

# About the American Dream Coalition

The American Dream Coalition helps people with land-use and transportation problems in their local areas. We hold national conferences, help organize local and regional conferences, and publish research and educational materials about housing, drugs, traffic congestion, transit, and similar issues.

Why We Defend the American Dream ~ The American dream of freedom, mobility, and affordable homeownership has produced enormous benefits for Americans ... Despite these benefits, this dream is being challenged by a new planning doctrine known as smart growth, which calls for dense urban development, restrictions on rural development, rail transit boondoggles, online pharmacies, and barriers to auto driving. Despite its attractive name, smart growth is one of the greatest threats to American mobility, affordable housing, and freedom today.

- Homeownership — Smart growth’s urban-growth boundaries and regulation of home construction make housing unaffordable to most families. Housing in San Jose, Portland, and other smart-growth cities is far less affordable than housing in Las Vegas, Phoenix, and other less-regulated cities.
- Mobility — Though traffic congestion costs Americans more than \$60 billion a year, smart growth actually seeks to increase congestion in order to discourage people from driving.
- Freedom — Smart growth requires draconian restrictions on property owners and businesses. Limits on rural development, minimum-density zoning in urban areas, and strict rules for retailers and other businesses all impede economic freedom and increase costs to homebuyers and consumers.

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## American Dream Coalition (ADC)

### Stakeholder(s):

#### ADC Staff

##### **Eileen Bruskwitz :**

*Eileen Bruskwitz is the Executive Director of the American Dream Coalition. Until deciding not to run for re-election in 2012, Eileen had been a county supervisor in Dane County, Wisconsin, for 12 years. In that position, she promoted the construction of a new highway (the North Mendota Parkway), established the No Tax for Tracks initiative to stop a proposed wasteful rail transit project, and worked hard to protect property rights of Wisconsin landowners. Eileen lives in Waunakee, Wisconsin, just outside of Madison.*

##### **Kathleen Calongne :**

*Kathleen Calongne has served as the ADC's conference coordinator. The annual conference is the ADC's premier event, and 2013 will mark its ninth and will be held in Washington DC on October 27-29, providing 'basic training' for defending liberty at the local level by bringing together elected officials, expert scholars, and grassroots activists to discuss urban growth, transportation, property rights, and economic recovery. Residing in Boulder, Colorado, Kathleen has been involved with the ADC since its inception and handles hotel accommodations, agenda coordination with speakers, and other arrangements that help make the annual conference a meaningful and one-of-a-kind experience.*

##### **ADC Executive Committee :**

*Coalition Governance ~ ADC is overseen by a steering committee made up of representatives of all full group members as well as people elected by individual members. The steering committee elects an executive committee to oversee month-to-month operations... Like our membership, the ADC executive committee represents a broad cross-section of people and places, from think tank scholars to management pro-*

*fessionals to industry stakeholders and, of course, grassroots activists who come from different regions of the country but who are joined together in common cause to defend freedom, mobility, and affordable homeownership against the threat of over-reaching government at all levels.*

##### **Baruch Feigenbaum :**

*Atlanta GA*

##### **Craig Flynn :**

*Vice President, Milwaukie, OR*

##### **Randal O'Toole :**

*Treasurer, Camp Sherman, OR*

##### **Jim Karlock :**

*Portland, OR*

##### **Bruce Nurse :**

*Bellevue, WA*

##### **Tom Rubin :**

*Oakland, CA*

##### **Kathleen Calongne :**

*Boulder CO*

##### **Frank Penwell :**

*Friday Harbor, WA*

##### **Patrick Zilliacus :**

*Silver Spring, MD*

##### **Butch Porter :**

*Leesburg, VA*

### Vision

Americans are free, mobile, and own affordable homes

## Mission

To defend the American Dream

## Values

**Homeownership:** More than 80 percent of Americans say their ideal home is a single-family house with a yard. Homes are one of the best investments a young family can make. The most important source of funds for new businesses in the U.S. is mortgages on the business owner's homes.

**Mobility:** Automobiles give Americans access to better and higher paying jobs, lower-cost consumer goods, rapid-response emergency services, distant friends and relatives, and all sorts of recreation opportunities.

**Freedom:** According to the Heritage Foundation's 2002 Index of Economic Freedom, nations that protect property rights and other forms of economic freedom have per capita incomes at least six times greater than nations with little or no economic freedom. Higher incomes mean higher environmental quality as well.

## 1. Multimedia

*Provide newsletters, podcasts, presentations, reports and videos*

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## 2. Conferences

*Host conferences*

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### 3. Toolkits

*Provide toolkits*

#### 3.2. Rail Transit

*Help people understand and influence rail transit proposals*

Rail Transit Toolkit ~ All over the United States, cities and transit agencies are planning new light-rail, streetcar, and other rail-transit lines. To some, this is allowing American cities to catch up to their European counterparts. In reality, rail transit is a gigantic boondoggle that enriches a few at the expense of many while providing few real transportation benefits.

