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Winter 2010 Newsletter

**We need to build a new economy—
not resurrect the old one.
Be part of the change!**

Great Challenges = Great Opportunities

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Exciting national opportunities are bringing ULI MN/RCM's work to a new level! In this issue read more about RCM Co-Chair, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz's appointment as President of the US Conference of Mayors, ULI MN's participation in a high profile demonstration project from the Brookings Institution, and how federal policy changes will elevate the work of ULI members.

INITIATIVES

Keep up with ULI MN's work on the web at:

<http://minnesota.uli.org/>. The website is updated regularly with summaries of recent activities, meeting notes, presentations, and reports. Please check back often!

Transportation: Southwest Corridor Work Gets Rolling!

In November, ULI MN hosted the second Southwest Transit Corridor workshop, bringing together key policy leaders and planners to learn from and work with renowned urban designer Ken Greenberg and TOD specialist Marilee Utter of Denver-based Citiventure. The Southwest Corridor is the region's first transit line that spans from a central city through several suburban communities with multiple land uses, financial hurdles and redevelopment complexities.

ULI MN is working with Hennepin County and the cities along the line to help create a cohesive strategy that considers the future

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land uses and their role in placemaking *before* the final transit alignment and station location decisions are made. At the workshop participants discussed the actions needed to maximize development potential, the need for deliberate and early collaboration among jurisdictions, and the key ingredients for a coordinated corridor strategy that results in quality placemaking. After the conclusion of the workshop, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a Southwest Transit Corridor Community Works project that will lay the groundwork for improved collaboration across programs and municipalities.

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ULI MN will partner with Hennepin County to provide support and learning opportunities to enhance this important regional city building opportunity. [Learn more](#) about ULI MN's work in the Southwest Transit Corridor.

Metropolis Magazine interviews Toronto-based consultant Ken Greenberg on the future of urban planning. [Read more](#).

Jobs/Economic Competitiveness: Brookings Institution selects ULI Minnesota and partners for Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative

As part of an effort to fundamentally change how the federal government invests in metropolitan areas, the Brookings Institution has selected three regions—the Twin Cities, Cleveland, and Seattle—to develop cluster-specific "Metropolitan Business Plans." The Metropolitan Business Plan (MBP) project is designed to be a "reverse RFP" whereby metropolitan regions complete a holistic, aligned, and integrated business plan and use it as an investment prospectus when seeking funds from the federal government. Rather than applying to hundreds of federal programs, across dozens of agencies, regions would be able to submit comprehensive plans that receive more flexible, performance-based funding.

Brookings approached ULI MN and the Regional Council of Mayors about this opportunity because of a strong tradition of collaboration between local elected officials and the business and civic community. This is evidenced by the partners participating in the MBP project, including: the cities of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Bloomington, the Itasca Project, Target Corporation and the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The Twin Cities' business plan will focus on job growth and economic recovery, with a particular emphasis on increasing innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship within industry clusters. Brookings with its consultants, RW Ventures of Chicago will provide the partners with technical assistance, detailed data analysis, and a national platform to showcase the region's work. Beyond these benefits, this opportunity is providing the catalyst for the partners to create and support an economic vision and implementing entity for the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For details about calendar items, click on links. [More information](#) about events coming in 2010.

Young Leaders Group Annual Program

Thriving in the New Economy-Is it Working?

Thursday, March 11, 3:45 – 6:00pm

Dorsey & Whitney, 15th Floor Minnesota Room

The annual YLG program will explore trends in the new economy highlighting the most successful in this down market, including: a) the changing ways we work and live, b) young families shaping the city, and c) corporate real estate. An expert panel will provide refreshing insight on building on our local strengths to continue to be a more connected and more competitive region. [Learn more and register](#).

Public-Private Partnerships

Friday, April 9, 7:30-9:30am

Dorsey & Whitney, 15th Floor Minnesota Room

What sounds better than a "public-private partnership?" But what does it really mean? Can P3s bring us more transit options at a quicker pace? We'll explore the range of options available for transit, with a special emphasis on new alternatives for financing and building transit assets. Other regions are rapidly adding new "tools to the toolbox" and we'll examine what might work here. [Learn more and register.](#)

ULI 2010 Real Estate Summit and Spring Forum

April 14-16 in Boston, MA

All ULI Members are invited to be a part of in-depth roundtable discussions on the new realities facing the development industry, and to hear from leading researchers and practitioners whose work is reshaping the field. Participants will discuss and challenge assumptions in small-group settings. Speakers include: Mark Zandi, Moody's Investor Services and Richard Florida, well known author and demographer. [Learn more and register.](#)

My ULI Minnesota

Thursday, April 22, 4:00-5:30 pm

Lindquist & Vennum, 80 S 8th Street, 42nd floor

If you have ever hoped to meet some of your ULI colleagues, wondered what ULI is all about or wanted to be more engaged in ULI MN, this event is for you. Even if you are not a member but have thought about joining, My ULI Minnesota is a great way to learn more about the benefits and opportunities of membership. Watch for more information.

