CQGRD Co-Host One of Several National Forums on Infrastructure

Along with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the Regional Plan Association (RPA) of New York, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce (MACOC), and the Georgia Transportation Institute (GTI), CQGRD will co-host a forum on infrastructure on March 23rd. This forum is part of America 2050, a national initiative to develop an infrastructure strategy for America’s future growth, competitiveness, and sustainability. It will bring together over 150 selected leaders from the business, civic, government, and academic communities in the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) to discuss a national agenda for infrastructure investment. The forum is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Megaregions Book to Be Published This Spring

Megaregions: Planning for Global Competitiveness, edited by Dr. Catherine Ross, will be published by Island Press in the spring of 2009. This collection of works examines how the idea of the megaregion can address regions’ needs in a time of increasing global competitiveness and concerns over economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Contributors include Susan and Norman Fainstein of Harvard University; Saskia Sassen of Columbia University; Tridib Banerjee of the University of Southern California; and Andreas Faludi of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, as well as Jiawen Yang, Assistant Professor in GT’s City and Regional Planning Program, and Adjo Amezkutzi and Michael Meyer of GT’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
Dr. Catherine Ross and Jason Barringer, AICP, Research Scientist at CQGRD, presented findings from CQGRD research at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, held in Washington, D.C., January 12th-14th. Ross and Barringer presented on a study of attitudes towards congestion pricing, commissioned by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Ross also moderated a discussion on transportation in emerging megaregions and presented on “Value-for-Money Analysis in U.S. Transportation Public-Private Partnerships” with Adjo Amekudzi and Michael Meyer of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Dorothy Morallos of Cambridge Systematics. For more information about the Annual TRB Meeting, go to http://www.trb.org/meeting/2009/default.asp.

CQGRD Advises BeltLine TADAC

The BeltLine Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee (TADAC) asked CQGRD to help it develop performance metrics related to future BeltLine projects. With BeltLine-related developments expected to cost $2.8 billion over 25 years, being able to assess progress towards goals such as improving social equity and quality of life will be crucial. On October 16th, CQGRD hosted a one-day conference with members of the BeltLine TADAC to begin preliminary discussions. For more information about the BeltLine TADAC, see http://www.beltline.org/BeltLineBasics/CommunityEngagement/TaxAllocationDistrictAdvisoryCommittee/tabid/1779/Default.aspx.

Ross, Yang Present in China

Dr. Catherine Ross and Jiawen Yang, Assistant Professor in the City and Regional Planning Program, gave two presentations as part of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy’s “Symposium on Megaregions and Spatial Planning: An International Perspective,” held in Beijing at Peking University on October 28–29. Dr. Ross and Yang presented on mobility and accessibility in megaregions and on practices and challenges within the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM). The symposium included planning officials and academics from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, and China. The presentations are available on the Peking University website at http://plc.pku.edu.cn/ch/edit/UploadFile/Mobility and Accessibility in Megaregions.pdf.

CQGRD Presents
Findings from Hospital Health Impact Assessment

CQGRD has completed a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Piedmont Hospital and its effects on the surrounding local communities, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. On December 9th, Dr. Catherine Ross and Amy Danner, Research Scientist at CQGRD, presented the results of the HIA to civic groups representing the local communities, continuing a discussion on balancing health, the built environment, and the accessibility of “civic anchors” such as hospitals. The HIA results are located on the CQGRD website, http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu.

Ross, Barringer Present CQGRD Research
at National Transportation Conference in D.C.
Healthy Places Research Group | February - May 2009 Meetings | 7:30AM–9:00AM

CQGRD’s Healthy Places Research Group series continues, with meetings hosted by Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health and Georgia State University’s School College of Health and Human Science. For more information and complete calendar, see http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/hprg/calendar.php.

| FEBRUARY 3 | Emory | Karen Glanz, Emory University, “Measuring Nutrition Environments” |
| MARCH 3 | Emory | Jim Durrett, Livable Communities Coalition, “Smart Growth” |
| APRIL 7 | Emory | Jeremy Sarnat, Emory University, “Sprawl, Air Pollution, & Human Health” & Rebecca Watts-Hull, GA Conservancy, “Helping Georgians Breathe Easier through Advocacy & Avoidance” |
| MAY 5 | GSU | Christa Essig, CDC, “Environmental Approaches to a Healthy Diet” & Brad Davis, MACTEC, “Creating Healthier Communities Locally” |

One Hundred Years of Architectural education | February 18, 2009 | 6:00PM–9:00PM | College of Architecture Auditorium | Georgia Tech | Atlanta | Georgia

The College of Architecture’s celebration of its centennial continues with a lecture series and exhibition. Speakers include professors of architecture Elizabeth Meredith Dowling, Robert Craig, George Johnston, and Alan Balfour, Dean of the COA. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=3704.

