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# Scorecards



How "smart" is a new development?

If you've done your homework by reading the major references in the [Reading Room](#), then you can probably just look at a development and give it a rough SmartGrowth grade. For instance, you can look at developments like [SouthSide Works](#) and figure that it's pretty SmartGrowth. I also have a recurrent dream that I've made up bumperstickers with **SmartGrowth Grade: "F"** and I'm running around at 3 AM pasting them on the [CVS in Turtle Creek](#), and every building at [Robinson Town Center](#).

But is there some way to be a bit more objective about this? Indeed there is.

## Development Project Scorecards

Probably the best-known and most venerable SmartGrowth scorecard is the [Smart Scorecard for Development Projects](#), by Colorado developer [Will Fleissig](#). It's a bit dry, but it's required reading for

anyone who wants to score a development proposal—and the most respected SmartGrowth assessment tool for analyzing individual projects. Of interest to Carnegie, it is also a way to replace traditional zoning with a design specification.

There are many other ways of scoring development proposals. Indeed, the US Environmental Protection Agency's webmaster was nice enough to put together [a list of such scorecards](#). Another [scorecard listing](#) comes from the [New Jersey Smart Growth Gateway](#). Even mostly-rural Idaho has its own SmartGrowth scorecards for [neighborhood development](#). and [commercial development](#).

## Community Scorecards

There are even more scorecards for evaluating a community. The [scorecard for Cleveland, OH](#) is reasonable to apply to the nearby Pittsburgh area. [New Jersey's SmartGrowth scorecard](#) is particularly readable and easy to use. The EPA website also has a nice [listing of municipal SmartGrowth scorecards](#). The [Capital Regional District](#) (Washington State) has [another listing of SmartGrowth scorecards](#).

The [University of British Columbia](#) has [case studies of SmartGrowth development](#) that are worth a quick read, and they offer a [SmartGrowth checklist](#) with a Canadian perspective.

Indeed, SmartGrowth concerns echo across the globe, and many countries—[New Zealand](#) for example—use scorecards to assess community development efforts.

There are two scorecards that I find particularly easy to use while providing a high-quality assessment of a community. One is on community [bikability](#), the other on [walkability](#). Both are from the US Department of Transportation, which provides much additional information on making communities more transit-oriented.

## The Press is Coming!

More and more, [the press is picking up](#) on smart growth ideas, and the various scorecards are being used to [rate and compare](#) community development efforts. I would hope that, with our new-found enthusiasm for urban planning, Carnegie will do well when we get rated by the press—especially since funding is more and more linked to smart growth policies.

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