Mayors’ Megaregion Meetings off to a running start in Charlotte

On August 11-12, the Center for Quality Growth, along with the Cities of Charlotte and Atlanta, hosted the first of a series of meetings entitled the Mayors’ Megaregion Meeting. The meeting was sponsored by Parsons Brinckerhoff, HDR, PBS&J, and AECOM and comes in response to The Case for a National Infrastructure Policy: The Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion in the Global Economy Forum hosted by CQGRD in March 2009. About 40 selected leaders from the business, civic, government, and academic communities in the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) attended the meeting in Charlotte to discuss the topics of infrastructure needs, improved communication, barriers to success, and a leadership structure for this emerging PAM group.

There were five items upon which participants reached agreement:
• Short-term goals- Letters of support for high-speed rail in the PAM corridor, replacement of the I-85 bridge over the Yadkin River, and greenspace/trails in the Megaregion;
• Outline process for creating a vision;
• Scenario planning-best case/worst case;
• Inventory of current resources; and
• Discussion of organizational structure.

The next meeting in the Mayors’ Megaregion Meeting series will take place in November 2009 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Greenville, SC.
Dr. Catherine L. Ross has just published *Megaregions: Planning for Global Competitiveness* (Island Press, June 2009). The concept of “the city” as well as “the state” and “the nation state” is passé, agree contributors to this insightful book. The new scale for considering economic strength and growth opportunities is “the megaregion,” a network of metropolitan centers and their surrounding areas that are spatially and functionally linked through environmental, economic, and infrastructure interactions.

Recently a great deal of attention has been focused on the emergence of the European Union and on European spatial planning, which has boosted the region’s competitiveness. Megaregions apply these emerging concepts in an American context. It addresses critical questions for our future: What are the spatial implications of local, regional, national, and global trends within the context of sustainability, economic competitiveness, and social equity? How can we address housing, transportation, and infrastructure needs in growing megaregions? How can we develop and implement the policy changes necessary to make viable, livable megaregions?

By the year 2050, megaregions will contain two-thirds of the U.S. population. Given the projected growth of the U.S. population and the accompanying geographic changes, this forward-looking book argues that U.S. planners and policymakers must examine and implement the megaregion as a new and appropriate framework.

Contributors, all of whom are leaders in their academic and professional specialties, address the most critical issues confronting the U.S. over the next fifty years. At the same time, they examine ways in which the idea of megaregions might help address our concerns about equity, the economy, and the environment. Together, these essays define the theoretical, analytical, and operational underpinnings of a new structure that could respond to the anticipated upheavals in U.S. population and living patterns.

---

**Healthy Places Research Group Updates**

**Coordination with GSU’s Urban Fellows Program**- The Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) is proud to announce its joint efforts with the GSU Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth’s Urban Fellows Program housed in the GSU College of Law. Top graduate students from across the university are selected to participate in monthly breakfast sessions with top decision makers in Atlanta and the region whose work and actions have a direct impact upon our physical and built environment. Joint meetings are scheduled for October 2009 and February 2010 at Georgia State University.

**Development of a Research Agenda**- The Healthy Places Research Group will be developing a research agenda throughout the coming year to further research on the relationship of health and the built environment. If you have any suggestions regarding this topic, please contact Michelle Marcus at michelle.marcus@coa.gatech.edu.

**National Environmental Public Health (NEPH) Conference Booth**- The HPRG will be hosting a booth at the National Environmental Public Health Conference on October 26-28, 2009 in Atlanta. The topic of this year’s conference—Healthy People in a Healthy Environment—aims to promote the nation’s environmental health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental health professionals and others with an interest in environmental public health. The booth was donated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a host of the event and partner of the Healthy Places Research Group.
The Healthy Places Research Group is proud to announce its dates and locations for this year’s sessions. We have teamed up with GSU Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth’s Urban Fellows Program to provide joint meeting sessions in October and February.

