

# HOURGLASS

## KEEPING LANCASTER CURRENT



January 27, 2020

### U.S. HOUSING STARTS AT 13-YEAR HIGH, FACTORY OUTPUT GAINS – (*Reuters*)

U.S. homebuilding surged to a 13-year high in December as activity increased across the board, suggesting the housing market recovery was back on track. The rise in construction, together with an increase in completions and the inventory of homes under construction, could ease a housing shortage that has constrained sales over the last couple of years. [More.](#)

### WHO'S TO BLAME FOR HIGH HOUSING COSTS? – (*Brookings*)

Public debate falls into two schools of thought as to why housing costs are so high in many parts of the U.S. The YIMBY ("Yes In My Backyard") school argues that housing is expensive because local governments - and voters - have adopted overly restrictive land use regulations that limit the construction of new housing. On the other hand, left-leaning politicians like Bernie Sanders contend that housing is expensive because "corrupt real estate developers are gentrifying neighborhoods." So which is it? [More.](#)

### STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SLOWED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN SEATTLE – (*Crosscut*)

In the midst of a housing crisis, some view the State Environmental Policy Act as a barrier to relief. Using the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), citizen groups have slowed neighborhood rezoning, as well as new apartment buildings. [More.](#)

### SHOULD WE STILL BE BUILDING SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES? – (*Curbed*)

Discourse has emerged about the best ways to reduce the cost of housing in cities, with the solutions falling mainly into two camps. The Yes In My Backyard camp advocates building more housing of all kinds and the Public Housing In My Backyard movement pushes for more public housing. [More.](#)

## SURVEY

### LANCASTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

Please take time to fill out this survey for the Lancaster County 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Lancaster MPO is updating its long-range transportation plan, known as the Lancaster County 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Your input will help the County in developing the plan, which will have implications for how transportation money is spent.

The survey can be found [here.](#)



HOURGLASS

104 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA  
hourglasslanaster@gmail.com  
717-295-0755