hartford400

a river-centered vision
for the connecticut valley
and its capital city
KEY PARTNERS

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Office of Congressman Larson
Capitol Region Council of Governments
Capital Region Development Authority
Connecticut Dept. of Transportation
MetroHartford Alliance
Riverfront Recapture
City of Hartford
Town of East Hartford
iQuilt Partnership
Gawlicki Family Foundation
North Atlantic Rail
1. Overview
2. Infrastructure
3. RiverRoad
4. MidTown
5. The hARTline
1. Overview

Vision
A comprehensive vision for the Connecticut Valley and its Capital City

Deadline 2035
A 15 year program of short- and long-term projects keyed to the region’s 400th anniversary

Coalition
A working consensus of the region’s organizations: government, business, culture, non-profit, community

Goals
Builds on current successes, aims for a more sustainable, prosperous, equitable, mobile, and vibrant region

Growth
Seeks to attract new residents, businesses and investments by improving the quality of place

2. Infrastructure

Airport
BDL terminal and air route expansion; airport link at Windsor Locks Station (Hartford Line)

Intercity Rail
New intermodal station; high speed line to NYC, Boston

Commuter Rail
3 Hartford Line stations completed; transit-adjacent housing expanded

Bus Rapid Transit
CTfastrak to Storrs

Highway Interchanges
84/91 and Mixmaster relocated north and south

Highway Tunnels
84 (south corridor) and 2 (East Hartford)

Highways Covered
91 and 891 (formerly 84)

Floodwalls
Repaired

3. RiverRoad

Extended Riverside Park
Continuous 2 miles along Hartford’s riverfront

New River Road
Above 91 and tracks, with bus transit, bike lanes; front doors for Convention Center, Science Center

Expanded Riverfront
13 connecting streets from South End, Downtown, and North End to riverfront

New Housing
Mixed income development on up to 30 acres of newly available highway land

Restored Bridges
Bulkeley and Founders Bridges become city street with transit and bike lanes

New Bridges
1. Colvtsville Bridge to Midtown EH; 2. Meadows Bridge from Brainard Field to UT and Goodwin campuses

4. MidTown

New Urban District
Up to 130 acres of newly available highway land

New Central Park
Midtown Commons provides 28 acres of open space along the riverfront

New Boulevards
Bridge Boulevard connects from Bulkeley Bridge to Main Street; Statehouse Avenue connects from Founders Bridge to MidTown core; Park Boulevard provides regional access

5. the hARTline

7-Mile Linear Park
Uses rail right-of-way, new boulevards, and the Bulkeley Bridge

Community Connector
Links four towns and as many as 13 neighborhoods: biking, walking, shuttle

Cultural Corridor
Distinctive locales developed by adjacent communities, enriched by local and regional artists

Educational Incubator
7 adjoining schools participate in art, design, and engineering programs to help create places along the line

Health and Healing
With St. Francis Hospital in the middle, programs to address trauma and encourage community wellness
our shared landscape: ancient rift valley with a flooding river
10,000 bc: native american settlements
1635: three colonial settlements

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

source: Thomas Cole, Wadsworth Atheneum
2020:
50 towns
1000 square miles
1 million people

CONNECTICUT VALLEY
Pre-Colonial Native American habitation

1635-2035:
historic timeline

2020-2035:
project timeline

15 years

100th 200th 300th 400th
not from scratch:
hundreds of small and large contributing projects
not from scratch: hundreds of small and large contributing projects
Capital Region Development Authority Plan
Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy CEDS
Knowledge Corridor Talent and Workforce Strategy
Bradley Field Master Plan
Regional Plan of Conservation and Development
Regional Long-Range Transportation Study
John Larson's Vision Plan
I-84 Project
I-91 Interchange Project
Northeast Corridor High-Speed Rail Plan
Hartford Plan of Conservation & Development
Hartford Climate Stewardship Initiative
Hartford Zoning Code
Hartford NRZ Plans
Opportunity Zone Initiatives
Innovation Places Strategic Plan
Hartford Working Cities Challenge
Hartford Public Schools Master Plan
Riverfront Recapture Master Plan
Hartford Business Improvement District Strategic Plan
Hartford Parks Legacy & Vision
The iQuilt Plan
Regional Bike and Trail Plan
Coltsville National Park
Hartford Hospital Master Plan...
five goals

