

Regional Community Development News – September 6 & 13, 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. Can Los Angeles Become the US' First Regional City - WorldChanging – USA

Among many in the planning and design professions, there is a morbid fascination with Los Angeles. It sometimes seems like good news from Los Angeles is better for its improbability. Some of this is fair, since from an urban design perspective, Los Angeles didn't get much right. It is, in Mike Davis' words, a place where "Monolithic public works have been substituted for regional planning and a responsible land ethic." In fact, LA's problems are so large, and in some ways, so iconic (immigration, 'natural' disasters, traffic, sprawl), that sustainability still seems a distant dream. But Los Angeles has an asset that doesn't yet know it's an asset: its decentralized urban form.

Worldchanging readers will be familiar with the ongoing urbanization of the world. Current rates of urbanization (including in the United States, where outward growth is often twice the rate of population growth), have overrun tradition notions of urban space. New York's metro area, for example, is not a city; it's a vast urbanized area – a megalopolis. Regional planners like Robert Yaro of RPA and Robert Lang debate whether the entire area from Boston to DC is one 'megaregion,' with traditional city centers as islands in an urban sea: the nascent regional city.

The emerging regional city has been both the cause and effect of two simultaneous and paradoxical trends in urban life. The first is ideas and technologies – such as walksheds, car sharing, urban agriculture, 'The New Urbanism,' local energy production, and local currency – for living more locally. The second is an increasingly large and diverse geographic region, in which these localities co-exist and overlap.

Worldchanging has done a number of great posts on the regional city, but I would like to highlight a few key components:

- It has many centers.
- Its systems – transportation, habitat, energy, economy, agriculture – are integrated across the entire region.
- It is externally monolithic, but internally diverse.
- Ideally, its relationship between development and open space is fractal (a region within wilderness, centers within greenbelts, neighborhoods with parks, and buildings with landscapes – preferably edible).

The regional city is an idea now firmly in the mainstream. Unfortunately, as Gabriel Metcalf pointed out in an excellent previous post, the governance structures for regions are still in their infancy, therefore all megalopolitan regions suffer from fragmentation.

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2. Should 'super council' rule Mersey region? - ic Liverpool - Southport, England, UK

MORE than a quarter of a century ago, the biggest shake-up in local government since the days of Queen Victoria took place in England.

Overnight, hundreds of urban district and rural district councils were swept away and county boundaries changed.

The new Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley was created, and Southport and Bootle were joined together in what was seen as a forced marriage.

The new buzz-words are "city regions", and there is a growing campaign, backed by the Government, for a network of huge metropolitan authorities.

Locally, a city region would see the five Merseyside boroughs of Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral, Knowsley and St Helens - and possibly neighbouring Halton - become one huge authority with a population approaching two million.

Supporters of such a move see a large unit as having the power and the clout to win national and European funding for major schemes.

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3. Region 2000 outlines goals - Lynchburg News and Advance - Lynchburg, VA, USA

The six co-chairmen of the new Region 2000 Future Focus campaign expect the new project to run like a business.

The campaign is a collective endeavor of the Region 2000's Economic Development Council, Technology Council and Center for Advanced Engineering and Research to assist the region with its economic development goals.

"We need to grow as well as attract businesses," said Terry Jamerson, The News & Advance publisher and one of the chairmen. "Now is the time to fully fund and implement our region's economic development initiative to seize the opportunity for qualified work force, existing business support and quality job creation and investment in Region 2000."

The co-chairmen represent some of Central Virginia's biggest employers.

The chairmen spoke out Friday morning at a news conference about what their respective companies expected from the five-year, \$3.45 million funding project, and the type of accountability it would have.

"We are going to run this program like a business program," said George Zippel, president and chief executive officer of Genworth Financial. "Our progress is not going to be measured in activities. Our progress is going to be measured through results."

Region 2000 Economic Development Council director Lee Cobb said the campaign will allow **Region 2000** to focus on different forms of economic development.

The group created a brochure that outlines Region 2000's goals and objectives. The group has narrowed its focus down to six priority programs: work force recruitment, supporting existing businesses, recruiting new businesses, CAER, regional marketing efforts, communication and metrics.

CAER is a university-based science and engineering research organization.

Region 2000's new priorities were the result of community assessment and analysis through 65 one-on-one interviews with local businesses and public leaders earlier this year.

