

Smart Growth ENews



1000 Friends of Connecticut

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2009 – the Year for Smart, Sustainable Growth

Happy New Year!

Times are hard. Unemployment is up. Overtime is down. Retail sales are off. Real estate prices are low. The state's budget deficit is ominous. But at 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut, we don't have a glass half-empty culture. No, we see opportunities left and right. Business-as-usual has been the greatest barrier to proactive, sustainable development policies and governance practices in our state. The combined state fiscal crisis and international economic malaise make it abundantly clear, we can't afford business-as-usual a moment longer. Change is imperative and imminent! *Our* challenge is to see that how we change leads to a robust future economy within a healthy natural environment. We've got work to do in our cities and towns, our state, and with our delegation in Washington! In the next few paragraphs, you'll see some of the opportunities before us and how you can step in.

The Smart Growth Working Group under the leadership of the incoming House Chair of the Joint Committee on Planning and Development will introduce and advocate for a batch of smart growth bills. The legislation has three major thrusts: to achieve a proactive and efficient state/regional/local government; to modernize our transportation options; and to make modest reinvestments in brownfields, affordable housing,

and preservation. There may be as many as 10 smart growth bills in the package. We will need your help to advocate for cooperation across committees, between the House and Senate and between the General Assembly and the Governor. Please join the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart today to receive updates and calls-to-action through the upcoming legislative session.

Cities and towns throughout the state are joining together in a united front to reduce costs, share services, and advocate for education funding.

They need our help to ensure that the fiscal uncertainty result in passing along costs that increase our reliance on the property tax. We also need to be vigilant that policy reforms don't lead to further urban abandonment and disinvestment. Follow what's happening in your town, and help keep 1000 Friends in the loop.

The federal stimulus package will be negotiated soon after President Obama is sworn into office. This infusion of resources can bring greater transit options, green jobs, and education funding to our state. With your advocacy, we can ensure that "shovel ready" and sustainability go hand-in-hand.

Happy New Year, the future ours!

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Make your tax-deductible donation to 1000 FRIENDS at www.1000friends-ct.org/support. *Thank you!*

Smart Growth ENews



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

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:

Email and Phone:

Governor M. Jodi Rell has invited the Connecticut General Assembly to meet in Special Session on January 2nd to take up her proposed cuts to close the projected hole in the current year's budget.

The first class of legislators selected in publically-financed elections won't be sworn in for another week. This means that if the leadership of the General Assembly accepts the Governor's invitation, and you live in a district where representation changed in November's election, the cuts listed below will be entertained by your lame duck, not your incoming legislator. It also means they would be shepherded in the House by out-going Speaker James Amann, who vacated his seat to concentrate on a gubernatorial run.

Governor Invites Lame Ducks to OK Cuts

You can review the complete list of the Governor's cuts at http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/lib/governorrell/final_decdeficitmitigationplan.pdf.

Below is a selection of proposed cuts with direct bearing on our state's sustainable growth. Please review the list then call on your outgoing and reelected legislators to consider the long-run impact of any cuts to the state's environment, economy and governance.

- ◇ **Citizens Election Fund \$17.9 million;**
- ◇ **Renewable Energy Fund \$10 million;**
- ◇ **Community Investment Act Account (Farmland, Open Space, & Historic Preservation and Affordable**

Housing) \$10 million;

◇ **Energy Conservation and Load Management \$6 million;**

◇ **Underground Storage Clean-Up Fund \$3 million;**

◇ **Emergency Spill Response Account \$3 million;**

◇ **Conservation Fund \$3 million;**

◇ **Biofuels \$1.05 million;**

◇ **Emissions Fund \$1 million;**

◇ **Department of Transportation \$500,000 for buses; \$500,000 for rail;**

◇ **Clean Diesel Buses \$1 million.**

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut

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8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities

January 22-24, 2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The 2009 national smart growth convention will include three days of cutting-edge smart growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies, successful case studies, interactive learning experiences, new partners, new projects, new policies, and tours of local model projects.

The conference will feature over 110 sessions and more than 300 speakers with coordinated networking activities, tours of local attractions and an on-site conference bookstore.

Register at www.NewPartners.org.