**FALL 2009 SEMESTER**
- Wednesday, September 16: CQGRD
- Tuesday, October 20: Georgia State University
- Wednesday, November 18: Emory University
- Wednesday, December 9: CQGRD

**SPRING SEMESTER**
- Wednesday, January 20: Emory University
- Tuesday, February 9: Georgia State University
- Wednesday, March 17: CQGRD
- Wednesday, April 21: Emory University
- Wednesday, May 12: Georgia State University

**Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging Symposia**
September 15-16, 2009 | UNC Center for Continuing Education | Chapel Hill | NC

A growing body of research points to the influence of the environment on the health and health behaviors of older adults. The conference is intended to spark increased activity in environmental and policy change by stimulating discussion among attendees and equipping them with the background and tools to facilitate environmental and policy changes to support healthy aging. Conference presentations will feature challenges amenable to environmental and policy change, evidence that supports specific approaches and their outcomes, and promising strategies for practice. More information available at [http://prc-hanconferences.com/2009-conference](http://prc-hanconferences.com/2009-conference).

**Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility**
September 17 & 18, 2009 | First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta | Atlanta | GA


**Fifty Forward: The Future of Transportation**
September 21, 2009 | 10:00 AM - Noon | Georgia World Congress Center | Atlanta | GA

US DOT Secretary Ray LaHood will speak at ARC’s Fifty Forward forum on the future of transportation. This is an exciting opportunity to hear about the future of transportation from one of the most influential people in the transportation sector. Indications are that federal policy may be shifting in the direction of a more holistic and sustainable approach to transportation infrastructure. Based on the feedback from Fifty Forward participants so far, ARC believes this is a positive direction. In short, if we are to create a more sustainable region, we will need to develop a more sustainable transportation system. More information available at [http://www.atlantafiftyforward.com/index.htm](http://www.atlantafiftyforward.com/index.htm).

**Georgia Tech College of Architecture Research Forum: Urban Design**
September 24, 2009 | 11:00 AM - Noon | GT Architecture Library | Atlanta | GA

Mike Dobbins, Professor of Practice at the Georgia Tech College of Architecture, presents his work on Urban Design as part of the College of Architecture Research Forum. Dobbins released a new book in April, *Urban Design and People*, directed at all with an interest in improving their civic environment. The College of Architecture’s COA Research Forums provide an informal setting for the community to learn about research within the College of Architecture. Forums are free and open to the public and participants are invited to explore ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration. More information available at [http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=4532](http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=4532).

**Forum on Livability (Webinar)** | Sponsored by US DOT / HUD / EPA
September 24, 2009 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM EST

This webinar will discuss details about the DOT/HUD/EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership, the ongoing partnership between FTA and HUD focusing on Transit-Oriented Development, as well as Secretary LaHood’s Livability Initiative within USDOT. Feedback and questions will be welcomed from participants. A key objective of OST, FHWA, and FTA is to use this opportunity to engage the national community of practitioners, advocates, and interested organizations to gain their insights and assistance in achieving the Partnership goals. More information available at [https://app.e2ma.net/app/view/CampaignPublic/id:22490.6509140030/rid:521c2af8c332e016a308a59f6e0c78b5](https://app.e2ma.net/app/view/CampaignPublic/id:22490.6509140030/rid:521c2af8c332e016a308a59f6e0c78b5).

**Transportation, The BeltLine and the Public Realm**
September 29, 2009 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | All Saints Episcopal Church | Atlanta | GA

Public Health and the Impacts of Environmental Policies
October 2, 2009 | First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta | Atlanta | GA
This October, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is hosting the National Environmental Public Health Conference in Atlanta at the end of the month. To set the stage for those interested in the conference and the topic generally, this Roundtable will focus on the public health impacts of environmental policies. Learn about issues related to transportation, land use, water, and climate change and their impacts on public health. More information available at www.team-psa.com/2009nephc.

Association County Commissioners of Georgia: 2009 Fall Policy Conference
October 7-9, 2009 | Marriott Marquis Downtown | Atlanta | GA
The conference will kick-off with training in both the Commissioners Training Program and CCAP. The next day the work of ACCG’s policy committee will be reviewed, and during that time there will be discussions on several issues of importance to counties. The final day of the conference will bring the consideration of and vote on the 2009 ACCG County Platform— the single most important act involved with being a member of ACCG. More information available at http://www.accg.org/content.asp?ContentId=661.

Urban Redevelopment Plans & Opportunity Zones
October 22, 2009 | Savannah | GA
This workshop will provide detailed and practical information on layering Georgia’s redevelopment tool effectively to create critical mass in targeted redevelopment areas and tapping state and federal funds to promote local redevelopment efforts. For more information, contact DCA’s Cindy Eidson at cindy.eidson@dca.ga.gov or register at www.mainstreetgeorgia.org.