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4. Airport 'bottom line' debated - Nevada Appeal - Carson City, NV, USA

As debate roils over the Lake Tahoe Airport, several community leaders are pushing for a larger discussion of how to use the airport or the land that it sits on.

With the triple bottom line a hot topic, the Tahoe Daily Tribune spoke with business and conservation leaders to see how or if the concept applies to the airport. The triple bottom line posits that good decisions must have a benefit for the community, environment and the economy.

Business leaders said the airport is a perfect test case for the triple bottom line: it could reduce traffic, enhance the economy through increased tourism dollars, and provide an emergency staging and evacuation ground in the case of a large fire. They believe no resort community can thrive without its own airport.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe said the airport fails all three tests, forcing the community to put up with noise annoyance and a taxpayer subsidy. The League alleges flying on a plane creates the equivalent emissions of thousands of miles in a vehicle.

The Sierra Club dismissed the triple bottom line as flawed, but is OK with general aviation at the airport as long as it meets noise standards.

John Singlaub, the head of the [Tahoe Regional Planning Agency](#), which governs development here, has pushed the triple bottom line to a forum charged with hashing out Tahoe's next regional plan, called Pathway 2007.

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5. Officials say they're better prepared 10 years after Hurricane Fran devastated area - Durham Herald Sun - Durham, NC, USA

Ten years after Hurricane Fran lashed the Triangle, authorities say state and local governments are better-prepared to handle a similar emergency, even if the federal government isn't.

Their experience in dealing with Fran taught officials throughout the area the importance of making sure police, firefighters and emergency workers from different jurisdictions can work together in a pinch.

That's meant investing millions of dollars in new radio systems that can tie into a statewide network run by the Highway Patrol, and tinkering with operating procedures and training programs to make sure different agencies go about things in much the same way so there are fewer surprises when they join forces in the field, said Dee Freeman, executive director of the [Triangle J Regional Council of Governments](#).

While acknowledging improvements are needed in how they work together, emergency managers now agree that "homeland security and emergency preparedness should have a regional approach to it, rather than just state or local," Freeman said.

"This is a policy of the federal government, and the state embraces that as well. So we're all on the same page, but we're evolving in how that works and making it as efficient as it can be."

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6. Forum tackles brain drain - Pioneer Press - St. Paul, MN, USA

Western Wisconsin leaders are trying to develop ways to attract young professionals to the fast-growing region.

At a conference scheduled for mid-September, organizers will use regional profiles to identify ways to attract and engage young professionals in the nine counties that make up the region.

Reversing the brain drain affecting many rural communities plays a big part in attracting new businesses, organizers say.

"The end result is a plan of action that can be used to make west-central Wisconsin better positioned in the future," William Rubin, executive director of the St. Croix Economic Development Corp., said of the conference.

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7. Editorial: Program's success is uplifting news for whole community - Community Press - Florence, KY, USA

Boone County's Success By 6 program has earned recognition for its efforts to make our children successful in school and in life.

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District gave it the Intergovernmental Unity of Effort award, honoring it as the best example of cooperative success.

Less than three years old, Success By 6 is reaching preschool children through its mobile unit, a literal "community center on wheels." The mobile unit supplies parents with information on how to prepare children for school, and gives children immunizations, healthy eating tips and dental screenings.

Partnerships with the community have energized Success By 6 since its inception. ...

8. Kansas releases its plan to respond to terrorist attacks and natural disasters - 49abcnews.com - Topeka, KS, USA

State and local leaders got together to show off their new equipment and celebrate the release of the 2006 Kansas Response Plan.

It's designed to be used during a terrorist attack or natural disaster like a tornado, flood or fire.

"We are all vulnerable and need to prepare and be ready," Governor Kathleen Sebelius said.

In the plan are several changes to the way state and local agencies are doing business.

The state will now take a regional-approach.

Instead of each individual county preparing for disasters counties have been separated into seven groups to work together.

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9. Educators must change mindset to understand digital kids - Appleton Post Crescent - WI, USA

The 1,600 employees at Appleton's welcome-back session Wednesday to kick off the new school year heard sobering news from the guest speaker about teaching in a fast changing "digital landscape."

"Right now we're doing a really good job of educating kids for a world that doesn't exist, and No Child Left Behind exacerbates it," said Ian Jukes.

Jukes, an author and director of the [InfoSavvy Group](#) of Vancouver, British Columbia, travels the globe speaking on the implications of global trends, understanding "digital kids" and the challenge of rethinking what schools should do to meet these students needs despite the NCLB law and high stakes testing.

