

## There's hope on the horizon

I attended the recent I-215 South Corridor Economic Development Summit and was thoroughly impressed with the local options we have to reduce traffic congestion and protect our economy. The message was clear, our past dependence on distant sources of building materials just isn't going to work anymore; our freeways are too congested, our air is too dirty and long-distance trucking is getting too expensive. We need local sources for construction materials.

Now, more than ever, we need to be open-minded to local projects that provide the materials we need while protecting our quality of life. There's no arguing that our region is facing troubling times. We need serious improvements to our local infrastructure, but project costs keep rising while available funds keep disappearing. Rising fuel costs have forced many of us to reconsider the way we do business. Luckily, this year's summit offered real solutions that took those considerations into account. Now we just need action to reduce truck traffic and clean up our air.

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<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/10/19/opinion/letters/z3cb3c14d1b85c443882574e5007d32be.txt>

### COMMENTS:

**Local Building Materials[-]** wrote on Oct 19, 2008 8:18 AM: A long time "local building material" that has been overlooked is straw.

Yes straw, just like in the 3 pigs.

Look up straw bale houses on line.

**Straw house[-]** wrote on Oct 20, 2008 11:51 AM: Rick Neugebauer has a good idea regarding building materials, but don't worry about the straw for your house, as we can have all the gravel to make concrete etc; from Canada, and have it shipped by barges down the coast, much cheaper than trucking it from many local sources. We should look further into this idea.