

## Regional Community Development News – September 27, 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. LEADERSHIP IS THE KEY TO IMPROVEMENTS** - Kansas City Star - MO,USA

This city is part of a regional powerhouse that competes for residents and businesses with Denver, Seattle, Atlanta and selected other peers.

Kansas City, notice, is not on that list.

Twin Cities leaders understand that, in the 21st century, they have to collaborate to attract high-quality economic growth. A vibrant central city and top-rate suburbs is a winning combination.

That's one of the most important lessons delivered last week to 110 Kansas City civic and elected officials visiting the Twin Cities area. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce arranged the trip to spotlight the benefits of cooperation.

Unfortunately, working together isn't a hallmark of the Kansas City region. Many issues that could be handled efficiently go begging — improved schools, mass transit, parks and wastewater treatment, to name a few.

In the future, the Kansas City region will land more people, more businesses and a higher quality of life by focusing on these priorities.

...

*Increase the power of regional organizations.*

The Twin Cities area has a regional planning agency called the Metropolitan Council. With a budget of more than \$430 million a year, it oversees essential services including bus service, wastewater treatment and funding for parks and trails.

The region also benefits from a tax-base sharing program. Simply put, the wealthier parts of the area with booming commercial and industrial growth share some tax revenue with parts of town that are less well off. (Imagine Leawood, say, sharing revenue with Grandview.) Even Twin Cities boosters concede this 35-year-old plan remains controversial. But it reduces the financial disparities between different sections of the region.

In the Kansas City area, the Mid-America Regional Council has only as much power as elected officials who supervise it deign to give up. The group has done some important work on clean air, trails and road planning.

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### **2. Community buy-in important to making SE Iowa economic development report become a reality** - Keokuk Gate City Daily - Keokuk, IA,USA

MOUNT PLEASANT - Area economic development and political leaders were asked Tuesday to think creatively and become involved in Southeast Iowa's future during an

economic development summit in Mount Pleasant.

National presenter Dave Williamson, a former Keokuk resident, prepared the audience for members of the Southeastern Iowa Regional Economic Development Consortium to unveil the Southeast Iowa Great River Region, logo, Web site and accompanying economic development study by Angelou Economics.

SIREDC is comprised of the economic development directors in Mount Pleasant, Lee County, Louisa County Development Group, Grow Greater Burlington, the presidents of Iowa Wesleyan College and Southeastern Community College, and the director the [Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission](#).

Angelou Economics is a Texas-based consulting firm hired by the consortium to survey the Southeast Iowa region and come up with data, demographics and a comprehensive profile.

The assessment results, posted on the region's new Web site, [www.greatriverregion.com](http://www.greatriverregion.com), went online Tuesday.

In addition to listing the area's many strengths and attributes, weaknesses are unflinchingly posted on the Web site. Angelou offers suggestions for resolution in each category: economic development business climate, workforce and education, quality of life, and sites and infrastructure.

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**3. [Dukes County Is Due for Test of Its Charter](#) - Martha's Vineyard Gazette - Edgartown, MA, USA**

Hopes were high over a decade ago when a newly reorganized government went into effect for Dukes County.

Voters in the county had bought the vision put forward by a charter study commission in 1992 that reorganizing rather than eliminating county government offered an effective way to confront regional issues, such as solid waste disposal and affordable housing.

Years later, the vision retains its appeal.

But the track record of the reorganized county government instead has given rise to disappointment and disillusionment, along with calls for its outright abolition. The government, led by an elected seven-member county commission and an appointed county manager, has been long on bickering and short on substantial regional accomplishment.

...

**4. [Mayors in clash over industry](#) - Redwater Tribune - Morinville, Alberta, Canada**

A rift inside a regional organization of municipalities over how industry should be planned for has ruffled feathers among mayors.

Sturgeon County Mayor Helmut Hinteregger expressed he is upset with how Edmonton has not considered how much planning Sturgeon County has made for the heavy industry and its impact.

Hinteregger said at the last meeting of Alberta's Capital Region Association (ACRA), comprised of the 23 communities in the capital region, that Edmonton proposed a separate regional committee for regional planning to prepare for coming industry.

"Edmonton did not know what planning we had done," Hinteregger told county councillors. "I was insulted by their lack of understanding."

In a December ACRA meeting a plan was called for to deal with regional industrial planning.

Mayor Bill Nimmo of Gibbons, who also attends the ACRA meetings, said a recent plan proposed called for a smaller number of municipalities to make key decisions. That would include Edmonton a few other major centres, one small community and one rural municipality.

...

**5. No bi-state chamber, says outgoing Illinois Chamber chairwoman** - Quad-Cities Online - Rock Island, IL, USA

A member of a regional task force said there will be no recommendation for a consolidated, bi-state chamber of commerce and the Quad City Development Group will still exist.

Mary Lagerblade, outgoing chairwoman for the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce, said the issue of regionalism has taken up more of her time than any other chamber issue during the past year.

...

During her tenure, Ms. Lagerblade said she has worked at developing trust and common goals with other chamber executives in the Quad-Cities and community economic development organizations in Rock Island, Moline and East Moline.

Working side-by-side, these Quad-Cities leaders have discussed sharing resources and establishing common goals, Ms. Lagerblade said.

...

*RC: Bi-State Regional Commission*

**6. Editorial — Roundtable warns that cooperation now a necessity** - Wilton Villager – CT

A roundtable sponsored by the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce this week highlighted some of the promise and pitfalls facing Fairfield County.

In a nutshell, the three participants, Christopher Bruhl, president of the Business Council of Fairfield County, Joseph Carbone, president of The WorkPlace, and Paul Timpanelli, president of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, all agreed on one thing: unless all communities work together on our problems, we face failure.

The "One Coast, One Future" initiative attacks the problems facing this area which, in the words of the panelists, without solution, could create an economic cul-de-sac.

They all touched upon an issue which at one time was a third rail for local politicians in the smaller communities. Recall the difficulties this area had in agreeing to form the South Western Regional Planning Agency. Smaller communities feared SWRPA as an

effort to diminish their power and individuality raising — horrors — the specter of supergovernment a la Dade County, Florida.

Connecticut Yankees are proud of that individuality, expressed in the existence of 169 separate municipalities, and are slow to concede the need for change.

That change need not be something that strips the communities of their existence, but it must be change that recognizes all of our problems — from transportation, energy, education, health care and the like — cannot be solved by individual towns and cities.

County government once existed in Connecticut, but, for the most part, it was a haven for politicians and their hangers-on. Running the jails and courthouses seemed to be their sole mission in life. No one regretted their passing, except perhaps for those feeding at that particular public trough.

What the panelists pointed out in stark terms was not only the growth of the county, but the growing disparity in both education and economics. One startling statistic was that there are more than 80,000 adults without a high school education in the county — and more than 30,000 reside in Bridgeport.

They also noted — correctly — that we have an aging population. For good or ill, immigration may be the only source of providing a younger work force, one that must be properly trained and integrated into the communities.

We don't have to abandon our traditional image of independence and individuality to meet the challenges facing us — we need only to work together.

It may overstate the case, but as Benjamin Franklin said at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we will all hang separately."

#### **7. Cleveland mayor wants teamwork - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH,USA**

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson told an Akron Roundtable audience Thursday that Northeast Ohio cities should cooperate rather than poach jobs from one another.

"We as a region can no longer afford to steal from each other," Jackson said.

And he's practicing what he preaches: Cleveland is negotiating revenue-sharing deals with Independence and Shaker Heights to help the Cleveland Cavaliers and University Hospitals of Cleveland meet their expansion goals without sparking a fight between Cleveland and its neighbors.

...

#### **8. Blunt announces regional homeland security committee - Moberly Monitor Index - Moberly, MO,USA**

Gov. Matt Blunt announced the nine Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees will split \$8,084,000 earmarked for regionalization from Missouri's FY06 Homeland Security Grant Funds. The nine regions mirror the Missouri State Highway Patrol regions. ...

Each Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee is made up of leaders from 3 core disciplines, which are tasked with the responsibility of appropriating the funds to best serve their respective region. Designated Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will take care of administrative and planning functions for the committee.

Those RPCs include Pioneer Trails, Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, Boonslick, Southeast Missouri Regional Planning & Economic Development Commission, Mid-Mo, SCOCOg, MO-Kan, and Meramec. [RPC Directory](#)

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**9. WUPPDR a regional crossroads** -Daily Mining Gazette - Houghton, MI,USA

Members of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission held their annual meeting Monday in Baraga County, where they marked several significant achievements.

With WUPPDR's help, a land use plan was finalized this year for Houghton County, as were hazard and emergency plans for the six-county region the Commission serves.