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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) Triangle Tomorrow sets work plan to address regional quality-of ...

Carolina Newswire (press release) - NC, USA

Triangle Tomorrow, the regional quality-of-life program of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), has set a two-year plan to identify and address issues that affect the Research Triangle Region's ability to compete globally for economic opportunity. ...

b) Regional summit will be in Hub City

Aberdeen American News - Aberdeen, SD, USA

A group of local leaders is ready to craft a collaborative plan it hopes will help reverse area population trends. The work continues next week in Aberdeen. A regional development summit sponsored ... Aberdeen **Regional Development** Committee. ...

c) Pitt's Institute of Politics Forms Task Force to Tackle Region's Water-Management Problems

University of Pittsburgh News (press release) - Pittsburgh, PA, USA

The University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics, which specializes in assisting coordinated responses to regional policy issues, has formed the Regional Water Management Task Force to address Southwestern Pennsylvania's pressing water-management challenges....

d) County commission discusses development plan

Iroquois County Times-Republic - Watseka, L, USA

Iroquois County Regional Planning Commission discussed the creation of a new county comprehensive development plan ... Aug. 31 ... officials from the [Tri County Regional Planning Commission](#) ... talked about what should be pulled together in a comprehensive plan," ...

e) Plan a good start for regional unit

Wisconsin State Journal - Madison, WI, USA

... Good planning and support will help create a strong **regional organization** that can be a forceful and effective champion for growth. ...

f) Hospital plan makes sense for community

MyWestTexas.com - Midland, TX, USA

Midland Memorial, Medical Center and Odessa Regional hospitals have all joined together in a plan to help meet indigent medical needs while saving the region millions of dollars. ... approved formation of a Community Health Organization ... The new regional organization will be responsible for funding certain indigent needs in the community....

g) Group seeks heritage recognition for region

Arizona Daily Star - Tucson, AZ, USA

Here we see traces of ancient Hohokam settlements, Spanish missions and Mexican and Anglo ranches, and a modern blending of all these cultures. Some folks think this makes us special, and their efforts to secure a National Heritage Area designation for the Santa Cruz River Valley ... recognize the unique role this **region** played ...

h) The Columbus Area Economic Growth Council helps Indiana`s tourism

Travel Daily News International - Athens, Greece

Eight **community organizations** have joined together to design a new collaborative partnership that will promote one of the most ambitious new visions for economic growth in the City's history.... economic vitality of this **community** and the **region**". ... that each individual **organization** cannot realize by ...

i) Council of Governments Joins EDDI Network

Voices - Woodbury, CT, USA

The Connecticut Economic Resource Center has announced that the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, representing 13 towns in the greater Waterbury region, has joined the Economic Development Data and Information network, an online searchable database of economic and demographic information ...

j) Gazette Opinion: Coordinated force battles Mother Nature

Billings Gazette - MT, USA

... estimated cost of fighting the Derby fire was nearly \$7 million, with \$7.5 million expended on the 21,200-acre Paradise Valley complex.... So far this year, wildfires have burned 8.4 million acres ... numbers tell why wildfire suppression must be a coordinated, collaborative effort. Fire knows no boundary between federal, state or private lands. ...

k) Blue Grass exhibits troubles of many regional airports

Kentucky.com - Lexington KY, USA

It was already a bad year for Blue Grass Airport. ... Nearly one fifth of the airport's daily scheduled flights have vanished. Then came the plane crash. Blue Grass Airport, the site of a Comair crash that killed 49 people Aug. 27, is one of many regional airports nationwide that are struggling to attract more passengers in the wake of cost-cutting by financially strapped airlines. ...

l) Business Conditions Slow a Bit in Region

Black Enterprise - New York, NY,USA

... The Mountain States Business Conditions Index, released Friday, improved to 75.6 from July's 75 and June's 65.4. The monthly report, prepared by Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., is based on a combined survey of local supply managers and business leaders in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. ...

m) Funding: Placemats promote tourism

Richmond Register - Richmond, KY,USA

... Thanks to community development funding approved by the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association, local restaurants and hotels will be displaying placemats this fall with a variety of tourist details and activities for children, ... a map of the Southern Interstate 75 corridor, which includes Berea as well as Jackson, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitley counties....