ULI MN/RCM Housing Initiative Conference

Thursday, June 17, 8:00-11:00am

Dorsey & Whitney, 15th Floor Minnesota Room

What housing strategies should be pursued in the new economy? What will the housing and mortgage market look like in the future? How should changing demographics and a new economic reality shape development? Join us at the ULI MN/RCM Housing Initiative Conference to learn from two distinguished practitioners in the housing field: Douglas Duncan, Vice President and Chief Economist from Fannie Mae and John McIlwain, Senior Resident Fellow and J. Ronald Terwilliger Chair for Housing at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC.

Annual Economic Forecast featuring Brian Beaulieu

Tuesday, November 16, 7:30-10:00 am

Brian Beaulieu returns for an analysis of the 2010 economic experience, and his predictions for 2011.

ULI MN PROGRAM RECAPS

[Link](#) to individual past program summaries.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher: Inside the Leadership Studio session

December 10, 2009

In 2006, when asked how she planned on filling then-Speaker Dee Long's shoes, current Speaker of the House and gubernatorial candidate Margaret Anderson Kelliher replied, "I am going to bring my own." Rep. Kelliher took ULI MN Young Leaders for a walk in those shoes as she described her leadership style, proudest achievements, and goals for Minnesota's future.

Alain Miguelez: Connecting BRT to the Community Workshop

December 15, 2009

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a new technology for the Twin Cities region and the nation. With few examples and many questions about BRT's ability to influence land use, ULI MN hosted Alain Miguelez, Ottawa's Program Manager of Inner Urban Development Review, to discuss that city's long experience with BRT.

John Dalzell: From Bean Town to Green Town

January 13, 2010

Evolving from a 2003 Green Building Task Force called for by Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston's 2007 landmark zoning change now requires that any development over 50,000 square feet be built to LEED certified standards. Describing Boston's future plans to create green districts Dalzell told the audience, "High performance buildings are the future. As we continue to grow our city, we will do so in a way that is even more sustainable."

Jim Charlier: The Complete Street Revolution

February 11, 2010

Challenging the "faster, straighter, wider makes it better" approach to roadway design, Boulder-based transportation planner Jim Charlier shared his vision of a network of complete streets that serve different functions, complement neighborhoods, and generate value for the community.

PEOPLE AND IDEAS

Regional Council of Mayors Co-Chair Elizabeth Kautz Goes to Washington

On January 5, Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz was inaugurated the 68th president of the US Conference of Mayors (USCM). This is the first time that either a Minnesotan or a suburban mayor has held this position. At her inauguration ceremony in Burnsville, Mayor Kautz announced, "By the time we arrive at the USCM Annual Conference in June, my goal is to be able to submit to my colleagues a specific plan of action for how America's mayors – in partnership with business leaders and CEOs – can deepen our research on the value of the metropolitan economies and broaden our coalition in support of federal investment policies that will strengthen those economies."

Mayor Kautz and her counterparts have already met with the President, Vice President and numerous cabinet members and US Senators and Congressmen to push for their top priorities: energy and climate legislation, new transportation legislation that directs investments to metro areas, and job creation. [Read or watch](#) Mayor Kautz's inaugural address or [read](#) the USCM press release.

Livability in the Limelight at the US Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

In a dramatic change from existing policy U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood proposed that new funding guidelines for major transit projects be based on livability issues such as economic development opportunities and environmental benefits, in addition to cost and time saved, which are currently the primary criteria. [Read more](#) about the January 13 DOT decision.

In early February, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced the launch of the new [Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities](#) which will be directed by Shelley Poticha, who in her former role as Executive Director of Reconnecting America worked on numerous transit-focused projects in the Twin Cities. Secretary Donovan also announced the availability of \$100 million for regional integrated planning initiatives through HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. HUD has made an advance notice of this program available for comment through March 12. [Read more](#).

Fracture Critical Development

Thomas Fisher, Dean of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota and ULI Executive Committee member has published a fascinating article that looks at how the lack of redundancy, connectedness, efficiency, and exponential stress can lead to the collapse of bridges, financial systems, and worse. [Read](#) Dean Fisher's article.

Tools You Can Use

[Back to the Future](#), a new PowerPoint presentation developed by ULI MN/RCM and the Itasca Project, details the compelling reasons why it is more important than ever to link our transportation and land use investments. We encourage you to share the presentation and keep the discussion moving! [Download](#) the PDF versions of the slides and [notes pages](#) here.

