

# Smart Growth ENews



Volume 4, Issue 1

1000 Friends of Connecticut

January 2009

## Yes, we can!



### Smart, Sustainable Growth and the State Budget

In her 2009 State of the State Address, Governor M. Jodi Rell told us these are “scary” times and said every program in state government would feel the impact of impending cuts.

Republicans in the General Assembly put up a deficit tracking clock like the one you see in Times Square. Current estimates have this year’s budget in deficit over \$1 Billion. The projected deficit for 2010/2011 ranges from \$6 to \$10 Billion. No way around it, that’s a hole to give us

pause. And there’s no doubt, we haven’t been collecting anywhere near the revenue we need to keep up with state obligations and fixing that imbalance is going to hurt.

Connecticut isn’t alone in its budget woes. Thirty-odd states have projected budget deficits, including New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Massachusetts and even New Hampshire. We can take comfort in that and caution. They’re our neighbors but they’re also our competition for jobs and workers. States that manage this economic disturbance well will keep and attract jobs and creative class workers. Smart, sustainable policies and investments will bring states through the economic downturn better positioned for future growth.

In Connecticut, this must be our goal. We must continue to invest in modernizing our transit infrastructure and create transit oriented development. This will grow job sites and give us a healthy mix of housing and allow us to walk away from the single passenger automobile. We need to bring contaminated properties back to life by cleaning up brownfields. This will help make these sites the first choice for new development when the credit market loosens and development demand picks up.

For years, smart growth advocates have pointed to our over-reliance on the property tax as the

major contributor to unsustainable development. If state funding cuts translate to higher costs for municipalities, our current budget situation may lead us further from smart growth goals. We must be sure that cities and towns are protected from needless cuts. At the same time, we must encourage them to work together, across municipal boundaries to increase efficiencies, attract urban investment and use land sustainably.

**It’s going to hurt. It’s going to be hard, but with wise budgeting, we can continue to grow Connecticut smart.** Keep current at <http://www.1000friends-ct.org/subscribe>.

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Smart growth policies allow us to invest in the growth of the Connecticut we want.

*vibrant, diverse business sector • mixed land uses • vital city and town centers • brownfield redevelopment • transit-oriented development • compact, walkable communities • green buildings*

Smart growth policies protect and preserve the Connecticut we value.

*historic and cultural resources • traditional town and village centers • uniqueness of place • agricultural economy • scenic beauty • open space, greenways and biodiversity*

**Join the Campaign**

Smart growth policies include predictable, fair & cost-effective rules.

*balanced, transparent and progressive taxation • effective deployment of resources • intergovernmental cooperation • simplified permitting • revised codes • accountable implementation • improved land use planning & regulation affordable housing • quality jobs • transportation alternatives • meaningful citizen participation • transparency and accountability • integrated communities • energy alternatives • environmental justice • educational equity*

I support 1000 FRIENDS' efforts to align Connecticut's policies and practices behind smart growth principles. Sign me on to the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart.

Name and Address:

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Email and Phone:

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Sustainable Stimulus

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee released a draft of the economic stimulus package under discussion there. The package proposes funds for transit, roads and bridges, clean water infrastructure, green jobs, education assistance, funds to clean up brownfields and aid to states for low income residents through Medicaid reimbursements, unemployment benefits, and more. The package is scheduled to be discussed in the House by mid-February and in the Senate shortly thereafter.

Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institution, says, “The nation’s economic crisis requires attention to the principal drivers of prosperity — infrastructure, human capital and

innovation. If leveraged and deployed strategically, these assets can help us achieve short-term job gains, keep pace with the increasing size and diversity of America’s population and move our nation toward durable prosperity, based on:

- **productive** growth that boosts innovation, generates quality jobs and rising incomes and helps the United States maintain economic leadership
- **inclusive** growth that expands educational and employment opportunities, reduces poverty and fosters a strong and diverse middle class, and
- **sustainable** growth that strengthens existing cities and communities, conserves natural resources and advances U.S. efforts to address climate change and achieve energy independence.”

Connecticut’s delegation is central to passing the package. Take time to call your Senator or Congressman. To find out more, please see Katz’s **Memo to the President: Invest in Long Term Prosperity** at [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu).



