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Smart summit sells change

By David Winzelberg

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Long Island is facing monumental change, and getting people to realize that was the main theme at the 6th annual Smart Growth Summit at the Melville Marriott Friday.

Organized by Vision Long Island, the summit focused on affordable housing, transportation and downtown revitalization. The event was kicked off by a panel of town supervisors, including Riverhead's Phil Cardinale, Oyster Bay's John Venditto, Islip's Phil Nolan, and Jon Kaiman from North Hempstead.

Over 500 people from the worlds of banking, real estate, government and civic groups listened to speakers and attended workshops about Long Island's planning challenges of the future.

Much of the summit focused on large, regional projects like the \$2 billion redevelopment of 150 acres around the Nassau Coliseum and Jerry Wolkoff's huge Heartland project in Brentwood.

A presentation by RexCorp chief Scott Rechler on the Lighthouse project met with a warm reception. Rechler explained that the plan would likely change after more public input and examination.

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