- environment more sustainable
- economy more prosperous
- community more equitable
- transport more mobile
- culture more vibrant

- green
- grow
- live
- move
- play
many towns with distinct identities
town lines can be barriers
Infrastructure as catalyst

= equity.
reconfigured highways reverse social inequities

$ jobs.
construction projects create good local jobs

* climate.
transit, walking, biking reduce global warming

growth.
vibrant places attract talent, produce jobs + housing
strategic location
room to grow

The region’s low density means there is room to grow for people and companies who want to locate strategically between Boston and New York.
an active network of vibrant town centers
an line of
vibrant, walkable station areas
with transit-adjacent housing
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competing with other regions
expanding the airport
Expanding the Airport

Source: Connecticut Airport Authority
linking airport to rail
NAR’s goal: transform the economy of New England’s cities with a rail network that creates one integrated market for ideas, capital, talent, and opportunity.
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phase 1

Complete high-priority investments in regional rail networks
Build high-speed trunk line with 100-minute service from New York to Boston
phase 3

Expand network to the rest of New England
Leverage 21st century passenger rail to revitalize the region by making cities and towns of all sizes more connected and vibrant.
Hartford as hub

Leverage 21st century passenger rail to revitalize the region by making cities and towns of all sizes more connected and vibrant.
population corridor

The Connecticut Valley is the major population corridor between Boston and New York, with a long history of manufacturing, financial services, and innovation.
knowledge corridor

The Valley is a knowledge corridor, with more than 40 colleges and universities.
priority projects for regional transit
conndot greater hartford mobility study
congestion of roadways and interchanges in the urban core
proposed new alignments

ConnDOT: "Northern Corridor" 891
ConnDOT: "Southern Corridor" 84
ConnDOT: "Eastern Corridor" 2
reconfigured system: triangular loop with extensive undergrounding
ample and distributed access
enables signature projects
river-centered vision
changing this...
to this...
opens the door to this.
1. Overview
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on the hartford side:
removing the 84/91 interchange
On the Hartford side:

RiverRoad
limited riverfront access
remove the interchange and cap the highway: extensive riverfront access
RiverRoad at +47

- Bulkeley Bridge
- I-91 +22
- Train
- Park + River Road
- River path +12
- River (non-flood) +0
- Floodwall +47
RiverRoad at +47
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1831 / 2020:
the view from east hartford
1893-1965:
the meadows
and the mixmaster
1944: flood walls
1944:
high value flood-protected land
1965: mixmaster on high-value land
2035: high value on both sides of the river
2020-2035: removing the mixmaster: 5 miles, 130 acres

roadway removed: ~5 miles

land made available: ~130 acres
on the east hartford side:
from “Mixmaster”
to “MidTown”
on the east hartford side: from “Mixmaster” to “MidTown”
MidTown Commons
MidTown Commons
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7-mile Linear Park

a rail corridor connecting four towns
Neighborhood Connector

a green cultural corridor linking many communities
Tied to the region’s park system
Converting Rail Corridors to Parks or Trails

3.5 Miles active rail line
Community Placemaking

art, play, playgrounds
CASE STUDY

4.4 Miles

8 mi. at buildout
Comprehensive System

- 33 miles of trails
- $10 billion in economic development
- 1300 acres of green space
- 5600 affordable housing units
- 30,000 permanent jobs
Key Destinations

schools, shops, hospitals, parks, river
A Chain of “Places”

making places for art & community
Economic Development Zone

adjacent properties and Opportunity Zones
Transformation

existing at Tobey Rd.
Transformation
example of potential change
Transformation

existing along Homestead Ave.
Transformation
example of potential change
Local and Regional Artists

creating distinctive places by and for each community

Jason Farquharson
Hartford Paint the City

Humberto Castro-Cruz
Nick Frasco
La’Mora (Che’) Hardy
Nicole Johnson
Georges Annan Kingsley
Corey Pane
Sarah Warda
and many others
School Participation

going students involved in art, design, construction

Weaver High
University High
Annie Fisher Magnet
MLK Middle
CREC Museum Academy
Handel Performing Arts
Artists Collective
University of Hartford:
Art, Architecture, Engineering
Health and Healing

self-care, post-trauma healing, meditation, spiritual refreshment

Community Health Organizations
St. Francis Hospital
Segments
phased over time