Southern Sustainability Summit | February 21, 2009 | 8:00AM–3:00PM | All Saints Episcopal Church | 634 W. Peachtree street | Atlanta | Georgia

Topic: “Advancing Regional Equity in Atlanta and Beyond.” Emory University’s Office of Community Partnerships, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Georgia Power, and Equity Atlanta are among the sponsors of this all-day conference highlighting strategies and opportunities for balanced, inclusive and fair growth in metropolitan Atlanta.

Centennial Lecture | March 4, 2009 | 6:00PM–7:30PM | COA Auditorium | Atlanta | Georgia

A panel discussion with young leaders in Atlanta’s urban design and development will reflect on the role of the College in advancing more sustainable urbanism. Speakers are to include: Brian Leary (Atlantic Station), Ryan Gravel (Perkins+Will), Steven Cover (HOK Planning Group), David Green (GT COA & Perkins+Will), Edward McKinney (Glattin Jackson), and Bob Begle (Urban Collage). For more information, see http://www.gatech.edu/calendar/event.html?id=3705.

Greenprints 2009 | March 25–26, 2009 | Hyatt Regency Hotel | Atlanta | Georgia

Topic: “Green Cities, Sustainable Communities.” Southface’s annual conference and trade show devoted to green building and sustainability, will take place on March 25th and 26th. Speakers include Edward Mazria, award-winning architect and author of The Passive Solar Energy Book; Joseph Lstiburek, principal of Building Science Corporation; Ellen Dunham-Jones, Associate Professor and Director of the College of Architecture’s Architecture Program; and Peter Yost, Principal of 3-D Building Solutions. For more information and to register, see http://www.southface.org/web/greenprints_conference/index.htm.

Georgia Planning Association (GPA) 2009 Spring Conference | March 26–27, 2009 | Northside Hospital Cherokee Conference Center | Canton | Georgia

Georgia Planning Association’s spring conference will include several focused training sessions, professional certification credits, industry exhibitors, mobile workshops, professional networking, and keynote presentations on current planning issues. For more information and to register, see http://www.georgiaplanning.org/spring-conference.

COA Centennial Gala | April 25, 2009 | 7:00PM–Midnight | Architecture Courtyard | College of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Atlanta | Georgia

Dean Alan Balfour and the College of Architecture are delighted to continue the centennial celebrations with a gala ball featuring “Creative Architectural Black Tie” (prizes for the best costume will be awarded). Tickets, which are $125 per person, may be purchased online. Original installation environment by Tristan Al-Haddad and entertainment by League of Decency. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/centennial/.
Obama Names New Secretary of Transportation, Head of White House Office of Urban Policy

President Barack Obama nominated Ray LaHood, a former Republican representative from Illinois, as his candidate for Secretary of Transportation. LaHood, first elected in 1994, has previously served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and was chief planner for the Bi-State Metropolitan Planning Commission from 1974 to 1977. President Obama also announced plans to establish a White House Office of Urban Policy, whose head will report directly to him. Alfonso Carrion, currently president of the borough of the Bronx in New York City, has been selected for the position.

Charlotte-Macon High-Speed Rail Service Deemed Feasible

Conducted by the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, the study concludes that operating high-speed passenger trains between Charlotte, Greenville, and Atlanta and Macon is feasible. This line would serve as an extension of the proposed Washington D.C.-to-Charlotte Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor. The study reviewed speed and capacity capabilities, estimated potential ridership, revenue and operating and capital costs associated with extending the high-speed passenger service along I-85 and identified where new track would have to be laid in order to obtain maximum speeds and to avoid already-congested areas. The study assumes that there would be nine stops and four daily trips between the cities of Charlotte and downtown Atlanta. For the full study, visit http://www.sehsr.org/.

America 2050 Forums Held in Chicago, Sacramento

The ongoing national discussions of infrastructure and regional development under the banner of “America 2050” continued in the fall, with forums being held in Chicago on November 17th (hosted by Chicago’s Metropolitan Planning Council and New York’s Regional Plan Association) and in Sacramento on December 2nd (hosted by a collaboration of Northern California civic and government organizations). In addition, in November America 2050 published a new report, “An Infrastructure Vision for 21st Century America.” All of these efforts are meant to include regional voices and visions in helping to shape a national infrastructure policy.

