CQGRD Hosts Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) Forum

On March 23rd, 2009, the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD) hosted a one-day forum devoted to national infrastructure and the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM). The Regional Plan Association of New York (RPA), the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the Georgia Transportation Institute (GTI), Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber (MAC), The Medici Center, the Livable Communities Coalition (LCC), and the North Georgia RDC were co-sponsors.

Speakers included the Honorable Shirley Franklin, mayor of Atlanta, and the Honorable Pat McCrory, mayor of Charlotte; Robert Yaro, president of the Regional Plan Association; Dr. Catherine Ross, Harry West Chair of Quality Growth and Regional Development and Director of CQGRD; Mortimer Downey, chairman of the board at Parsons Brinkerhoff; John Horsley, executive director of the American Association for State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); William Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association; and Raymond Christman, former president and CEO of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

(Continued on back cover-page)
FHWA Releases CQGRD’s Megaregion Infrastructure Research

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a literature review, “Megaregions: Literature Review of the Implications for U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Transportation Planning,” created by CQGRD as part of an ongoing study into identifying megaregions for the purposes of directing national transportation policy and funding. The report places current megaregion research within the context of both previous regional planning efforts and selected regional planning initiatives related to transportation infrastructure investment, both inside and outside the United States. It looks at the Pearl River Delta in China, the Randstad in the Netherlands, and the African Union’s multinational transportation-investment initiatives, as well as ten emerging American megaregions. To read the report in full, see http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/megaregions.htm.

Ross Speaks on Transforming the Metropolis

Dr. Catherine Ross spoke at three separate conferences dealing with the future growth of cities and regions this spring: the annual Forum of the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University in February; the Delange Conference at Rice University in March; and the 25th anniversary celebration of the transportation programs at Texas Southern University in April. The first event focused on building a “good growth state” and featured, alongside Dr. Ross, Ken Livingstone, former mayor of London; United States Senator Christopher Dodd; and New York Times columnist David Brooks. The second took as its theme “Transforming the Metropolis: Creating Sustainable and Humane Cities” and featured such speakers as Mustafa Syed Kamal, the mayor of Karachi, and Bill Rees, developer of the “sustainable footprint.” At the last event, Dr. Ross spoke on the particular challenges facing the “Texas Triangle” megaregion. To read excerpts and hear audio from Dr. Ross’s talks, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2680, http://www.houstontomorrow.org/initiatives/story/the-megaregion-challenge/, or http://www.ncsu.edu/iei/forum/2009/look&listen.php.

Ross Leading ADVANCE Efforts for College of Architecture

In early 2009, Dr. Catherine Ross was named the ADVANCE Professor for Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture. ADVANCE is dedicated to analyzing and eliminating gender disparities in the academic setting. At Georgia Tech, it provides resources to reduce gender bias, mitigate barriers due to family responsibilities, and increase career advancement opportunities for women. To date, the program has hosted a kickoff meeting and a brainstorming session, and begun surveying participants on their experiences with opportunity or discrimination in the College. The COA NSF ADVANCE Women of Excellence Award will be granted to one female faculty member, one graduate student, and one undergraduate. To learn more about the ADVANCE program, see http://advance.gatech.edu/.
American Society of Highway Engineers 2009 National Conference | June 3–7, 2009 | Westin Atlanta North at Perimeter | Atlanta
The 2009 annual conference will include panels on such topics as the upcoming federal reauthorization of transportation spending and incorporating transit into the highway system, as well as exhibits and field trips. John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and Peter Ruane, President and CEO of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, are featured speakers. For more information and to register, see http://www.highwayengineers.org/2009NationalConference/home.php.

Southface Weekend Homebuilding School | June 11–14, 2009 | Southface Energy & Environmental Resource Center | Atlanta
For over a decade, Southface has been offering courses to those hoping to build or contract more energy-efficient, environmentally friendly houses, from construction veterans to homeowners who have never picked up a hammer. This weekend-long course will feature lectures on managing the construction process as well as designing the foundation, framing, and roofing, as well as how to incorporate sustainable design into electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. For more information and to register, see http://www.southface.org/web/programs&events/courses&training/hbs/sf_homebuilding-school.htm.

National Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference | June 21–24, 2009 | Hyatt Regency | Atlanta
The annual conference of the National Environmental Health Association will include workshops and for-credit courses, as well as panels on such topics as air quality, food safety, sustainability and public health, and all-hazards preparedness. Howard Frumkin, director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will give the keynote address. For more information and to register, see http://www.neha.org/AEC/2009/index.html.

Georgia Rural Health Association Annual Conference | September 21–23, 2009 | Brasstown Valley Resort | Young Harris
Founded in 1981, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is the oldest state rural health association in the country. It acts as a nonprofit network of healthcare providers, educators, and individuals dedicated to providing health care for rural Georgians. The theme of the 2009 conference is “A Road Map to Better Health.” For more information, see http://www.garuralhealth.org/2009Conference/2009Conference.htm.

