



INTERFACE

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

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LIVABLE communities don't just **HAPPEN**. They are **CREATED** by the **PEOPLE** who **LIVE** in them.

METROPOLITAN INFORMATION AND DATA ANALYSIS SERVICES: FUTURE RESOURCE FOR REGIONAL INFORMATION

Since its creation in early 2000, the Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS) unit of the PPRC has moved steadily toward its goal of becoming a valuable regional public policy resource. In this start-up period, MIDAS has defined its role and the types of information and services that it will provide. MIDAS views itself as an operation that can add value to basic data sets and information through applied public policy research. It is envisioned that this can be achieved through special analyses, multi-method research designs and the "packaging" of basic, but disparate datasets. To provide these types of information

and services, MIDAS has engaged itself in a capacity building process that has included adding staff, acquiring important datasets, and developing a web-based information system. Upon reaching anticipated full capacity, MIDAS will have a staff of four to six people that will provide a wide range of data and information relating to regional public policy issues through a variety of electronic and print media.

ity to deliver timely and relevant research.

As the MIDAS database administrator, Richard Rabe is undertaking the management of the growing number of datasets that MIDAS is acquiring and creating. These datasets include current demographic estimates, economic, social and geographic information. He is also in the process of developing a variety of web-based communication and research tools. In addition, Richard, who comes to MIDAS after a number of years in a similar capacity at the Criminology Department at UM-St. Louis, is developing not only the web architecture for PPRC and MIDAS web pages, but also the structure of a web-based Workforce Development Information System. MIDAS has and will continue to devote a great deal of resources and energy into the creation of a workforce development system that will provide both the supply and demand side of the local labor market with timely information about the availability of labor, occupation trends and the skills necessary to perform in them. Richard, who holds a Bachelor's degree from

MIDAS Adds Staff

Besides the director, David Laslo, who joined the operation in May 2000, MIDAS has recently added the talents of a political science graduate research assistant, Zina Karapatayan, in August; a database administrator, Richard Rabe in September; and a labor economist, Jennifer Coats in October. Together, these new additions represent the first key steps toward having the skill and technological capacity to conduct applied public policy research that will help advance the social and economic development of the region. Each new member of the MIDAS staff brings a special set of skills and talents that will contribute to its abil-

INSIDE

Letter from the Director.....	2
Research.....	3
MIDAS.....	4
Community & Neighborhood Development.....	5
PPRC Gallery.....	6
PPRC Events.....	7

(Continued on page 4)



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As I near the end of my first year at PPRC, I am struck by the incredible potential the St. Louis Region has for an urban revival. The key issue is whether we can capture this

potential and stimulate an urban renaissance that is long overdue.

There are reasons to be optimistic. On a national scale, a powerful urban recovery is underway. Recent reports by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (*State of the Cities 2000*), the Urban Land Institute, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors provide striking evidence that the centers of many American cities - long ignored and abandoned by decades of suburbanization - are coming back to life. Business and job opportunities are flourishing; innovative downtown and neighborhood retailing are thriving; and entertainment, convention, sports and cultural facilities are expanding. Urban crime rates have been falling for a decade as have poverty rates (though less dramatically and still insufficiently). After decades of migration to the outer reaches of metropolitan areas, there is now an emerging urban housing market that is a harbinger of a return to the city.

Economic prosperity is critical to this revival, but most commentators agree that a more fundamental change is underway: the suburban lifestyle is losing its hold on the American imagination. For the first time in many years, good stories about cities are appearing in the popular press. The change is remarkable.

But what about our region? Are we sharing fully in the urban revival? In some sense we are. There is evidence of a small but notable urban housing market and important large projects are underway in the City. But compared to other regions, we have much further to go. And, if we are to move ahead, we need to deal with some vexing institutional issues, a fact recognized by a growing number of St. Louisans. The fact is that both the City and the Region have evolved ways of governing and doing things that are, simply, anachronistic.

Institutional reform is among the most difficult, yet necessary, challenges facing St. Louis. It is central to the development of more responsible and flexible municipal institutions.