n) Trails effort paying off in Oakland

Oakland Press - Pontiac, MI,USA

... make up a permanent endowment to continue educational efforts and help communities build relationships to better manage and develop **cross-jurisdictional** trails ...

o) State grant helps region stay prepared

Reno Gazette Journal - Reno, NV,USA

... State homeland security officials approved the grant last week for Washoe County, putting the **region** ahead of the rest of the state in evacuation planning ...

p) Iowa faces labor shortage in next few years

Mason City Globe Gazette - Mason City, IA,USA

... Union leaders say Iowa needs higher-paying jobs, lower taxes and a higher minimum wage. Business leaders say regionalism is the best approach to economic growth. But the biggest problem of all smothers the others, experts say. The labor shortage in Iowa in the next few years could be astronomical....

q) Health Department governance up for review

Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal - Tupelo, MS,USA

... Services even though it would take authority away from a Democratic governor because he believes the board takes politics out of the **governance** of agencies.

r) Yaqui Tribe donates \$30,000 to PAG for videoconferencing

Arizona Daily Star - Tucson, AZ,USA

The Pima Association **of Governments** received a \$30,000 grant from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to buy a videoconferencing system for the governing board's use.

s) Job Numbers Soar as Regional Partners Push Forward on Job-Creation ...

Carolina Newswire (press release) - NC,USA

The Research Triangle Region added 40,000 new jobs in the past 12 months as more than 80 regional partners continued their five-year collaboration to implement the region's job-creation strategy. ...

t) Lost in the Ozone

FWWWeekly - Fort Worth, TX,USA

... Fort Worth-Dallas metropolitan area is eighth on the association's list of the worst ozone-polluted cities in the nation. ... "In the last two years, I've seen many more cases of asthma than ever before in the summer," he said. "It has to be the pollution." ...

u) Regional water system groundbreaking is the product of many coming together for a single goal

Liberty County Times - Chester, MT,USA

... Two rural water projects: Rocky Boy-North Central **Regional** Water System and the Fort Peck Dry ... That is another area where the group wants to see **movement**. ...

v) North Shore mayors share regional visions

The Daily Item of Lynn - Boston, MA,USA

Cutting municipal costs, shifting toward **regionalism** and taming labor unions emerged as prevalent themes Wednesday when the mayors and chief executives from eight North Shore communities shared their views at the North Shore Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Region Address....

w) Region 10 states case for funding

Montrose Daily Press - Montrose, CO,USA

... "**Region 10's** programs benefit the **region** as a ... Gray said the **organization** may have posted money in the ... the financial reality at the county to the **community**. ...

x) Logan Co. OKs comprehensive plan

Bloomington Pantagraph - IL, USA

... "The land use plan describes the potential uses over time. It's not a prescription," said Jennifer Sicks, a McLean County Regional Planning Commission official who helped Logan County planners. "It helps tell businesses, 'Here's what's available.' ...

y) North to South, along the backbone of North America

Summit Daily News - Frisco, CO,USA

... The Continental Divide Trail (CDT) was first proposed to Congress in 1966 ... Based on the CDT 2008 strategic plan, about 70 percent of the CDT is usable today. ... Completing a completely non-motorized alignment will cost about \$27 million, the strategic plan estimates....

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

a) Reports: Kremlin-Backed Chechen President Proposes Renaming Region

FOX News - USA

MOSCOW — Chechnya's Kremlin-backed president proposed renaming the war-torn **region** in southern Russia, saying its current name has a negative connotation and ...

b) What A Carve Up!

EURSOC - UK

Now here's a perfectly European solution for dealing with devolution: Carve up Britain into regions of an EU superstate. ... based on the work of a team of cartographers creating what is described as a "political map of Europe." ... North-East constituency would find itself part of Europe's "North Sea Region" ... *Note: Map at article link. Ed.*

c) Three cities better than one for Auckland region

Times Online - Auckland - New Zealand

THE Auckland region has too many councils and there are strong gains to be made from efficiencies and amalgamation. A number of councils ... are simply too small to be viable. Regional transport improvements are too slow. Some councils have chronically under-funded their infrastructure and services and are now having to play catch-up at great cost. ...

d) Competition policy 'hurting rural communities'

ABC Online - Australia

... "So, I think a lot of confusion exists and a lot of government packages that are called **regional development** packages don't seem to have a clear objective." ...

e) Belgian premier announces new round of talks on giving regions ...

