# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE

Marriott Downtown Hartford Thursday, October 1, 2015

Michael Freimuth Executive Director Capital Region Development Authority

### **CRDA** MISSION AND QUICK HISTORY

#### MISSION:

- Stimulate economic development and new regional investment
- Facilitate redevelopment projects in eight towns with focus on downtown Hartford
- Manage public venues XL Center, Rentschler Field, Connecticut Convention Center and Connecticut Tennis Center

#### **HISTORY:**

- Created in 2012
- Successor to the Capital City Economic Development Authority (CCEDA)
- Enlarged District
- Broader Authority
- Expanded Board

## **VENUE MANAGEMENT**



Connecticut
Convention
Center



Rentschler Field

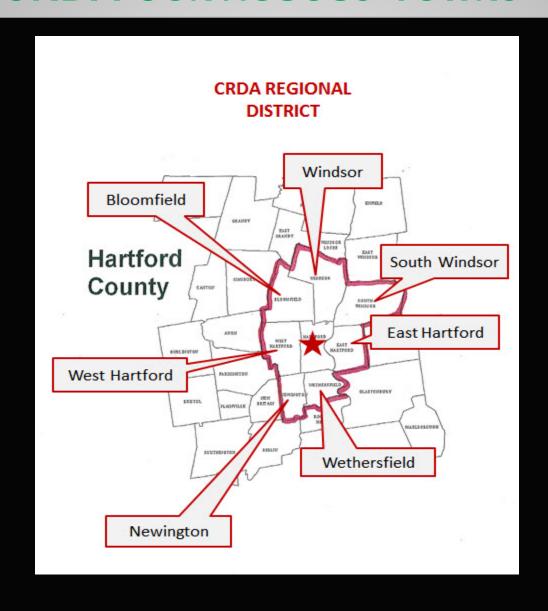


Connecticut Open



**XL Center** 

## **CRDA Contiguous Towns**



#### WHAT'S GOING ON



#### Go to ... Hartford, Young Man?

The financial prospects of young adults in the U.S. look pretty grim a the board. But not in Hartford.

SAM STURGIS | 9 @sampsturgis | Dec 9, 2014 | 9 25 Comments











The Northeast's next up and coming city for young professionals. (Flickr/That Hartford Times are financially tough for young adults in the U.S. As Derek Thon recently reported in The Atlantic, since the start of the Great Recession

the median wage for people between the ages of 25 and 34, adjusted f

College-Educated Young May Be Squeezing Connecticut's Urban Housing

BY HEATHER BRANDON - NOV 14, 2014

CHAR



Hartford, Connecticut.

The number of college-educated people aged 25 to 34 moving to U.S. city centers has surged, up 37 percent since 2000, even while those cities' populations have shrunk slightly, according to a report from economist Joe Cortright at City Observatory, a think tank based in Portland, Oregon.

The Hartford metro area saw a 25 percent increase of educated young adults living within three miles of its city center between 2000 and 2010, according to the think

OPINION

GABE KLEIN

The Inevitable, Accelerating Rise of Urbanization

MANY AMERICANS seem surprised when I speak about the the reimagining of the American suburb. But those of us who have been working in cities for the past decade or longer are not so sur-prised. In fact, among my friends

like this: Let's say you were born in 1950 (which makes you 64 years old) and grew up in a suburb of a city, as most people did in that era. You likely never saw the buzz of a healthy city, with streetcars running and kids riding their bikes to school. For you, it would be rea-

Whether it was streetcars, food, or child care during wartime, out of necessity our grandparents and their parents who lived in dense of sharing of space and resources in those simpler times. The early 2000s saw the rebirth of the "we" Why the quarter acre in the suburbs was a blip in a long-term trend favoring city life.

#### **Connecticut Caught in Imperfect Storm of** Aging Population and High Rent

BUSINANICAMPRELL - AUG 12 2015

Google



Leslie Gordon of Avon in her yaga studio, a business she started within the last two years. EVAN CARON KING WAFE

Demand for rental properties has been growing for several years, but the market No one is saying that Connecticut is suffering from a housing crisis. but consider this: The state has far too few rental properties. which means those that exist cost more than many residents can



e market—and the real estate industry in cognize the demand fast enough to build to-scale housing that meets the needs of young families, and empty nesters who ire place and experience over raw space?