In many other cities, visionary mayors, city councilors, and managers have been developing and executing innovative programs to bring urban institutions to the forefront of organizational effectiveness. The key criterion being used to revamp governments and agencies is responsiveness: government must be able to respond rapidly, consistently and constructively. Only then can people and investments be brought back to the city.

If St. Louis is to share in the new urban renaissance, we need to carefully build a new way of doing things in our city and our region. Strong and vital central cities make for even stronger regions. If the City can reinvent itself and build effective partnerships throughout the region - bridging the traditional but increasingly damaging city/suburb divide - we can be assured that our future will be one of opportunity and a high quality of life.

Alan F.J. Artibise, Ph.D., Director and
E. Des Lee Endowed Professor of
Community Collaboration & Public Policy

Central cities have begun a prolonged comeback. It is not farfetched to suggest that America is on the cusp of a new urban renaissance. The shift in attitudes is dramatic; a recent survey of both urban and suburban residents of seven large American metropolitan regions [including St. Louis] found that two-thirds of respondents favored relying more on public transportation and rebuilding cities to lessen the impacts of sprawl, compared to building more roads.

U.S. Conference of Mayors Report, October 2000.

The Research Division is completing a multi-year environmental justice grant supported by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Community/University Partnership (CUP) Project involved extensive community work, including community meetings and personal interviews, and an analysis of environmental data, including historical data regarding community pollution, as well as collecting and testing current environmental samples. The CUP Project produced a handbook of environmental information for use by community residents and a request to federal and state environmental agencies for further environmental investigation.

The CUP grant provided resources for the Public Policy Research Center to work with Project H.O.P.E., a minority community-based organization, in three neighborhoods: Hyde Park in the City of St. Louis, Pagedale in St. Louis County, and Emerson Park in East St. Louis.

Community residents were involved in deciding what, from their perspective, were the most serious environmental issues in their neighborhood. Environmental enforcement typically is conducted between government agencies and private industry. The goal of the CUP Project was to educate local residents about environmental law and the governmental agencies that are responsible for enforcing it.

In the partnership between the Public Policy Research Center and Project H.O.P.E., Project H.O.P.E. provided community outreach staff to conduct in-person interviews of neighborhood residents and organize community meetings to determine local perceptions of envi-

ronmental conditions and health problems residents experienced. The Center provided staff to collect technical information on the records of emissions in each community and enforcement action taken place by federal and state environmental agencies. Center staff created a profile of the environmental enforcement process in both Missouri and Illinois. The enforcement profile and the environmental data were combined into a handbook of environmental information for each community. The Center also contracted with an environmental engineering consultant to collect air and soil samples in the three neighborhoods, based on environmental concerns expressed by residents.

The Center is working with Project H.O.P.E. to schedule a final community meeting in each neighborhood to report the results of the environmental sampling and discuss appropriate next steps in improving environmental conditions.

As a result of the CUP Project, residents are better informed about the current and historical environment in their neighborhood, and have a guidebook to assist them in becoming directly involved in acting on environmental problems.



Associate Director, Research,
Mark Tranel, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RECEIVES 10 YEAR UM-ST. LOUIS SERVICE AWARD

For the past decade, Dr. Mark Tranel has been an invaluable asset to the Public Policy Research Center, UM-St. Louis and - most importantly—the entire metropolitan St. Louis Region. As the senior researcher and Associate Director of PPRC, Mark has taken a leadership role in developing and maintaining partnerships between the University and a wide variety of organizations throughout the region. His work in applied research, evaluation and surveying have been exemplary and have played an important role in building our credibility as an urban and metropolitan university. It is a pleasure to have him on my staff and to work with him on an exciting array of projects.

**—Alan F.J. Artibise, Ph.D., Director and
E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of
Community Collaboration and Public Policy**

(Continued from page 1)

UM-St. Louis and Microsoft Certifications, will play a very central role in the design and maintenance of this important and new regional economic development and public policy tool.

