

Expanding Regional Networks

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The Charge

Exploit Stamford's central position on the Northeast rail corridor, improving our access to it, and taking the civic conversation and strategy in action that we have begun in Reinventing Stamford to the labor market, metro and megaregional scales. Create learning networks among reinventing cities along the Corridor, serving as the catalyst in organizing the Corridor into the world's most productive innovation network.

Busting the Bottleneck

Team 4 is organizing business, civic and municipal leaders to accelerate several critical transportation projects in Stamford, including improvements to the Stamford Transportation Center, the widening of the rail underpasses between downtown and the Southend, and the completion of the Stamford Urban Transitway.

These projects are stalled in part due to gaps in funding, which need to be filled with the help of our federal delegation, targeting the remaining rounds of stimulus funds, other federal transportation initiatives, and the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill.

But even if all funding were in place, the improvements to the STC and the rail underpasses would be stalled due to the slow pace of the Connecticut Department of Transportation in permitting, procurement, design and construction. The bottleneck at ConnDOT is now arguably the single greatest threat to the future economic success of Stamford and the state. To help to break it, Team 4 will put together a business/civic/municipal coalition to demand faster execution by ConnDOT and will explore the take over of the STC by a public/private partnership to accelerate its improvement.

Next Generation Eastside

The STC improvements, the rail underpasses and the Urban Transitway need to be completed in the next five years to expand the capacity of and access to the STC to meet projected growth in rail users, and to clear the decks for other critical transportation projects to follow, including a streetcar system and *Next Generation Eastside*, a model transit village around a second mainline station on the Eastside.

The latter two projects could be fundamentally transformative: a street car system could provide internal mobility within Stamford to match its external connections; *Next Generation Eastside* represents a blank canvas onto which we can paint our future in a full integration of transit connectivity, workforce housing, energy efficiency and green development, from which we could then abstract elements for implementation in other parts of Stamford such as Springdale, Glenbrook and the Westside. We cannot get onto these transformative projects until we complete the incremental improvements already in the pipeline.

Sustainable Communities Coalition

Inspired in part by Reinventing Stamford, a coalition of New York Metro cities and regional planning agencies from New Haven to Newark that includes Stamford is pursuing a joint application for a \$5 million federal grant for regional sustainability planning and development of demonstration projects that push the envelope on integration of transit connectivity, workforce housing, energy efficiency and green development, for which *Next Generation Eastside* could be the leading demonstration project. The Reinventing Stamford civic conversation will serve as the model for stakeholder engagement for the Connecticut portion of this coalition, which will engage the cities and towns of southwestern coastal Connecticut, from Greenwich to Madison.

Northeast Corridor Connects

Members of Team 4 have also helped to convene *Northeast Corridor Connects*, a learning community of cities in the Northeast Corridor focused on finding ways to combine their innovation capabilities and to work collaboratively to drive the federal and state investment in the rail infrastructure that would enable expansion of labor markets and innovation networks across city and metro boundaries. High-level business, civic and municipal leaders from 10 cities from Providence to Newark have convened twice at Yale University. Meetings will now rotate among the cities, with the next scheduled for September 22 in Newark.

