

# HOURGLASS

## KEEPING LANCASTER CURRENT



**November 4, 2019**

### **ROADS NOT TAKEN – (*City Journal*)**

*Strong Towns* resulted from civil engineer and urban planner Charles Marohn's discovery that the highway projects he designed showed a negative return on investment. This convergence of public and private redevelopment costs has contributed to the decline of many outer-urban and inner-suburban areas across America. According to Marohn, the current approach to suburban development is a "growth Ponzi scheme." [More.](#)

### **ERIE LOST PEOPLE FOR DECADES. NOW, LEADERS THERE HOPE A NEW TAX BREAK WILL TRANSFORM IT – (*PA Post*)**

A new federal tax incentive - included in the 2017 federal tax overhaul - is already benefiting projects in Erie, PA. Investments made by individuals through special funds in these Federal Opportunity Zones would be allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains. Erie is home to eight of these zones. [More.](#)

### **WHY YOUR SPRAWLING, LOW-DENSITY SUBURB MAY BE COSTING YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MONEY – (*LSE US*)**

Despite its desirability to many, suburbs cost, and not only to residents in terms of more expensive transport costs, but also to local authorities. Spreading development out drives up the cost of providing services, despite fewer being needed to service a relatively smaller population. [More.](#)

### **TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND THE CITY – (*CityLab*)**

Urban development professionals, neighborhood activists, and diligent readers of local newspapers have very likely come across the term "Tax Increment Financing" (TIF). This mechanism for financing redevelopment is a powerful and controversial force in American urbanism. Every state except Arizona currently allows it and it has become the most popular incentive tool for economic development in the United States. [More.](#)

### **HAPPENINGS**

#### **ELECTION DAY**

Local, County, and State Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. There will be a statewide ballot question and judge retention question to be answered both locally and state-wide. Lancaster County polls will be open from 7:00am - 8:00pm.

To find your polling location, click [here](#).

For information on who is on the ballot, click [here](#).



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