

Smart Growth ENews



1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT

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Factions Form in Smart Growth Work Group

Hartford — Smart growth is the right idea for Connecticut now. You only need to read the papers to see that. Employers in suburban and exurban industrial parks are reconsidering applicants who have long commutes. Transportation costs in food are so high restaurants are no longer serving bread as a matter of course. West Hartford voters sank the proposed town budget by nearly a 2:1 margin, the Wall Street Journal reported that millennials and empty nesters alike are opting out of the suburbs and looking for homes in urban areas with amenities they can walk to, and the governor signed into law ambitious green house reduction targets and an aggressive timeline to reach them.

There's a perception that Fairfield County is an engine that keeps churning, carrying the rest of the state's economy along with its momentum. But that's a dangerous perception. Look at Yonkers, at White Plains, at New Rochelle. These are our neighbors and they are planning and building compact, mixed use, transit accessible, walkable places for people to live and work right now.

Will we make the changes that needed so that Stamford, Bridgeport and Norwalk can compete successfully for those residents and jobs?

To meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals, we have to do more than buy more efficient cars, or those that run on alternative fuels, or slow down to 60 mph. We have to change where and how we develop so we can get out of our cars and onto our feet and bikes.

If we want the benefits of locally grown food, we need to direct growth away from our fields.

For robust cities, we have to reinvest in brownfields and urban neighborhoods where the infrastructure sits, waiting.

Lucky for us, a group of legislators and stakeholders is meeting to hash out a set of smart growth policy ideas in preparation for the next legislative session. The Smart Growth Working Group was convened by Representative Brendan Sharkey of Hamden, and is a bi-cameral, bi-partisan, public/private initiative to reach consensus on smart growth recommendations. There are four working subgroups. Their concentrations are: regional efficiencies, the tax structure, land use and economic development. Each group has begun collecting information and ranking policy choices.

As so commonly happens at the Capitol, already the factions are surfacing. The positions of the libertarian Reason Foundation are being promulgated by the representative of the Homebuilder's Association. The smart growth-contrarian representative of the Partnership for Balanced Growth refutes the market for urbanized living. A representative of the CT Business and Industry Association says they support tax reform — so long as it reduces everyone's taxes. And 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut says we need to reduce our reliance on property taxes, encourage meaningful regional cooperation, modernize our zoning, and strategically invest in tar-

geted, smart, sustainable growth — transit oriented development, transit, brownfield redevelopment, etc.

The essential question the group is grappling with is: Should we pay for government incentives and reduce regulation so that development of any sort is expedited, providing the highest short run return to property owners or developers? Or, should our policies and investments expedite the deals that will produce long run positive outcomes for the state and her people?

Today's economic uncertainty coincides with urban disinvestment, crumbling infrastructure, housing affordability challenges, and break-the-bank commuting costs.

The state must invest wisely. And we all must hold state government accountable for the outcomes its investments. Let's hope the working group's factions can put aside their positioning and get down to work!

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Make a tax-deductible donation to 1000 Friends at www.1000friends-ct.org/support. Thank you!

Connecticut Contingent Hears Call for New Federalist Agenda

Washington, DC – An esteemed contingent of Connecticut leaders heard the call for a new federalist agenda, a MetroPolicy for a MetroNation at a national summit earlier this month.

The Summit on American Prosperity, hosted by the Brookings Institute, outlined the shape of a new federal partnership for a Metropolitan Nation. In his address to 900 leaders representing the private, nonprofit, philanthropic and public sectors of 32 states, Bruce Katz, Vice President and Director Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, argued that the United States needs a fundamental reorientation of federal priorities to reflect and address the reality that the US population and economy now concentrate in 100 metropolitan areas, including Stamford-Norwalk-Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford. (Katz is the invited keynote speaker for 1000 FRIENDS' Second Annual Statewide Smart Growth Conference November 13, 2008.)

He said, while the nation's ability to prosper and tackle broad challenges like economic restructuring, population growth, social inequality, and global warming hinges upon the vitality of these economic engines, current federal policy has failed to

adapt to the changing metropolitan landscape. To cultivate those assets that drive metropolitan and national prosperity – assets like innovation, human capital, infrastructure, and quality places – the federal government needs to adopt a three tiered approach with respect to metropolitan regions and the state and local leaders who guide them.

The Summit called for the federal government to “lead where it must, empower states and local governments where it should, and take measures to maximize performance in all levels of government”.

Because Metropolitan regions are engines of national prosperity, there needs to be a new federalist compact for performance based government on transportation, innovation, tax policy, housing. Katz said government needs to be a “fact-filled, not a fact-free zone”.

The event was attended by the following Nutmeggers: **Heidi Green**, President 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut; **Oz Greibel**, President and CEO MetroHartford Alliance; **Alex Knopp**, Incoming Executive Director, Dwight Hall, Yale; **Michael Morand**, Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs; **Matthew Nemerson**, CT Technology Council President and CEO; **Robert Santy**, President CT Economic

Resource Center, **Representative Brendan Sharkey**, D-Hamden, Coordinator of the Smart Growth Working Group; **Michael Taylor**, President Vita Nuova; and **Lyle Wray**, Executive Director Capitol Region Conference of Governments.