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### NEXT AMERICAN CITY FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Are you a grassroots activist making a difference in your city? Are you a community leader providing a voice for your neighbors? Are you leading an organization geared toward making a change? Next American City wants to meet you!

It's first annual conference May 20-21st will bring together the next generation of urban leaders and will feature 30 inspiring individuals discussing ways to **shape our cities' futures.**

Applications are at: <http://americacity.org/index.php/vanguard>

### CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Tour and talk at the analytical testing lab at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

Thursday, January 29 11:30 AM  
Conference Rm. 2, Johnson-Horsefall Building  
123 Huntington Street, New Haven

- 11:30-12:15; Lunch
- 12:15-12:45; Dr. MaryJane Incorvia Mattina will present "One of Connecticut's Best Kept Secrets: The Food, Environmental, and Product Safety Laboratory at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station."
- 1:00; Laboratory Tours

RSVP: MaryJane Mattina, 203.974.8449 or [maryjane.mattina@po.state.ct.us](mailto:maryjane.mattina@po.state.ct.us).

Directions available at: [http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2812&q=376514\\_](http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2812&q=376514_)

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change is pleased to announce the 4th Annual CT Climate Change Leadership Awards Program.

The program recognizes individuals and organizations that have taken exemplary action to reduce **Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.**

Nominations for 2009 awards are being accepted now through February 20th. The Governor's Steering Committee seeks nominations from the following: students, educators, businesses, municipalities, state agencies, institutions (colleges, universities, hospitals, schools), non-governmental organizations, and individuals.

The awards ceremony will coincide with Earth Day activities.

Nomination forms and additional information are at:  
<http://ctclimatechange.com/CTClimateChangeLeadershipAwards.html>.

## SMART GROWTH PARTIES

WE'RE BUILDING THE GRASS ROOTS  
ONE HOUSE PARTY AT A TIME

PARTIES are PLANNED for:  
JANUARY 25 in EAST HADDAM and  
FEBRUARY 5 in HARTFORD.

WE'LL COME to YOUR TOWN too.  
HELP US MAKE FRIENDS, CALL 860/523-0003 or  
EMAIL KGriebel@1000friends-ct.org.



### Revitalizing Older Cities Capitol Hill Summit

Participate in a joint effort of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional and Senate Coalitions and the Revitalizing Older Cities Congressional Task Force.

This summit provides an opportunity for activists, community organizers, civic leaders, elected officials, and concerned citizens to discuss the vital links between federal policy and the revitalization of their cities and towns.

February 11-12, 2009

Washington, DC

Visit [http://nemw.org/ROC\\_Summit.htm](http://nemw.org/ROC_Summit.htm) for more information, or contact Greg Lewis at [glewis@nemw.org](mailto:glewis@nemw.org).

### NonProfit Forum - Breakthrough Leadership

With each passing year, experienced nonprofit leaders retire or leave the field, resulting in a "brain bust" that keeps growing.

Preparing young nonprofit leaders is vital to sustaining this **sector. In this workshop, you'll learn about techniques employed** at General Electric to create breakthroughs in young leader development.

The workshop features Sandy Sullivan, Manager of Executive Leadership at GE.

January 23, continental breakfast begins at 8:30.

William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund  
2319 Whitney Ave., 2nd Floor, Hamden

Pre-Register at: [www.uwgnh.org.npf](http://www.uwgnh.org.npf)

## Route 7—Route 15 Interchange Connecticut DOT Public Meeting

Proposed design plans for the interchange will be presented and discussed.

February 25, 6:30 PM

Norwalk City Hall, Norwalk

Additional information is available at: [www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1373&Q=431762](http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1373&Q=431762)

## Introducing the Streetsblog Network

The Streetsblog Network ([streetsblog.net](http://streetsblog.net)) brings together more than 100 blogs from 31 states -- and counting!

Launched in late 2008, the blog is dual-purposed: to create a place where people who blog on smart growth, livable streets and sustainable transportation issues can come together and learn from one other; and to provide a clearinghouse for information related to the transportation reauthorization bill, that directs the spending of hundreds of billions of federal dollars.

