

Citizen Action Update 1.29.08

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Please visit www.ma-smartgrowth.org for more information about the Alliance and smart growth issues facing the Commonwealth.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to these updates please contact:

André Leroux, Executive Director at andre@ma-smartgrowth.org or
Shelley Ayervais, Program Associate at shelley@ma-smartgrowth.org

Thank you!

Zoning Task Force Update

The Patrick Administration has formed a Task Force to examine the current zoning and planning system in the state and work with the legislative leaders to develop a bill that would improve zoning and planning in Massachusetts. Gregory Bialecki, Undersecretary for Business Development, chairs the Task Force on behalf of the Administration. The Task Force plans to file zoning reform legislation in early 2008.

The Alliance has been playing an active role in the Task Force and aims to help craft a zoning reform proposal that makes it easier for cities and towns to plan for future growth and change their zoning ordinances, providing them with tools to protect their natural resource areas and encourage more compact development.

Please see the following link for materials from the Task Force meetings. The working document describing a possible framework can be found in the January section. The Alliance encourages you to share your feedback on the framework with us as well as Greg Bialecki:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=ehedsubtopic&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Economic+Analysis&L2=Executive+Office+of+Housing+and+Economic+Development&L3=Massachusetts+Permit+Regulatory+Office&L4=Zoning+Reform&sid=Ehed>

Make State Spending Sustainable and Equitable

The Alliance has taken a strong stand urging the Legislature to link all of the state's capital investments to the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles and to consider equity when making spending decisions.

Doing so will encourage the administration to prioritize its funding decisions with a consistent lens, one which improves coordination among state agencies, maximizes the benefits to our residents, and encourages the most efficient use of public resources.

Support this effort! Contact the offices of:

- Senate President Therese Murray (Therese.Murray@state.ma.us) or
- Speaker Sal DiMasi (Rep.SalvatoreDiMasi@hou.state.ma.us)

Encourage them to incorporate language into the Environmental Bond Bill, the Transportation Bond Bill, and the Housing Bond Bill requiring:

- 1) that projects funded by the bond bills demonstrate consistency with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles; and
- 2) that projects funded by the bond bills be planned and implemented in a way that promotes equal opportunity and diversity, consistent with the stated goals of Executive Order 478.

The Alliance supports all three bond bills and their timely passage.

Smart Growth in the News

Beginning January 15th, The Standard-Times, a daily paper serving Southeastern Massachusetts, featured a week-long series, "A Call to Action: Plan our Future" focusing on land use. Essay submissions, all promoting smart growth principles, include contributions from André Leroux, Executive Director of the MA Smart Growth Alliance, Ian Bowles, Secretary of Energy and Environmental affairs for Massachusetts, Bernard Cohen, Secretary of Transportation and Public Works for Massachusetts and Edward Lambert, former Mayor of Fall River and Director of the Urban Initiative at UMass Dartmouth.

Excerpt from South Coast Today:

“Our series of essays this week aims to inform how communities plan for growth, choose land for preservation, respond to SouthCoast commuter rail, and cooperate with other cities and towns to reap mutual land-use benefits.”

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080115/OPINION/801150308>

The list of essays includes:

Smart growth makes cents, André Leroux, January 15, 2008

“Denser development may not just be attractive for the public checkbook, but can enhance the attractiveness of our cities and towns.” - André Leroux

André Leroux is the executive director of the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance. In his essay, Mr. Leroux proposes six economic benefits of smart growth. To access his essay, follow this link:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080115/OPINION/801150309/-1/TOWN1001>

Getting smart about land protection, Ian Bowles, January 16, 2008

“We need smart land conservation along with smart growth. That's why, going forward, the commonwealth is going to concentrate its land protection efforts on three priorities which complement the administration's smart-growth goals.” Mr. Bowles lists urban parks, habitat reserves and working landscapes as top priorities.

Mr. Bowles is Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts. To access his essay follow this link:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080116/OPINION/801160319/-1/ARCHIVE>

Surround rail stations with pedestrian-friendly, green development, Bernard Cohen, January 17, 2008

“As the third-largest public infrastructure project in recent state history, the scale and geographic reach of the South Coast Rail project offer unprecedented opportunities to protect our communities and our natural environment, while finding ways to welcome and shape new growth..... Our approach is what's often called smart growth. We combine transportation, economic development, and environmental goals with old-fashioned frugality and common sense. We don't waste resources or land... To

put these ideas to work, we are asking cities and towns to partner with us to prepare for the train by developing an economic development and land-use corridor plan."

Mr. Cohen is Secretary of Transportation and Public Works for Massachusetts. To access this essay please follow this link:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080117/OPINION/801170375/-1/ARCHIVE>

Urban investment elevates region, Edward M. Lambert Jr., January 18, 2008

"This emphasis on our cities, and the creation of an urban agenda, need not occur to the exclusion of supporting the surrounding towns."

Mr. Lambert, a former mayor of Fall River, works at UMass Dartmouth as director of the Urban Initiative. To access this essay, follow this link:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080118/OPINION/801180310>

MA Smart Growth Alliance Selected as "Example of Excellence" in the 2007 MA Catalogue for Philanthropy

Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance in Boston has been selected for listing in the 2007 prestigious Massachusetts *Catalogue for Philanthropy*. This year 390 charities applied for new listings, and 54 were selected, as "examples of excellence" in all fields of Massachusetts philanthropy – the environment, culture (arts and education), human services and international. According to George McCully, President of the *Catalogue*, "Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance was chosen because they are a great example of 'private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life' in Massachusetts, and because they are both excellent and cost-effective. We urge donors, especially in the Boston area, to consider adding Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance to their giving list this year."

The purpose of the *Catalogue*, now in its 11th year of annual publication, is "to strengthen the culture of philanthropy in Massachusetts...through donor education...." "The *Catalogue* is designed as a showcase for Massachusetts philanthropy," McCully said, "and a one-stop shop for a family's charitable giving. A single check, electronic transaction over the web, or stock transfer, can be allocated to as many charities as the donor pleases, and because the *Catalogue* is paid-for by its philanthropic sponsors, 100% of every donation goes to the designated charities or fields of philanthropy." This year it

is mailed to 120,000 homes statewide, and is available to everyone on the web, at www.cfp-ma.org.

To view the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance webpage on the Catalogue's website, please follow this link:

http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/ma/2007/mass_smart_73780.htm

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation either online via the Catalogue's website or by sending a check to:

Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance c/o CHAPA
18 Tremont Street, Suite 401
Boston, MA 02108

Your contribution will directly support our efforts to promote attractive, affordable, and healthy communities, towns and urban centers that are the backbone of a vital economy and our quality of life. You will receive an acknowledgement letter of your donation via mail for your records.

Please Welcome Our New Program Associate!

The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance is pleased to welcome Shelley Ayervais to the position of Program Associate. Shelley is a Masters in Public Policy candidate at Tufts University and comes to the Alliance with over ten years experience in marketing research and data analytics within the private sector. We look forward to using her expertise to help promote the Alliance within our expanding network, as well as keeping the office running smoothly. Shelley can be reached at 617-263-7470 or via email at Shelley@ma-smartgrowth.org.

About the Citizen Action Network...

If you have comments, suggestions, or additional information you'd like to see included in the next update, please email andre@ma-smartgrowth.org. Feel free to forward this to friends and colleagues, and invite them to become part of this Citizen Action Network. If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please email shelley@ma-smartgrowth.org with "subscribe" in the subject line. We will not share your information with any other lists. If you would like to stop receiving this bulletin, reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject line