



DETROIT PUBLIC TRANSIT FACTS

ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, CONVENIENT, AND AFFORDABLE MOVEMENT

of people is at the center of any public transit system, and a reliable indicator of the economic vibrancy of a metropolitan region. The Detroit region's public transit system, once one of the best, is now among the least effective of any major metropolitan system in the United States, and is arguably the worst.

The ability to reach an intended destination on time is critical whether one is trying to get or keep a job, go to school, secure medical services, conduct personal business, or enjoy entertainment. Detroit's transit history is reflected in the following facts:

Many of the voices raised last year during deliberations of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Michigan Land Use Leadership Council spoke to rural and suburban concerns. While every citizen's voice should be heard, it was the noticeable lack of urban voices that led to **Living For The City**, a unique partnership between the Detroit Branch NAACP and the Michigan Land Use Institute.

Recognizing Detroit as Michigan's largest and most important city, as well as home to a majority of the state's African American residents, **Living For The City** will identify and quantify the Motor City's challenges and opportunities in three areas of concern: Housing, public transit, and race relations. The project's primary goals are to explain how these issues influence patterns of urban and suburban development and establish a firmer base of Smart Growth knowledge among African American leaders.

Living For The City is holding a series of stakeholder meetings over several months. The meetings, focused on the three areas of concern, will be summarized in the fall in a published report that documents what Detroit residents, business leaders, and elected officials envision for their city. The report will also offer public policy recommendations to the city, the Granholm administration, and the state Legislature that are based on the sum of the discussions, research, and shared ideas.

The Detroit Branch NAACP and the Institute believe housing, public transit, and race — summarized in this set of fact sheets — serve as a worthwhile catalyst to a substantive Smart Growth discussion in Detroit.

- 1. In 1922, Detroit had the largest municipally owned transit system in the nation, the Department of Street Railways.**
- 2. In 1945, according to the Detroit Free Press, the city's transit system carried 492 million riders, most of them on clean electric trolleys.**
- 3. Streetcars on Woodward Avenue were so numerous before World War II that riders typically waited less than five minutes for a trolley to pick them up.**
- 4. One-third of Detroit households do not have access to an automobile.**
- 5. The Detroit Department of Transportation counts 70 million riders annually on its fleet of less than 600 buses.**
- 6. Since 1976, residents have awaited the arrival of a promised regional rapid transit system. In the meantime, \$600 million in federal funds dedicated to the development of a regional transit system have been lost as urban and suburban decision-makers remain unable to reach a cooperative agreement.**
- 7. In 1997 Michigan's gas tax was increased, but none of the additional funds were allocated to transit.**
- 8. Each weekday, vehicles travel 132 million miles in southeast Michigan. By 2025, the number of miles traveled daily will grow to 150 million.**
- 9. If no systemic changes are made, one-third of all travel will be on congested roads.**
- 10. Among the more than 30 cities that have built new light and heavy commuter rail lines since 1992 are Baltimore, Dallas, Houston, Portland, Sacramento, San Jose, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Minneapolis, and Denver.**
- 11. A 1999 study by Cambridge Systematics, a transportation consulting firm, estimated that every \$10 million of capital investment in public transit generates more than 300 jobs and a \$30 million boost in local sales.**
- 12. Michigan directs just \$230 million of its \$2 billion state transportation budget to public transit.**

LIVING FOR THE CITY: PROJECT GOALS

- **CITIZEN EDUCATION:** Help citizen leaders understand the importance of land use issues in their lives so they can develop a vision for their future and employ planning principles that best realize that vision.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Help legislators and local leaders learn more about land use issues and policy so they can help lead state and local community discussion and promote collaborative partnerships among organizations with common goals.
- **SUPPORT INFORMED CHANGE:** Identify and remove the policies and practices that prevent thoughtful use of our natural resources. Identify local experts who can provide information and assistance on best practices via public forums and media.