[Www.streetsblog.net](http://www.streetsblog.net)



## The Importance of Bus Transit: Transit Oriented Development

A panel discussion with Heidi Green, 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut; David Kooris, RPA; Albert Martin, CONNDOT

What is Transit oriented development and how does it benefit you, employers and your community?

What are best practices to promote development that features the use of transit at all times of the day, excellent pedestrian facilities, reduced parking for personal vehicles and sustainably uses land?

January 29, 1 PM  
Greater Hartford Transit District  
1 Union Place, Hartford

Free and open to the public. Space is limited, preregistration is requested. To register, email: [Gmills.cact@snet.net](mailto:Gmills.cact@snet.net)

## Volume 4, Issue 1

New Haven — Hartford — New London  
ULI Satellite Steering Committee

Invites you to

### THRIVING in TIMES of CHANGE

Join panelists for an engaging and interactive discussion focusing on individual, business and institutional vision, adaptation and reinvention to remain vital and sustainable in the short and long term. Network with development professional colleagues to brainstorm and test ideas for prosperity — personal, organizational and community-wide.

February 9th, 5:30 PM

45 Church Street, New Haven,

ULI Members: Private \$35, Public/  
Nonprofit \$25, YLG & Student \$15

Nonmembers: Private \$45,  
Public / Nonprofit \$35,  
YLG & Student \$25.

### THE REAL STATE OF HOUSING

Join Next American City for its Urbanexus Lecture Series. Angus Jennings, principal planner at Concord Square Planning & Development, will discuss Boston's real estate market and introduce smart growth zoning.

January 21, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Boston Room, Boston Public Library  
700 Boylston Street, Copley Square, Boston, MA

Admission is FREE — RSVP and directions at: [americancity.org/urbanexus/boston](http://americancity.org/urbanexus/boston)

### HOUSING AND THE WORKFORCE

"Housing and the Workforce" is the first in a series of Partnership for Strong Communities hosted forums exploring the role of housing in the economy, housing and natural resources, housing and public health.

January 22, 8:00 to 11:30 AM

The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence Street  
Hartford

Register online at: <http://housingandtheworkforce.eventbrite.com> or contact Shontai Garrett at 860.244.0066

## GETTING REAL ABOUT URBANISM CONTEXTUAL DESIGN FOR CITIES

This is a recent release of the Urban Land Institute. In it, authors Bernard Zyscovich, AIA and Douglas R. Porter, FAICP discuss how to create flourishing, livable places that appeal to residents and visitors of all ages, incomes and backgrounds. The text offers a ground-breaking alternative to uniform, *cookie cutter* urban forms and provides techniques for designing places whose personality reflects what is distinctive and original in a neighborhood, district, city or region.

2008/120 pages/hardcover

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**P**resident Barak Obama called on the nation to participate in a National Day of Service January 17th to January 19th.

He called on citizens to make an enduring commitment to their communities. The date has passed, but the call doesn't need to end. **There are so many ways you can have a lasting impact on your neighborhood, community and state.** One way is to throw your shoulder to smart growth wheel.

Things to do? Talk to your neighbors and recruit new members to the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart. Call the Connecticut Congressional Delegation and ask them to support sustainable, green investments in the stimulus package. Call or write the Governor and ask her to protect smart growth programs and investments in the budget she will present to the General Assembly in February. Host a house party. Call or write your legislators and tell them to make smart growth priority 1 for new state projects. Twitter, blog, write an Op Ed, send a letter to the editor, write a Facebook note, text a friend, call the radio station, make some buttons, bang together a lawn sign, create a batch of stickers in short, generate the buzz for healthy downtowns, walkable and bikable streets, a world class transit system, bringing back brownfields, saving priority properties, creating housing choices, and rebuilding a robust economy. The Connecticut smart growth movement needs you. Engage!

Or, simply make a donation to 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut.

*We need your help to continue our critical work at this critical time.*

**GO TO** <http://www.1000friends-ct.org/support.htm> **to give through**  
**Google Checkout, Paypal or by check. Thank you!**