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carolina planning
the planning journal of the southeast



featuring articles on:
smart growth in rural america ♦ the benefits of bus rapid transit
a planner's retrospective

winter 2003-2004



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From the Editors	2
Articles	
Smart Growth: How It is Helping Rural America <i>Amber Levofsky</i>	3
Planning News Briefs EPA Smart Growth Award for Wake Co. School Hillsborough Design Competition	22
Planner Profile Roger S. Waldon, AICP, Planning Director, Town of Chapel Hill	24
Analysis of Bogotá's Bus Rapid Transit System and its Impact on Land Development <i>Felipe Targa and Daniel A. Roderiguez</i>	26
Master's Projects, 2003	37

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From the Editors:

LESSONS TO LEARN

Twenty years ago, North Carolina's population was almost evenly split between metropolitan and non-metropolitan residents. By the year 2000 that split has changed to 67 percent metropolitan and 33 percent non-metropolitan.¹ The planning implications of this change in rural communities cover the spectrum, from economic development, housing and real estate, to transportation, land use and environmental protection. In this issue of *Carolina Planning*, we present case studies, original research and a planner profile that can be added to a planner's tool box of innovative solutions to age-old challenges.

Smart growth – it's not just for cities. Our opening article rises to the challenge of applying smart growth principles to rural areas. Amber Levofsky presents a variety of problems that face many growing rural communities and shares six case studies that provide real-world solutions.

What do Charlotte, North Carolina and Bogota, Colombia have in common? Answer: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The second article, by Felipe Targa and Daniel Rodriguez, tackles an emerging urban transportation technology: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Through their research in Bogota, Colombia, they explore the question: "Does instituting a BRT system impact adjacent land values and if so, how?"

Who's who in North Carolina planning? Inspired by the many guest speakers that come to the Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP) from around the state, the editors of *Carolina Planning* are instituting the *Planner's Profile*, a section of the journal in which professional planners reflect upon their experiences in the field. In our first *Planner's Profile*, Roger Waldon, Planning Director for Chapel Hill, comments on the highs and lows of being a planning director and offers valuable insights. If you would like to contribute to this new section, please contact the *Carolina Planning* editors.

Also included in this issue is a list of the Master's Projects completed by the DCRP graduating class of 2003. Take a look to see what the newest members of the planning field have been up to.

¹ U.S. Census, *Demographic Trends in the 20th Century*, November 2002. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/cenr-4.pdf>

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