Established as a national initiative to meet not only the infrastructure, but the economic development and environmental challenges of the nation as well, America 2050 is advancing the research on the emergence of megaregions and megaregion planning efforts nationwide. Megaregions comprise multiple, adjacent metropolitan areas connected by overlapping commuting patterns, business travel, environmental landscapes and watersheds, linked economies, and social networks. America 2050’s aim is to advance the emergence of this new urban form while promoting planning solutions to address challenges that span state and regional boundaries, demanding cooperation and coordination at the megaregion scale. CQGRD serves as the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) Institutional Partner for this endeavor. More information about the initiatives of America 2050, past and upcoming forums, and a copy of the report are available at http://www.america2050.org.
MCRP Alumnus Jackson Tapped for Florida’s Energy and Climate Commission

Tim Jackson, president and chief executive of the Orlando-based planning and civil engineering firm Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, Inc., was appointed on January 7th to the Florida Energy and Climate Commission by Charlie Crist, Governor of Florida. The nine-member commission, created by state law in June, is tasked with implementing many of the provisions of the state’s energy and climate-change law. Jackson, who holds a bachelor's in civil engineering and a master's in city planning in Georgia Tech, has been a longtime friend of CQGRD and an advocate for sustainability and livable transportation systems. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2444.

Yang Joins Architecture Faculty

Perry Yang has joined the faculty of the College of Architecture and the City and Regional Planning Program as an associate professor in urban design. Yang holds master's and doctoral degrees in building and planning from National Taiwan University and a master’s in urban studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His awards include design prizes in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Xiamen and Guangdong, China. To learn more, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/arch/people/faculty/Yang/index.php.

Jiawen Yang Receives Fellowship from Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

In December, Jiawen Yang, Assistant Professor in the City and Regional Planning Program, was awarded a People's Republic of China International Fellowship from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The fellowship will provide $30,000 to support Yang's research on spatial structure and transportation in China’s megacities. By looking at travel demand, metropolitan spatial patterns and trends in urban expansion, Yang aims to identify changes in urban spatial structure that could help improve transportation. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2364.

Interest Solicited In A Region-Wide University Consortium On Megaregions

Following a suggestion from Sam Olens, Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission and Cobb County, CQGRD has written to over 90 university representatives in the six states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee—which make up the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM). The letters solicit interest in forming a consortium of university scholars to further the study of the megaregion phenomenon in this area. Organization and direction of a consortium would be determined by its participants. A consortium of this nature would be a first in the United States. If you represent a university in the PAM area and were not included in the original solicitation, but are interested, please contact Harry West, Professor of Practice, CQGRD, at 404.385.5125 or harry.west@coa.gatech.edu.

Leigh Inducted into Prestigious FAICP

Nancey Green Leigh, Professor in the City and Regional Planning Program, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP), one of the highest honors in the academic planning field, in August. Recognized for pioneering research on a number of pressing contemporary issues, Leigh has worked throughout her career for a stronger and more diversified planning academy and profession. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2064.
Ross Reflects on Value of Cities for Georgia Municipal Association

Dr. Catherine Ross recently contributed an article on the roles of cities and megaregions in the global economy for the Georgia Municipal Association, as part of a series titled “City Upon a Hill: Reflections on the Value of Cities.” “Cities are now the building blocks for megaregions which in turn are the new economic unit in world markets,” argued Dr. Ross. “As critical components in an increasingly complex and global economy, cities must increasingly embrace sustainability, quality growth and a vision for the future that emanates from the community and the place.” This piece in full can be read or listened to at http://www.gmanet.com/cityuponahill/200811_ross.asp.

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(arc) Features Megaregions in “State of the Region” Breakfast

On November 20th, the Atlanta Regional Commission’s annual “State of the Region” breakfast featured the topic of megaregions. Nearly 1,000 elected, business, and civic leaders attended to hear how Atlanta can take advantage of being part of a fast-growing megaregion and use megaregional ideas to improve quality of life and economic development. Vincent Goodstadt, head of European Relations for the METREX Network of European Metropolitan Regions, gave the keynote address, and Dr. Catherine Ross, Harry West Professor and Director of CQGRD, participated in a roundtable discussion. More information is available at http://www.atlantaregional.com/html/81_4839.aspx.

Ross, Megaregions Work Featured Across the South

The work of Dr. Catherine Ross and the CQGRD’s efforts to promote the idea of a Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion, encompassing six states, in the Southeast attracted recent attention from The Times-Union of Jacksonville, FL, and The Chronicle of Augusta, GA. The Chronicle’s editorial staff published an editorial on December 28th considering smaller cities’ role in a megaregion, while The Times-Union ran an interview with Ross and Sam Olens, chair of the ARC. The Chronicle editorial can be read at http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2008/12/28/edi_505479.shtml and the Times-Union article at http://www.jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2008-12-22/will_all_for_one_region_truly_benefit_all.