



www.stop158.org

What is Stop158: Citizens for Smart Growth?

By Richard Ellerbrake

Stop158 is a movement of citizens who share a vision for their communities and actively promote that vision.

We oppose an outer-belt, interstate-type highway from Troy to the JB Bridge, which Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) calls the "Gateway Connector." Until the state's budget is balanced we believe it is nonsensical to spend money on a highway that is not needed.

IDOT has *protected* a corridor, meaning that property owners in the corridor cannot undertake capital improvements without informing IDOT, which triggers IDOT's right to acquire the property. Stop 158 can help you understand your options if this applies to you. To date no properties have been acquired by IDOT but some negotiations are underway.

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URBAN SPRAWL IN THE METRO-EAST

In our region, the per capita land consumption has increased by 52.9%, while St. Louis and the Metro East's population has only increased by 3%-4%.

St. Louis' sprawling area can be described through data collected by the United States Bureau of Census Data of Urbanized Areas.

Sprawl is the diffusion of a city and its suburbs over increasingly more rural land at the periphery of an urban area. This inevitably involves the conversion of open space into built-up developed land.

New highways are the number one cause of sprawl, according to the American Farmland Trust.

New highways result in \$10,000-an-acre subsidies for sprawl developers. This can be translated into money out of taxpayers' pockets and into developer's pockets, with no benefits to us other than strip malls, threatened flood plains, wilderness and farmland, and polluted air and water.



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Stop 158 works to strengthen and preserve the quality of our common life, promote smart growth, and bring about metro-equity. How? We:

- Contact decision makers, family, friends and neighbors;
- Write letters;
- Erect signs;
- Gain and spread knowledge;
- Contribute money;
- Provide speakers to interested groups;
- Keep the public informed;
- Circulate and gather signatures on petitions.

Stop158 has neither a membership list nor dues, but depends on contributions of money, material, time and talent. It is open to new ideas and insights. It welcomes all individuals and organizations who wish to be part of this movement.

The website, www.stop158.org provides updated information and links to allied organizations. You may sign the petition at the website, ask to get regular e-mail updates, and contribute securely through the website.

We urge you and every family member, relative, and friend to tell their elected officials that you oppose the Gateway Connector project. Please take time to email, write, or call your representatives to let them know how your hard-earned tax money should be spent. Links to your elected officials are on the website www.stop158.org.

Allies united in opposition to the Gateway Connector include Citizens Against the Sprawlway, EcoHawk Foundation, Prairie Alliance for Sensible Transportation, Sierra Clubs, Illinois Chapter, and United Congregations of Metro-East ●

What is Smart Growth?

Smart growth encourages townships, cities and counties to coordinate plans and use resources cooperatively to improve the quality of life for the residents of the region. This includes:

- Environmentally safe neighborhoods
- Clean drinking water
- Clean air
- Safe watersheds and storm water control
- Green space in and between our communities
- Preservation of wildlife and ecologically fragile systems
- An abundance of natural areas
- Expansion of public transportation including Bi-State buses and MetroLink
- Expansion of bike paths and trails
- Zoning that uses existing infrastructure i.e. roads, sewers and water lines
- More grid streets (rather than cul-d-sacs) with rear entry garages, diverse, walkable neighborhoods with in easy reach of shops and services. ●

What is Sprawl?

The Brookings Institution defines sprawl as:

- Unlimited outward expansion of development
- Low-density residential and commercial settlements
- Leapfrog development
- Fragmentation of powers over land use among many small localities
- Dominance of transportation by private cars
- No centralized planning or control of land-use
- Widespread strip commercial development
- Great fiscal disparities among localities
- Segregation of types of land uses in different zones
- Reliance may lie on the trickle-down or filtering process to provide housing to low income households. ●

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STOP 158 MEETINGS

Place 866 Old Enterprise Farms, Lebanon, IL 62254

Time 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Regular monthly meetings of Stop158 steering committee occur on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Meetings are open to all interested parties. Please call to reserve a space; 618-632-3158. ●

CAMPAIGN FOR BALANCED GROWTH – NOV 15

Place Collinsville Recreation Center

Time 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Admission Price \$10.00

Experts will give overview of the LEAM model and how it relates to the Gateway Connector. ●

EWGCOG ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS EVENT – NOV 17

Place Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO

Time 8:30 a.m. Luncheon at noon.

East-West Gateway Council of Governments is hosting its 41st Annual Meeting on November 17. Two panel discussions: one on the Gateway Blueprint/ LEAM model and one on East-West Gateway's 2006 edition of *Where We Stand*. Registration is open to the public and available online for all three events. Detail are available at

<http://www.ewgateway.org/pdf/amtg06/Amtg06Invitation.pdf>. Online registration is available at

<http://www.ewgateway.org/amtg06.htm>. For more

information, e-mail annualmeeting@ewgateway.org. ●

There are a myriad of factors that influence per capita land consumption in Madison County: urban planning, zoning, transportation, storm water systems and other infrastructure investments, the local consumer and builder preferences (sometimes this is the City, not the Community, and the vitality of central cities and affluence0.

Thus the effect of all urban planning, development and transportation decisions shows up in the per capita land consumption figure. We must work with the local leaders and planning departments to educate them on how to preserve and compliment lifestyles instead of catering to such haphazard development.

Taken from:

www.goodjobsfirst.org/backintown_release.htm ●

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS STATISTICS:

- ✚ Approximately 4,000 acres of land each year are lost to urban development. This equates to the loss of eight family farms per year.
- ✚ 80% of land across the state is used for agriculture.
- ✚ Illinois farmland is high quality and is ranked among the world's most productive.
 - ❖ As a result our economy suffers and home grown food supply suffer when farmland is developed.
 - ❖ Biomass to product ethanol declines further increasing our dependency on foreign oil.
 - ❖ Air and water quality decreases.

Taken from: The Land Conservancy, Southwestern Illinois Lands at Risk.

Contributions to support  www.stop158.org and this newsletter can be mailed to:

STOP158

PO Box 330,

Troy, Illinois 62294

Or visit the web site www.stop158.org and contribute via our secure website.

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Write your congressman today. Check the website www.stop158.org for the address.

DON'T WAIT - ACT NOW!

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. SIGN PETITION
2. WRITE LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS
3. MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
4. WRITE EDITORIAL COMMENTS AND SEND TO THE NEWSPAPER
5. PAINT A SIGN AND POST IT IN YOUR YARD
6. TELL TWO MORE PEOPLE ABOUT WWW.STOP158.ORG
7. PUT A BUMPER STICKER ON YOUR CAR ●

CHECK THE WEB SITE WWW.STOP158.ORG

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Networking - Get the Message Out

By Bob Ramsey

It's hard to find time to participate in a community project like Stop158 but you know you should. It improves the quality of life for you, your loved ones, your neighbors and future generations.

We try to make it easy for you to participate. Just find two people to make a contribution of \$25.00 or more, we'll do the rest. And, we will send you a gift for your efforts. If you get six people to contribute, we will send each of them something and reward you for your extra effort. The more people you educate and get to donate, the more gifts you get.

But the really important part is that the more people joined in this effort the better the chance that the Gateway Connector can be stopped and the region wins by following the guidelines for smart growth.

It's simple to do the right thing and it feels good too! ●

PUT
STAMP
HERE

Address:

