Lee Koppelman had a powerful bark because Long Island's chief planner was never given a sharp set of teeth.

In home-rule Long Island, regional planning requires cajoling towns into doing the right thing. Most of the time, unfortunately, they don't. Who can blame them? All the incentives and signs now point in the same direction: "Wrong Way."

Koppelman, who resigned in May as executive director of the Long Island Regional Planning Board, is rightly praised for providing real leadership on many of the region's critical planning victories over the past 30 years - from protecting open spaces and regional water supplies to improving Long Island's critical railroad infrastructure. But the next 30 years will require deep structural changes to Long Island traditions if the region is to tackle its most pressing problems.

A new report by the Citizens Housing and Planning Council and the Regional Plan Association is a useful document for thinking about not only who should become Long Island's next chief planner but also how political power needs to be re-allocated on Long Island.

Long Island's strong home- rule traditions, convenient railroads, proximity to Manhattan and large expanses of waterfront have produced some of the nation's

wealthiest communities. But these same home- rule traditions are choking the region with high taxes and housing costs, insufferable traffic jams, and deep racial and ethnic divisions.

...

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) Grid study: East, Calif. need relief from power congestion

Arizona Daily Star - Tucson, AZ,USA

The Atlantic Coast from New York City to Virginia and Southern California are facing "critical congestion" of their power grids, a government report said. New England, the Phoenix-Tucson area, the San Francisco Bay region and the Seattle-Portland area are also places of concern, according to a grid study ... U.S. Energy Department. ...

b) Dashboard Web Site Shows Progress of San Diego Area Transportation Projects - Government Technology - Folsom, CA,USA

... TransNet Dashboard Web site, launched by San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is a connection to the current schedule, budget, and expenditure information for the TransNet Early Action Program. ... element of the larger Keep San Diego Moving ...

c) House leaders urge conservation, alternative energy

Connecticut Post - Bridgeport, CT,USA

... regional power authority, ISO New England, said Thursday that while conservation measures can save New England consumers hundreds of millions of dollars per year, Connecticut does not generate enough power to meet its needs. ... a small state like Connecticut, conservation is key and more tax breaks for renewable and alternative sources, such as fuel cells, make sense.

d) Dangerous-dog pact a good step

DesMoinesRegister.com - Des Moines, IA,USA

... A dog defined as legally "dangerous" is dangerous no matter where it lives. It's not OK to send an animal to a backyard in another community. So the Metro Advisory Council, comprised of leaders from 18 city governments in Polk, Warren, Jasper and Dallas counties, has agreed to draw up a uniform policy on how to handle dangerous pets. That makes sense for public safety. ...

e) Bus backers haven't given up

Beaufort Gazette - Beaufort, SC,USA

The Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority will seek support from hotels, shopping malls and theaters to get the regular bus service up and running, said Ginnie Kozak, the planning director for the Lowcountry Council of Governments, ... The transportation authority also is pursuing state and federal grants for the proposed bus service, ...

f) Review of COG pact nears end

Pasadena Star-News - Pasadena, CA,USA

Caltrans is completing its review of a possible conflict of interest involving the San Gabriel Valley Council **of Governments** and its executive director ...

g) \$7 million of federal funds celebrated in Northeast Kingdom

BurlingtonFreePress.com - Burlington, VT,USA

... designation as a REAP zone was set to expire in 2005, but Jeffords had it extended until 2010, ... designated in 2000, \$50.9 million in loans and grants has been invested in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties. ... [Northeastern Vermont Development Association](#) ...

h) SCIGA planning to hold next meeting in Greenville area

Salem Times Commoner - IL, USA

... South Central Illinois Growth Alliance (SCIGA) meeting will be held ... at a different location each month within the five-county region including Marion, Clinton, Fayette, Bond and Washington counties. ... Alliance provides a forum ...

i) Town mulls public internet service

The Dartmouth, NH - Aug 1, 2006

... The West Central New Hampshire **Regional** Health and Security Communications Consortium is composed of town representatives from Newbury, New London, Hanover ...

j) Semi-annual reunion brings back memories

Middletown Press - Middletown, CT,USA

... community's entire approach to education changed when the school was converted into a regional high school. "We moved from being a very conservative - and by that I mean, very stable and predictable - to a very professional school system" ... "There was just an infusion of new ideas that wouldn't have happened without regionalization." ...

k) Transportation problems must be fixed, soon

West Linn Tidings - OR,USA

... Looking ahead, both **regionally** and statewide, elected and appointed officials are developing transportation plans for the future. ...

l) Chairman says lake shores should be treated as a park

Columbus Ledger-Enquirer - Columbus, GA,USA

... Meeting with the editorial board of the Chattanooga Times Free Press, T-V-A chief William Sansom said his agency should treat its shoreline as "kind of like a national park." ... the current T-V-A board adopted a moratorium on further land sales or leases ... T-V-A manages about 293,000 acres in a seven-state region, including north Alabama. ...

m) Officials seeking help with growth

Modesto Bee - Modesto, CA,USA

Stanislaus County's mayors and county supervisors say they want to wrestle control of the county's future from big developers, ... The Sacramento **Area Council** of Governments recently went through a similar process. ...

n) Blue Ridge port of call

Roanoke Times - Roanoke, VA, USA

... Employing just 17 people, the inland port could hardly fulfill those expectations on its own. But it could play an important role in **regional** economic development. ...

o) New Jersey's tax bills show the costly side of excess government

The News Journal - Wilmington, DE, USA

... New Jersey had 8.7 million residents in 2005. According to an estimate by a public policy institute at Rutgers University, about 1 million of them either are public employees or their family members. That's almost one out of nine residents. Count the votes. New Jersey also has an excess of governments as well. It has 566 municipal governments, 616 school districts, 300 municipal authorities and 186 fire districts. Of those, 1,389 have the authority to raise property taxes. ...

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

a) Brussels Pushes for New Bulgaria Regions

Sofia News Agency – Bulgaria

Regional development experts of Bulgaria have been drafting a new map of regions to meet EU criteria for regional funding. Currently Bulgaria has six planning regions, but two of them have reportedly mismatched the criteria of the European Union for population and size of territory. ...

b) Petar Kandilarov: The Best Variant Is the Planning Regions to Be Five

Focus News - Sofia, Bulgaria

... The merging of the regions is obligatory because two of the planning regions – the northwestern and the southeastern, are not in line with the EU criterion. This criterion is that the regions must have a population of at least 800,000 people. ...

c) Nepal : DEFINING GOOD GOVERNANCE

PeaceJournalism.com - Nepal

Good **governance** is a process of executing a coherent governing plan for the nation based on the interests and priorities of people. ...

d) Wireless Phones Cheaper for Rural Areas, U.S. Study Says

Digital Communities – Government Technology

Rural phone-service subsidies are so bloated and inefficient that providing wireless or even satellite phones is cheaper, an economic analysis prepared for a senior citizen advocacy group suggested last Wednesday. Taxes to support the universal service fund, which is intended to pay for higher costs of serving rural areas, are growing so fast as to force some low income citizens to drop current phone service, said Thomas Hazlett, a George Mason University economist who prepared the analysis for the Seniors Coalition. ...

e) SOA Governance and Rogue Services

Line 56 News - USA

... The challenge is that **governance** only gets harder the more an organization moves towards a service based architecture. One of the ...

f) The Prisoner's Dilemma Facing Online Publishers

Online Publishing Insider

With the endless stream of announcements of publisher investments in social media, video production, gaming, and other content sources, it's almost impossible to determine where one publisher ends and another begins. Why are publishers competing on sheer tonnage, instead of focusing on quality and singularity? Oh right, [the long tail](#).