And as the Workforce Information System (WIS) promises to be a core activity of MIDAS for years to come, it also has led to the necessity of adding economic skills and expertise. An integral element of the WIS and the analytical services to be offered by MIDAS will be the ability to measure and/or assess the economic impacts and effects of economic events in the St. Louis region. Coming from the Economics Department at UM-St. Louis where she is an adjunct faculty member, Jennifer Coats brings to MIDAS the training and expertise to develop regional input-output and impact models that can assist not only in workforce development, but also to regional public policy planning. Jennifer, who holds a Ph.D. in economics from Texas A&M, will also conduct other research on workforce and labor economics issues in addition to current research that examines the relationship between new business firm growth in Missouri and public expenditures on education and training.

Also central to the growing capacity of MIDAS is the efforts of graduate assistant Zina Karapatayan who is charged with the development of metropolitan and county level socio-economic profiles. Because MIDAS is a regional resource, it is important that it have current

social and economic information about the region and all its component counties. Zina, who is completing her dissertation in Political Science at UM-St. Louis, is compiling regional and county information into a profile format that will provide a wide range of demographic, economic and social indicators. This "packaging" of a wide range of information and data will be useful for a wide range of users and researchers and will be made available through the MIDAS website and in a hardcopy format.

Current MIDAS Projects

As the recent staffing has indicated, MIDAS has committed itself to being a regional resource for applied public policy research and to that end has recently received funding support to develop a workforce development information system. This information system is intended to fill the information and data "gaps" that exist in workforce education and training programs. The information system will be designed specifically to acquire information on industry and occupation trends and the skill and job task requirements of those occupations and in turn make it readily available to members of the workforce development system.



Associate Director, MIDAS,
David Laslo, Ph.D.

(Continued on page 8)

MIDAS WELCOMES NEW STAFF



Richard Rabe recently joined the Public Policy Research Center in September 2000 as Database Administrator of the Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS). He is a graduate of UM-St. Louis and a Microsoft Certified Professional. Currently, Richard is completing the training for becoming a Microsoft Certified Database Administrator and a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. Richard joins MIDAS from the UM-St. Louis Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice where he worked for the past six years as a research specialist, database administrator, GIS specialist, and department webmaster.

Dr. Jennifer Coats joined the Public Policy Research Center in October 2000 as the economist for the Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS). She earned her doctorate in Economics with specialties in Public, Labor, and Natural Resource Economics in 1997 from Texas A&M University. She has two working papers on the private provision of public goods under review and has presented this work at a number of locations and conferences, including the *Economic Science Association Meetings*, the United States Air Force Academy, Indiana University, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.





Associate Director,
Community & Neighborhood
Development,
Kay Gasen, M.P.P.A.

How can communities best plan for change, growth or development? How can planning processes be established that will integrate the vision and priorities of citizens with analysis of data, estimates of future growth and examination of options? The Community and Neighborhood Development unit of the Public Policy Research Center has been exploring these questions in cooperation with a citizen planning task force in Franklin County.

The population of Franklin County has grown from 55,127 in 1970 to nearly 95,000 thirty years later. Over the next ten years, Franklin County's population is projected to increase as high as 125,000. County government issues associated with this population growth include a growing demand for low-density housing, strained public infrastructure including water and sewage treatment as well as public safety and transportation systems, and new demands for family services. Citizens also voice concerns about the change in the "rural character" of the county.

Late last year, Franklin County Commissioners voted to explore updating the county's master plan. However, instead of immediately developing a new plan, the government instead opted to appoint a citizens task force that would spend a year listening to residents and exploring options related to future growth and development.

When dealing with growth issues, it is absolutely essential for local governments to identify and implement management strategies which prioritize needs and establish goals and practices to meet those needs. The best way to ensure integrity of the process is by the systematic inclusion of the primary stakeholders of the community, the citizens.

