

SMART GROWTH AND JOBS

*How Connecticut's current development is hurting every community . . .
and why smarter growth may be the answer.*

created by

THE **CENTEREDGE** PROJECT

This fact sheet is a brief summary of a translation paper on smart growth, part of a series produced by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. The full papers can be found on the Funders' Network website, www.fundersnetwork.org

Sprawl and Job Opportunities: The Problem

- Current patterns of economic growth **separate entry-level jobs from the workers who need them most.**
- **Businesses are moving out of central cities**, due to problems of crime, blight and limited land access as well as tax incentives offered by developing suburban communities.
- Once businesses have departed, **inadequate public transportation systems** make it impossible for city residents to access many employment opportunities.

The Problems Faced by Cities

- When businesses and middle-class residents move to suburban areas, **cities' tax bases are eroded**, and their ability to provide needed public services suffers.
- **Public schools are hurt** when cities cut budgets and pare back services.
- As a result, urban residents—often low-income people or people of color—**face more obstacles in accessing higher education** and better-paying employment opportunities.

The Problems Faced by Suburbs

- The relocation of business and industry to the suburbs can lead to the **elimination of valued open space and increased pollution.**
- In addition, **new businesses strain existing infrastructure**, or require expensive new investments in electricity, sewage and roads.
- Finally, lack of public transportation forces employees to drive to suburban workplaces, leading to **longer commute times and increased traffic congestion.**

An Opportunity for Positive Change

- Maintaining a **strong core of business and employment opportunities in central cities** benefits both urban and suburban communities.

For more information about smart growth, how it affects your community and what you can do, contact the CenterEdge project.

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