

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

A national nonprofit, membership organization  
1303 J St., Suite 250 Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.lgc.org | www.newpartners.org

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Dave Davis, mediaideas@lgc.org, 510-526-0626  
Michele Warren, mkwarren@lgc.org, 916-448-1198 x308

*Note for reporters: During the event, please check in at the conference registration desk in the Grand Ballroom foyer of the Westin Charlotte Hotel (601 S. College St. at E. Stonewall St.) to obtain a media credential.*

## **National Conference Features Federal Partnerships and Smart Growth Innovation in the Face of Economically Uncertain Times**

Many of the nation's experts and leaders with successes addressing the environmental and economic challenges of creating more livable, sustainable communities will converge on Charlotte this week, at the nation's premier smart growth conference. There, close to 1,400 participants from across the country will attend the 10th annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference, to be held February 3-5 at the Westin Charlotte Hotel. [For agenda: [www.NewPartners.org](http://www.NewPartners.org)]

The conference will kick off Thursday evening (Feb. 3, 7:15 p.m.) with a plenary on "Financing Smart Growth: From Public to Private Investments in Sustainable Communities," exploring our country's current fiscal and real estate development conditions, and how the market for smart growth may fare as financial realities change in the coming years.

U.S. EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe will share his perspective on the coordinated federal investments in community projects made by the EPA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation this past year as part of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Henry Cisneros, former HUD Secretary and current Executive Chairman of CityView, will talk about the important role that the private sector can play in supporting more sustainable communities, even in a time of constrained resources and challenging market conditions.

Joining them will be a distinguished panel of experts from the real estate, development and financial sectors who will share their perspectives on the role of financial investment and dedicated public- and private-sector leadership in making smart growth a success. The panelists include Christopher Leinberger, Metropolitan Land Strategist and Developer at the Brookings Institution; Rose Companies Principal Daniel Hernandez; and Brian Leary, President/CEO of the Atlanta BeltLine.

Smart growth approaches to development apply to all types of communities – from urban to suburban to rural. Rural communities, however, are sometimes underrepresented in the dialogue about smart growth.

On Friday morning, the plenary session on "Smart Growth and Rural America" will explore how smart growth approaches to development can help rural communities enhance economic competitiveness, improve public health, and protect the environment. U.S. Department of Agriculture Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Doug O'Brien will discuss federal investments that USDA is making to enhance sustainability and economic development opportunities in rural communities across the country. Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus will describe the resources that the Environmental Protection Agency has to help rural communities, including grants to help small towns and rural communities revitalize areas around brownfields.

Following these two federal leaders, panelists will share their perspectives on how smart growth principles can enhance economic development opportunities, solve transportation challenges, and revitalize disadvantaged communities in rural areas. The panelists include Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations; Deeohn Ferris, President, Sustainable Community Development Group; and John Robert Smith, President/CEO, Reconnecting America.

In the Saturday morning plenary session on "Moving our Country to a Green(er) Economy," transportation expert Jim Charlier will share his perspectives on the economic challenges of the future and the critical importance of moving to a green economy. Geoffrey Anderson, President/CEO of Smart Growth America, will respond with some perspectives on how smart growth approaches to development and investing in public transit will help build our green economy while addressing struggling city and county budgets.

"From the city to the state to the national level, smart growth approaches to development must be part of the broader effort to provide green jobs and move our nation forward to a new green economy," said Judy

Corbett, the executive director of the Local Government Commission, a nonprofit, membership organization based in California, which is organizing the national conference.

During the plenary, Corbett will share newly released information demonstrating why smart growth is critical to job growth and economically healthy regions.

Mayor Bill Bell will also describe how the city of Durham, NC, has partnered with an affordable housing developer to help residents reduce their household energy expenditures while also providing green jobs for those in need of work in his community.

Following this plenary, award-winning architect and New Urbanist pioneer Andrés Duany, will deliver a presentation on his latest ideas about "Slow Development," which addresses the recent 'inversion' of the relative costs and availability of land and financing and how communities can take advantage of this inversion to make it good for developers and for the environment.

For our cities and towns to remain competitive in a global economy, they must be attractive and unique places. No one knows this better than Mitch Silver, President of the American Planning Association and Planning Director for Raleigh, NC.

In Saturday afternoon's closing keynote address on "Transforming Our Cities in a Globally Competitive World," Silver will discuss his role in helping to shape Raleigh into a nationally and globally competitive city by enhancing public transportation, re-sculpting the city's suburban neighborhoods, and building on Raleigh's best assets. He will also share his perspectives about what planners and other local government officials around the country can do to ensure that their cities and towns become safer, smarter and more competitive in the future.

"Smart planning adds value to communities by keeping local economies strong and taxes stable. Forward thinking leadership will play a crucial role in implementing smart planning practices at the local and regional scale. Bold leadership will also highlight the important role collaboration will play for local and state government, particularly in the context of North Carolina's recent statewide Sustainable Communities Task Force legislation," said Silver.

In addition to the conference's Equitable Development track of sessions, a daylong, pre-conference workshop on "Achieving Equitable Development: Strategies to Empower Community Organizations" (Wednesday, Feb. 2) will feature federal officials and community leaders who will focus on building the capacity of community-based organizations to engage on growth and development issues in their neighborhoods, communities and regions to help revitalize America's disadvantaged areas, grow the economy, and create healthy and sustainable communities.

**About the conference:** The New Partners for Smart Growth conference, hosted at the Westin Charlotte Hotel by the Local Government Commission, a national nonprofit, membership organization based in California, spans three days and covers cutting-edge smart growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies, successful case studies and new policies. The conference will feature 400 speakers, more than 100 sessions and 11 tours of local model projects. For more information about the conference sponsors, agenda, speakers and tours: [www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org)

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