Dear Healthy Community Design News Subscribers,

The importance of healthy community design and health impact assessment activities in helping improve public health is evident throughout the recently released National Prevention Strategy: America’s Plan for Better Health and Wellness (http://www.healthcare.gov/center/councils/nphpphc/strategy/report.pdf). The report was authorized by the Affordable Care Act to help transform the U.S. health care system from a focus on sickness and disease to one that is focused on prevention and wellness.

The National Prevention Strategy has four key directions, two of which relate directly to healthy community design: **Building Healthy and Safe Community Environments** and **Empowering People to Make Healthy Choices**. The strategy identifies seven priorities; healthy community design can help achieve at least four of them:

- Healthy Eating.
- Active Living.
- Injury and Violence-free Living.
- Mental and Emotional Well-Being.

Page 10 of the National Prevention Strategy highlights an example of healthy community design: Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s success in incorporating health considerations into the city’s 25-year regional transportation plan.

Until next time - keep up the great work!

--Charles Green, CGreen1@cdc.gov,
www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces

Success doesn’t mean the absence of failures; it means the attainment of ultimate objectives. It means winning the war, not every battle.
Conferences, July/August/September 2011

July 31-August 3, 2011, Association for Commuter Transportation International Conference
Chicago, IL
http://www.actweb.org/mc/page.do;jsessionid=88D20F21D7EF89EEA13CE8EED9BD1C8.mc0?sitePagId=60181

August 16-18, 2011, 3rd Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Conference
Minneapolis, MN
http://www.saferoutesconference.org/

August 27-31, 2011, 2011 Association for Commuter Transportation International Conference
Chicago, IL
http://www.actweb.org/mc/page.do?sitePagId=121487&orgld=asct

September 7, 2011, Place Matters National Conference
Washington, DC
http://www.jointcenter.org/place-matters-national-conference

September 13-16, 2011, 23rd International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference
Barcelona, Spain
http://www.isee2011.org/
(Sessions include the built environment, active transport and health, and health impact assessment)

September 20-22, 2011, Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo
Chicago, IL
http://www.hcarefacilities.com/
(Sessions include brownfield redevelopment, the function nature plays in generative spaces and treatment zones, and creating places to flourish with environmental psychology)
Funding, Scholarship and Award Opportunities

HUD/EPA: Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities Grant Program (deadline July 8, 2011)


The award program will build upon the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Award recipients will support a growing network of existing and future HUD and EPA grantees that are advancing sustainable regional planning and development. The program will award funds to capacity building service providers who will work directly with grant recipients from the FY 2010 and FY 2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge, HUD Preferred Sustainability Status Communities, and EPA Sustainable Community Technical Assistance and Brownfield Area Wide Planning grant programs.

EPA: Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Awards (deadline July 17, 2011)

http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/index.htm

Two types of awards will be made—the Commitment Award and the Achievement Award. The Commitment Award recognizes communities that have developed and begun to initiate a specific plan to implement smart growth and active aging principles. The Achievement Award will be given for overall excellence in building healthy communities for active aging. Applicants must be public-sector entities in the United States and coordinate with their local Area Agency on Aging. Public-sector entities include all levels of elected governments, from city councils to state legislatures and their subdivisions such as planning departments and other executive branch divisions.

Job Openings

Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning, The Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University, Oregon (no deadline)
The position for a tenure-track assistant professor beginning September 16, 2011 (fall semester) must have a doctorate (or be in the final stages of their degree) in real estate development, city and regional planning, urban studies, economics, geography, public policy, or a related discipline, and a scholarly commitment to the fields of real estate development, urban planning, urban studies, community and regional development, and/or sustainable development. Faculty is expected to develop a strong record of scholarship and civic engagement, including obtaining externally funded research and/or service. Research units include the Center for Real Estate, Center for Urban Studies, Center for Transportation Studies, Population Research Center, and the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies. Other Schools in the College are the School of Community Health and the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, which comprises Criminology and Criminal Justice, Political Science, and Public Administration.

**Call for Papers, Proposals, Speakers and Abstracts**

Transportation Research Board 91st Annual Meeting Call for Papers (Deadline August 1, 2011)


The aim of this call for papers is to expand and improve current understanding and evaluation of the health impacts of federal, state, regional, and local transportation policies, procedures and actions. Papers may encompass wide-ranging impacts and issues related to health; these include

- sustainable and active transportation modes (e.g., walking, biking, transit);
- health data analysis and data needs;
- mobility;
- accessibility;
- safety;
- freight and aviation impacts;
- transportation-related air pollution and noise impacts;
- health impact assessments (HIAs) and other health metrics.
MD First State in USA to Approve Environmental Graduation Requirement (Southern Maryland Online, June 21, 2011)


“Under the graduation requirement, public schools will be required to infuse core subjects with lessons about conservation, smart growth and the health of our natural world. Local school systems will have the ability to shape their programs to be relevant to their county, but all will align with standards set by the State.”

EPA Administrator Announces $76 Million to Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Revitalize Communities/EPA Brownfields (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency press release June 6, 2011)

http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/1e5ab1124055f3b28525781f0042ed40/498775232d23689b852578a700506001!OpenDocument

EPA awarded more than $76 million for cleanups in 40 states to help redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and help create jobs while protecting public health.

Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces up to $175 Million in ‘Livability’ Grants to Increase and Improve Transportation Options (U.S. Department of Transportation press release, June 16, 2011)


Local transit agencies will be able to compete for livability dollars from the pool of up to $175 million to help urban, suburban and rural communities develop transit options to better connect people to where they live, work and play. The competitive grant program began accepting applications when announced in the Federal Register during the week of June 20.
Journal Articles and Reports


http://t4america.org/resources/seniorsmobilitycrisis2011/

The report “ranks metro areas by the percentage of seniors with poor access to public transportation, now and in the coming years, and presents other data on aging and transportation.”