National Environmental Public Health Conference: “Healthy People in a Healthy Environment”
October 26-28, 2009 | Sheraton Atlanta Hotel | Atlanta | GA
Organized by CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry in conjunction with the National Environmental Health Association. It aims to develop and encourage innovative strategies for addressing existing and emerging issues and to provide a forum for NCEH, ATSDR, and its many partners to share research, scientific, and program information about environmental public health priorities. More information available at http://www.team-psa.com/2009nephc/main.asp.

Faces of a Healthy Future: National Conference to End Health Disparities II
November 3-6, 2009 | Twin City Quarter | Winston-Salem | NC
The purpose of Faces of a Healthy Future: National Conference to End Health Disparities II is to again bring together representatives from local, regional, state, and national organizations, along with consumers, in a forum addressing the NCMHD and Healthy People 2010 goals through the conference objectives. The goals of Healthy People 2010 are to improve health and to eliminate health disparities. This conference will give the attendees an opportunity to determine progress toward these goals through viewing and assessing projects related to the NCMHD strategic goals (research, research infrastructures, and providing public information and community outreach). Individuals and organizations will be given opportunities through poster presentations, oral paper presentations, and panel discussion to detail the success of their projects based on outcomes evidence. This conference will be a call for further action and will capture momentum and move energy forward in assisting with the national planning and implementation to eliminate health disparities. More information available at http://www.ceehd.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=29&Itemid=55.

American Institute for Cancer Research Conference on Food Nutrition: Physical Activity & Cancer
November 5-6, 2009 | Capital Hilton | Washington, D.C.
Basic scientists, clinical investigators, epidemiologists, dietitians, nutritionists, policy makers and other health professionals interested in food, nutrition, physical activity and weight management in relation to cancer should attend this conference. Keynote speakers include: Steven K. Clinton, MD, PhD, The Ohio State University and Henry J. Thompson, PhD, Colorado State University. More information available at http://www.aicr.org/conference.

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Exposition: “Water & Public Health”
November 7-11, 2009 | Philadelphia | PA
Water is a limited resource, the demands for which are fast increasing. In the United States, utility workers, scientists, sanitarians, engineers, government officials and many others work around the clock to provide safe and clean drinking water to America’s homes and businesses and are struggling to keep up with demand without compromising water supplies for future generations. Their efforts impact numerous aspects of society, including but not limited to the health of individuals and ecosystems to the health of the nation’s economy. Modern water systems face such challenges as chemical contaminations, waterborne diseases, supply shortages, water treatment and sanitation and deteriorating, outdated infrastructures. Worldwide, over one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Join us as we explore the latest public health challenges and learn about what can be done to protect our resources, our health and our world. More information available at http://www.apha.org/meetings/.
**Design Discourse: Books by COA Professors and Researchers**

**Planning Local Economic Development: Theory and Practice**
Nancey Green Leigh, Professor, City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology & Edward J. Blakely, Professor, City and Regional Planning, University of Sydney, Australia

Since the appearance of the first edition in 1990, Planning Local Economic Development has been the foundation for an entire generation of practitioners and academics working in planning and policy development. Written by authors with years of academic, regional, and city planning experience, the book has been used widely in graduate economic development, urban studies, nonprofit management, and public administration courses. Now thoroughly updated for the challenges of the 21st century and with new coverage of sustainability, the Fourth Edition explores the theories of local economic development while addressing the issues and opportunities faced by cities, towns, and local entities to craft their economic destinies within the global economy.

**Urban Design and People**
Michael Dobbins, Professor of Practice, City and Regional Planning and Architecture
Wiley Publishing, April 2009

Based on author Michael Dobbins’s 40 years of practice and teaching in urban design and planning, this text offers an insider’s perspective on the day-to-day work of an urban designer. Readers gain a solid foundation in urban design theory, as well as commonsense design strategies and practices that work. The author’s straightforward, accessible explanations coupled with plenty of photographs and drawings make everything in the text easy to understand and easy to put into practice. Starting from the premise that urban designers must understand and work with all of the different forces involved in planning, designing, and developing urban environments, the book sets forth a comprehensive framework for urban design principles and strategies.