WUPPDR also continues its work on a Scenic Byways designation for portions of U.S. Highway 41.

Significant milestones, to be sure, but it seems that WUPPDR continues to fly under the radar as far as public perception of its mission and what it can offer the average Copper Country resident.

The [Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission](#) was established in 1968. The region consists of Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties, which were designated by then-Gov. Milliken as State Planning Region 13.

...

**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) I-81 corridor debated**

Martinsburg Journal - Martinsburg, WV,USA

... In Pennsylvania, lawmakers are finally understanding the importance of the corridor to the quad-**state region** — an area experiencing growth unfamiliar to other parts of the state, he added. ...

**b) Blunt announces regional homeland security committee**

Moberly Monitor Index - Moberly, MO,USA

Matt Blunt announced the nine [Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committees](#) will split \$8,084,000 earmarked for **regionalization** from Missouri's FY06 Homeland ...

**c) Peter Schrag: Reforming California**

Sacramento Bee - CA, USA

... Given the **regionalization** of the border, do the state and nation require multinational institutions and arrangements on an array of common issues -- crime ...

**d) North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hires new executive director**

Branford News - FL, United States

After a ten-month national search, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has hired Mr. Scott R. Koons as its new executive director. Mr. Koons has been employed by the Council since 1976, and most recently as its assistant executive director. ...

**e) SEDA-COG releases list of salaries**

Sunbury Daily Item - Sunbury, PA,USA

Administrators from SEDA-Council of Governments have reversed course and complied with a request from The Daily Item to provide a list of salaries the organization pays to its staff. In a letter dated Sept. 15, Dennis E. Robinson, SEDA-COG's executive director, said the agency's administrators were providing the salary information because officials at the Appalachian Regional Commission said they should. ...

**f) Regional planning tough to execute, top regulator says**

Boston Globe - United States

New England badly needs new supplies of liquefied natural gas, the country's top energy regulator said yesterday, but he's skeptical of calls for regional decision-making about where to put controversial LNG unloading and storage facilities. ...

**g) Counties drop from regional tourism group Steuben and Lake officials wanted more voice in marketing**

nwitimes.com - Munster, IN,USA

... pleas to direct more advertising to the Toledo and Detroit markets, which are more critical for her county than the continued focus on Chicago, have gone largely ignored. "We are not nine indistinguishable convention bureaus with matching needs, styles and markets ...

**h) Candidates tackle transport**

Denver Post - Denver, CO,USA

... A Denver **Regional Council** of Governments task force is exploring at least 10 options for raising money for roads, including boosting the gas tax, increasing ...

**i) Regional transportation fair Tues. at Shannon Mall *Note: Consider a look at the reader comments.***

The Citizen.com - Fayetteville, GA,USA

... The event is part of the ARC's 30-year plan for the region which is titled "Envision 6" because the region is projected to grow to more than 6 million people in the next 25 years. ...

**j) Participants urged to take next step toward 'Trail Towns'**

Oil City Derrick - Oil City, PA,USA

... shape; Promotion - selling the image and promise of Main Street; **Organization** - means getting ... In the case of a **regional** Main Street, a plan would need to be in ...

**l) Our view: In the jailhouse now: County needs to look at regional options**

Winona Daily News - Winona, MN,USA

... Private enterprise has seen the benefit of **regionalization** and consolidation, and local governments are forever looking for ways to save the taxpayers' money ...

**m) Funding source needed to fix ailing highways**

Canon City Daily Record - CO, United States

A Denver Regional Council of Governments task force is studying potential options — including taxing oil and gas production and charging drivers one penny per mile to pay for road improvements and construction ...

**n) Texarkana Regional Airport gets closer to providing first nonstop flight from Dallas to Beijing**

Texarkana Gazette - Texarkana, TX, USA

The chances of Texarkana **Regional** Airport offering one-stop business connections to China are looking better. ... The only flights to China originate from Newark, Chicago and San Francisco. Should AA get the route, it will be the first gateway in the south-central United States using the new Boeing 777 passenger aircraft. ...

**o) Answers scarce to high taxes**

Randolph Reporter - Randolph, NJ, USA

“Local government is low on the food chain,” said Feyl. “What is really needed is fundamental reform on the state level.” ... Agostini supports freezing the salaries of school administrators, and mandating **regionalization** of municipal courts. ...

