



A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

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It is our pleasure to share CNT's 2016 Annual Report with all of our dedicated colleagues, supporters and friends. We are encouraged that our mission for 39 years to achieve urban sustainability by leveraging technology and innovative solutions is increasingly embraced by thought-leaders and decision-makers locally and across the globe. We are delighted to note more mainstream conversations today are focused on *how* to affect positive changes and not *whether* such changes are needed or even desirable to implement.

Four Pillars

We continue to reflect on the importance of the "Four Pillars" that CNT works in—energy, water, transportation, and the built environment—and how we want to continue to spread our work in these areas, and create interlocking connections. We have also reflected on our desires to form more strategic partnerships within these areas, affecting deeper impact. CNT has reflected on a need for continued discipline in our work, and continuous improvement of our operating systems on all levels. With increased interest in our space comes increased competition, and we recognize the need to be able to work effectively with others in the ecosystem to scale ideas faster, in order to keep up with the pace of change today.

Scaling Innovations

As the report will bear out, 2016 was a pivotal year for a couple of CNT's premier programs. RainReady, for instance, got its start as a series of programs focused on driving the inclusion of green infrastructure retrofits into communities as a means of stormwater flood prevention. We also honed our skills as community organizers in this effort, rolling up sleeves and working in the Chicago-area communities of Midlothian, Robbins, Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park and Dolton, among other places, to get community residents involved in planning the green interventions that would be most beneficial and desirable to them.

In this work, we are shaping our learnings into a series of standards, protocols and procedures that can be implemented anywhere. We are also moving forward to think through and develop finance mechanisms to support green infrastructure development, and we believe one future of the program and how it will have national impact will be through creation of new finance mechanisms to support the roll-out of RainReady programs across the nation.

CNT's Urban Opportunity Agenda, which is a package of solutions designed to help cities create poverty reduction plans that not

only increase jobs and incomes for people but also reduce infrastructure expenditures for them, also evolved in 2016 to the point where it is ready to scale. After spending time researching and developing concepts, modeling scenarios in multiple cities nationally, our experiences have led us to this point where implementing them at scale is now possible. We are pleased to continue that important work in 2017, at a time when many US cities are struggling with equity and poverty issues, and are welcoming the support and engagement that CNT provides.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization. We look forward to many more years of urban innovation, thinking and doing, alongside all of you.

RAINREADY

Urban flooding is complicated.

“As anyone who’s had flood damage [knows], it makes you stressed, you really don’t know your next steps,” said Stephanie Jackson-Smith, Cook County resident. To help people like Stephanie find the help they need, CNT’s RainReady program has solutions individual homeowners and communities facing increased inland flooding.

CNT’s first step was our 2013 report, *The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding*, which analyzed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and insurance data, as well as property owner surveys, to understand where flooding is occurring in Cook County, IL. We discovered that flooding occurs in every zip code in Cook County, regardless of floodplain designation, and a follow up study found that in Illinois, you are more likely to flood outside of FEMA’s defined floodplains than within them.

We know that citizens are essential in identifying appropriate flooding solutions in their communities, and they also maintain pressure on the ground to implement solutions after the planning process is complete. In early 2016, such community advocacy pushed Midlothian, IL to formally adopt their plan to address urban flooding after CNT led community members through the process. Since then, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago committed \$8.3 million to help enact components of the plan, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is leading an inter-agency, multi-sector approach

to stormwater management, economic development and active transportation along 147th Street in Midlothian.

In places where flooding is hyper-localized or a municipality is not prepared to engage in public infrastructure solutions, CNT is working with homeowners to develop a tailored suite of solutions, from sewer backup protection to bioswales. In 2016 engineered a pilot with 22 homeowners to provide an assessment, suggested solutions, and access to funded contractors to implement the solutions. As one of the homeowners, Patricia Mitchell said, “They are very thorough, they’re going through every inch and cranny of the house. They found things that I didn’t even know there was a problem with.”

