

Feb. 5, 2009

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‘Smart transportation’ supports ‘smart growth’

What do buildings and busses have in common?

Find out at the “Riding into the Future” event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, and learn how the county designs land and transportation systems and their role in community planning. The event, sponsored by Sarasota County, will be in the parking lot at the Sarasota City Hall, 1565 1st St., Sarasota.

Transit-oriented development is a pattern of development that supports, and is supported by, an efficient transit system. The goal is to create communities where public transit, cars, bicycles and walking increase:

- Accessibility to shopping and services to people of all ages and incomes.
- Housing affordability and variety.
- Energy and resource efficiency of neighborhoods, cities and regions.

David Brain, a sociology professor at New College, and Lisa Nisenson, who has 16 years of experience in smart growth planning, will discuss transit-oriented development, how it differs from regular development, and how to identify excellent access to transit.

They also will discuss public events used by developers and governments to propose ideas and how people can use the forums to effectively contribute their own ideas. Brain and Nisenson also will offer pointers about how to identify a quality transit-oriented development.

The event will include a walking audit of the area around the farmers market so participants can identify signs of a walkable environment in downtown Sarasota.

The “Riding into the Future” schedule is:

9 a.m.

Convene and presentation

- Transit Oriented Development – Lisa Nisenson
- Charette – David Brain

9:30 a.m.

Choice of two activities

- Green house gas game – David Brain

- Guided walking audit – Lisa Nisenson

10 a.m.
Discussion

10:15 a.m.
Vision exercise

Noon
Group reports

12:30 p.m.
Wrap up

1 p.m.
Adjourn

For more information about “Riding into the Future,” contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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