Welcome to Quality Growth Quarterly, the electronic newsletter of Georgia Tech’s Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD). In each issue we provide news about CQGRD’s latest research, events and publications; links to upcoming local and regional conferences on issues pertaining to quality growth and regional development; and highlights of recent research in the field.

News from CQGRD

CQGRD Releases Health Impact Assessment of the BeltLine
This summer CQGRD released the Health Impact Assessment of the Atlanta BeltLine, a 22-mile proposed transit and trail loop surrounded by parks and residential and commercial development. Using a variety of accepted methods to assess the potential health impacts, the research team, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, concluded that the BeltLine would have a largely positive affect on the health of Atlantans by improving access to green space and healthy foods, creating opportunities for physical activity, and increasing transportation options. Opportunities to enhance health benefits include accelerating the BeltLine implementation and explicitly prioritizing health outcomes in funding decisions and development review. READ MORE

Troup County Plans for New Growth
CQGRD, along with Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute, is helping Troup County in western Georgia plan for the growth expected to come with the new Kia plant. Leaders from the county and the cities of LaGrange, West Point and Hogansville recently kicked off a two-year planning initiative designed to set the course for a sustainable future. READ MORE

Megaregions Research Continues with Symposium
In June 2007, CQGRD hosted a two-day symposium to bring together some of the foremost scholars in regional development, land use, demographics, transportation, and planning to consider the future of megaregions. Papers were presented by 14 participants, who are contributors to a forthcoming book to be co-edited by Dr. Catherine Ross, executive director of CQGRD, and Dr. Cheryl Contact, director of Georgia Tech’s City and Regional Planning Program. READ MORE

Mayor Franklin and Catherine Ross Attend Global Urban Summit
In July, Dr. Catherine Ross, CQGRD executive director, and Shirley Franklin, mayor of Atlanta, attended the Global Urban Summit in Italy (hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Regional Plan Association) to discuss a long-term physical, policy and investment framework for America’s future growth and development. READ MORE

Upcoming Events
Healthy Places Research Group : September 11, 2007

The Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) is a collaborative effort that brings together researchers, students and practitioners from many disciplines and others interested in exploring the relationship between the built environment and the health of communities. The first meeting of the 2007/2008 year will be held on Sept. 11. Participation is open to anyone interested in creating healthy places. MORE INFORMATION

Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference : September 19–21, 2007

This year the Georgia Planning Association is hosting its annual conference in Savannah with more than 35 breakout sessions and mobile workshops. MORE INFORMATION

Atlanta on the Cutting Edge: New Models for Growth and Renewal : November 7–10, 2007

The Seaside Institute is hosting a three-day conference focusing on best new-urbanist practices in Atlanta’s neighborhoods and suburbs. The conference’s aim is to provide practitioners and public agencies with tools, design strategies, and expert advice for implementing similar projects. MORE INFORMATION

Research of Interest

Forbes Finds America's Fastest-Growing Suburbs

Six metropolitan Atlanta communities rank in the top 100 fastest-growing suburbs between 2000 and 2006, according to a recent report published by Forbes Magazine. READ MORE

Persuading Drivers to Get on the Train

How do you get car owners onto public transport? That's the question being mulled over in a new report by Todd Litman, the founder and executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute in British Columbia. READ MORE

Harvard's Latest Study on Nation's Housing

After years of growth, the housing market reversed in 2006, says the 2007 edition of the “State of the Nation's Housing” annual report published by Harvard's Joint Center on Housing Studies. READ MORE

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