



We cordially invite you to attend

Planning for our Future Together

Robert B. & Helen S. Meyner Center
for the Study of State & Local Government

A Conference for Local Officials

The Meyner Center is a non-partisan academic and public-service unit of Lafayette College. As part of our public service to the community in our region, we are offering this second conference on inter-municipal planning free of charge. The target audience is local officials and municipal managers from the Lehigh Valley.

In the latter part of 2003, the Brookings Institute published its report "Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania." In its pre-able, the report states that "Pennsylvania's cities, towns, and older suburbs are declining as the state sprawls. Pennsylvania's economy is drifting as it responds incoherently to continued industrial restructuring." The report explains that the number of municipalities and Pennsylvania's own bureaucratic fragmentation has caused jurisdictions to compete against each other rather than act together on tough problems like land-use planning and economic development." The report recommends "that Pennsylvania assess its state-local government system, foster more coordination through its own actions and incentives, and make it far easier for governments that want to work together to do so."

These conclusions led the Meyner Center to undertake meeting with officials from the 63 municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, and Phillipsburg, NJ in the spring of 2004. Since that time, the Center has worked with the three COGs in Northampton County, the Lehigh Valley Municipal Managers, engaged in visioning with the Bangor Area School District and is now assisting with preparing a strategic plan in that region, and brought together the Cities of Easton and Phillipsburg to engage in planning with the Delaware River Joint Bridge Commission to make the river the focal point of a regional downtown revitalization, full of activities and a vibrant nightlife.

Many efforts are already underway in many of our communities. Yet, there is more that can be done. This conference will provide information and engage in discussion on regional planning, smart land use and smart transportation issues, and inform participants on how state and county governments can assist local efforts.

The goal of this conference is to provide municipalities with the tools and contacts to make sensible land use decisions in cooperation with their neighboring municipalities. It is also a time to ask questions, get answers and challenge our state, county and local officials to think outside of the box. It is an opportunity to let them know what municipalities need from them. It is also a chance to ask the Meyner Center for assistance on issues that cannot be readily resolved.

Planning the Future Together Schedule
Meyner Center for the Study of State & Local Government
Lafayette College
May 19, 2005

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| 7:30 - 8:00 | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:00 - 8:20 | Welcoming Remarks
Arthur Rothkopf, <i>President</i>
<i>Lafayette College</i>
John Kincaid, <i>Director</i>
<i>Meyner Center, Lafayette College</i> |
| 8:25 - 8:55 | Comprehensive Planning in the Lehigh Valley
Michael Kaiser, <i>Executive Director</i>
<i>Lehigh Valley Planning Commission</i> |
| 9:00 - 10:00 | Land Preservation and Smart Growth
Dr. Thomas Daniels,
<i>Professor of City & Regional Planning</i>
<i>University of Pennsylvania</i> |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Break |
| 10:15 - 11:15 | Smart Transportation
Eric Madden, <i>Director of Policy,</i>
<i>PennDOT</i> |
| 11:20 - 12:00 | Comprehensive Regional Planning and Land Use
Ken Klothen, <i>Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs</i>
<i>Governor's Center for Local Government Services</i> |
| 12:15 - 1:45 | Keynote Address
Joanne Denworth, Esq.,
<i>Governor's Office of Policy</i> |
| 1:45 - 2:00 | Final Remarks
Diane Elliott, <i>Director for Public Service,</i>
<i>Meyner Center, Lafayette College</i> |
| 2:00 | Film: End of Suburbia |