...

g) [I Spy with My Muni Wi-Fi](#)

Red Herring - CA, USA

... public Wi-Fi networks go live, one unlikely **community** will be ... links extend the edge of a corporate **network** to wherever ... even there that can be a **risk** when some

...

h) [Managing Risk with Knowledge Management](#)

B-EYE-Network - Boulder, CO, USA

... Only if it is captured explicitly will the enterprise be able to leverage it. Identify and nurture **communities of practice**. Whether ...

12. Sub-State Regions - Wisconsin - U.S. Census – Midwest Region; East North Central Division, FIPS Code 55

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in Wisconsin. 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) [WI Regional Planning Commissions Links](#)
- b) [WI Dept. of Commerce: Area Devel. Region](#)
- c) [WI - Dept. of Transportation - Regions](#)
- d) [WI - Pub. Health Bioterrorism Regions](#)
- e) [WI Dept. of Natural Resources Regions](#)
- f) [WI regional and statewide land use trends](#)
- g) [Wisconsin Watershed Areas NRCS](#)
- h) [WI Regional Landscape Ecosystems](#)

i) **Wisconsin Ecoregions**

j) **Wisconsin Team Forage - Regions**

k) **Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association**

l) **Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets - Regions**

13. Announcements

a) **Building a Resilient and Equitable Bay Area: Toward a Coordinated Strategy for Economic Localization – Executive Summary** -
RegionalProgress.org

On May 10, 2006, Redefining Progress, the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, the International Forum on Globalization, the Post Carbon Institute, Bay Area Relocalize, and Mayor Jerry Brown's Office of Sustainability convened a small group of business and nonprofit leaders, public officials, and experts to discuss making the Bay Area the first major metropolitan region in the nation to formally adopt and implement a strategy for creating a strong local economy.

Economic development expert Michael Shuman, author of *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age* provided a brief overview of local economic development strategies in progress throughout the nation as well as recommendations for what to include in the consolidated Bay Area strategy.

The goal of the get-together was to begin mapping out a strategy combining the firepower of all nine Bay Area counties to implement a diverse array of public policy and business development options such as procurement reform, community investment, increased public transportation, energy conservation and demand reduction campaigns, portfolio standards, buy local campaigns and local production of vital needs, changes in land use policy, impact fees, self reliance targets, loan guarantees, venture capital funds, and others.

Over the coming months, sponsor organizations will convene participants who have expressed interest in serving on action committees, and engage in outreach to broaden the scope of active partners and constituents. [*Building a Resilient and Equitable Bay Area \(PDF\)*](#)

b) **"Rural People, Rural Places: The Hidden Costs of Hurricane Katrina"**
PDF - Rural Sociological Society

This brief draws much needed attention to nonmetro areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and outlines the key features of the rural people and places that have been impacted by this major disaster. Most important, it offers a series of policy

recommendations that can assist in rebuilding the region's nonmetro counties and parishes. The hope is that these policy ideas can offer a meaningful set of strategies for lessening the future vulnerability of rural areas within and outside this region of the country. *Rural Realities* is designed to share important social sciences-based research on timely issues impacting rural people and places.

Available through: [*Southern Rural Development Center*](#)

c) From Traditional to Reformed: A Review of the Land Use Regulations in the Nation's 50 largest Metropolitan Areas – The Brookings Institution

Local land use regulations help define the character of cities, towns, counties, and entire regions. Zoning, comprehensive plans, infrastructure control, urban containment, building moratoriums, and permit caps can drive development outward, promote density, or something in between. They can also directly affect the composition of inhabitants by facilitating rental properties and low-income residents, especially when these regulations are coupled with programs to promote housing affordability. This comprehensive survey of local land use regulations finds a wide variety of regulatory regimes in the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas. They range from exclusionary and restrictive to innovative and accommodating. These produce a variety of effects on metropolitan growth and density, and on the opportunities afforded to the residents that live there.

d) A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century - PublicAgenda.org

