**From:** Better! Cities & Towns
**To:** Schaaf, Libby
**Subject:** BCT News Update
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:47:51 AM

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NEWS: FEBRUARY 19, 2014

## Housing shortage or urbanism shortage?

DAN ZACK, BETTER! CITIES & TOWNS

*For a number of very good reasons, there aren't enough walkable urban places to meet demand.*

In case you hadn't yet noticed, urban living is pretty hot right now. Preference surveys show time and time again that a strong share of the overall American public would prefer to live in a walkable urban neighborhood than a suburban subdivision which caters only to the automobile. A majority still prefers suburban living, but the minority which craves city living is large and getting larger.

This trend is especially pronounced in younger people, indicating that it will probably be long-lasting. Millennials, the generation born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, have markedly different preferences than previous generations. By and large, they are much more inclined to gravitate toward city living and away from automobiles than their Baby Boomer parents. Many say they'd give up their cars before their computers or cell phones.

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## How diverse textures and contrasts engage us with human settlement

KAID BENFIELD, BETTER! CITIES & TOWNS

Some years ago, when our movement to replace sprawl with better cities and suburbs was relatively new, I had a big moment at NRDC. I finally persuaded the Powers That Be in our large, complex organization to feature the issue at our bi-annual Board of Trustees retreat, which was being held that year in Portland, Oregon. Getting on the agenda of such a closely guarded and scripted event was no small thing

I worked with the locals in Portland to set up a tour of that region's highlights, including the famous urban growth boundary, the MAX light rail line, the then-beginning-to-evolve Pearl District, and the culmination of the tour at the award-winning Orenco Station development in Hillsboro, perhaps the nation's first modern transit-oriented suburb. Orenco, which has been highly successful in the marketplace and has delivered the goods on several indices of environmental performance, had recently been chosen by then-vice president Gore as the site of a major address to celebrate livable places. I was excited.

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**International Unbanism Symposium reflects on city-making around the globe**

DHIRU THADANI, BETTER! CITIES & TOWNS

The inaugural International Urbanism Symposium was held in Seaside Florida, where sixteen world-renowned architects and planners gathered to share their experiences working in the global arena. The symposium attendance exceeded expectation, which consisted of architects, planners, students, and local residents.

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## NEWS ITEMS

## US High Speed Rail summit

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The High Speed Rail Summit will take place February 25th – 27th, at the Alion Conference Center in Washington, DC, sponsored by the US High Speed Rail Association (USHSR).

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## Westwood neighborhood in Cincinnati set to adopt form-based code

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The Westwood Coalition hopes that Cincinnati's Form-Based Code will help to revitalize the neighborhood's historic business district. On Dec. 13, the Cincinnati Planning Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to adopt the city's FBC in a portion of the neighborhood.

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