Brookings has invited the domestic policy advisors of the McCain and Obama presidential campaigns to discuss its policy recommendations. The specific policies are:

- Create a national innovation foundation,
- Target a boost in the earned income tax credit,
- Create a national transportation vision, not just a highway bill reauthorization, but a new system that will better move people and goods within and between metro corridors, based on economic and environmental priorities;
- Advance a national framework for smart, sustainable development that recognizes the carbon footprint of the residential market, a sustainability challenge.

Summit white papers, speeches, presentations, video and audio files are available on the Brookings Institute Website at www.brookings.edu.

**Save Gas
Ride the Rails to 1000 FRIENDS' Annual Meeting**

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut's Third Annual Meeting to showcase transit!

On July 17th, leave your car behind and ride with your friends to 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut's third annual meeting. A train car on the 2:50 MetroNorth train from New Haven to Stamford will be reserved for 1000 FRIENDS. The train will reach the Stamford station at 3:54. We will take a short walk to Harbor Point, an exciting transit oriented, mixed use, brownfield redevelopment. There, the Department of Transportation's new Commissioner, Joseph Marie will give us news from the agency. Also invited to speak are Stamford Mayor Dan Malloy and Office of Policy and Management Under Secretary David LeVasseur. At 5:30, there will be a guided tour of Harbor Point.

We request a \$15 contribution. Reservations are required for the train. There will be a rail-riding door prize of dinner for two at Chester's Restaurant du Village!

Mail your check and reservation to: 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut, PO Box 1988, Hartford, CT 06144-1988.

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 • inter-governmental 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. I, hereby, join the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart.

Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Send to:

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut
PO Box 1988

Hartford, CT 06144-1988 or info@1000friends-ct.org

WANTED: Smart Growth Legislative Champions

July 4th, every candidate worth his or her salt will be walking down the middle of the street and glad-handing at picnics and firework displays. They want your attention, and we need them to be smart growth champions.

The legislative election season is in full swing with primary elections in August and the general election in November. The presidential race is thrilling, but here at home, critical decisions need to be made, and we need to elect people who are up to the task.

Are the House and Senate candidates running to represent you in Hartford dedicated to advancing smart growth policies and programs?

1000 FRIENDS encourages you to share your commitment to smart growth with the people who hope to represent you. Ask them to pledge to be a Smart Growth Champion.

Last week, 75 candidates for state senate and 239 house candidates had registered with the Secretary of State. That's 314 teaching opportunities.

1000 FRIENDS is conducting extensive candidate education efforts through the summer and into the fall. Once a week we send a smart growth news brief to all registered candidates. In late summer we will release the updated *Leader's Guide to Growing Connecticut Smart*. The new version will include a progress report. We'll be hosting candidate forums in the fall.

We have information to share, but you have the vote! We can help educate them, but they need you! *We all* need them to advance four key policy areas:

- **Reform the property tax burden on towns**, so that they are not under pressure to grow their grand lists simply to raise revenues for basic services.

- **Reward regional cooperation efforts**, so that towns are encouraged to work with one another to develop a coherent vision for their whole region.
- **Develop new planning and zoning regulations at the local level** to promote development decisions that enhance the character and quality of life of each municipality. Finally, **invest strategically** to pick up the pace of new growth in areas with existing infrastructure - investments in brownfield revitalization, transit and transit oriented development, affordable housing, and preservation of critical lands.