The Smart Growth program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement and for Smart Growth Technical Assistance. [Learn more](#) about these programs.

MEET THE MAYOR: CHRIS COLEMAN, ST. PAUL

First elected to his post in 2005, second-term St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman has the city and politics in his blood: he is the second youngest of seven kids born in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood and the son of Nick Coleman Sr., who served in the Minnesota Senate from 1973 until 1981. Mayor Coleman and his wife, Connie, live on the West Side with their two school-aged children.

In your inaugural address this year, you talked a lot about the importance of the region—what do you think are the most important things that city leaders can do to strengthen our region's global economic competitiveness?

First, we need to think of ourselves as one region. We can't celebrate "victories" when jobs just move across our city borders. A lot of our organizations and structures are going to have to give up entrenched interests to work across boundaries. We really need one central organization for the region whose mission is economic development.

If you wanted to convince the CEO of a rapidly expanding company to locate to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area, what would you highlight?

This is as strong a community that you will find anywhere. Sure, when you look at weather or some tax issues we may not be at the top of the list, but when you take into account our workforce, quality of life, and governmental infrastructure, we have a lot to offer. We have one of the most educated workforces in the world, with a great University, tons of colleges and a K-12 system that offers great choices among public, charter, and private schools.

In the five years that you have been in office, how have you seen the relationships between mayors in the metro area change?

Mayor Rybak (Minneapolis) and I have worked together from Day 1—in fact our first lunch was a highly covered event! Relationships between the two cities haven't always been close, and I'm so glad that our two largest cities are working together. But it isn't just Rybak and Coleman, it's mayors from across the region, Mayors Kautz, Harpstead (Arden Hills), Winstead (Bloomington), Hovland (Edina) and others coming together through the Regional Council of Mayors. We are all starting to understand that we are in this together and the RCM has created a strong basis for future relations.

What are the top 3 things that you would like to accomplish in your second term as Mayor?

First is the completion of the Central Corridor light rail project with a multimodal station at Union Depot that will connect to high speed rail to Chicago. Second is developing a regional approach and entity to guide economic development and attract and retain jobs. The third area is education. I want our children ready for the 21st century economy and I want to close the achievement gap in our city.

What are the best little-known spots in Saint Paul that you think others should know about?

This is a hard question for a mayor and especially in St. Paul where every neighborhood has its own secret, little place with a very neighborhood feel. Focusing on food, I'd say: Jerabek's coffee shop and bakery on the West Side; so many great restaurants like Little Szechuan and Ngon Bistro on University; Senor Wong's downtown; Connie's Creamy Cone in the North End; Mammias on Rice Street. And even though it is technically in Lilydale, I'd add the hanging bog near the Bruce Vento Overlook in Lilydale Park because it is part of our park system.

When you're not at work, what are your favorite things to do?

With two kids at home, we do a lot of school-related events like hockey, soccer, and lacrosse. We're a very outdoorsy family—we go to the cabin, visit the mountains, go to the North Shore. My wife Connie and I like to watch "The Daily Show" at 10pm. I also love listening to and playing music.

POETIC MOMENT

Bob Close, landscape architect and member of the ULI MN executive committee, reminds us that there's room for artistic expression in land use circles. He is ULI MN's own "poet laureate."

The low arc of the sun is beginning to climb
The long nights of winter will ease

A corner, it seems, will be turned on a dime
And the icy winds finally cease

It's a time of renewal, a time of rebirth
Hope springs eternal, they say
In less than two months we'll be hanging outdoors
As the ballpark is opened for play

So embrace the new season, say goodbye to travails
And let loose a loud cheer or two
For as baseball goes outdoors and we do as well
It's a time to expect something new

But bring a jacket!

ULI MN WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP and MEMBERS

Executive Committee members

Peter Austin, Welsh Companies
Eliza Clark, Paydirt, LLC

New members

Snezhana Bessonov, John Carpenter, Angela Christa, Barbara Dacy, Amanda Heyman, Eddie Landenberger, Mayor Marvin Johnson, Laurie McGinnis, Timothy Murnonet, Noel Nix, Jon Peterson, Ciara Schlichting, Robert Schreier, Kristina Smitten, Amy Wimmer

ULI BOOKSTORE: SUPPORT ULI MINNESOTA

Next time you order a book from the Bookstore, be sure to use the ULI Minnesota code "8117". Your district council will receive a share of the proceeds!

CONTACT US:

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Questions or problems with the ULI web site? Contact Jamie McAfee (202) 624-7023.
To learn more about ULI MN or to be added to our mailing list, please contact [Pat Arnst](#).

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