In this survey of the public, we find Americans prize public library service and see libraries as potential solutions to many communities' most pressing problems, from universal access to computers to the need for better options for keeping teens safe and productive. But few Americans are aware of the increasingly tenuous financial picture faced by many libraries. Forty-five percent give an "A" to their local community for maintaining well-run libraries, far ahead of any other community institutions, including schools, parks and police. Those who think public libraries are primarily used by folks who can't afford bookstores are clearly mistaken -- higher-income families are even more likely to use public libraries than low-income families. Prepared with support from the Americans for Libraries Council and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

e) Urban Think Bookstore – Orlando, FL

Urban Think!™ is not your typical bookstore. The concept has been carefully crafted to meet the demands of the progressive urban consumer who desires intellectual stimulation, personal inspiration, and the discovery of new information... in a relaxing, friendly, and sophisticated social environment. If you're as passionate about books as we are, you'll enjoy our fine selection of reading.

At Urban Think!™ you can find a special book, enjoy a fine wine, admire unique art, and participate in the many social activities that make this bookstore so special. Best of all, you'll be amongst friends and neighbors in Orlando's coolest Downtown neighborhood - Thornton Park!

14. Subscription link stories.

a) Sewer service debate focuses on private plants - Charleston Post Courier (subscription) - Charleston, SC, USA

As Charleston's and Mount Pleasant's growth spreads beyond where major sewer providers are interested in serving, some of the biggest local debates could involve whether to allow new private treatment plants.

On one hand, these private plants - also called "package plants" - have been unpopular because many developers have built them and eventually walked away from them, leaving homeowners to care for them. Often, another utility has had to step in and clean up the mess.

On the other hand, developers increasingly could seek permission for private treatment plants, arguing that they should be approved if they meet state water-quality guidelines and if other utilities won't serve their area. They say local governments should control growth through zoning, not by limiting utility lines.

At ground zero is the Council of Governments, a group of a few dozen local elected officials and residents who advise state health officials on sewer plans.

It has been several years since the last private sewer treatment plant was approved, said Ron Mitchum, director of the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments. But that could change soon. The issue came up for discussion Friday, and council members unanimously agreed to seek a consultant for a major update to the region's sewer plan.

COG chair and Berkeley County Supervisor Jim Rozier said the Lowcountry has made great strides compared to what went on 35 years ago, when utilities dumped untreated sewage into the Ashley and Cooper rivers.

But the area's growth is leapfrogging beyond established sewer plants and boundaries, raising the question of what new plants - if any - should be built to serve these rural areas.

...

b) The region will succeed with hands of trust, not finger-pointing - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (subscription) - Milwaukee, WI, USA

The Great Lakes Crescent is defined by the landmass that surrounds the Great Lakes and stretches from Canada through Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

As an economic bloc, it generates \$3.7 trillion and employs 43.4 million people.

This mega-economy contains 212 Fortune Global 500 headquarters and 148 Industry Week's Global 1000 headquarters.

More than 95 million people reside in this crescent - and we have an economy that rivals that of many nations. Moreover, a recent study by the United Nations named the Chicago/Milwaukee region as one of the 25 "mega-cities" in the world.

What's more, if other factors are taken into consideration, such as demonstrated economic output and safety from natural disasters, we move into the upper echelon of global powers.

This is an opportunity of scale we can't afford to set aside. When united as a larger region, we have significant assets for global growth.

Remember the old adage that one of the keys to success for a business is location, location, location?

The same holds true for this region. The combined global importance of our inner-coastal cities and counties places us in a competitive advantage on the world stage.

So how do we leverage our locational assets into economic growth and regional prosperity? After all, this geography and opportunities are not new phenomena.

The difference comes from the alignment of efforts and willingness to act on a regional basis.

Right now, regional economic development leaders - representing the Milwaukee 7, the Collaboration Council, New North Inc. and World Business Chicago - are deliberating about how we can work together to leverage these strengths and market ourselves to a global audience.

...

15. [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@yahogroups.com

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

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