

# SMART GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION

*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](http://www.fundersnetwork.org)

### **Sprawl and Transportation: The Problem**

- Current patterns of economic growth have led to an **increasing reliance on cars** for transportation.
- The increased prominence of automobile travel has had a **negative impact on public health and public safety** in many communities.
- Lack of adequate public transportation **poses serious obstacles to low-income individuals, senior citizens and others** who do not drive or have limited access to cars.

### **Transportation in Cities**

- Urban residents are severely disadvantaged by the **lack of access to public transit**, which prevents them from accessing regional job centers.
- In addition, low-income individuals are forced to **devote a large portion of their income to meeting their transportation needs** by owning and maintaining a car.
- **Poorly-planned highways often bisect urban neighborhoods**, bringing increased pollution, noise and danger to the residents and eroding the neighborhood's vitality.

## **Transportation in Suburbs**

- The construction of new roads, often across or around undeveloped land, **adversely affects the surrounding environment** and paves the way for increased sprawl.
- **Increased air pollution and traffic fatalities** result from greater volumes of traffic and the lack of safe pedestrian routes.
- Longer commute times and the need to take more and more car trips **can place burdens on parents and strain families.**

## **An Opportunity for Positive Change**

- Promoting a more creative mix of transportation options can **increase opportunities for all a community's residents.**

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

Office of Urban Affairs, Archdiocese of Hartford  
81 Saltonstall Avenue New Haven , CT 06513-4356  
Contact Patricia Wallace, 203-777-7279 or [Pwallace@oua-adh.org](mailto:Pwallace@oua-adh.org)

This fact sheet prepared by Jessica Leight, Project Assistant to the CenterEdge Project.