Krizek K, Stonebraker E, Tribbey S. Bicycling access and egress to transit: informing the possibilities. San Jose, CA: Mineta Transportation Institute; 2011.

http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/PDFs/research/2825_bicycling_access.pdf

“To aid in developing a framework to evaluate the cost effectiveness of different strategies to integrate transit and bicycling this project: (1) reviews the state of the knowledge, (2) proposes an analysis framework for communities and transit agencies to consider in efforts to maximize the integration of bicycling and transit, (3) conducts focus groups with cyclists from five case study communities to gauge preferences for bicycle and transit integration strategies, and (4) develops a preliminary application to evaluate four bicycle and transit integration strategies based on focus group discussions and use of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP).”

Training Opportunities

Health & the Built Environment: Conducting Health Impact Assessments: August 8-12, 2011, Seattle, WA. Summer Institute for Public Health Practice


This interdisciplinary course examines how the design of communities can have positive and adverse impacts on human health and provides tools to examine these impacts, specifically health impact assessment (HIA). In this course, students will review the links between health and the built environment, learn the steps to conduct an HIA, review HIA case studies, discuss how HIA findings may impact decision making, and participate in class exercises to gain practical experience in conducting HIAs. This course is appropriate for students interested in the links between public health and community design and will include readings, discussions and in-class exercises. Cost: $1,500. Registration closes on August 1, 2011.
New and Notable Resources

Examination of Built Environment Instruments Addressing Health Promoting Behaviors (University of Illinois at Chicago Center on Health Promotion Research for Persons with Disabilities)

http://uic-chp.org/CHP_A9_UDHP_01.html

The project is a content review of the commonalities and disparities across existing built environment measurement tools that measure health promotion accessibility and community livability. This study identifies subject domain content overlap across instruments, and which domains and instruments are sensitive to accessibility for people with disabilities and other constituent groups, or which require further modification. Information on instrument methodological features, including instrument development methods, research design, and psychometrics are also provided.

A Citizen’s Guide to LEED-for Neighborhood Development: How to Tell if Development is Smart and Green (Raimi + Associates and the Natural Resources Defense Council)


Even for those not seeking LEED-ND certification, this plain-language guide should be useful to citizens interested in improving the health of their neighborhoods through community design.

Healthier Communities Through Redevelopment: Rebuilding Neighborhoods for Better Nutrition and Physical Activity (Public Health Law & Policy)


This guide provides an overview of the framework, tools, and general practices of redevelopment, showing how redevelopment projects can help improve residents' health while strengthening the local economy. By partnering with local redevelopment agencies, public health advocates and other community leaders can help incorporate better nutrition and active living into plans for revitalizing blighted neighborhoods.

Comprehensive Planning for Public Health: Results of the Planning and Community Health Research Center Survey (American Planning Association)

In summer 2010, the American Planning Association conducted a national Web-based survey to identify draft and adopted comprehensive and sustainability plans that explicitly address public health. The survey report provides an overview of the public health topics addressed, public health data and data collection tools used, and the successes and challenges faced by local governments in the inclusion of public health into the plan. In addition, the report includes a list of the 240 identified comprehensive plans and 27 sustainability plans that explicitly address public health. Funding for this project was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pathways for Play Web site
http://pathwaysforplay.org/

PlayCore and the Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) have partnered to develop *Pathways for Play*, a comprehensive program that provides solutions for creating attractive, playful pathways for children, youth, and families. Program elements available on the Web site are a *Pathways for Play* guidebook, online resources, educational activities, and unique mobile applications to enhance the experience of pathway users.

**Opinions from Around the World**

The Allure of Food: It’s not just a lifestyle. It’s a life. (Hazel Borys, Placeshakers and Newsmakers, June 17, 2011)

“….in the next generation, the market square is likely to replace the shopping square…. Agriculture is making its way back into our lives as we search for the organic, the connected, and the communal. As we search for meaningful daily rituals and seasonal celebrations. As we search for slow food, localism, community, economic resiliency, environmental stewardship, health and fitness, and just plain fun.”

Imagining Detroit (Mark Bittman, New York Times, May 17, 2011)
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/

“Here, local food isn’t just hip, it’s a unifying factor not only among African-Americans and whites but between them. Food is an issue on which it seems everyone can agree, and this is a lesson for all of us…. Read the paper, and you see a wasted landscape; go there, and you see the sprouts emerging from the soil.”
http://www.vtpi.org/ITE_comp_st.pdf

“An aging population; rising fuel costs; congestion, health, and environmental concerns; and changing consumer preferences are all increasing demand for walking, cycling, and public transit. These trends indicate that an integrated multimodal transportation system is required if we are to meet future travel demands.”

In every field of endeavor
those who put their hearts in their work are the real leaders.
---Frat

Healthy Community Design News is compiled and managed by
Charles L. Green, MA, MFA
Health Communication Specialist
Healthy Community Design Initiative
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, Mailstop F60
Atlanta, Georgia 30341
W: 770-488-0626
E: CGreen1@cdc.gov

To subscribe to the CDC-facilitated Healthy Community Design News Listserv, go to http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/listserv.htm. To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CDC.GOV with the following command in the body of the e-mail: SIGNOFF LIVABILITY-GROUP.

DISCLAIMER: The contents of this e-newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), or the federal government. CDC, HHS, or the federal government is not responsible for the contents of the information contained in this e-newsletter. Links to nonfederal organizations found at this site are provided solely as a service to our readers. These links do not constitute an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by CDC or the federal government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at these links.