**p) Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to discuss meeting regional housing needs in the next decade**

Insight News - Minneapolis, MN, USA

The Metropolitan Council’s new system for forecasting need, the formula applied to produce affordable housing goals for each community and how local governments are planning to respond, will be the topic of the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional ...

**q) Multi-Million Dollar Project Makes Step Forward**

KTIV - Sioux City, IA, USA

The **Regional** Institute for Preparedness will be built near the transmitter tower ... It would include classrooms for training emergency **response** workers and house ...

**r) Water plan being tweaked in quest to gain millions**

Enterprise-Record - Chico, CA, USA

A shift to **regionalism** is taking place throughout the state on water issues, and the Northern California Water Association is poised to lead the northern ...

**s) Slumping region given a boost**

Charlotte Observer - Charlotte, NC, USA

... But Council Chairman Alston DeVenny denied that **regionalism** drove the decision. "I reject this idea that we're different parts of the county," he said. ...

**t) Louisiana exchange sets pace for regional networks**

GCN.com - Washington, DC, USA

... day-to-day clinical applications, but emergency **response**, especially after ... finance and sustainability group is studying existing **regional** health information ...

**u) City and County Disagree on Limit**

Signal - Santa Clarita, CA,USA

Santa Clarita and county officials disagree on whether the county Department of Regional Planning has exceeded a cap on the number of residential units the county can approve for development. ... **Regional Planning Commission's** environmental impact report - certified in 1990 - for the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan's Comprehensive Update states, "The ...

**v) Collaboration helps community needs**

Martinsburg Journal - Martinsburg, WV,USA

Strength often comes from numbers, but so can power and the ability to creatively work toward effective solutions. Grouping community networks together last year, the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the state Department of Health and Human Resources joined their collective resources to develop the Eastern Panhandle Health and Human Service Collaborative. ...

**w) Regional housing groups merge**

BurlingtonFreePress.com - Burlington, VT,USA

... given to the new affordable housing **organization** created by the merger of the Burlington **Community** Land Trust ... housing group in the **region** serving Chittenden ...

**x) Region D water group protests inclusion of Marvin Nichols reservoir in state plan**

News Telegram - Hopkins County, TX,USA

Representatives of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (**Region D**) have protested the inclusion of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir in the ...

**y) Interactive maps highlight region**

Pittsburgh Post Gazette - Pittsburgh, PA,USA

New interactive mapping features at [VisitPittsburgh.com](http://VisitPittsburgh.com) detail more than 700 points of interest in southwestern Pennsylvania. ... The Map Network, a Washington, D.C.-based media company, created the new mapping function using a points-of-interest database created by regional tourism agencies. ...

**z) in a global economy**

Dunn County News - Menomonie, WI,USA

... The PK-16 Consortium, a **regional organization** focusing on economic development, was organized in the fall of 2002 with UW system funding. ...

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

**a) Prospects for China-Iceland economic, trade cooperation broad: Chinese state councilor**

People's Daily Online - Beijing, China

Economic and trade **cooperation** between China and Iceland faced broad prospects, visiting Chinese State Councilor Chen Zhili said on Thursday, according to news ...

**b) China, Africa to hold summit on cooperation in November**

Xinhua - China

22 (Xinhua) -- China and Africa will hold a summit and the third Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa **Cooperation** in Beijing on Nov. ...

**c) China, Hungary to promote economic cooperation**

People's Daily Online - Beijing, China

Zeng, who was here on an official visit, said that strengthening economic **cooperation** between China and Hungary further, would fundamentally benefit both the ...

**d) China, Portuguese-speaking countries adopt new 3-year cooperation Action Plan**

Xinhua - China

24 (Xinhua) -- China and seven Portuguese-speaking countries adopted a new "Action Plan for Economic and Trade **Cooperation**" here Sunday afternoon, striving for ...

**e) China to boost trade cooperation with Argentina: official**

People's Daily Online - Beijing, China

... vice foreign minister, said Wednesday in Buenos Aires that the Chinese government had made as much effort as possible to boost trade **cooperation** with Argentina ...

**f) Caribbean media failing the integration process**

Jamaica Observer - Kingston, Jamaica

... What's far less certain, though, was whether the **regional** media industry and policy makers are prepared to do what needs to be done in **response** to Hoyte's ...

**g) The emergency response to the London bombings - lessons learned**

eGov monitor - London, UK

... The separate London **Regional** Resilience Forum report, also published today, summarises the main findings and lessons learned from the frontline **response** by ...