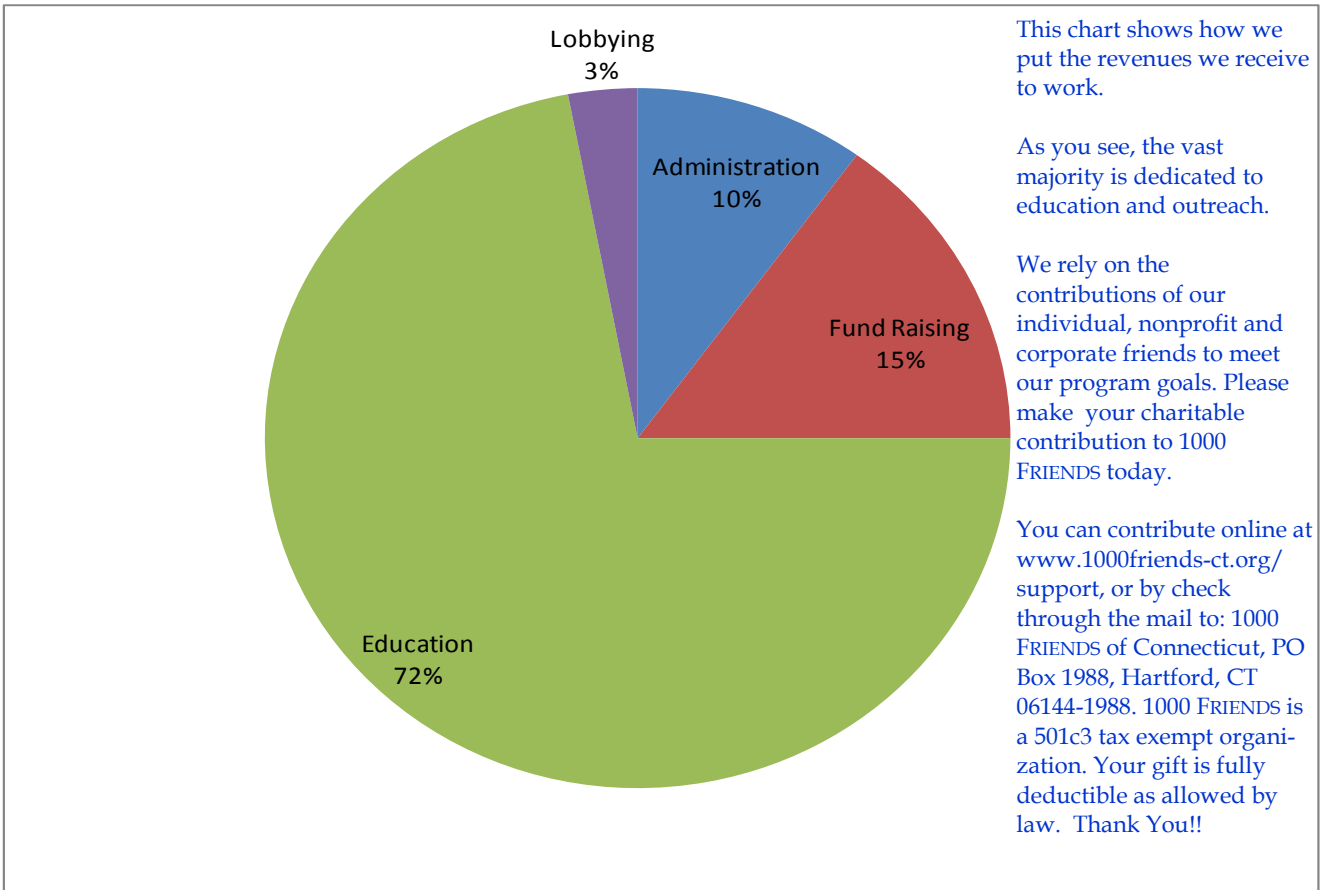
Sign on for Safe Streets

New Haven — More than 600 New Haven residents have joined a Safe Streets grassroots campaign to reduce traffic-related bike and pedestrian accidents, while promoting economic development, alternative transit options and improved public health.

The Safe Streets petition is online at www.newhavensafestreets.org, and intrepid campaign organizer, Mark Abraham is hoping to inspire sister Safe Streets campaigns in Hartford, Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, New London and Waterbury.

“If we’re going to move things, grassroots-style political pressure would be helpful. We taking our efforts to the state and federal level, but would welcome support from other urban areas,” said Abraham, a smart growth champion and one of the loyal friends of 1000 FRIENDS.

WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO



ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?
SO ARE WE

- ⇒ Join the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart in Facebook Causes.
- ⇒ Add Heidi to your Facebook Friends hegreen@1000friends-ct.org.
- ⇒ Code writers, create a sprawl-busting or brownfield reusing Facebook application.

Community Organizer Wanted

1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut seeks a high skills enthusiast to implement our statewide smart growth education and outreach initiative.

For more information about this exciting opportunity building our grassroots base to advance smart growth policy, contact Heidi Green at

hegreen@1000friends-ct.org



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We can rebalance our state/local tax structure to encourage development and sustainable land use!

We can link jobs, housing and transit and stop destructive sprawl!

We can reward cities and towns for working together and end the counter-productive competition for grand list growth!

We can, with your help! Sign on to the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart.

<http://www.1000friends-ct.org/events/2007conference/JoinCampaign.pdf>

Save November 13th for 1000 FRIENDS Second Annual Statewide Smart Growth Conference

Dinners at the Farm

Join River Tavern and Feast Market for **Dinners at the Farm** – a series of benefit dinners celebrating local food, farms and community. Each dinner is a unique experience held in fields where the food was grown. Chefs and owners Jonathan Rapp and Drew McLachlan created **Dinners at the Farm** to generate awareness of the importance and vitality of local farming. The menus highlight rich local traditions of farming and fishing. A portion of the proceeds of each dinner will benefit a nonprofit partner.

July 11 to 13 Shoreline Soup Kitchen Garden, Old Saybrook, to benefit **Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry**; August 15 to 17 White Gate Farm, East Lyme to benefit **Working Lands Alliance**; and September 12 to 14 Hindinger Farm, Hamden to benefit **CitySeed Farmer's Market**. All dinners begin at 6 PM.

Contact: River Tavern at 860/526-8078 or www.DinnersAtTheFarm.com.