Grow, Cook, Eat! 2009 | September 26, 2009 | Georgia Mountains Foodways Alliance | Metropolitan Atlanta
The second annual “Grow, Cook, Eat! Festival” will feature a sampling of offerings from restaurants relying on local foods from members of the Georgia Mountains Foodways Alliance, as well as produce for sale from local farmers, educational lectures on healthy diets and organic cultivation, and live music. For more information, see http://www.georgiafoodways.org/growcookeatfestival.html or http://www.georgiaorganics.org/events/event.php?id=848.
Franklin Continues to Promote Megaregional Role for Atlanta

The Honorable Shirley Franklin, mayor of Atlanta, discussed the role of Atlanta in a megaregion in her talk to the Rotary Club of Atlanta on March 23rd, her last planned presentation to the group as mayor. “Now we have to be connected with Charlotte, Raleigh, Birmingham,” Mayor Franklin said, as reported by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. “We really don’t have the chance to just fiddle in our region. As important as Georgia is, it’s most important to have a relationship with North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee.” Due to term limits, Mayor Franklin must leave office in January 2010; she has not said what she plans to do after stepping down. More information is available at the Rotary Club of Atlanta Website at http://www.atlantarotary.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=87176&orgId=rca.

McCroy Promotes Megaregional Ideas in Charlotte

After speaking at the March 23rd forum dedicated to the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) and national infrastructure policy, Pat McCrory, mayor of Charlotte, discussed megaregions and regional coordination on infrastructure with the staff of the Charlotte Observer. In his remaining eight months in office allotted by term limits, Mayor McCrory indicated he was looking at a possible collaboration with Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta and universities in both Georgia and North Carolina. “I don’t know how McCrory plans to spend his time post-mayorship,” wrote Mary Newsom, associate editor of the Observer, “but working to put a mega-region coalition together might well be a project in need of a champion.”

Porcari Chosen as Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation

President Barack Obama has chosen John D. Porcari, head of the Maryland Department of Transportation, to serve as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation with Secretary Ray LaHood. Mr Porcari, who has been appointed twice to the MDOT leadership by two different Maryland governors (Paris Glendenning and Martin O’Malley), is a board member of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and chairs its task force on climate change. He holds a master’s degree in public administration from the State University of New York at Albany.

Hildreth Named Dean of Georgia State’s School of Policy Studies

Effective July 1st 2009, W. Bartley Hildreth will become Dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Dr. Hildreth is currently at Wichita State University in Kansas, where he is the Regents Distinguished Professor of Public Finance at the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs and a member of the finance faculty of the W. Frank Barton School of Business. His main areas of interest are municipal securities, public budgeting, and state and local finance. Dr. Hildreth received his doctorate in public administration from the University of Georgia and holds a master’s degree in public administration from Auburn University in Montgomery. The Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development has cooperative programs with the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. More information about Dr. Hildreth and the Andrew Young School is available at http://aysps.gsu.edu/3059.html.
Stone Offers High-Density Solutions to Greenhouse-Gas Emissions

Dr. Brian Stone, Associate Professor in the City and Regional Planning Program, has published a study on climate change suggesting that higher-density urbanization, combined with the use of hybrid vehicle technology, could reduce the greenhouse-gas emissions of cities significantly by 2050. Dr. Stone’s study, published in Environmental Science and Technology, looked at 11 major metropolitan regions of the Midwestern U.S. over a 50-year period. “If we can help cities to grow in more compact ways, what we call smart growth, it will help reduce emissions even further by allowing people to travel less often, travel shorter distances when they do travel and take advantage of public transit,” said Stone. To learn more about the study, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2574.

Peterson Becomes Georgia Tech’s 11th President

On April 1st, G.P. “Bud” Peterson became the 11th President of Georgia Tech, succeeding G. Wayne Clough. Dr. Peterson was chosen for the position after a six-month nationwide search. Dr. Peterson previously served as the chancellor for the University of Colorado at Boulder and provost of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York; he also spent twenty years in faculty and administrative positions at Texas A&M University. Holding two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree from Kansas State University, Dr. Peterson received his doctorate in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University. His scholarly interests are primarily focused on heat transfer and thermal control of electronic components. To learn more about Dr. Peterson and Georgia Tech’s presidential search, see http://www.gatech.edu/president/search/.

Jarrett Named Director of Architecture School at University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Chris Jarrett, Associate Professor of Architecture and Associate Director of the College’s Program in Architecture, has been named director of the School of Architecture at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. A former partner in Jarrett + Suharmoko, where he won first prize in the 1991 Shinkenchiku-Sha International Design Competition, Professor Jarrett has been at Georgia Tech since 1984, where he has recently specialized in green housing and solar-powered design. To learn more about Professor Jarrett, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/arch/people/faculty/jarrett/jarrett.php.

On Monday, April 13th, Dean Alan Balfour and the College of Architecture faculty and staff hosted Dr. Peterson as he visited the College’s school and centers. Dr. Peterson said his visit was: “….enormously informative and gave me a very good overall perception of the many activities underway in the College of Architecture!”

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The Forum attracted academic researchers, business and civic leaders, heads of nonprofit organizations, and government officials throughout the six-state PAM region. Separate breakout sessions on the issues of transportation and water and energy were conducted. The event was preceded by a half-day meeting of university researchers from across PAM to discuss shared interests and explore the possibility of creating a university research consortium to enhance the megaregion knowledge base particularly in PAM. The one-day forum was part of the ongoing America 2050 nationwide effort to include regional voices and visions in helping to shape a national infrastructure policy. For more about the forum, including a primer on PAM and megaregions policy, see http://www.america2050.org/2009/04/the-case-for-a-national-infrastructure-policy-march-23-in-atlanta.html or http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/pamforum.php.

The Case for a National Infrastructure Policy
The Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion in the Global Economy
Monday, March 23, 2009
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Georga Tech Global Learning Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Mayor Pat McCrory, City of Charlotte, North Carolina
Mortimer “Mort” Downey, Chairman of the Board, Parsons Brinckerhoff Consult
Ray Christman, Former President & CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta
Mayor Shirley Franklin, City of Atlanta, Georgia