

Greetings:

Below is the Policy News Update for the month of March 2015. We hope you will find these articles informative and supportive of your work going forward. Please continue to share your suggestions on how we can improve this policy scan to be more useful for your office.

Key Article Highlights:

The Growing Distance between People and Jobs in Metropolitan America | The Brookings Institute | Elizabeth Kneebone and Natalie Holmes | March 2015

Proximity to employment can influence a range of economic and social outcomes, from local fiscal health to the employment prospects of residents, particularly low-income and minority workers. An analysis of private-sector employment and demographic data at the census tract level reveals that between 2000 and 2012, the number of jobs within the typical commute distance for residents in a major metro area fell by 7 percent. As poor and minority residents shifted toward suburbs in the 2000s, their proximity to jobs fell more than for non-poor and white residents.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2015/03/24-people-jobs-distance-metropolitan-areas-kneebone-holmes?rssid=LatestFromBrookings>

We're Frighteningly in the Dark About Student Debt | The New York Times | Susan Dynarski | March 20, 2015

Student loans are now the second-largest source of consumer debt in the United States, surpassed only by home mortgages. In a major reversal, they now constitute a larger portion of household debt than credit cards or car loans. The frightening reality, however, is that we are remarkably ignorant about student debt.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/upshot/were-frighteningly-in-the-dark-about-student-debt.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&abt=0002&abg=0>

Oregon Becomes First State to Automatically Register People to Vote | Governing Magazine | Maria L. La Ganga | March 18, 2015

Americans are required to register if they want to vote; as of March 16th, Oregonians will have to register not to. Those who are registered through the new process will be notified by mail and will be given three weeks to take themselves off the voting rolls. If they do not opt out, the secretary of state's office will mail them a ballot automatically 20 days before any election.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/elections/tns-oregon-voter-registration-law.html>

Philadelphia 2015: The State of the City | Pew Charitable Trusts | March 28, 2015

This report is a comprehensive look at Philadelphia. It examines key indicators of the city's condition—including jobs, public safety, education, housing, government, and transportation—and features select results from Pew's most recent citywide poll. Although many of the statistics show that Philadelphia is moving in a positive direction, the analysis reveals that significant issues remain.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2015/03/philadelphia-2015-the-state-of-the-city>

Maia Jachimowicz
Katherine Martin
David Tusio
John Burgoyne, Intern
Katharine Richardson, Intern
Office of Policy Planning and Coordination

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Art and Culture](#)

[Economic Development and Job Creation](#)

[Education](#)

[Environment and Sustainability](#)

[Finance](#)

[Government Reform, Administration and Innovation](#)

[Health, Housing and Opportunity](#)

[Immigration](#)

[Public Safety](#)

[Transportation, Infrastructure, and Utilities](#)

[Art and Culture](#)

With City in Flux, Public Art Project Seeks New Ideas for Philly Monument | NewsWorks
| Jennifer Lynn | March 12, 2015

A new public art and research project is posing this question to Philadelphians: What is your ideal city monument? "Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia" is a collaboration of the City of Philadelphia's Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy; the Mural Arts Program; the University of Pennsylvania; and the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. The project, which will set up outside City Hall in May with an array of installations, public events, and talks by artists, will try to enlist the public to talk and think about a new monument for Philadelphia.

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/arts-culture/79442-with-city-in-flux-public-art-project-seeks-ideas-for-new-philly-monument>

[Economic Development and Job Creation](#)

Most Say Government Policies Since Recession Have Done Little to Help Middle Class, Poor | Pew Research Center | March 4, 2015

The public makes sharp distinctions about which groups have benefited – and which have not – from the economic policies the government has put in place since the start of the recession. Majorities say that large banks, large corporations and the wealthy have been helped a great deal or a fair amount by government policies.

<http://pewrsr.ch/1B2mq7a>

How Much Could Policy Changes Reduce Poverty in New York City? | Urban Institute | Linda Giannarelli, Laura Wheaton, and Joyce Morton | March 4, 2015

A combination of policies would reduce the poverty rate of New York City residents from 21.4 percent to 6.7 percent, according to an analysis for three NYC non-profits. The project used the TRIM3 microsimulation model and NYC data from the American Community Survey to analyze the potential effects of seven policies: transitional jobs (TJ), earnings supplements, a higher minimum wage, increased benefits from SNAP (food stamps), more housing vouchers, guaranteed child care subsidies, and a tax credit for seniors and people with disabilities. The transitional jobs policy had the biggest individual impact, reducing poverty from 21.4 to 15.9 percent.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000136-How-Much-Could-Policy-Changes-Reduce-Poverty-in-New-York-City.pdf>

Where Wages are Lowest and Highest in America | Governing Magazine | Mike Maciag | March 13, 2015

Inflation-adjusted wages for the typical American worker haven't changed much over the past several decades. Just how much workers are feeling the pinch from low wages, though, depends in large part on where they live. Many areas with the lowest estimated wages are found along the coasts, particularly in economies tied to tourism. Areas of the South with few higher-paying jobs are also characterized by similarly low cost-of-living adjusted wages. Some of the main drivers pushing wages up or down include regional industry concentration, education levels and housing costs.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/gov-metros-where-wages-are-lowest.html>

Expanding Opportunities in America's Urban Areas | The Center for American Progress | March 23, 2015

We are in what HUD calls the "Century of Cities," in which urban areas around the world are facilitating innovation while contributing to their nations' prosperity. While many people stand to benefit from living in urban areas across the United States, a number of people are stuck in neighborhoods that are largely isolated from the economic and social benefits that cities create. Leaders must work together to reverse this trend of neglect and strengthen distressed urban areas.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/report/2015/03/23/109460/expanding-opportunities-in-americas-urban-areas/>

The Changing Face of the Heartland | The Brookings Institute | Jennifer Bradley | March 17, 2015

By 2044, people of color will account for a majority of the U.S. population. In this Brookings Essay, Jennifer Bradley examines efforts in U.S. metropolitan areas to prepare a more diverse workforce. Bradley showcases efforts of organizations in Minneapolis-Saint Paul to close persistent education and employment gaps facing its rapidly growing population. As Europe and countries like Japan face a declining working-age demographic, population growth among people of color has the potential to give the U.S. a competitive advantage in the 21st century economy.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2015/changingfaceoftheheartland>

New NYC Program Aims to Create 5,000 Women Entrepreneurs from Low-Income Neighborhoods | Fast Company | Vivian Giang | March 16, 2015

New York City is hoping 5,000 women from underserved communities over the next three years will participate in the new initiative, Women Entrepreneurs NYC, dubbed WE NYC, on Thursday. It will offer free training and business services—including loan negotiation workshops, connections to capital, pro-bono legal assistance, and navigating government resources—for aspiring entrepreneurs.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3043680/strong-female-lead/new-nyc-program-aims-to-create-5000-women-entrepreneurs-from-low-income-n?partner=rss>

Education

Frustrated with the Pace of Progress in Education? Invest in Better Evidence | The Brookings Institution | Thomas J. Kane | March 5, 2015

The primary obstacle to faster progress in U.S. education reform is hard to put your finger on, because it's an absence, not a presence. It is not an interest group or a manifest social problem. It is the infrastructure we never built for identifying what works. It is the organizational framework we've not yet constructed for building consensus among education leaders across the country to identify what's working.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/03/05-education-evidence-kane>

Measuring Effects of the Common Core | The Brookings Institute | Tom Loveless | March 24, 2015

The analysis uses surveys of state implementation to model different CCSS starting points for states and produces a second early report card on how CCSS is doing. Fourth grade reading

scores improved by 1.11 scale score points in states with strong implementation of CCSS compared to states that did not adopt CCSS. A similar comparison in last year's BCR found a 1.27 point difference on NAEP's eighth grade math test, also in favor of states with strong implementation of CCSS. These differences, although certainly encouraging to CCSS supporters, are quite small.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2015/03/24-common-core-loveless?rssid=LatestFromBrookings>

No Child Left Behind Law Faces Its Own Reckoning | The New York Times | Motoko Rich and Tamar Lewin | March 20, 2015

