



For Immediate Release:

Jones School of Law and Envision 2020
Continue Smart Growth Conversation in the River Region

September Smart Growth Breakfast: National Expert on Smart Growth Civic Planning Strategies to Speak at Upcoming Breakfast

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On Tuesday, September 13th, 2005, Jones School of Law and Envision 2020 will present the September River Region Smart Growth breakfast as part of their continuing public service campaign to promote Smart Growth planning principles in the River Region. **The meeting will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University, located at 5345 Atlanta Highway in Montgomery. The cost for breakfast is \$5.00. Reservations can be made by calling either 269.0224 or 386-7536.**

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The topic will be **“The Smart Growth Importance of Civic Design and Development Centers for Growing Regions: A Case Study of Nashville Metro Area”**. The presenter at this breakfast will be Rick Bernhardt, FAICP, CNU (biography attached), currently the Executive Director of Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department. Mr. Bernhardt is a nationally-known expert on Smart Growth planning strategies on the municipal level and the breakfast will mark his first ever Smart Growth presentation in Montgomery, Alabama. River Region residents will be interested to know that Mr. Bernhardt received his **B.S. in Economics at Auburn University**.

This exciting presentation, and the following discussion, will showcase several of the Smart Growth strategies that the Nashville Metro Area has embraced and implemented on its way to becoming one of the fastest growing regions in the Southeastern United States. Mr. Bernhardt will also emphasize the importance of establishing a Civic Design and Development Center as part of an overall strategic municipal and regional growth plan.

BIOGRAPHY OF RICK BERNHARDT, FAICP, CNU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A town planner for over 30 years, Rick has applied integrated urban design solutions to specific planning problems. His projects have concentrated on the development of planning solutions that can be successfully implemented. Rick’s practice has focused on creating sustainable communities, neighborhoods and places through the use of traditional design principles. These techniques have been used to develop community-wide and project specific master plans.

Prior to joining Metro Nashville, Rick was director EDAW's Town Planning Studio. He previously served as Orlando's Director of Planning and Development for seventeen years. Rick instituted Orlando's innovative growth management program using traditional design relationships together with multi-modal transportation investments and policies coordinating the timing and staging of development to achieve specific and land use and community objectives.

His work with the Southeast Orlando Sector Plan and the Orlando Naval Training Center resulted in the receipt of the initial Catherine Brown award from the Congress for the New Urbanism. He currently serves as the Chair of the Planners Task Force for the Congress of the New Urbanism and is coordinating the CNU Codes Project.

Rick was educated at Auburn University (B.S. in Economics) and Ohio State University (Master of City Planning with a concentration in housing and urban structure) and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from The Ohio State University in 1997.

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