

ULI Kansas City – Infrastructure 2008: A Competitive
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KC ULI District Council
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Four Converging Forces

- 1) Global Warming
- 2) Demand for Energy
- 3) Infrastructure Spending
 - a. Need stronger Federal commitment
 - b. Only Feds have power at this scale
 - c. Sound infrastructure = prosperous city, where people want to live
A crisis/investment in the future, not solely budgetary
 - d. Continuous maintenance of infrastructure = competitive
 - e. Avoid “American Acceptionalism” – Maintain lifestyle regardless of outside factors
 - f. US – no high speed transportation. Union Station a possibility?
 - g. Capitalizing on Rail – reduce footprint
 - h. Need National Rail Plan and 3 new airports
 - i. US congestion worsens – no national plan for congestion, treating environment, rebuild infrastructure, pay now, or pay more later

What can we do?

- 1) Ante up for infrastructure investments
 - a. Create national infrastructure bank
 - b. Need federal help
- 2) Tap the private sector
 - a. Privatization
 - b. Increase user fees – charge the users, VMT pricing, etc
 - c. Increase taxes
 - Smarter Land Use
 - d. Compact development
 - e. Higher density – dealt with finesse/ with good design
 - f. Emphasize infill, rather than new construction
 - g. Shift towards transit
 - i. Gas prices, alternatives to driving, reducing car dependence, KC=low public transit, 20-25% increase since gas hike, TOD development

“We are changing the paradigm from capacity to sustainability”
-Royce Hansen

- 3) Regional Cooperation

- a. Think and act Regionally
- 4) Leadership
 - a. A chance to create positive change

Which comes first? Real Estate Development or Infrastructure?

Answer: Both, at a localized level.

Mell Henderson

- “National Vision for Transportation”
 - In the past the highway system has created benefits, but now it has only created a product (an output). Need to steer focus away from output.
 - Look at not just coastal or sunbelt, but middle American and nationally.
- Advance, Modernize, Diversify – Road Network/transportation
 - Gas prices – provide jumps in lifestyle
 - Walking and Bicycling = regional investment
 - Rethinking land uses
 - More adaptable plans
 - As certainties arise
 - Different directions
 - Fiscal reality – investment resources
- Midwest = Relief Valve

I have a copy of “Infrastructure 2008.” Please contact me if you would like to see it.

Thanks,
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