The law, which was intended to make sure schools were educating children, particularly the neediest, ushered in an era of high-stakes testing to measure student progress. After more than a decade, the proliferation of tests, along with punishments for schools that failed to improve their scores, has angered parents and teachers. It has also set off protests and boycotts of testing. A rewrite of the law could collapse in partisan disarray as in past years. But it could also herald a new era of education, keeping some testing but eliminating prescriptive punishments for schools.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/us/politics/schools-wait-to-see-what-becomes-of-no-child-left-behind-law.html?ref=education&_r=0

Classroom peer pressure: A mixed blessing | The Brookings Institute | Emily Cuddy and Richard V. Reeves | March 20, 2015

Culture, norms and peers matter a great deal for the design and implementation of policy. Policy-makers often assume that giving struggling students additional resources will help them succeed. But this study is a reminder that even providing a valuable service for free may not make much difference if students are reluctant to accept them in a public setting.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/social-mobility-memos/posts/2015/03/20-peer-pressure-reeves>

Doubling Graduation Rates: Three-Year Effects of CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) for Developmental Education Students | MDRC | Susan Scrivener, Michael J. Weiss, et al. | February 2015

Community colleges offer a pathway to the middle class for low-income individuals. Although access to college has expanded, graduation rates at community colleges remain low, especially for students who need developmental (remedial) courses to build their math, reading, or writing skills. The City University of New York's (CUNY's) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), launched in 2007 with funding from the New York City Center for Economic

Opportunity, is an uncommonly comprehensive and long-term program designed to help more students graduate and help them graduate more quickly.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publication/doubling-graduation-rates>

Mobilizing Volunteer Tutors to Improve Student Literacy: Implementation, Impacts, and Costs of the Reading Partners Program | MDRC | Robin Tepper Jacob, Catherine Armstrong, Jacklyn Willard | March 2015

This study reports on an evaluation of the Reading Partners program, which uses community volunteers to provide one-on-one tutoring to struggling readers in under-resourced elementary schools. Reading Partners had a positive and statistically significant impact on three different measures of student reading proficiency. Reading Partners is a low-cost option for under-resourced schools because a majority of the costs are in-kind contributions, primarily from community volunteers.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publication/mobilizing-volunteer-tutors-improve-student-literacy>

Environment and Sustainability

GreenSpace: Phila. Storm-Water Plan Seen to Have Wider Positives | The Philadelphia Inquirer | Sandy Bauers | March 1, 2015

Four years ago, the Philadelphia Water Department launched an innovative - and, at a projected cost of \$2.4 billion, expansive - storm-water plan. The goal is to pepper the city with myriad small projects - from rain gardens to manufactured wetlands to green roofs - that will sop up the first inch of rain. When all the projects are completed two decades from now, no longer will storm water inundate the city's sewers and gush untreated into streams, carrying road oil, raw sewage, and other pollutants. The impetus was environmental, and cost was a key reason for the design.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/science/20150301_GreenSpace_Phila_storm-water_plan_seen_to_have_wider_positives.html#gYlqI2Eeysti8Q0y.01

Future Forecast: Energy Management in 2020 | American City and County | Robert Barkin | February 18, 2015

As governments consider how they will manage energy needs in the next five years, they are increasingly assessing new technologies and carefully watching market forces to identify trends that will accelerate efforts to reduce carbon emissions and find efficiencies. Energy management is becoming synonymous with efforts to be good stewards of the environment.

<http://americancityandcounty.com/public-works/future-forecast-energy-management-2020>

Supreme Court Seems Split on What Is ‘Appropriate’ in Setting Clean Air Costs | The New York Times | Adam Liptak | March 25, 2015

The Supreme Court on Wednesday seemed closely divided over the fate of one of the Obama administration’s most ambitious environmental initiatives. Lawyers for industry groups and some 20 states told the justices that Environmental Protection Agency regulations that set limits on emissions from power plants had failed to take account of the punishing costs they would impose.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/26/us/division-seen-in-supreme-court-on-pollution-limits.html>

