

Lt. Governor Lee Fisher
Restoring Prosperity: The Brookings Report for
Revitalizing America's Older Industrial Cities
City Club of Cleveland
Tuesday, May 29, 2007

Speech lengths: 10 minutes (event must end by 1pm sharp, remarks should be adjusted accordingly)

Topic: Provide a local/state response to Bruce Katz's presentation and the Brookings Report.

Recognitions:

- City Club for hosting event (National City event Sponsor)
- Bruce Katz: Vice President and Director of Metropolitan Policy for Brookings Institution

○ While we are here in Cleveland today, discussing the Brookings report, the report and Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio plan both recognize that it's not just Cleveland or Cincinnati or Youngstown that need additional attention and resources from the state, its communities like Canton, Lima, Mansfield and Springfield that are faced with addressing post industrial realities.

○ The physical landscape of Ohio was created in an age where people where born, raised, worked, and lived their lives within the same community. Advances in technology and affluence have allowed us to spread out to have more elbow room than our grandparents and great grandparents could ever have imagined, we have gone from the farm, to the city, to the suburbs, to the edge city.

- The next 50 years of growth and development must address the realities of the family structure, globalization and the expense of the environmental and social costs of transporting ourselves over great distances. We must confront the realities of our growth pattern.
- The way we have lived over last 50 years, will not be sustainable over the next 50.
- Ohio spent the past several decades dismantling the structural elements that allowed us to live as a compact society; we have torn up our street cars, allowed our rail to rust, and neglected our waterways.
- Today we find ourselves with only one option, that is rebuilding it all again.
- Over those same several decades the state turned away from working with local governments to address gigantic problems, of aging infrastructure, crime, deteriorating schools, and educational foundations and job loss.
- The go it alone strategy for Ohio's cities can longer be acceptable for state and local leaders.
- The SF Admin believes that in restoring our relationship with our local communities and taking joint responsibility for our problems..... in this state can we bring about the change we need

- We cannot consider older industrial cities to be weak market cities instead we must view them as “cities of promise”.

Our agenda focuses on:

- **Regionalizing economic development**
 - **Investing in existing assets and places**
 - **Promoting collaboration among agencies, local governments and across funding silos**
 - **And enhancing our Human capital through targeted programs for workforce development and social programs that help all Ohioans.**
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- Coupling our agenda with the framework provided by the Brookings report, we can begin the strategically development and implement a cohesive agenda to revitalize our cities and towns.
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- Already the Ohio Department of Development has a multitude of programs that directly impact and address issues facing our “cities of promise”.
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- While many of these programs have existed for years, for the first time, our administration will strategically coordinate ODOD projects within the department and across the other cabinet agencies.

1) Beginning with “fixing the basics” (transform neighborhoods schools, make streets safe)

Crime

- Cost per inmate in Ohio is over \$25,000 annually
- Reintegration of inmates, Cuyahoga County alone received over 20% of all state prisoners released in 2001.

- If opportunities to become law abiding citizens in a community are not available, the likelihood of recently released inmates returning to prison increases. We must provide educational and economic opportunity to reduce incarcerations.

Expanding Educational Opportunities:

- In March, Governor Strickland proposed new education funding reforms in his State of the State address. The Governor has proposed increasing the foundation funding per pupil by 3% over the next two years, increasing parity aid by 8 percent, and targeting it to the 60 percent of districts most in need. The Governor also recommended increasing poverty-based assistance by 22 percent over the biennium.

- **Coupled with the homestead property tax expansion, the state contribution to local schools is expected to reach 54 percent.**

2) Build on Economic Strengths (invest in downtown revitalization, competitive niches, enhance connectivity)

- Governor Strickland and I are committed to leading by example (and as the report suggests) are committed to locating government offices in our downtowns, focusing state resources on abandoned buildings and bringing daytime, pedestrian traffic back to our urban centers.
- Our place based strategy for investment focuses on the strengths of our many regions and drives economic development resources to communities based on those strengths.
- Whether its polymers in Akron, aerospace in Dayton, or glass in Toledo, our scarce economic development resources must be allocated in ways that provide maximum success and sustainability for Ohio companies.
- The Third Frontier program is an excellent example of the state investments made to create innovative clusters for next generation technologies and advanced manufacturing.
- Third Frontier also combines a critical element for success, and this is the partnerships with universities, community colleges and research institutions.

3) Transform physical landscape (fix it first, invest in catalytic development projects, create marketable sites)

- The Strickland Fisher administration has embraced fix it first principles to revitalize and enhance existing places and infrastructure. Economic

development projects that embrace fix it first policies will receive priority funding.

- As recognized by the Brookings report, our brownfield revitalization efforts facilitated by the Urban Development Division of the Ohio Department of Development are catalytic projects that have impacted over 67 communities through 153 grants.
 - \$39 million has been invested in Northeast Ohio for Brownfield revitalization projects that are expected to leverage \$655 million and create over 2,900 jobs.
- We are also restructuring our job ready sites program to include criteria that will specifically enhance urban areas and spark innovation.

4) Grow Middle Class (give residents the skills and connections they need to compete, make work pay for low-income workers, reduce costs of begin poor)

- Workforce development is a vital component to creating a self sustainable middle class. Our Workforce development initiatives must be sophisticated to meet the needs of an advanced economy and the businesses that that exist within our regional economies.
- Governor Strickland's Executive Budget also addresses the health of Ohio families and children by proposing Medicaid insurance coverage for Ohio children whose parents make up to 300 percent of the federal

poverty line, and the opportunity for parents above the limit to buy into coverage. The Governor wants to ensure that every child in Ohio has access to affordable health insurance.

- Governor Strickland has also proposed a Higher Education Compact in which state will increase funding for public universities and colleges, provided the institutions agree to freeze tuition for next year, and only increase it 2% the following year.

5) Neighborhoods of choice (support mixed-income housing, grow inner city markets, invest in preservation and rehabilitation)

- The next generation workforce, the young and the restless and the creative class demand an authentic urban experience with connected neighborhoods and civically engaged communities (because they grew up as latchkey kids on cul-de-sacs, watching after school specials, gaining weight and connecting through a computer screen).
- This new generation is seeking places as authentic as they are.
- Preserving the integrity of our historic properties is a new program administered by ODOD. Beginning this July, Historic Preservation Tax Credits will be available to communities and projects for preservation.
- Creating neighborhoods of choice also entails protecting homeowners, especially those most vulnerable, from scrupulous lending schemes that have lead to the widespread loss of homes across the state, in every community.

- Governor Strickland's Foreclosure Prevention Task Force is designing a set of foreclosure prevention and intervention strategies for homeowners to protect their most valuable asset.

Conclusion

- Great places can only be created by great people, institutions and supportive state programs that help place succeed.
- The Brookings report provides a formula to follow and offers the empirical data that reinforces the notion that the moment is right to invest in our "cities of promise"