**Foreclosed: High-Risk Lending, Deregulation, and the Undermining of America’s Mortgage Market**
Dan Immergluck, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology
Cornell University Press, June 2009

Over the last two years, the United States has observed, with some horror, the explosion and collapse of entire segments of the housing market, especially those driven by subprime and alternative or “exotic” home mortgage lending. The unfortunately timely Foreclosed explains the rise of high-risk lending and why these newer types of loans, and their associated regulatory infrastructure, failed in substantial ways. Dan Immergluck narrates the boom in subprime and exotic loans, recounting how financial innovations and deregulation facilitated excessive risk-taking, and how these loans have harmed different populations and communities.

**Constructing the Modern Skyscraper: The Politics and Power of Building New York City in the Twentieth Century**
Benjamin S. Flowers, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Pennsylvania Press, September 2009

In Skyscraper: The Politics and Power of Building New York City in the Twentieth Century, Benjamin Flowers explores the role of culture and ideology in shaping the construction of skyscrapers and the way wealth and power have operated to reshape the urban landscape. Flowers narrates this modern tale by closely examining the creation and reception of three significant sites: the Empire State Building, the Seagram Building, and the World Trade Center. He demonstrates how architects and their clients employed a diverse range of modernist styles to engage with and influence broader cultural themes in American society: immigration, the Cold War, and the rise of American global capital.

**Scholar Architect: The Architecture of Francis Palmer Smith**
Robert Craig, Professor of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Georgia Press, TBD

Craig presents the work of this ‘scholar architect’ who established his reputation as one of Atlanta’s premier early twentieth-century architects. While at Georgia Tech, Smith introduced the Beaux-Arts curriculum—notable for emphasizing various aspects of drawing, modeling, and history—which informed the earlier years of the Architecture Program.
CQGRD would like to welcome our new members

BARBARA FAGA- Ph.D. Candidate
Barbara Faga is the chair of EDAW’s board of directors and is an urban designer with more than 25 years of experience emphasizing urban projects. Recent projects include chairing a task force for Mayor Shirley Franklin, which resulted in a new direction for parks and open space in Atlanta, GA; Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta, GA; Diagonal Mar Parc, Barcelona, Spain; South Beach and Ocean neighborhoods urban design/streetscape and Indian Creek Greenway--$50M in construction cost, Miami Beach, FL; Carter Presidential Center, Atlanta, GA; Celebration, FL; Schuykill River master plan, Philadelphia, PA, and Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX. She is currently working on public consensus for the Wharf District Park in Rose Kennedy Greenway, a park over the $15B Boston, MA “Big Dig,” and working on the design for West Peachtree Street in Atlanta. Additionally, she is currently writing a book on public consensus. Barbara received the Distinguished Alumni Award in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University and did her graduate work at Georgia Tech in city planning. Additionally, Design Intelligence recently named her one of the top 15 women who are changing the world of architecture.

ARTHI RAO- Ph.D. Candidate
Arthi Rao is currently in the doctoral program in city and regional planning at Georgia Tech, focusing on linkages between public health and contemporary planning practice. Prior to attending Georgia Tech, she was a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Clemson University. She has a Master’s degree in Landscape Architecture from Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) and a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture from India.

DR. JIN NAM- Visiting Scholar
Dr. Nam is an associate professor in the Department of Urban Engineering at the University of Seoul, South Korea. Dr. Nam has been an active member of numerous professional organizations and committees including holding leadership roles in the Korea Planners Association and Association of Korea Urban Design, among others. Dr. Nam has published more than 30 refereed articles and over 40 conference papers and research reports focused on the field of evaluation and impact analysis of urban development and regeneration, financing methods and tools for redevelopment projects, and housing policies. He is currently conducting several research projects supported by the Korea National Government and Seoul Metropolitan including: development of laws and planning methods for urban regeneration; establishment of 2020 Master Plan for Housing Redevelopment and Reconstruction in Seoul; and development of financing methods and tools for promoting downtown redevelopment projects. Dr. Nam earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Urban Engineering from the University of Seoul, South Korea and earned his doctorate in City Planning from Yokohama National University in Japan in 2001.

SHEENA RACHEL DOYLE- “1st CQGRD Baby”
Jessica Doyle, a doctoral student in the city and regional planning program and graduate research assistant at CQGRD, and her husband Mike welcomed their first child on June 10th. Sheena Rachel Doyle was born on June 10th at Northside Hospital, weighing 7 lb., 7 oz., and measuring 21 inches long. The Doyles are looking to move to a house easily accessible by MARTA and within walking distance to a school for Sheena.