



# P4SC News Wire . . .

*News from the  
Partnership for Sustainable Communities*

April 2010

## LIVABILITY: “Most Important Analysis of Land Use”

The Center for Neighborhood Technology recently published “Penny Wise, Pound Foolish,” a guide to its updated Housing and Transportation Index (H+T Index). Smart Growth program director Kaid Benfield called the index “the most important analysis of land use you’ll see all year.” The report demonstrates the fact that the affordability of a community drops dramatically when the definition of affordability shifts to encompass housing and transportation costs.

The index, which was first established in 2006, examines the variables that inform housing and transportation costs in 337 U.S. metropolitan areas and vividly demonstrates how the growth of urban regions has negatively affected many Americans. [Read more.](#)

## INTERJURISDICTIONAL PLANNING: Chicago Group Sets Trends

Breaking down barriers to interjurisdictional cooperation in planning and use of federal funds is well underway in the Chicago area. [Read about the Metropolitan Planning Council’s efforts to coordinate planning.](#)

## NEW URBANISM: Awards Recognize Need to Rethink Growth Patterns

A plan to revitalize a long neglected site in Santa Fe, N.M., is one of eight winners of the 2010 Charter Awards. The Congress for the New Urbanism’s annual awards program honors professional and academic projects for excellence in



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urbanism, specifically projects that encompass quality of life issues, holistic sustainability, and the needs of elderly and low-income populations. [Read more.](#)

## FEDERAL: Promote Livable Communities Through Housing and Transportation Programs

In the 10 months since federal officials announced a partnership between the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, the Dept. of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency, what progress

## Around the Nation:

The typical **Boston** household spends 54% of its annual income on housing and transportation, according to a [new report](#) published by the Center for Housing Policy, in partnership with the Urban Land Institute’s Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing and the Center for Neighborhood Technology.

**Arizona** developer DMB is working with agribusiness giant Cargill Inc. to develop a site in Redwood City, California. The [Artworks Project](#) would encompass mixed use and residential, and would provide affordable housing for 30,000 people.

The urbanization of **Indianapolis** offers lessons for [other cities](#).

**Westchester County**, N.Y., tries to comply with an [affordable housing mandate](#).

[High-density development prospects fade](#) **Ann Arbor, Mich.**

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**Attention Affordable Housing Developers: Share Your Stories**  
PSC is developing a series of case studies

has been made? [Read more.](#)

### **CALIFORNIA: A Powerful Tool for Affordable Housing**

The land use planning process mandated by SB 375 “will be a powerful tool to make affordable housing happen,” according to Cathy Creswell, deputy director of Housing Policy Development for the California Department of Housing and Community Development. But SB 375 has a very long time line for implementation. Most California cities are not yet affected by it and are proceeding with updates to their state-mandated plans for affordable housing with little regard for the “sustainability” that is envisioned by the law. In fact, due to budget cutbacks, many cities and counties have missed their deadlines to submit updated housing plans. [Read more.](#)

### **CALIFORNIA: June 1 Deadline**

The California EPA has set a [June 1 deadline](#) for applications for the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards. The competition is open to all California residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, professional and trade associations, communities, state and local government entities, tribes, and federal agencies operating in California. Award categories include Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Sustainable Communities for voluntary achievements culminated in 2009.

series of case studies from around the country.

We want to show how developers have overcome bias in local land use regulation and NIMBY to gain community support and win entitlements (and get good projects built) Please [tell us your story](#). If we publish your case study, we can disguise the identity and location of the developer or the project if necessary.



## **Partnership for SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

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