—Gabe Klein



helped build Zipcar as a vice presiden from 2002 through 2005 and regularly

2014 URBAN LAND

## CRDA's Focus on Housing

#### **N**ATIONAL

- Cultural/Demographic Shift –
   "Return of the City"
- A "Fluke"? the last 40yrs of suburbanization
- Social, economic and environmental shifts in transportation and housing

#### **N**ATIONAL

- First time since 1920's, growth in U.S. cities outpacing growth in suburbs
- Highly mobile population Generation Y
- Number of college-educated 25-34yr. olds moving to U.S. cities; up 37% since 2000
- Eds and Meds driving cities
- Job migration is to urban settings (U.S. Census 2007–2011)
- Multifamily an investor favorite

#### **N**ATIONAL

- 18 hour city
- Postpone ownership +families=rental demand
- Live. Work. Play.
- Technological demands of new places
- Amenities are not a lawn and two-car garage
- Smaller square foot allocation per tenant

#### CONNECTICUT

- 6<sup>th</sup> highest rental rates in U.S.
- 8<sup>th</sup> highest cost of housing
- 41% spend more than 30% for housing (5<sup>th</sup> in nation)
- 1/3 of CT residents over 50 aging, retiring
- Limited supply of rental apartments
- 34% of CT households rent, up from 30% in 2007
- Resistance in suburban communities to M.F.
  housing, but over 1000 M.F. rental units in Hartford
  suburban pipeline

#### **HARTFORD**

- Higher median income for young workers than NYC, Seattle and Chicago!
- Yet, C.O.L. lower than each
- Hartford 4% increase in jobs while 2% loss in its suburban jobs -2007-2011
- 3% vacancy over last five years for rental units
- 18–36yr. olds equal 26% of population
- 70% rental vs. ownership
- Aging housing stock (little growth in 30yrs.)
- Absorption outpacing construction

#### **HARTFORD**

## CRDA STATUTORY GOAL – 3,000 UNITS IN DOWNTOWN

#### BUT:

"Who's going to live there?"

"It's downtown Hartford!"

"Never fill the units."

"Only absorb 10-12 units a month."

#### Housing

## Legacy Housing Projects – Occupancy as of June 30, 2015

Consistent levels of occupancy between 90 to 100 percent throughout the year

#### Hartford 21

• 262 Units - 91%

#### Trumbull On The Park

• 100 Units - 98%

## Main & Temple Street

Residential and Student Housing

- 120 Units
  - o Residential (78 Units) 97%
  - Student (170 Beds) 99%



## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



201 Ann Street



**5 Constitution Plaza** 



777 Main



179 Allyn Street



## So.....

Some stats since January, 2015

- 565 units built by CRDA and available for lease
- 352 units rented since January
  - 85% of tenants are from outside city
  - o 84% of tenants are below the age of 40
  - o 94% of tenants are single
- 40+ units absorbed each month (Avg.)

#### Housing

## New Housing Projects – Occupancy as of September 17, 2015

#### The Grand at 201 Ann

• 26 Units - 77%

#### 179 Allyn Street

• 63 Units – 100%





#### 777 Main Street

• 286 Units - 65%

#### **Spectra** (5 Constitution Plaza)

• 190 Units - 44%

## Housing - Yet to Come

### 2015

- 40 Elm
- Front Street Lofts
- 36 Lewis Street

### 2016

Year of absorption

### <u>2017</u>

- Hartford Office Supply
- Capewell

### <u>Plus</u>

- Radisson
- Downtown North
- Goodwin Hotel

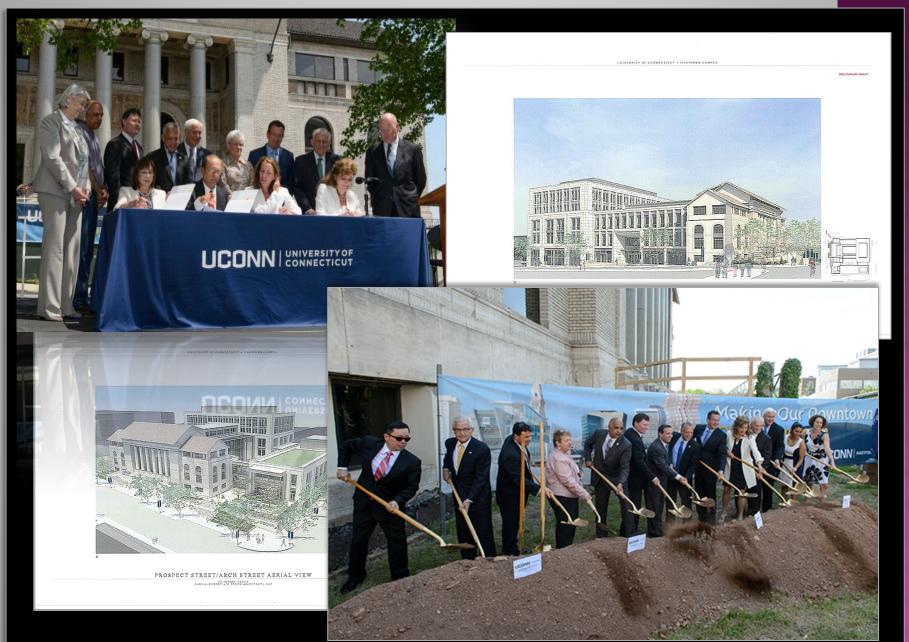
### CRDA-WHAT ELSE ARE WE UP TO?