- Gene Scott
Presiding Commissioner
Franklin County

The Franklin County Planning Task Force is a 19-member group that has agreed to commit a year to accomplish the following:

- engage Franklin County citizens in deliberations regarding their vision for the future the county;
- explore strategies of suburban counties in dealing with growth and change;
- develop scenarios to analyze growth and development options for Franklin county; and
- make recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding future planning strategies for Franklin County.

True consensus building can and does occur when citizens are given complete and accurate data and information necessary to define a problem and examine potential solutions. The assistance provided by Community and Neighborhood Development staff has proven to be extremely effective and valuable to us in Franklin County by providing a thorough and successful community outreach and engagement process.

-Gene Scott
Presiding Commissioner
Franklin County

This summer CND staff, along with University Outreach and Extension faculty, facilitated eight public forums attended by approximately 200 county residents, involving citizens in discussions regarding county assets, concerns regarding growth and future recommendations. The University also assisted in the development of a survey assessing citizen attitudes regarding growth and completed an analysis of growth management strategies utilized by 20 counties comparable to Franklin County. In addition, CND staff are working in cooperation with the Community Policy Analysis Center at the University of Missouri – Columbia to develop a set of annual baseline projections on demographic, economic and fiscal conditions in Franklin County through 2009. The baseline projections are being used to measure the impacts of a variety of expected changes in the County.

The planning task force is scheduled to complete its recommendations in January 2001. Members of the task force will then serve as an advisory/oversight body, working closely with the consulting firm that will complete the master plan update.

**CND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
TO ACCEPT AWARD OF APPRECIATION
ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The University of Missouri—St. Louis has been selected to receive an **AWARD OF APPRECIATION** for its dedication and commitment to making neighborhoods sustainable. This award will be presented at the 2nd Anniversary Celebration of the Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative, co-implemented by the Area Resources for Human and Community Services (ARCHS) and the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance (RHEDA).

The PPRC Gallery is a gallery with ulterior motives. The art, primarily photographic, focuses on public policy matters of interest to the Center and the community. As photography is such a valuable component to understanding and appreciating public policy, the Center inaugurated special photographic exhibitions in 1978. Just as fellows of PPRC concentrate their efforts on issues of concern to the metropolitan area, the photographic displays emphasize collateral interests, and have been recognized as excellent accompaniments to the overall work of the Center. The artists selected for inclusion in these exhibits come from a broad spectrum of both established and emerging photographers, including on occasion, students from UM-St. Louis.

To date, some 150 shows have been exhibited. These exhibits were first installed on a folding screen surrounding file cabinets in the former reception area. Today's handsome gallery space has emerged step-by-step, as the Center has grown. Part of the exterior hallway, as well as a portion of the reception area, has recently been added, resulting in a wonderful, though non-traditional, well-lit, safe exhibition space consisting of two walls, 24' x 14', each 8' in height.

The PPRC gallery is unusual in the community both for its modest size and the variety of its exhibitions. It is valued both for the uniqueness of its subject matter and the quality of the work displayed. With the ongoing support of the Regional Arts commission we are able to publicize and host opening lectures and forums relating to each installation. The PPRC exhibits are always free and open to the public. To arrange a tour of the current exhibit or to be placed on the mailing list for exhibition openings, please call (314)516.5273.

Recent exhibits include:

Urban Landscaper
St. Louis Landmarks
PLAYBALL!
Street Banners
Metrolink: Different by Design

Exhibitions planned for 2001 include the following:

St. Louis: Photographs and Books
Civil Rights Memorial-Southern Poverty Law Center
City Abstractions
"O Public Road"



PPRC HOSTS VISITORS FROM CHINA

The World Affairs Council of St. Louis recently arranged a meeting between Ms. Mingjie Ma, the Director of the Social Research Center for the *China Youth Daily* newspaper and PPRC Director, Alan F.J. Artibise in December to discuss the role of public opinion in an open society as well as how the economic developmental research and social policy planning have been key in the redevelopment of urban areas throughout Missouri.

The *China Youth Daily* targets young professionals between the ages of 21 to 48 and reports on political, social and economic news. It has a total circulation of approximately 500,000 nationwide.