PROJECT PARTNERS

DETROIT BRANCH NAACP

Ida Wells-Barnett, W. E. B. DuBois, Henry Moscovitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling may not be familiar names for many Americans. Yet for the over one million members of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, they are visionary founders. Multiracial from its inception in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has a history of activism that has challenged succeeding generations to make real for everyone the national promises of freedom, justice, and equality.

Nowhere in the nation has the NAACP been more visible or strong than in Detroit. Chartered by the national organization in 1912, the Detroit Branch has won landmark cases against housing discrimination and segregated schools. Its community activism also encourages consumers to patronize businesses that value minority purchasing power and job creation, and that support the expansion of black-owned businesses. Additionally, the NAACP's long-range strategic plan specifically calls for continued training and expanded public policy advocacy.

With 50,000 adult, youth, and corporate members, the Detroit Branch NAACP annually hosts the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner, the Motor City's largest banquet. This sell-out event of 10,000 guests, held each spring, provides significant financial support for scholarships, the Art/Essay contest, Youth Entrepreneurship Institute, and many other local programs.

For more information see: www.detroitnaacp.org or contact Korey Hall at: khall@detroitnaacp.org.



DETROIT BRANCH NAACP:
2990 East Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
TEL: (313) 871-2087

MICHIGAN LAND USE INSTITUTE

The Michigan Land Use Institute, founded in Benzie County in 1995, is steadily helping to establish an approach to economic development in Michigan that strengthens communities, enhances opportunity, and protects the state's unmatched natural resources.

The Institute has helped farmers and business owners, environmentalists and industrialists, and urban leaders and suburban homeowners throughout the state discover common ground in the hard work of halting sprawl. The Institute and its partner organizations are laying the foundation for new policies that redirect economic investments to improve Michigan's cities and encourage the construction of affordable neighborhoods near downtowns where homes, shops, businesses, schools, and civic institutions are in close proximity.

The Institute is one of the 10 largest state-based environmental and land use policy and advocacy organizations in the nation. Our staff of 14 first-rate journalists, grassroots organizers, and technical specialists is deployed statewide from offices in Beulah, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. Among the Institute's many strengths is its nationally prominent news desk, consisting of seven journalists and editors, an art director, and a Web coordinator. The Institute publishes an award-winning Web site, two news services, the quarterly *Great Lakes Bulletin* magazine, special reports, articles, and brochures.

For more information see: www.mlui.org or contact Charlene Crowell at: charlene@mlui.org.



MAIN OFFICE
205 South Benzie Blvd.
PO Box 500
Beulah, MI 49617-0500
TEL: (231) 882-4723

Additional offices in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: *Living For The City* is funded by the People and Land project, a program of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. People and Land grew of the Kellogg Foundation's interest in preserving Michigan's rural and agricultural heritage and exploring how farm and rural populations can connect with other partners to address the monumental consequences of how land is used in this state.



Many of the voices raised last year during deliberations of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Michigan Land Use Leadership Council spoke to rural and suburban concerns. While every citizen's voice should be heard, it was the noticeable lack of urban voices that led to **Living For The City**, a unique partnership between the Detroit Branch NAACP and the Michigan Land Use Institute.

Recognizing Detroit as Michigan's largest and most important city, as well as home to a majority of the state's African American residents, **Living For The City** will identify and quantify the Motor City's challenges and opportunities in three areas of concern: Housing, public transit, and race relations. The project's primary goals are to explain how these issues influence patterns of urban and suburban development and establish a firmer base of Smart Growth knowledge among African American leaders.

Living For The City is holding a series of stakeholder meetings over several months. The meetings, focused on the three areas of concern, will be summarized in the fall in a published report that documents what Detroit residents, business leaders, and elected officials envision for their city. The report will also offer public policy recommendations to the city, the Granholm administration, and the state Legislature that are based on the sum of the discussions, research, and shared ideas.