5 Ways to Get People to Recycle More Electronics | Governing Magazine | Elizabeth Diagneau | March 25, 2015

Despite states’ e-recycling laws, electronics are the fastest-growing type of waste in landfills. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that in 2011 only one-quarter of all the electronic waste generated was recycled. At the same time, the United Nations reported that the world’s electronic waste would grow by 33 percent, from almost 50 million tons to more than 65 million tons, between 2012 and 2017.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/gov-ways-government-can-boost-electronic-recycling.html>

Finance

Managing Volatile Tax Collections in State Revenue Forecasts | The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government | March 10, 2015

This report will help policymakers better understand how volatile state taxes affect the accuracy of revenue projections. It examines data from 1987 through 2013 and reveals that predicting how much money state governments will raise has become more difficult than ever. The increase in revenue forecast errors is due largely to the growing volatility of tax collections across the states. From 2000 to 2013, the size of fluctuations in tax revenue rose in 42 states. And although no state can entirely eliminate forecasting errors, this study identifies three ways to help them manage volatility.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2015/03/StateRevenueForecastingReportARTFINALv4web.pdf?la=en>

Which Companies Get the Most Federal Subsidies? A new report tallies federal grants and tax credits across more than 100 different programs. | Governing Magazine | Mike Maciag | March 17, 2015

With hundreds of programs spanning multiple agencies, it's hard to say how much individual companies benefit from federal grants and tax credits. Good Jobs First, an economic development watchdog group, published Tuesday what it considers to be the first comprehensive database of corporate subsidies at the federal level, tallying awards from 137 different programs. In all, the federal government has awarded grants and allocated tax credits totaling \$68 billion since 2000.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/gov-companies-receiving-largest-federal-subsidies.html>

Creating Financial Capability in the Next Generation: An Introduction to the Special Issue | The Brookings Institute | Michal Grinstein-Weiss and Margaret S. Sherraden | March 2015

The Great Recession revealed the financial vulnerability of millions of US households. In its aftermath, researchers and policymakers have turned their attention to improving the next generation's knowledge of personal finance and its access to secure financial offerings. Nearly all experts agree that such efforts should start early in children's lives. This special issue of The Journal of Consumer Affairs, which we developed in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC), presents a collection of studies that explore starting early to develop financial capability.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/2015/03/25-financial-capability-next-generation>

Government Reform, Administration and Innovation

Citizen Disengagement: The Minority Opinion | Public Management Magazine | Kevin Desouza | March 2015

Today, local governments are asking residents to engage in everything from participatory budgeting to voting for the best colors for city benches. The strong temptation to engage them more because it's popular can be detrimental to a local government. While I would never go as far as to say stop seeking resident engagement, I would implore that you find the right balance of engagement.

http://icma.org/en/press/pm_magazine/article/105508

Participatory Democracy's Emerging Tools | Governing Magazine | Maria L. La Ganga | March 18, 2015

As we explore the role of new technologies in changing how government makes policies and delivers services, one form of technology is emerging that has the potential to foster decision-making that's not only more effective but also more legitimate: platforms for organizing communication by groups across a distance. Long known as groupware in the business world, such tools now are either being adapted or purpose-built to facilitate conversation and collaboration between government and citizens with the goal of enabling democracy that is more participatory and inclusive of diverse voices.

<http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-participatory-democracy-emerging-tools.html>

Health, Housing and Opportunity

Health Care Systems Try to Cut Costs by Aiding the Poor and Troubled | The New York Times | Sabrina Tavernise | March 22, 2015

More than 11 million Americans have joined the Medicaid rolls since the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act went into effect, and health officials are searching for ways to contain the costs of caring for them. Some of the most expensive patients have medical conditions that are costly no matter what. But a significant share rack up costs for avoidable reasons. Many are afflicted with some combination of poverty, homelessness, mental illness, addiction and past trauma.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/23/health/taming-health-costs-by-keeping-high-maintenance-patients-out-of-the-hospital.html>

Human Services for Low-Income and At-Risk LGBT Populations | Mathematica Policy Research | March 3, 2015

Despite social and legal progress for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the United States, much about low-income and at-risk LGBT individuals and their participation in federal human service programs remains unknown. In fact, data suggest LGBT people may be disproportionately at risk of poor outcomes related to economic security and social well-being, compared to the general population.