International Herald Tribune - France

... he would organize a new round of talks among Belgium's political parties next year to discuss giving the Dutch-speaking and Francophone **regions** more autonomy. ...

f) Are the Dutch losing the 'Euro-vision'?

Expatica - Netherlands

... Casting aside concerns of **regionalism**, it must be said that the countries of New Europe are learning to cooperate with each other. ...

g) Regional anti-piracy agreement comes into force on Monday

Channel News Asia - Singapore

Singapore will host the inaugural three-day meeting of the Governing Council of the **Regional** Cooperation Agreement on Combating piracy and armed robbery ...

h) EU seeks greater responsibility in return for development aid

EUPolitix.com - Brussels, Belgium

Brussels has called for **greater** responsibility from third country governments in exchange for increasing EU development funding. ...

i) Global Inter-Media Dialogue

Odin - Norway

... The purpose of our gathering is to create a framework for dialogue. Norway and Indonesia – each with our different backgrounds, histories and specific interests in these issues – share this ambition.... These questions apply to all of us: representatives of the media, representatives of the public, and representatives **of governments**. ...

j) Nordic Region accepts challenges

Nordic Council - Copenhagen, Denmark

Five challenges were put to the Nordic Council ... challenges to global co-existence have been defined as: • Ensure freedom of religion, • Empower the powerless, • create public spaces for co-existence, • Ensure judiciary independence, • Overcome the 'security agenda...

k) Southern Africa: Regional Integration in the Face of Xenophobia

AllAfrica.com – Washington , USA

... SADC's heads of state and government committed themselves to the achievement of regional integration through the establishment of a Free Trade Area by the year 2008 (in two years from now), a regional Customs Union by 2010 (in four years' time) and a monetary union by 2016 (in 10 years' time)....

l) Paths to success for a 'city region'

Business Day - Johannesburg, South Africa

INCREASED globalisation has highlighted the way in which cities and regions, rather than countries, compete with each other to attract job-creating ventures. The “Gauteng global city region” could invigorate our province’s feeble planning and, if it is done correctly, allow us to take off as a destination for investment. ...

m) Can Regional Integration Save Africa?

Project Syndicate

Nowadays southern African countries are committed to reinforcing their **regional integration** through economic harmonization. A **regional plan** approved in ...

n) Embrace golden century of peaceful prosperity

China Daily – China

... The relationship between non-**alignment** and **strategic** co-operation: China is pushing for all-round **strategic** co-operation with friendly countries without ...

o) Political Research Officer at the Australian High Commission ...

Eurasian Home Analytical Resource - Moscow, Russia

... Pipelines can also boost **regionalism**, relegating outmoded, primal conflicts. This could also be so for the pan-Eurasian energy corridors and blocs. ...

p) The ECOCLUB Interview with Eugenio Yunis, Head Sustainable Development of Tourism, United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

EcoClub.com

... Many apportion blame to Tourism - an easy, impersonal target - for all sorts of evils according to their world view, religion and ideology. ... EY: Tourism, if properly planned and controlled can provide comparative advantages in terms of the use of natural resources. Pristine environment and intact ecosystems are the sole foundation of any tourism activity, ...

q) ACTE Asia-Pacific regional education conference sets new industry standards

Travel Daily News International - Athens, Greece

... "Companies looking to do business in the region are finding ACTE's Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference to be an essential step in working through the unique regional infrastructure," stated Megan Stowe, Global Sourcing Manager, Intel ...

r) Pilot Project Gives Youth an Opportunity to Explore Rural Possibilities

Government of Canada Newsroom (press release) – Ottawa, ON, Canada
Young people from across Canada will now have the opportunity to explore the possibilities of relocating to Nova Scotia to live and work. A new pilot project entitled Make Way for Youth, aims to match youth with opportunities in rural areas of Halifax Regional Municipality ...

s) China to enhance presence in polar regions

Zee News - Noida, India

China will consolidate its presence in the polar regions and expand scientific exploration of the arctic and antarctic, a senior official said here today. "The construction of a third Antarctic exploration station is the most important strategy," ...

u) Roadmapping eGovernment RTD 2020 :: Visions and Conceptions of European Citizenship

eGov monitor - London, UK

... With the identification and recommendation of eGovernment key research areas in the next future, eGovRTD2020 shall contribute to the development of the EU becoming the world leading information society. ...

v) Pioneering study calls for all Ireland collaboration

Plastics & Rubber Weekly - Croydon, UK

A ground-breaking study of Ireland's cross border plastics sector has called for the establishment of an all island network to implement the 18 recommendations which it has put forward. The study was commissioned by Intertrade Ireland, a body set up under the Good Friday agreement, ...

w) The New State U.

