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GRADUATE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

if 'Smart' is 'Sustainable'? an analysis of smart growth policies and its successful practices

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Fei Yang, Iowa State University

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Thesis

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Master of Community and Regional Planning

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First Advisor

Riad Mahayni

Abstract

Smart growth is the new buzzword in our searching for an ideal community. It calls for a compact and walkable community with multiple transportation and housing options. Therefore, it is touted to solve most of urban problems. However, all the values incorporated in smart growth focus on current generation, there is no research attempts to justify if smart growth include one of our basic ethnics: taking future generations into account. Namely, it is unclear if smart growth incorporates the rationale of sustainability. This study aims to bridge this gap by using an indicator-based assessment model to evaluate smart growth policies and successful practices. The findings suggest that smart growth policies do not fully encompass the values of sustainability, and could not help its practices to achieve sustainable development.

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