



# P4SC News Wire . . .

*News from the  
Partnership for Sustainable Communities*

May 2010

## **CALIFORNIA: Suspension of AB 32 Heads to the Ballot**

The effort to stall the implementation of California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) is moving forward. After a successful petition campaign, California voters will decide in November whether to delay the implementation of the law that requires the state to limit emissions and provide a legal framework for regulating land use as a generator of emissions. [Read more here.](#)

## **FEDERAL: HUD Links Fair Housing to Sustainability**

HUD is proposing to broaden the definition of "fair housing" to include proximity to public transportation and job centers, according to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. It is also doing more to cater to small towns in its soon to be released NOFA for Sustainable Communities Planning Grants. [Read more here.](#)

## **Revolutionary Development Breaks Ground**

Via Verde has been a designer's dream of what green building and sustainable development should look like for years. And now it is finally under construction on a former brownfield site in the South Bronx.



Via Verde Development

The 294,000 square foot project will have 222 residential units when completed in 2012. It has a total development budget of \$100 million, enough to pay for plenty of innovative design and environmental features. Definitely worth checking out--[read more here.](#)

## **LAND USE POLICY: Inclusionary Zoning Faces Challenges**

With housing development in a slump, inclusionary zoning has lost much of its value as a way to get private sector builders to provide affordable units as part of market-rate projects. In some states, this isn't the only problem: Builders are taking the offensive in court to challenge inclusionary zoning ordinances, and in some cases, they are winning. [Read more.](#)

## **A New Retrofit Audit Protocol**

The Enterprise Retrofit Audit Protocol will facilitate funding for retrofitting affordable housing by establishing a "baseline for metrics and disclosures in the analysis of green improvements." The protocol "will help building

## **Around the Nation**

**Illinois** recently adopted CNT's Housing and Transportation Index as a planning tool.

Smart growth in **Wisconsin**: A success?

A new neighborhood for **Chicago**.

[Are pedestrian malls the future or the relic of antiquated thinking?](#)

owners, lenders and providers of public subsidies establish clear guidelines for how to approach evaluating the potential retrofit of a building.” [Read more here.](#)

## Brookings Report: New Reality in Metro US

“State of metropolitan America,” Brookings’ study of U.S. demographics, where and whom Americans live with, and how Americans provide for themselves and their communities, proposes five “new realities” of the United States in 2010:

- An expanding population, mostly in the metro areas, which continue to spread
- A more diverse population
- An aging population
- More uneven education opportunities
- A more economically polarized society

What do these findings mean for urban planners and developers? The researchers conclude that large metropolitan areas can be divided into several different “types,” (e.g., “next frontier,” “mid-sized magnet,” “skilled anchor”) and that planning efforts should reflect the type of community in which a development is being considered. [Read more here.](#)



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