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Daily Handpicked Headlines

Tuesday, September 22, 2009:

Posted at 9:00 A.M. PST:

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Money Matters:

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Randy O'Toole: Problems with Long-Range Urban Planning

By [Brandon Martin](#)

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Years ago, Hayek and Von Mises wrote persuasively about how top-down control of the economy or "government planning" cannot work. Years later,

almost every major city in America employs an urban planning department that works day in and day out to prove their point.

As a young conservative, I frequently told people "there's too much government in our lives," but I had no idea how true that was until I began practicing land use law. California is decidedly more planned than most states, but the state overbuilt during the last boom and has traffic, environmental, and affordability issues that many states with less planning don't have to worry about. Not every problem with the built environment can be blamed on land use regulation... but it's kind of hard to find problems that aren't in some way influenced for the worse by well-intentioned interference.

For that reason and because of my own battles in this arena, I enjoy Randy O'Toole of the Cato Institute. It's occurred to me that much of his writing and speaking won't impact those ~~who haven't been traumatized by~~ who aren't familiar with the extent of the expense and injustice of the system.

Nevertheless, for those who might still have it in them to enjoy a little railing against government planning, here's a clip from a recent speech by O'Toole:



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