<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/projects/human-services-for-low-income-and-at-risk-lgbt-populations>

Some Cities are still More Unequal than Others—An Update | The Brookings Institute | Alan Berube and Natalie Holmes | March 17, 2015

This report updates a 2014 analysis that looked at levels of income inequality in the 50 largest U.S. cities, and examines in particular trends between 2012 and 2013, the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2013, big cities continued to exhibit greater income disparities between rich and poor households than the rest of the country

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2015/03/city-inequality-berube-holmes>

Why America's Racial Wealth Gap Is Really a Homeownership Gap | City Lab | Tanvi Misra | March 12, 2015

Owning a home isn't just a fragment of the American Dream, it's the key to it. Homeownership is also the primary way by which Americans accumulate wealth. American asset-building policies are heavily focused on homeownership, but these policies have discriminated against minorities in the past, and have left a lasting scar. People of color continue to face barriers to homeownership. They are less likely to own a home (below) and less likely to get returns from the homes they do own.

<http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/03/why-americas-racial-wealth-gap-is-really-a-homeownership-gap/387427/>

King v. Burwell, CHIP, and Medicaid | Urban Institute | Matthew Buettgens, Lisa Dubay, Genevieve M. Kenney, and Jay Dev | March 2015

The coming months will be important in determining the framework for children's health insurance coverage. The future availability of tax credits for marketplace coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the 34 states that do not have a state-based marketplace (SBM) is in the hands of the Supreme Court, while the fate of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and future Medicaid coverage for children rests with Congress. This brief projects the impacts of the discontinuation of separate CHIP and Medicaid coverage for children with incomes above 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and of marketplace tax credits in states without SBMs that rely on the federally facilitated marketplace (FFM).

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000144-King-v-Burwell-CHIP-and-Medicaid.pdf>

What Do Americans Prioritize When Picking a Place to Live? | The Atlantic | Gillian B. White | March 12, 2015

According to a new poll, economic mobility and diversity are key components of a good city or town. More than 90 percent of respondents said that providing equal chances for all people to get ahead, through educational and economic opportunities, was one of the most important

attributes that any community can have. And more than three-fourths of respondents thought that locations that included ethnic and racial diversity were a key factor for good communities.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/03/what-do-americans-prioritize-when-picking-a-place-to-live/387328/>

Starting behind: Low birth weight in the United States | The Brookings Institute | Jonathan Rothwell | March 4, 2015

Children are born into starkly unequal environments; they are also conceived in them. A large number of studies identify a persistent and disturbing relationship: Children from poorer and less educated families are less healthy at birth, as indicated by birth weight and other measures. Moreover, birth weight predicts better health, educational attainment, and earnings in adulthood.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/social-mobility-memos/posts/2015/03/03-low-birth-weight-rothwell>

How America's Overmedicating Low-Income and Foster Kids | Governing Magazine | Chris Kardish | March 2015

Children in the United States are on drugs for longer and more often than kids in any other country. And for children on Medicaid or in foster care, the numbers are far higher. In Kentucky, for example, a child in the Medicaid program is nearly three times as likely to be prescribed a mind-altering psychotropic medication as a kid under private insurance. Spurred by a series of federal probes and a 2011 directive to begin reporting on the steps they're taking to reduce prescription rates, state health officials have tried a variety of approaches to address the problem.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-america-overmedicating-poverty.html>

Immigration

Interactive: The Demographic Evolution of the American Electorate, 1980–2060 | Center for American Progress | Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, Ruy Teixeira | February 24, 2015

This interactive allows users to access detailed project data on the nation or on any individual state. Data may be seen for race, age, and generation over the entire 1980–2060 time period, as well as for education and marital status from 1980 to 2014. In addition, for any characteristic, users can look at trends for the entire population, the voting-age population, and eligible voters for the entire period and trends for registered voters and actual voters from 1980 to 2014.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/progressive-movement/news/2015/02/24/107166/interactive-the-demographic-evolution-of-the-american-electorate-1980-2060/>

From minor to major | The Economist | David Rennie | Mar 14, 2015

A demographic revolution is under way. In 1953, America's Hispanic population numbered perhaps 3m. It surged after changes in immigration law under President Lyndon Johnson, nearing 9m by 1970. Today it stands at 57m, out of around 321m Americans, and is on course to double by mid-century, when it is projected to be 106m out of 398m. In the past two decades Hispanic migrants have spread from a few states and cities to places that had not seen big foreign inflows since the days of steam trains and telegraphs.