**h) Results disparity across regions**

BBC News - UK

School exam results have again revealed large differences in achievement across Scotland's **regions**, according to official statistics. ...

**i) Poor countries 'suffering from aid chaos'**

Guardian Unlimited - UK

... A report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development argues that aid structures are too chaotic, with developing nations facing too many donors pushing often unsuitable projects.

**j) Does Investment Always Foster Development?**

Ohmy News International - South Korea

... They are as yet incomplete, **asymmetric**, or even counterproductive, so that even those who support the recent proliferation of BITs believe these concerns must ...

**k) Water crisis prompts creation of new office**

ABC Online - Australia

... But at the end of the day, we need leadership **of governments**, we need firm targets, timelines and serious investment to restore rivers to health and cut wasted ...

### **l) Closer Regional Cooperation Stressed by Balkan Leaders**

NewsBlaze - Folsom, CA,USA

Strengthening relations between neighbours is essential if the countries of the Balkans are to consolidate the peace achieved over the past decade and continue ...

### **m) Call for new vision of regional cooperation**

The Daily Star - Dhaka, Bangladesh

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has called upon the South Asian countries to forge a new vision of cooperation for social and economic development of the ...

### **n) GTA transport body still sitting in garage**

Toronto Star - Ontario, Canada

A long-awaited central authority meant to plan and co-ordinate transportation throughout the **Greater** Toronto Area remains stubbornly stuck in neutral. ...

### **o) State to set up metropolitan panel for bigger, better Pune**

Pune Newslite - Pune, India

... long-standing demand of Pune for an umbrella development body to meet its development needs has been met. ... The State has decided to constitute Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPCs) for Pune, Mumbai and Nagpur that will help in clearing the infrastructure mess due to lack of coordination among various stakeholders. ...

### **p) N. American students trained for 'merger'**

WorldNetDaily - Grants Pass, OR,USA

... Canadian based North American Forum on Integration, students met in the Mexican Senate for five days in May in an event dubbed "Triumvirate," with organizers declaring "A North American Parliament is born." ... "[Toward a North American Community](#)," a book promoting the development of a North American union as a regional government ...

### **q) Broadband: Expert calls for industry-Government collaboration**

Irish Examiner - Cork, Ireland

... Demand issues have been tackled elsewhere by governments with very mixed results but only successfully with the joint **collaboration** of industry and Government ...

### **r) Google calls for greater energy efficiency**

InfoWorld - San Francisco, CA,USA

.. calls for the computer industry to move from multi-voltage power supplies to a single 12-volt standard. ... contends a design flaw dating to the introduction of the first IBM PC has led to "overprovisioning" in today's PC power supplies ... would save 40 billion kilowatt-hours over three years -- more than \$5 billion at California's energy rates. ...

## **12. Sub-State Regions - Nebraska - U.S. Census – Midwest Region; West North Central Division, FIPS Code 31**

Following is a selection of links relating to regional arrangements in Nebraska. 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) **Nebraska Development Districts**
- b) **Nebraska Department of Roads - Districts**
- c) **NE Natural Resources Districts - NRDs**
- d) **Nebraska Tourism Regions**
- e) **Rural Enterprise Assist. Project Regions**
- f) **NE EMS Trauma System Regions**
- g) **NE Disaster Behavioral Health - Regions**
- h) **Nebraska's Regional Library Systems**
- i) **Nebraska Housing Market Regions**
- j) **NE Autism Spectrum Disorders Network**
- k) **NE Planning & Zoning Association**

### **13. Announcements**

a) **5th International Visualization in Transportation Symposium and Workshop: The Spectrum of Benefit"** - October 23-26, 2006, Denver, Colorado - Transportation Research Board (TRB)

The Committee on Visualization Transportation has developed a program to inform you of recent developments in visualization, as it relates to the transportation industry. Topics will include the use benefits and new development in visualization in planning, engineering and construction.

b) **Census Bureau Geographic Mobility - 2005**

More than 39 million Americans, or about 14 percent of the population, changed addresses last year. A series of tables show characteristics of these movers, such as by race and Hispanic origin, age, marital status, educational attainment, labor force status, occupation and industry group, income and poverty status and reason for moving.

