

# SPRAWL IN WASHTENAW COUNTY WHO LOSES?



**Everyone who can't drive** - children, the elderly and those who can't afford a car (and those who do own cars must deal with rising annual costs to keep their vehicles on the road, as well as the headaches arising from increased traffic, road construction, etc.).

**Taxpayers** whose taxes are going up-both to pay for maintaining deteriorating infrastructure and transportation services and to pay for duplicating those services elsewhere.

**The neighborhood** - that amalgam of residents, corner stores, local schools, parish church, nearby tavern, etc., with which a community becomes familiar and forms an identity. Membership in a neighborhood often imparts a sense of belonging and safety.

**Churches** which often provide significant social services and which are faced with the deterioration of their own physical infrastructures as well as the pressure to build and support new ones for increasingly dispersed memberships.

**School districts** faced with declining enrollment and tax bases in older schools in the cities and the demand for new schools in rapidly growing areas.

**Country residents** who want their communities to remain rural (and city residents who enjoy getting away to "the country").

**Hospitals, arts organizations, banks, utilities** and other institutions with fixed investments in the city.

**Fair and affordable housing** and the people who need them.

**Businesses** which must pay more to ship or receive goods and materials across greater distances and experience lower productivity as a result of employee commuting.

**Employees** who must pay a number of costs associated with commuting (among them, additional time away from their families) and potential employees who have no way to get to the jobs.

**Farmers** who want to keep farming without the threat of encroaching subdivisions.

**Wildlife** and biodiversity.

**Our children and their children** who will be burdened with enormous debt and deprived of the natural resources which should be their heritage.

**People in poverty** who are concentrated in decaying neighborhoods.

For more information or to get involved, contact Jeff Surfus at 426-1984 or Mary Beth Doyle at the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor at 663-2400.