<http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21645996-one-american-six-now-hispanic-up-small-minority-two-generations-ago>

Public Safety

Obama Calls for Changes in Policing After Task Force Report | The New York Times | Julie Hirschfeld Davis | March 2, 2015

President Obama on Monday called for prompt action to change police practices across the country after the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island at the hands of white officers exposed frustrations about law enforcement in minority communities. Mr. Obama, unveiling the recommendations of a White House task force created in the wake of the killings, said local law enforcement agencies should consider requiring independent criminal investigations and independent prosecutors in cases where the use of force by police officers results in injury or death.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/us/politics/obama-calls-for-changes-in-policing-after-task-force-report.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&r=0>

Cybercrime @ City Hall | Public Management Magazine | Gerald Cliff | March, 2015

As local governments embrace technology and use such financial instruments as credit and debit cards and digital currencies to accept payment for taxes, utility fees, traffic fines, parking fees, and more, the likely result will be increased exposure to personally identifiable information (PII) being compromised, which is part of the reason that identity theft is the nation's fastest growing category of crime.

http://icma.org/en/press/pm_magazine/article/105507

How “Prisons without Bars” Could Cut the Cost of Prison and Keep People from Coming Back | The Washington Post | Christopher Ingraham | March 19, 2015

Kleiman, Hawken and Halperin study criminal justice policy, and they've recently proposed an innovative solution to help cut America's incarcerated population, and ensure that those who are released don't come back. It's called "graduated re-entry." The idea is to let convicts out of prison early -- real early. Parolees wouldn't simply be dumped on the street with 40 bucks in their pocket and no clear path toward re-entering society, the way they are now. Rather, the prisoner would be released to an apartment subsidized by the state.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/03/19/how-prisons-without-bars-could-cut-the-cost-of-prison-and-keep-people-from-coming-back/>

The Poor Get Prison: The Alarming Spread of the Criminalization of Poverty | The Institute for Policy Studies | Karen Dolan | March 18, 2015

Poor people, especially people of color, face a far greater risk of being fined, arrested, and even incarcerated for minor offenses than other Americans. A broken taillight, an unpaid parking ticket, a minor drug offense, sitting on a sidewalk, or sleeping in a park can all result in jail time. In this report, we seek to understand the multi-faceted, growing phenomenon of the “criminalization of poverty.”

<http://www.ips-dc.org/the-poor-get-prison-the-alarming-spread-of-the-criminalization-of-poverty/>

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Utilities

The Unforeseen Fiscal Challenges of Uber-Like Services | Governing Magazine | Frank Shafroth | March 2015

On-demand services like Uber and Airbnb will force state and local governments to rethink taxes, zoning and retirement. The explosion of sharing or on-demand services like Uber and Airbnb is the beginning of an economic upheaval every bit as significant as the industrial revolution. The on-demand economy promises to radically reshape the cost of services and change the face of the workforce. These upheavals, in turn, are altering state and local government policies -- imposing unforeseen fiscal risks.

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-uber-unforeseen-fiscal-challenges.html>

Seattle Bus Fares Are Now Based on Your Income | Time Magazine | Justin Worland | March 2, 2015

Mass transit officials have long offered discounts to certain commuters—seniors, veterans and government employees, to name a few. On Sunday, Seattle added people from low-income households to the list. Under a new program, commuters with household incomes less than two times the federal poverty line pay only \$1.50 for most trips on the region’s buses, light rail trains and street cars. The county estimates that the program could save workers who commute during peak hours more than \$900 per year.

<http://time.com/3728160/seattle-bus-fares-income/>