Improving Rail in New England

The Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club and the National Corridors Initiative will host a forum on improving New England's railroad infrastructure and transportation funding. On the agenda, a discussion on low-hanging-fruit projects, planning for a regional railway system, improvements in the Shore Line and New Haven-to-Springfield lines, and how to get these projects moving.

Friday, January 9th

10 to 3 PM

The Radisson Hotel, Governor Winthrop Boulevard,
New London, CT

\$25 registration fee

RSVP: mollymckay@nationalcorridors.org

Or call: (860) 536 – 5480

Working for a Smart Transportation Strategy

Transportation for America is a national coalition working to ensure that the new Federal stimulus package is a smart growth package.

Transportation dollars should be steered to mass transit, TOD, & high speed rail.

To see that Congress follows through, T4America kicked off a letter writing campaign.

For more follow the link [on this website](#) to a section of smartgrowthamerica.org.

The 13th Annual Joint Dinner of the Design and Construction Industry

Success Begins With Who You Know!

After Dinner Remarks Presented by
Peter M. Gioia, Vice President and Economist
for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Grassy Hill Country Club
441 Clark Lane, Orange

For more details: www.aiact.org

New Haven Regional Legislative Reception

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce will host a Regional Legislative Reception co-sponsored by AT&T and Connecticut. The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, South Central Regional Council of Governments, Regional Growth Partnership, Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Greater New Haven Manufacturers Association, Workforce Alliance, and South Central CT Regional Alliance will unveil their legislative recommendations.

Thursday, January 8th, 4 to 6PM
Woodwinds, 29 School Ground Road, Branford

Lead Your Community's Agricultural Future

"Planning for Agriculture," was published jointly by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the American Farmland Trust Fund and was funded in part by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the CT Department of Agriculture.

The publication shows how to preserve and protect agriculture at the municipal level. This 62 page guide provides an in-depth explanation of the issues facing agriculture in the state and strategies to support it.

Get your copy of the guide at:
www.ctplanningforagriculture.com.

R-Link Bus Line Extends Service

R-Link bus line has extended service. Now, it stops at the Branford rail station.

This addition improves connections between North Haven, North Branford and Branford, and Shore Line East Commuter trains.

Ride the R-Link gratis until February 1, 2009!

Please call the Greater New Haven Transit District at (203) 288-6643 for more details.

Managing Historic Districts

The Connecticut Trust for Historic preservation will host three seminars on Historic District Management for certified local governments and historic district commissions. All seminars will be 5:30 to 7:30 PM. See dates and locations below:

January 15th, Hartford
Children's Theater,
360 Farmington Avenue,
Hartford

January 26, Burroughs Community Center,
2470 Fairfield Avenue,
Bridgeport

February 2, Russell Mercier Senior Center,
14 Stonecroft Drive, Hebron

Please RSVP by phone at
(203) 562-6312 or email

seminar@ctrust.org.

SMART GROWTH PARTIES

THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2008 SMART GROWTH HOUSE PARTY HOSTS!

SUSAN BRYSON, LEO & SUSAN CANTY, LEE CRUZ, LOUISE ENDEL, ROLAND LEMAR & ANKIA SINGH LEMAR, ROBERT & CAROL ORR, DAVID PICKUS, CHERI QUICKMIRE, AND SHELLY SACZYNSKI

1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT IS BUILDING GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT ONE HOUSE PARTY AT A TIME
HELP US MAKE FRIENDS, CALL TODAY 860/523-0003.



1000 Friends of Connecticut

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There is no organization in Connecticut better situated to confront the challenges and opportunities of responsible sustainable growth than 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut. We have made ourselves into a respected and sought after statewide voice on smart growth. Legislators and executive branch policy makers regularly look to us for guidance and support. We have brought together, as no other organization has, the broadest spectrum of viewpoints on smart growth.

We have Connecticut's *most respected track record as a change agent for responsible growth*. We lobbied hard for the new Office of Responsible Growth. We brought hundreds together in conferences. We took on the issue of property tax reform as no organization before us has. We work with and stand up for developers who are bringing smart, sustainable, responsible development to fruition.

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

DONATE TODAY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL MATCH THE FIRST \$10,000.

**YOUR \$50 GIFT WILL BE \$100 FOR 1000 FRIENDS.
YOUR \$250 GIFT WILL BE \$500.**

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. IT'S EASY & TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

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