METROPOLITAN ISSUES FORUM

On a monthly basis, PPRC conducts forums to discuss issues relevant to the St. Louis metropolitan region.

The Spring 2001 series includes:

- January 24 *Blending the New and Old Economies*
- February 26 *Nurturing Regionalism in the St. Louis Area*
- March 21 *Enhancing St. Louis: What is Philanthropy's Role?*
- April 23 *Is St. Louis Safer? Community Policing and Crime Reduction*

For more information or to be placed on the MIF mail list, e-mail pprc@umsl.edu or call (314) 516. 5273.

APPLIED RESEARCH SEMINARS

In order to support the work of our Fellows, the Center sponsors monthly forums to discuss new and interesting research projects and papers related to public policy.

The Spring 2001 Applied Research Seminars are:

- January 17 *Toward a More Relevant Policy Research:
The National Cross-Site Evaluation of High Risk Youth Programs*
Dr. J. Fred Springer, Director of Research, EMT Associates, Inc.
Professor Emeritus in Political Science and Public Policy Administration
- February 28 *Creating the 21st Century School: Promising Practices*
Dr. Carole Murphy, Associate Professor, College of Education
- March 14 *Robbing Drug Dealers: Violence Beyond the Law*
Dr. Bruce Jacobs, Associate Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice
- April 4 *Seeing the City as a Whole: Mapping St. Louis Over 2 Centuries*
Dr. Louis S. Gerteis, Professor, History Department
- April 25 *City Streets & Neighborhood Identities*
Dr. Andrew Hurley, Associate Professor, History Department

PPRC LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Through the efforts of the PPRC Web Team, the Center has launched its newly redesigned web page. Information regarding upcoming PPRC events, public policy news, and PPRC projects is now available on-line. The Center is also planning to launch the Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services data site and the Workforce Information System early in 2001.

To visit the site go to: <http://www.umsl.edu/services/pprc/index.htm>

PPRC STAFF UPDATES

Claude Louishomme, Research Assistant has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UN-K). Claude will start his new career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science in January 2001. The UN-K campus is located in the city of Kearney which is approximately 125 miles west of the start capital of Lincoln and has nearly 7,500 students. We will miss Claude.

Mary Mobley, Communications Coordinator for the Public Policy Research Center has been chosen to participate in the 2000—2001 Coro Women in Leadership Program.

(Continued from page 4)

The information system will have the primary goal of helping employment and training professionals design their programs to meet short term and medium skill needs of local business and to assist education institutions plan their curriculums and programs to meet longer range future skill and occupation demand. Secondary goals of the information system will be to add value to the existing sets of data and information that is provided by the State of Missouri and the national Department of Labor. To help develop this system, the PPRC and MIDAS have been working with two groups in the region, the Regional Skills Consortium that is made up of workforce professionals from local Workforce Investment Boards and representatives of education institutions and the Regional Workforce Planning Group (made up of representatives from labor, business, elected officials and local universities). The workforce information system represents a very significant commitment of MIDAS to an important applied public policy area with significant implications not only for business and economic development, but also for local resident and their families.

MIDAS has also been active in supplying a number of demographic and economic analyses to nonprofits, including the recently formed Mid-County Partners for Progress, a coalition of business, elected officials, citizens and community leaders. These analyses have included population estimates and projections, business and economic data, real estate trends and a selection of social indicators that give these groups the opportunity to assess their communities and to plan future community and economic development activities. In this way, MIDAS has also been able to contribute to local area planning and development.

**PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER
UM-ST. LOUIS
8001 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121-4499**

Other PPRC publications include:

- **The PPRC Brochure**
- **PPRC Information Kits**
- **Legislative Updates**
- **Policy Briefs**
- **Occasional Papers**

(314) 516.5273 TEL

(314) 516.5268 FAX

PPRC@UMSL.EDU

WWW.UMSL.EDU/SERVICES/PPRC/INDEX.HTM