**c) “Global Atlanta Works” Help Metro Region Understand the Value of Immigrant Communities – Urban Information Associates**

In 2004, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) launched its “Global Atlanta Snapshots” series. It documented contributions of foreign-born residents to the regional economy, culture and community life. Snapshots highlighted Mexicans, Vietnamese, Nigerians, Chinese, Koreans, Asian Indians and other communities in the region. The project has expanded to “Global Atlanta Works,” for greater engagement with the Atlanta region’s established business community and enhanced opportunities for international trade. The 2006 series of Snapshots includes East Africans, Iranians, Pakistanis, Haitians, Cubans and Central Americans. The [Bridging the Gap Project, Inc.](#) of Atlanta, uses Urban Information Associates, Inc. to conduct research. For information contact [Joe Nathanson](#)

[Young immigrants straddle two worlds](#) - Atlanta Journal Constitution (subscription)

#### **14. Density**

**a) City pushes on with bar limit**

UW Badger Herald - Madison, WI, USA

... The resolution, known as the Alcohol License **Density** Plan, would also lower the patron capacity within current alcohol-licensed establishments. ...

**b) The Good Land Grapples with Growth**

The Santa Barbara Independent - Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Two seminal documents emerged from greater Goleta last week declaring that region’s determination to do battle against high-**density** development of any kind. ...

#### **15. Subscription link stories.**

**a) NL Transportation Hub Receiving \$1.1M – The Day (subscription) - New London, CT, USA**

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments voted Wednesday to divert \$1.1 million in federal transportation funds that had been set aside for the Vista Walkway project in New London and use it instead to develop plans for a transportation center in the city.

The privately owned Union Station, which houses ticket offices for Amtrak rail and Greyhound bus service, has been struggling financially. Talks have been ongoing between the state Department of Transportation, the station owners and the city to try to provide some financial relief.

At a meeting arranged two weeks ago by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, however, it was agreed that the longer-term solution is to create a major transportation hub, coordinating bus, train and ferry service, along with parking and car rental services. It would include the historic Union Station and probably new construction as well.

The council of governments has agreed to take the lead in pursuing the project, which Executive Director James Butler said Wednesday would likely end up costing “several million dollars.” COG's involvement is appropriate, Butler said. The COG met at its office in Norwich.

"It's one of the cornerstones of our transportation system," Butler said.

COG Chairman Keith J. Robbins, chairman of the COG, said ...

**b) Editorial: Regional cooperation on water issues is vital** - San Antonio Express (subscription) - San Antonio, TX, USA

...

As San Antonians cope with water restrictions, they should realize that residents across the region are in this together and cooperation is a necessity.

The drought will be on everyone's mind when regional water officials testify before a joint interim hearing of the Senate and House Natural Resources committees today at City Hall.

As Edwards users ask lawmakers to lift the pumping cap during times of plenty, they must realize that a tough pumping limit during times of drought is vital to the economies of downstream communities.

Water planning decisions are often controversial, and those made by the San Antonio Water System last year garnered their share of critics. But along with pain, the drought has brought a heightened awareness of the region's interconnected water system.

We urge water officials from across the region to approach the issue with a spirit of cooperation.

**c) Small towns, big problems for mayors** - Austin American-Statesman (subscription) - Austin, TX, USA

...

Mayors are a target for discontent for a variety of reasons. As small towns grow, taxpayer demands for services increase and often clash. Not everyone agrees on how the government should spend tax money. Some towns, such as Jarrell, don't have a city manager to handle day-to-day matters. The towns may struggle with conflicting political pressures.

Take Lockhart in Caldwell County, for example.

"You have a town that was in a state of equilibrium for a long time. You didn't have a lot of people live in Lockhart and work in San Marcos or Austin, and that's changing," said Bill Spelman, a professor at the University of Texas' Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and a former member of the Austin City Council.

"They're also bringing with them a new set of expectations of services and a level of accountability. Especially in places like Jarrell or Lockhart, those requirements of accountability are increasing faster than a mayor's ability to wear those two hats," he said, referring to the duties of a mayor and a city manager.

Spelman supports the city council-city manager form of government, which separates the tasks of setting policy and carrying it out.

...

## **16. Google News for "Regional Community"**

Other menu sections available from this link include: Regional Development; Regional Council; Regional Commission; Regional America; Regional Asia; Regional Europe;

**Regional Competition; Regionalism; Intergovernmental and other search terms. They can be sorted by date or relevance. These are among the 50 search terms I use to produce this newsletter.**

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

To read and search previous issues go to:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/regions\\_work/messages](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:**

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

Please e-mail the editor: [Tom.Christoffel@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.Christoffel@gmail.com)

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