



SMART REGIONS.US

Announcing a Smart Region Initiative based upon John Sanger's Book: *Slaying the Status Quo: Evolving Smart Cities into Smart Regions*.

For Immediate Release

Contact John Sanger 651-489-8408 JohnSanger@SmartRegions.US

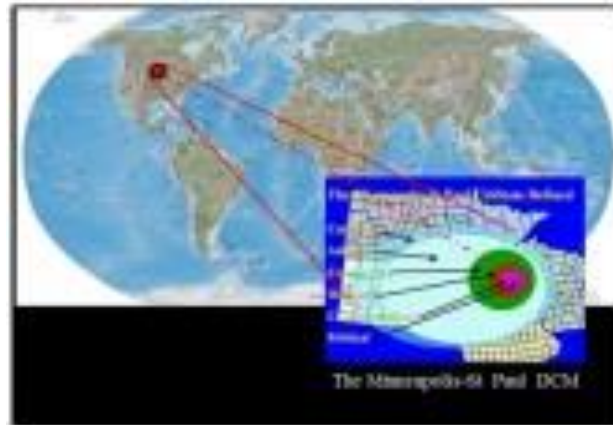
Smart Cities or Smart Regions? It is a rural community decision

The urban areas are again spending billions of dollars on upgraded technology to manage the cities more effectively through the SmartCities movement. That is an important concept but it is incomplete. It is another urban-centric policy that ignores the rural communities.

SmartRegions.US is launching an initiative to engage the community in a broader effort that would integrate the rural and urban communities. In a global economy, cities cannot stand alone; they must include the rural communities. After all, how long would a city last without rural food production?

The effort is a win-win however, as the rural strategies we are developing also address urban issues as well. Climate change, road congestion, density and neighborhood revitalization as well as the provisioning of services beyond the current reach of transit

The Smart Region idea is simple; identify all the communities that connect with Minneapolis-St Paul, economically, socially or culturally. (That includes half of Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin, i.e., the Smart Region) Ignore the political jurisdictions based upon pioneer surveyors and rivers, and use the regional centers as partners to support their small communities. Strengthen the link between the trade centers and the city; extend those links to every small town in the trade center's service area. Build a mutually supportive network throughout the entire region..



The trend for the last seventy-five years has been rural youth leaving to fill urban jobs. It is time to support those urban dwellers who prefer the rural life style but who require urban services to allow it. That can now be provided.

The Industrial Age centralized, the Information Age de-centralizes. The market supports the transition but policies must be changed to allow it. This is about the exercise of an individual's Freedom of Residential Choice. It is time to apply technology opportunities in ways that build stronger communities.

SmartRegions.US will be bringing:

- new concepts and strategies to address urban and rural issues
- new tools and techniques to create a powerful voice for change
- transparency and accountability to the political process

Join the effort, contact us at SmartRegions.US/participate. or attend our initiative launch

INITIATIVE LAUNCH

February 19, 4:30 – 7:00 PM Shoreview Library 4560 Victoria St N. Shoreview, MN 55