

A Sustainable Knowledge Corridor

Creating a Foundation of Opportunity for the Hartford-Springfield Region

As one of only 45 regions nationwide to receive a 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Hartford/Springfield bi-state region will roll out an ambitious work plan over the next three years to position itself as a leader in sustainable community development and a creator of more livable communities for all of the corridor's 1.6 million residents. The \$4.2 million award will be used to create a foundation of opportunity—in housing, education, transportation, employment, nutrition, and community resources.



"Waiting to Cross" 1999
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PLANNING, DOING & MEASURING

By design, the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor work plan will blend core planning activities with tangible, on-the-ground projects and will rely on a transparent feedback loop to measure and track implementation progress and ensure that goals are achieved over time.

Key components of the work plan will focus on:

Multi-jurisdictional Planning Activities—

to include the systematic updating and integration of core sub-regional planning documents, the generation of summary reports to identify overarching issues affecting the bi-state region, and the production of the **Knowledge Corridor Detailed Execution Plan**.

Civic Engagement—

to maximize stakeholder/community participation. A broad spectrum of tools will be used to outreach to the regions' residents and will include traditional methods, as well as more modern adaptations (cutting-edge regional visioning exercises & social media applications). Particular attention will be paid to engaging marginalized populations who are often left out of the planning process.

Capacity-Building & Special Planning Studies—

to arm decision-makers with tools and information to support ongoing sustainable development planning and implementation activities. This work will rely on a combination of training programs, model code development, market analyses and targeted planning efforts to address leadership development, housing affordability and transit needs.

Metrics and Information Sharing—

to facilitate the collection and dissemination of meaningful sustainability planning benchmarks. A robust database to house indicators/metrics and a dedicated web portal - the Sustainability Dashboard - will be developed to serve as the public face of the project.

PLACE-BASED PROJECT SHOWCASE

Six municipalities will conduct planning projects to model how place-based activities can work to enhance the livability of urban centers and villages.

Court Square Project, Springfield MA

Spurring downtown revitalization through the renovation and rehabilitation of a keystone historic building for mixed-use development.

Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway Project, Chicopee MA

Expanding a regional bike and pedestrian path along the Connecticut Riverfront to connect three core urban communities, provide alternative transportation options for downtown commuters and create a venue for recreation and exercise.

Linking Transit Investment and Neighborhood Revitalization, Enfield CT

Illustrating how integrated, transit-oriented development planning can spur redevelopment and enhance the livability of an existing neighborhood without displacing current residents.

Depot Square Redevelopment and Revitalization Project, Holyoke MA

Fostering the redevelopment and revitalization of a blighted square by focusing on an anchor property and connections to a rail station to create a truly livable, mixed-use community.

Creating a Walkable New Britain, New Britain CT

Developing a comprehensive streetscape master plan and associated design standards to guide strategic improvements to downtown and create an enhanced pedestrian experience.

Hartford North Park Design District, Hartford CT

Creating a detailed master planned design district to foster the development of a vibrant, mixed use, mixed income community and a healthy, safe and walkable urban neighborhood that bridges the downtown to abutting neighborhoods.



Connecticut River
Photo Credit: Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership

LEADING THE CHARGE

Three regional planning agencies, representing some 80 communities, partnered to apply for this grant and successfully recruited more than thirty diverse agencies to create the Knowledge Corridor Consortium. This body will provide general direction to the initiative and individual members will supply planning and technical assistance on specific project elements, as well as cash matches and leveraged contributions to supplement the HUD award. In addition, a handful of state agencies formally pledged their support to the project, and will be invited to serve in an advisory capacity.

THE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR CONSORTIUM

Regional Planning Organizations

Capitol Region Council of Governments
Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission
Central Connecticut Planning Agency

Municipalities

City of Chicopee, MA	Town of Manchester, CT
Town of Enfield, CT	City of New Britain, CT
City of Hartford, CT	City of Springfield, MA
City of Holyoke, MA	Town of Windsor, CT

Educational Institutions

Central Connecticut State University
Goodwin College
University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education & Research
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Other Community Partners

Capital Workforce Partners
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture
Connecticut Economic Resource Center
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Connecticut Housing Coalition
Greater Hartford Transit District
Journey Home
MetroHartford Alliance
Northeast Utilities/Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership (HSEP)
Partnership for Strong Communities
Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pioneer Valley Sustainability Network
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Plan for Progress Coordinating Council
Regional Employment Board of Hampden County
Franklin/Hampshire Regional Employment Board
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
United Way, Hampshire County
United Way, Pioneer Valley
Valley Development Council
1000 Friends of Connecticut

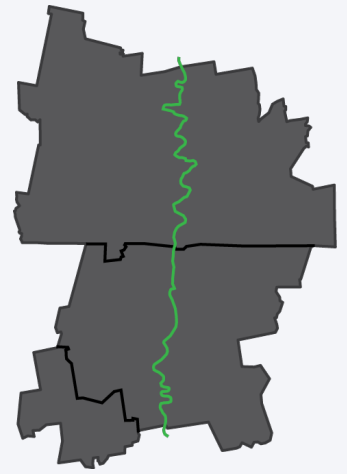
Advisory State Agencies

Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority
Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR

Over the last decade, the Hartford-Springfield Knowledge Corridor has been recognized as a major economic region within New England, boasting a wide range of shared assets and joined by a common set of historic natural, economic and cultural ties. While much work has already been done by the three planning organizations that serve this bi-state region to advance sustainable development and livability principles in their respective communities, the infusion of federal dollars now makes it possible to launch a large-scale, truly integrated planning and implementation effort across the Corridor's footprint.

The timing of this unprecedented collaboration is ideal, as the region will benefit from more than \$1.5 billion in new transit investment over the next ten years related to the construction of the New Britain to Hartford Bus Rapid Transit System and the Springfield/New Haven Commuter and High Speed Rail. Both of these projects will undoubtedly spur opportunities and challenges towards creating vibrant, sustainable communities and the project work to be undertaken in the near term will lay the foundation for preserving, creating and maintaining a sustainable, economically competitive and equitable Connecticut/Massachusetts Knowledge Corridor Region.



Hartford Skyline with Connecticut Science Center
Photo Credit: Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership



Springfield, MA Skyline
Photo Credit: <http://www.topix.com/album/detail/springfield-ma/MMHMTU1P3CF7B4A1>

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