The Detroit Branch NAACP and the Institute believe housing, public transit, and race — summarized in this set of fact sheets — serve as a worthwhile catalyst to a substantive Smart Growth discussion in Detroit.

DETROIT HOUSING

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MEASURES OF A COMMUNITY'S economic competitiveness is its supply of housing that residents can afford. The quality of life decreases in communities that cannot supply enough decent, clean, affordable homes for families. In Detroit, an inadequate supply of affordable, market-rate homes has contributed to the disproportionate burden that the city's housing commission faces:

- 1. The city's many abandoned buildings, according to the 2000 U.S. census, rank second only to crime as Detroit's top neighborhood problem.**
- 2. In a recent survey conducted by EPIC/MRA for the *Detroit Free Press*, 61 per cent of those who responded said a vacant building was within walking distance of their neighborhood.**
- 3. Section 8, a sponsored program of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides housing subsidies to working families meeting income eligibility guidelines as low-to-moderate income households. The Detroit Housing Commission has a list of nearly 10,000 working families waiting to receive one of its 5,635 Section 8 vouchers.**
- 4. Of the 3,188 residents of city-owned and -managed public housing, 1,087, or more than a third, are senior citizens.**
- 5. Among Michigan's 10 million residents, 10.5 per cent have incomes below the federal poverty line. In Detroit, the percentage of residents living in poverty is more than double the state figure: 26.1 per cent or 243,153 residents of Detroit live in poverty. A third of those poor residents are children.**
- 6. Oakland County and Washtenaw County, two of Detroit's neighboring suburban counties, are among the wealthiest counties in the United States. Both have very high per capita incomes, low rates of poverty, and high rates of home ownership.**

LIVING FOR THE CITY: PROJECT GOALS

- **CITIZEN EDUCATION:** Help citizen leaders understand the importance of land use issues in their lives so they can develop a vision for their future and employ planning principles that best realize that vision.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Help legislators and local leaders learn more about land use issues and policy so they can help lead state and local community discussion and promote collaborative partnerships among organizations with common goals.
- **SUPPORT INFORMED CHANGE:** Identify and remove the policies and practices that prevent thoughtful use of our natural resources. Identify local experts who can provide information and assistance on best practices via public forums and media.

PROJECT PARTNERS

DETROIT BRANCH NAACP

Ida Wells-Barnett, W. E. B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling may not be familiar names for many Americans. Yet for the over one million members of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, they are visionary founders. Multiracial from its inception in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has a history of activism that has challenged succeeding generations to make real for everyone the national promises of freedom, justice, and equality.

Nowhere in the nation has the NAACP been more visible or strong than in Detroit. Chartered by the national organization in 1912, the Detroit Branch has won landmark cases against housing discrimination and segregated schools. Its community activism also encourages consumers to patronize businesses that value minority purchasing power and job creation, and that support the expansion of black-owned businesses. Additionally, the NAACP's long-range strategic plan specifically calls for continued training and expanded public policy advocacy.

With 50,000 adult, youth, and corporate members, the Detroit Branch NAACP annually hosts the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner, the Motor City's largest banquet. This sell-out event of 10,000 guests, held each spring, provides significant financial support for scholarships, the Art/Essay contest, Youth Entrepreneurship Institute, and many other local programs.

For more information see: www.detroitnaacp.org or contact Korey Hall at: khall@detroitnaacp.org.



DETROIT BRANCH NAACP:
2990 East Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
TEL: (313) 871-2087

MICHIGAN LAND USE INSTITUTE

The Michigan Land Use Institute, founded in Benzie County in 1995, is steadily helping to establish an approach to economic development in Michigan that strengthens communities, enhances opportunity, and protects the state's unmatched natural resources.

