



# REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

*... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### BUSINESS LEADERS URGE TAX, ZONING STUDY TO IMPROVE METROPOLITAN LAND USE

Fifty-two business executives have called for "consideration of tax policy changes" and possible strengthening of the role of counties in planning and zoning in the New York Metropolitan Region to thwart growing transportation and land-use problems in the area.

In a report issued today, the business leaders explained that zoning policies of the Region's 550 municipalities often are based on tax needs rather than on efficient organization of the jobs, homes and facilities of the metropolis.

The executives also recommended:

- Support for the Tri-State Transportation Committee now beginning a full-scale investigation of transportation needs,
- Continuation of commuter services until improvements can be developed,
- Increased intergovernmental cooperation and acceleration of the activities of the Metropolitan Regional Council, an association of the chief executives of the Region's counties and large cities,
- Increased state effort to assist localities in meeting metropolitan problems,
- Expanded urban renewal,
- A data center to chart the economic health and development of the Region,

- Immediate steps to preserve urgently needed open space including seashore and mountain areas,
- Improved comfort and service on the New York City subway and other public transportation in the older cities of the Region, and
- Adaptation of the Region's educational program to meet social and economic needs.

Based on three days of discussion February 11-14 at Arden House, Harriman, New York, the report is issued by Regional Plan Association, sponsor of the meeting.

The business leaders are primarily officers of large corporations in manufacturing, banking, insurance, publishing, advertising, architecture, utilities, real estate, transportation, engineering, retailing and brokerage.

Note: Signators of the Report are listed with their positions on pp. 12-13 of the attached report.

They warned that the present pattern of regional growth would intensify traffic and commuter problems, "sharply reduce areas of natural open space within easy access of the vast majority of the Region's population," and disperse the economic services upon which much of the Region's industry depends. And they urged more planning with a metropolitan point of view to avoid growth problems and to assure:

- a wide choice of type of housing, size of lots and type of neighborhood,
- access to a wide choice of jobs,
- arrangements of jobs, facilities and housing to reduce transportation,
- much better transportation where trips are necessary,
- ready access both to natural open space and to urban services and amenities,
- improved cultural, educational and recreational opportunities of broad range, and
- the best possible use of our natural and financial resources.

In addition to local and state planning action, the executives recommended support for Regional Plan Association's program to develop planning guidelines for the Region and to present facts and recommendations on metropolitan

development as widely as possible.

At the Conference, Regional Plan staff members reported the results of five years of study on the future of the New York metropolitan area. They projected a population of at least 22,200,000 by 1985 for the 22-county metropolitan area stretching into New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. They also reported that the dispersal of homes and jobs from the older centers of the Region--New York, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson-Passaic--is resulting in urbanization of open land far faster than ever before and multiplication of traffic.

Regional Plan Association is a nonprofit civic organization which has been working since 1929 for the coordinated and rational development of the metropolitan area surrounding the Port of New York.

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