- Front Street
- UCONN Campus
- State Office Relocation
- XL Center Transformation
- East Hartford
- Cedar Street/Newington
- Citywide and the "Promise Zone"

## **FRONT STREET**



## **UCONN**



#### STATE OFFICE RELOCATION

- 12-story, 287,000 square feet, built in 1990, \$19 million in renovations
- Approximately 1,100 employees of currently at 25 Sigourney Street
- Relocation completed in May 2014





- 575,000 square feet, two-building complex built in 1984
- Approximately 2,300 state employees to relocate in early 2016
- \$48 million renovation budget

#### PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

New "XL" Center





Housing



3 Constitution Plaza



370 Asylum Street



**Radisson Hotel** 

• Cedar Street -Newington





## PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

#### **East Hartford Initiative**

Rentschler Field Shopping





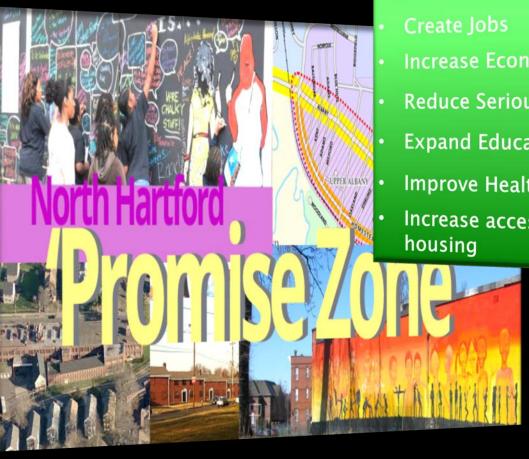
Colt Park - National Park

Designation



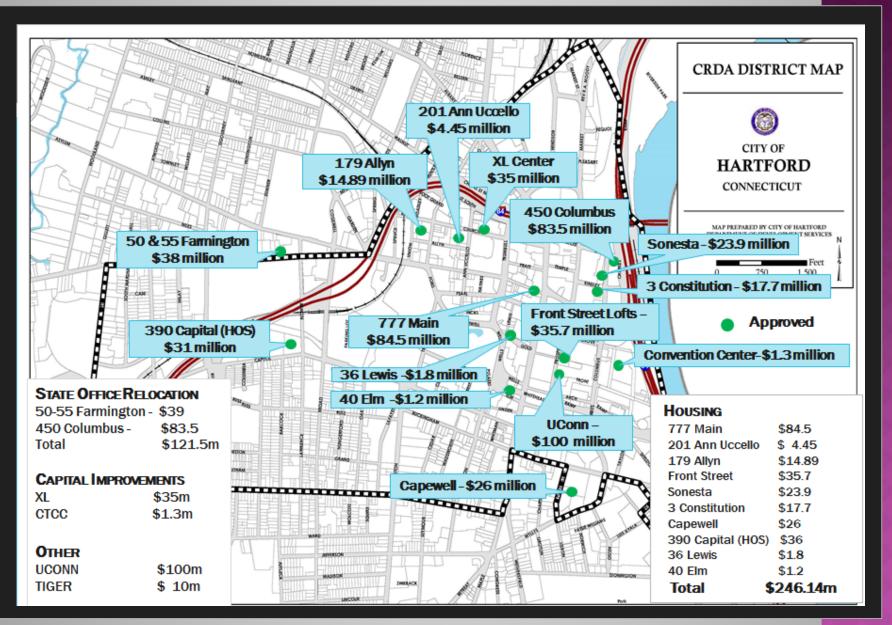
## PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

## **North Hartford Promise Zone**



- Increase Economic Activity
- Reduce Serious And Violent Crime
- **Expand Educational Opportunities**
- Improve Health and Wellness
- Increase access to quality, affordable

#### CRDA DOWNTOWN ACTIVITY MAP



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