Inside Higher Ed - Washington, DC, USA

... University of Illinois Global Campus would be operated as a separate for-profit entity ... learn from a variety of models out there that are growing rapidly (UMass Online, University of Maryland University College, and the University of Phoenix), while also learning from some of the failed attempts of the dot-com boom, ...

x) Improved urban governance for green cities

Financial Express.bd - Bangladesh

... Tackling the innumerable problems of urbanisation requires effective urban **governance**, which is beset by problems -- such as fragmentation of responsibility ...

y) Practising Law Institute Creates Inaugural ``Managing Complex Litigation'' Conference

Business Wire (press release) - San Francisco, CA, USA

... a forum for a discussion of the most up-to-date intelligence on proven strategies and

tools to manage the multitude of **cross-jurisdictional** legal, business and technology issues arising from complex litigation. ...

12. Sub-State Regions - North Dakota - U.S. Census – Midwest Region; West North Central Division, FIPS Code 38

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in North Dakota. 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) **[ND - Economic Planning Regions](#)**

- b) **[ND - Regional Councils - Dept. Commerce](#)**

- c) **[ND - Regional Human Service Centers](#)**

- d) **[ND - Workforce Training System Regions](#)**

- e) **[NDSU - Extension Support Network Regional](#)**

- f) **[ND Regional Medical Facilities](#)**

- g) **[School Trust Lands - by region Cash Rent](#)**

- h) **[ND - Fire Marshal Regions](#)**

- i) **[ND - Information Tech Councils - Regions](#)**

13. Sub-State Regions - South Dakota - U.S. Census – Midwest Region; West North Central Division, FIPS Code 46

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in South Dakota.

- a) **[SD Governor's Office Econ.Devel. Regions](#)**

- b) **[South Dakota's Tourism Regions](#)**

- c) **[SDDOT - Region Offices & Map](#)** – *Scroll down page.*

d) **Healthy South Dakota - Tweens & Teens**

e) **SD - State Parks Locator Map - Regions**

f) **SD Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers by Region**

g) **SD Dept. of Health - Tobacco Prevention**

h) **SD DOT Aeronautical Charts/Airports**

i) **SD - National-atlas-Indian-reservations**

14. Announcements and Links

a) **Buzztracker: World News, Mapped**

Buzztracker is software that visualizes frequencies and relationships between locations appearing in global news coverage.

Buzztracker tries to show you how interconnected the world is: big events in one area ripple to other areas across the globe. Connections between cities thousands of miles apart become apparent at a glance.

b) **“2+2 Should Never Equal 3: Getting Intercensal Population Estimates Right the First Time.”**

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census

... This is the fifth in a series of hearings on Census Bureau programs and will examine the Bureau’s intercensal population estimates program.

Intercensal population estimates are vital to the accurate allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars by elected officials and government program managers.

Unfortunately, intercensal estimates are often inaccurate. ...

c) **EERA Consortium for Asylum & Refugee Integration** – East of England Regional Assembly

The EERA Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Integration (EERA-CARI) is the regional enabling body for the co-ordination of services to asylum seekers in the East of England.

Its role is to provide support, advice and representation to organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

It also seeks to ensure that the needs of asylum seekers and refugees are reflected in mainstream policy development and service delivery.

15. Density

a) Commentary: High Density is Bad for Urban Fabric - Berkeley Daily Planet - Berkeley, CA, USA

Thank you, Steve Meyers, for your thoughtful response to my commentaries on the causes, meaning, and benefits of NIMBYism. I'm glad you found some points worth considering, even if you were put off by my "over-the-top hyperbole."

I stand firmly by my statement that many in Berkeley "propose an unpleasant and inhumane urban environment..." Look around, Mr. Meyers: Is Berkeley becoming more pleasant and humane? Not in my neighborhood!

One reason is that planners and developers who advocate higher density and less parking have managed to impose their philosophy upon us. So why has this not "improved the urban fabric" as intended? Because the dominant "smart growth" proponents focus on regional goals and not on local quality of life. And therefore no resources have been devoted to assessing or improving the human outcomes of development. And some don't care about the damage they cause others.

