



EXPLODING THE MYTH WITH FACTS

By Richard Ellerbrake

One of the contentions of those who favor the Gateway Connector is that the Metro-East population is growing requiring more highways.

IS THERE REALLY MASSIVE GROWTH IN THE METRO-EAST (MADISON, MONROE, AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES)?

NO! POPULATION IS BARELY INCREASING.

For several years *Stop158: Citizens for Smart Growth* has been saying, "What may appear to be growth, isn't." Recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics confirm that.

Bottom line: most of the population change is internal movement; what looks like growth, isn't. It's rearranging the chairs, and trading in rocking chairs for highchairs.

Sprawl threatens us with its insatiable appetite for

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**SMART GROWTH FOR CITIES:
IT'S A UNION THING**

Sprawl has emerged as this country's number one public concern. Unions are clearly harmed by sprawl, but relatively few labor leaders have made the link or sought to join the smart growth debate. If this is the dominant urban policy issue for the next twenty years, union's must weigh in. It can strengthen union ties to traditional urban-justice constituencies and bring new common ground with environmentalists. Smart growth has great potential for union-building, but only if labor is actively involved.

URBAN DENSITY IS GOOD FOR UNION DENSITY

Some threats are obvious, such as Wal-Mart vs. UFCW. But the damage is much more sweeping than that.

So far, environmentalists, transit advocates and elected officials have dominated the debate. The numerous ballot initiatives and smart growth laws that have been enacted since the mid-1990s will change the shape of America's metro areas and unions may benefit from those changes. But, only if they assert their self interest now.

HOW SPRAWL HARMS UNION MEMBERS

As more people move out of cities to suburbia, the unions are weakened. Here are nine ways, listed by industry, of how unions are harmed by sprawl.

- **Grocery Retailing** – Wal-Mart and other big box retailers pay less and are anti-union, taking market share from unionized grocers.
- **Grocery Warehousing** – "Cross-docking," a hyper efficient warehousing system, eliminates delivery jobs, harms inner-city food stores.

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CENSUS FACTS

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ever more taxes, public services, schools, fuel, traffic accidents, and threat to the environment, while the same number of people occupy more and more land at higher and higher total cost.

Here are the facts:

- In July 2000, the population of the Metro-East was 543,082. Six years later, by July 2006, the three counties had gained an estimated 15,016 persons, for a total of 558,098.
- It took six years to grow just 2.76%.
- Only 3,158 more people moved into the three counties than moved out. About one third of those moving here came from other countries. About 80% of the increase is the result of more births than deaths.
- The Metro-East had about the same number of people in 1970 (555,333). That's almost zero growth in the last 36 years. The population has gone up or down slightly from year to year, but clearly, there is no massive movement to the Metro-East.

WHAT ABOUT REST OF THE AREA? The remainder of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area gained only 3.67% since 2000, yet its growth rate is about 33% faster than the Metro-East. In recent years the difference in the rate of growth is accelerating.

Interestingly, over these six years those who came from other countries almost exactly equaled the number who left the area for somewhere else in the United States.

In short, the St. Louis area had a net outward migration to the US and a net inward migration from other countries.

Stop158: Citizens for Smart Growth believes it is important to know the facts so we can plan a future together based on reality, not myth. ●

Who is STOP158:
Citizens for Smart Growth

Stop158 is a movement of citizens who share a vision for their communities and actively promote that vision. Stop158 opposes an outer-belt, interstate-type highway from Troy to the JB Bridge, which Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) calls the "Gateway Connector." Stop158 works to strengthen and preserve the quality of our common life, promote smart growth, and bring about metro-equity. We:

- Contact decision makers, family, friends and neighbors;
- Write letters to elected officials and newspapers;
- Erect signs;
- Gain and spread knowledge;
- Contribute money and collect contributions;
- 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. ●

So why do you think a new highway is proposed? Is this the best way to spend \$500 million of our tax dollars?

Visit our website to leave your comments or send them to: smartgrowth@stop158.org

Metro-East	July 1, 2006 census	July 1, 2000 census	Change in six years	Natural increase	Net international migration	Net internal migration
Madison County	265,303	259,122	+2.38%	4,412	627	1,454
Monroe County	31,876	27,772	+14.77%	678	36	3,277
St. Clair County	260,919	256,188	+1.84%	6,993	386	(2,622)
Total	558,098	543,082	+2.76%	12,083	1,049	2,109
Remainder of the SMA	2,238,270	2,158,833	+3.67%	67,135	25,633	(25,558)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STOP 158 MEETINGS

Place 866 Old Enterprise Farms, Lebanon, IL 62254

Time 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Regular 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.

For the calendar of the **East-West Gateway Council of Governments** visit www.ewgateway.org/

The **Sierra Club** has many interesting offerings. Go to: www.illinois.sierraclub.org/

Long Range Transportation Plan and TIP will be presented at public open house meeting

Illinois Open House will be Thursday, June 14, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Collinsville Area Recreation District Meeting Room #3, 10 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. ●

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Let us know by sending an email to smartgrowth@stop158.org.

Contributions to support  www.stop158.org
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UNIONS

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- **Transit** – Job growth off the transit grid reduces ridership, costs jobs, creates pressure for concessions and privatization.
- **Teachers & School Support Jobs** – Tax base erosion caused by sprawl means larger classes, deferred maintenance, lower salaries, pressure for concessions and vouchers.
- **City & County Employees** – Tax base erosion means service cutbacks, deferred maintenance of infrastructure, pressure for concessions and privatization.
- **Health Care** – Hyper concentration of uninsured families at the core contributes to hospital closures, and they are more likely unionized.
- **Hotel & Restaurant** – “Edge cities” pull hospitality dollars away from core, driving wages and benefits down.
- **Building Services** – “Edge cities” and suburban office parks disperse janitorial and maintenance work away from affordable housing, unions.
- **Manufacturing** – Corporate relocations to exurban or even rural sites, seeking fewer unions and lower wages, reduce job opportunities for city residents. ●

Excerpted from: *Smart Growth for Cities: It's a Union Thing*; Greg LeRoy; *WorkingUSA*, vol. 6, no. 1.

“IF YOU PLAN CITIES FOR CARS AND TRAFFIC, YOU GET CARS AND TRAFFIC. IF YOU PLAN FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES, YOU GET PEOPLE AND PLACES.”
FRED KENT, PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES. ●

Allies united in opposition to the Gateway Connector include:

- American Bottom Conservancy
- Citizen's Against the Sprawlway
- EcoHawk Foundation
- Prairie Alliance for Sensible Transportation
- Sierra Clubs, Illinois Chapter
- United Congregations of Metro East

DON'T WAIT - ACT NOW!

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. SIGN THE PETITION ON WWW.STOP158.ORG
2. WRITE LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS
3. MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
4. WRITE A "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" 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 (SEND US AN EMAIL TO GET ONE)
8. VOLUNTEER! ●

Get the message out!

By Bob Ramsey

Stop158 works hard to improve the quality of life for you, your loved ones, your neighbors and future generations.

The more people joined in this effort the better the chance that the Gateway Connector can be stopped, and the region wins by following guidelines for smart growth.

We try to make it easy for you to participate but understand it is not always possible to spare the time. If you cannot contribute your time, can you make a contribution?

It's easy to contribute through our secure website www.stop158.org. Or you can mail your check to PO Box 330, Troy, IL 62294.

We need your support to continue publishing this newsletter. It's simple to do the right thing, and it feels good too! ●

www.stop158.org
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PUT STAMP HERE