The Institute has helped farmers and business owners, environmentalists and industrialists, and urban leaders and suburban homeowners throughout the state discover common ground in the hard work of halting sprawl. The Institute and its partner organizations are laying the foundation for new policies that redirect economic investments to improve Michigan's cities and encourage the construction of affordable neighborhoods near downtowns where homes, shops, businesses, schools, and civic institutions are in close proximity.

The Institute is one of the 10 largest state-based environmental and land use policy and advocacy organizations in the nation. Our staff of 14 first-rate journalists, grassroots organizers, and technical specialists is deployed statewide from offices in Beulah, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. Among the Institute's many strengths is its nationally prominent news desk, consisting of seven journalists and editors, an art director, and a Web coordinator. The Institute publishes an award-winning Web site, two news services, the quarterly *Great Lakes Bulletin* magazine, special reports, articles, and brochures.

For more information see: www.mlui.org or contact Charlene Crowell at: charlene@mlui.org



MAIN OFFICE
205 South Benzie Blvd.
PO Box 500
Beulah, MI 49617-0500
TEL: (231) 882-4723

Additional offices in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: *Living For The City* is funded by the People and Land project, a program of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. People and Land grew of the Kellogg Foundation's interest in preserving Michigan's rural and agricultural heritage and exploring how farm and rural populations can connect with other partners to address the monumental consequences of how land is used in this state.



RACE, CITIES, AND SUBURBAN SPRAWL

DESPITE THE PIONEERING CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION OF THE 1960s and the affirmative action programs that followed in the 1970s and 1980s, race continues to heavily influence the choices people make about where they live and work. The following statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census reveal just how much race matters in Michigan:

Many of the voices raised last year during deliberations of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Michigan Land Use Leadership Council spoke to rural and suburban concerns. While every citizen's voice should be heard, it was the noticeable lack of urban voices that led to **Living For The City**, a unique partnership between the Detroit Branch NAACP and the Michigan Land Use Institute.

Recognizing Detroit as Michigan's largest and most important city, as well as home to a majority of the state's African American residents, **Living For The City** will identify and quantify the Motor City's challenges and opportunities in three areas of concern: Housing, public transit, and race relations. The project's primary goals are to explain how these issues influence patterns of urban and suburban development and establish a firmer base of Smart Growth knowledge among African American leaders.

Living For The City is holding a series of stakeholder meetings over several months. The meetings, focused on the three areas of concern, will be summarized in the fall in a published report that documents what Detroit residents, business leaders, and elected officials envision for their city. The report will also offer public policy recommendations to the city, the Granholm administration, and the state Legislature that are based on the sum of the discussions, research, and shared ideas.

The Detroit Branch NAACP and the Institute believe housing, public transit, and race — summarized in this set of fact sheets — serve as a worthwhile catalyst to a substantive Smart Growth discussion in Detroit.

- 1. Michigan is the most segregated state in the nation. Five of the nation's 25 most racially segregated metropolitan regions are Michigan cities — Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, Benton Harbor, and Muskegon. The next closest state is New York, with four. Two more Michigan metropolitan regions — Grand Rapids and Jackson — almost made the top 25.**
- 2. Michigan is one of the nation's slowest-growing states — 42nd of 50 — yet is also one the fastest sprawling states. Michigan is urbanizing land outside its major cities at a rate eight times faster than population growth.**
- 3. Throughout Michigan, 1 of every 7 residents is African-American. In Detroit, 8 of every 10 residents are African-American.**
- 4. Michigan has the most segregated public school systems in the nation. For example, 613,000 students attend public schools in 83 school districts in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties, according to an analysis by the National School Boards Association. Roughly 180,000 of those students are black; 82 percent of these black students are enrolled in just three districts — Detroit, Highland Park, and Inkster. Some 90 percent of white students — 540,000 kids — are enrolled in Detroit-area schools where 10 percent or less of the students are black.**
- 5. Almost all of the state's black residents — 96 percent of 1.4 million people — live in just 11 metropolitan regions in Michigan. That means that roughly 70 of the state's 83 counties are overwhelmingly white, many with minority populations of less than 3 percent.**
- 6. While Michigan climbed to the top of the chart in racial segregation it also dived to the bottom — 47th of 50 states — in its ability to retain talented young people. More than 200,000 adults between 25 and 34 years old left Michigan between 1990 and 2000, according to the census, to help build the new economies of more vibrant and racially diverse metropolitan regions — like Seattle, Boston, and Portland.**

LIVING FOR THE CITY: PROJECT GOALS

- **CITIZEN EDUCATION:** Help citizen leaders understand the importance of land use issues in their lives so they can develop a vision for their future and employ planning principles that best realize that vision.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Help legislators and local leaders learn more about land use issues and policy so they can help lead state and local community discussion and promote collaborative partnerships among organizations with common goals.
- **SUPPORT INFORMED CHANGE:** Identify and remove the policies and practices that prevent thoughtful use of our natural resources. Identify local experts who can provide information and assistance on best practices via public forums and media.

PROJECT PARTNERS

DETROIT BRANCH NAACP

Ida Wells-Barnett, W. E. B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling may not be familiar names for many Americans. Yet for the over one million members of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, they are visionary founders. Multiracial from its inception in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has a history of activism that has challenged succeeding generations to make real for everyone the national promises of freedom, justice, and equality.

Nowhere in the nation has the NAACP been more visible or strong than in Detroit. Chartered by the national organization in 1912, the Detroit Branch has won landmark cases against housing discrimination and segregated schools. Its community activism also encourages consumers to patronize businesses that value minority purchasing power and job creation, and that support the expansion of black-owned businesses. Additionally, the NAACP's long-range strategic plan specifically calls for continued training and expanded public policy advocacy.

With 50,000 adult, youth, and corporate members, the Detroit Branch NAACP annually hosts the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner, the Motor City's largest banquet. This sell-out event of 10,000 guests, held each spring, provides significant financial support for scholarships, the Art/Essay contest, Youth Entrepreneurship Institute, and many other local programs.

For more information see: www.detroitnaacp.org or contact Korey Hall at: khall@detroitnaacp.org.

MICHIGAN LAND USE INSTITUTE

The Michigan Land Use Institute, founded in Benzie County in 1995, is steadily helping to establish an approach to economic development in Michigan that strengthens communities, enhances opportunity, and protects the state's unmatched natural resources.

The Institute has helped farmers and business owners, environmentalists and industrialists, and urban leaders and suburban homeowners throughout the state discover common ground in the hard work of halting sprawl. The Institute and its partner organizations are laying the foundation for new policies that redirect economic investments to improve Michigan's cities and encourage the construction of affordable neighborhoods near downtowns where homes, shops, businesses, schools, and civic institutions are in close proximity.

The Institute is one of the 10 largest state-based environmental and land use policy and advocacy organizations in the nation. Our staff of 14 first-rate journalists, grassroots organizers, and technical specialists is deployed statewide from offices in Beulah, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. Among the Institute's many strengths is its nationally prominent news desk, consisting of seven journalists and editors, an art director, and a Web coordinator. The Institute publishes an award-winning Web site, two news services, the quarterly *Great Lakes Bulletin* magazine, special reports, articles, and brochures.

For more information see: www.mlui.org or contact Charlene Crowell at: charlene@mlui.org



DETROIT BRANCH NAACP:
2990 East Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
TEL: (313) 871-2087

**MICHIGAN
LAND USE
INSTITUTE**

MAIN OFFICE

205 South Benzie Blvd.
PO Box 500
Beulah, MI 49617-0500
TEL: (231) 882-4723

Additional offices in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: *Living For The City* is funded by the People and Land project, a program of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. People and Land grew of the Kellogg Foundation's interest in preserving Michigan's rural and agricultural heritage and exploring how farm and rural populations can connect with other partners to address the monumental consequences of how land is used in this state.