But apparently you belong to a more sympathetic group, which believes that higher density can actually improve urban life. So it might, if well designed. But the possibility and the reality are two different things. Although your voices are drowned out by the first group, the road to our increasingly unpleasant Berkeley environment is also paved with the good intentions of people like you. But why is this?

First, because most of them apparently have not lived in high-density neighborhoods long enough to understand their problems. Simply stated, they advocate something they haven't experienced and don't understand. But they could fix this by simply moving to such neighborhoods and living there for several decades like me, or intensively interviewing those who live in them about their experiences. Then you could incorporate the reality into the ideal.

...

b) Rockefeller Group Urges Brooklyn to Build to the Sky
Park Slope Courier - Brooklyn, New York, USA

... "I live in Bay Ridge and as far as we're concerned, high-**density** development in ... We need **density**, but we need a rational way of dealing for that **density**." ...

16. Subscription link stories.

a) Economic development is about community involvement - San Diego Daily Transcript (subscription) - San Diego, CA, USA

When should economic development strategies be left to policy makers and when should private businesses and citizens get involved? According to the Economic Development Corporation of Southwest California (EDC), strategies to improve community wealth and employment opportunities should be an equal partnership between both public and private decision makers.

"Community involvement is needed to tackle local economic and social issues," said EDC Executive Director Diane Sessions. "Private corporations have become much more involved in economic development over the past few decades. One reason for this is the ever-changing legislation impacting companies financially. Others are social issues such as environmental impacts, education, workforce development, and health care."

The primary advantage of a public/private EDC is that private-sector involvement is greatly expanded, thus gaining the expertise, knowledge, energy, resources and the "buy-in" of the business community. The role of the EDC is to ensure that private and public partners together are given equal stance in determining the region's economic future. As a professional economic development organization, the EDC brings together the diverse interests of private companies, concerned citizens and public agencies to assess and build the framework for Southwest California's economic health.

...

b) These numbers leave us unmoved - Atlanta Journal Constitution (subscription) - GA, USA

It doesn't take an expert to figure out what metro Atlanta commuters already know: Driving to work isn't getting any faster — or easier.

According to an analysis of U.S. census figures, the Atlanta region has the fourth longest average commute of metro areas, clocking in at more than 30 minutes each way. Atlanta area commuters logged the same amount of time traveling to and from work as their mostly car-bound peers in San Bernardino in southern California and Chicago.

Only commuters in parts of New Jersey, the Washington area and upstate New York had longer commutes, according to figures gleaned from the American Community Survey, a tabulation of demographic trends compiled by the Census Bureau.

As bad as it is now, congestion is predicted to get considerably worse in the coming decades as the region adds people, jobs and cars. ...

...

c) What's wrong with this picture? - Greeley Tribune - Greeley, CO, USA

I've been all excited to write these great things about how northern Colorado is growing and offering residents more, but I guess I haven't thought about the people who may actually hate that idea.

...

With all of the new shopping, and all the other amenities, I see no major reason to go to the Denver area afterward, a thought I adore since I can no longer deal with psycho drivers, or the big-city sales taxes.

This regionalization seems to be taking the area by storm, but I wonder, what do you think are the bad things about becoming bigger? Am I just looking through rose-colored glasses?

d) Define 'conservative' - Dallas Morning News (subscription) - TX, USA

The meanings of the terms "conservative" and "liberal" (and its synonym "progressive") have been altered by two long-term trends in American politics.

The first is the replacement of ideology by partisanship; the second is the alignment of partisanship and identity.

In living memory, conservatism and liberalism referred to ideological movements, not political parties. The conservative movement was not identical with the Republican

Party, nor was the liberal movement identical with the Democratic Party. This is no longer the case.

Today, conservative means partisan Republican and liberal means partisan Democrat. Ideological liberals who deviate from the Democratic party line of a given moment are ignored or vilified, as are ideological conservatives who deviate from the Republican party line.

Without ideological movements, there is no place for ideologues. Most of those who pass for prominent conservative and liberal intellectuals today are actually engaged in public relations. It is the job of these apparatchiks to sell a party line to the public, after the party line has already been determined in private by negotiations among donors, special-interest spokesmen, pollsters and politicians.

The replacement of ideology by partisanship has been accompanied by the alignment of partisanship and ethnicity. The major divide between American politics is not geographic. Maps of how counties vote show that there are no red states and blue states, only red states and blue cities. But the city-suburb divide itself is merely a surrogate for an ethnic and religious divide.

Today the ...

17. 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?

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