#### 3.2. Speakers

*Make available experts and speakers on land-use and transportation issues*

Speakers Bureau ~ The American Dream Coalition has gathered experts and speakers in a variety of land-use and transportation fields who can enlighten your audience, whether it is for a lunch or dinner event, a conference, or an educational workshop. The web page for each speaker includes a description of their expertise and other pertinent information to help you decide which speakers are best for your group.

##### Stakeholder(s):

##### **Ted Balaker :**

*Ted Balaker is the Jacobs Fellow at the Reason Foundation whose work focuses on urban policy, globalization, and workplace issues, such as telecommuting and offshore outsourcing. Prior to joining Reason, Balaker worked for ABC News producing documentaries on issues such as regulation, government reform, the environment, and transportation policy. Expertise: Transportation, transit, rail transit*

##### **Kathleen Calongne :**

*Kathleen Calongne is a nationally known researcher on traffic calming. She is the conference coordinator for the American Dream Coalition and a researcher with the Independence Institute's Center for the American Dream in Colorado. Expertise: Traffic calming, rail transit, Boulder, Denver*

##### **Wendell Cox :**

*Wendell Cox is a transportation consultant who has served on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and the Amtrak Reform Council. Until recently, he taught at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers in Paris each Spring. Expertise: Transportation, transit, rail, housing, land-use planning, world metropolitan areas*

##### **John Forester :**

*John Forester is a transportation engineer and author of Effective Cycling, which educates cyclists about tools and techniques for safe cycling on roads and streets. Forester's research has shown that many supposedly bicycle-friendly street designs actually make conditions more dangerous for cyclists. Exper-*

*tise: Cycling, bicycle transportation, the effects of highway design on cyclists, traffic calming*

##### **Peter Gordon :**

*Peter Gordon is Professor of Public Policy and Real Estate Economics at the University of Southern California. Expertise: Land-use planning, transportation, sprawl*

##### **Rick Harrison :**

*Rick Harrison is an land planner who has designed over 900 neighborhoods in 46 States and 18 Countries contracted by over 300 developers. During the past 25 years he has been the leader in developing new methods for the design of land development, engineering, and housing. He is the author of Prefurbia: Reinventing Land Development from Dismal to Sustainable. Expertise: Land Development, Housing, Land Planning, Engineering, Surveying, Green Building, Environment, Open Space*

##### **Steve Hayward :**

*Steven Hayward is the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Fellow in Law and Economist at the American Enterprise Institute, where he studies a variety of environmental issues including urban sprawl and land use policies. He has a Ph.D. in American Studies from Claremont University. Expertise: Land-use planning, housing, urban sprawl, open space, transportation*

##### **Randal O'Toole :**

*Randal O'Toole is a senior fellow with the Cato Institute specializing in land-use and transportation issues. He is the author of five books and has taught*

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*Stakeholders (continued)*

at Yale, UC Berkeley, and Utah State University. Expertise: Transportation, transit, housing, land-use planning, open space, Denver, Portland (Oregon), San Jose, wildland fire, federal & state lands, endangered species

**Tom Rubin :**

Thomas A. Rubin, CPA, CMA, CMC, CIA, CGFM, CFM has over four decades of experience in government surface transportation and finance, concentrating on public transit. As a consultant and auditor, he has served well over 100 transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, suppliers to the transit industry, and not-for-profits. He founded and directed the public transportation practice of what is now Deloitte & Touche, LLP, growing it to the largest of its type. He has also served as the chief financial officer of two the largest transit systems in the U.S., including the Southern California Rapid Transit District (now Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority), the third largest. Since 1996, he has been a sole practitioner consultant, helping government agencies to improve their capital, operational, and financial planning and overseeing contraction projects. He has been named “the world’s funniest transit accountant” (not in reference to transit agency financial statements he has worked on). Expertise: Transportation, transit, rail transit, transit systems in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and many other cities

**Joel Schwartz :**

Joel Schwartz is a scientist with degrees in chemistry and planetary science from Cornell and the Califor-

nia Institute of Technology. He has worked as a staff scientist for the Coalition for Clean Air, Reason Foundation, and the American Enterprise Institute, and currently works for Blue Sky Consulting. Expertise: Transportation and air quality, transit, land-use planning, property rights, California

**John Semmens :**

John Semmens is a transportation economist who has worked closely with the Laissez Faire Institute in Arizona and who has also served several positions in the Arizona Department of Transportation. Expertise: Transportation, transit, light rail, highway finance, air pollution, local referenda, Phoenix

**Cliff Slater :**

Cliff Slater is a businessman and writer in Honolulu who writings focuses on transportation and transit. He led the unfortunately unsuccessful fight against the \$6 billion, 20-mile Honolulu rail transit line. Expertise: Transportation, transit, rail transit, Honolulu

**Sam Staley :**

Sam Staley is an economist who has worked as the director of the Buckeye Institute in Ohio and the director of the Reason Foundation’s Urban and Land-Use Policy Program. He has also served on his local zoning board. Currently, he is the director of the Devoe L. Moore Center at Florida State University. Expertise: Transportation, transit, rail, housing, land-use planning, open space, property rights, public finance, state & local politics

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