Going forward, we have projects with Cook County implementing green infrastructure and plumbing solutions to flooding in homes in Chatham and Oak Park. CNT is also creating tools so that anyone can learn about contributing factors to home flooding.

With the successes of 2016 in hand, we are thinking about flooding more systemically. We’re looking at developing national standards and best practices for green infrastructure, and how to engage with insurers so that we can identify financing mechanisms to enable more people to reduce the risk of urban flooding. We believe this, in combination with strong partnerships at the community level, is the path toward scaling the RainReady program nationally.



The American Society of Civil Engineers named RainReady Midlothian, IL a “Game Changer” and we had the honor of presenting our findings on urban flooding at the White House. CNT continues to partner with communities, working with them to identify co-benefits to investing in stormwater infrastructure for beautification, economic development and other community priorities. Look for more community plans, including for Chicago’s Calumet Corridor, now available on CNT’s website.



URBAN ANALYTICS

CNT has long advocated changing the world.

What makes us unique, however, is that we support our program initiatives and organizational beliefs with measurable metrics and data through our Urban Analytics program. We are at the forefront of groundbreaking analysis, revealing the economic implications of investments in transportation, energy, water, and the built environment. By combining Census, Bureau of Labor, Department of Transportation, consumer expenditure data, and our own hands-on data collection, we are creating nationally available data sets that depict what's happening at the neighborhood level.

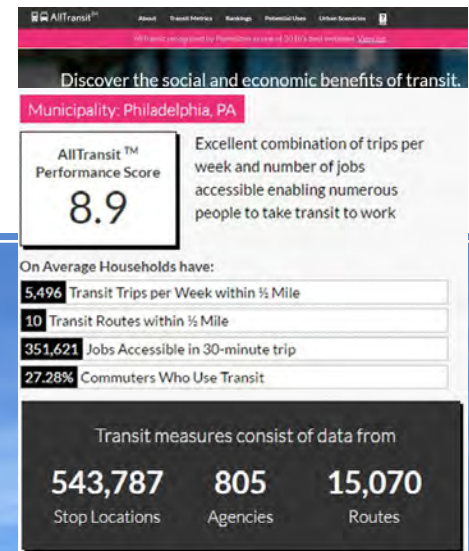
In 2016, CNT launched AllTransit™, the culmination of years studying the benefits of transit systems. This robust, one-of-a-kind nationwide product measures and reveals the social and economic benefits of transit. AllTransit shows that households of all incomes living in neighborhoods with access to transit and jobs have greater choices about housing and employment, and transportation options connecting the two. With more choice comes a lower reliance on automobiles, ultimately freeing up money for things like childcare, education, healthcare, conventional down payments, and savings.

Since its launch, AllTransit has received many accolades. Planetizen named it one of the top 10 planning websites of the year. Going forward, look for even more with AllTransit in 2017, including information on “transit deserts,” or areas with little access to public transportation, and an analysis about how additions and cuts in service affect local economies and residents.

CNT's Urban Analytics program is known and cited nationally for its data on cities; policymakers and governments rely on CNT as a nonpartisan and trusted source of information to make decisions. Our

2016 paper on how parking utilization affects neighborhoods, “Estimating Parking Utilization in Multi-Family Residential Buildings in Washington, D.C.,” was honored by the Transportation Research Board. But it's more than just the facts and figures—increasingly, the application of our research in cities across the United States means it has the potential to affect the livability of your own neighborhood

The Housing and Transportation Affordability (H+T) Index has traveled a long road since its initial launch in 2006 with the Brookings Institution. Beginning with a study on affordability in Minneapolis and St. Paul, followed by 48 cities, and finally, all metro areas in the United States, our H+T Index was afforded the highest honor this year as the focus of a special journal article by Housing Policy Debate. In an issue devoted to the combined costs of housing and transportation, it opens with a preface acknowledging CNT's work in this area, and sites our contributions: “location affordability may be the best thing that a shrinking city can invest in to help their households.” The H+T Index now has 1,050 registered users, and in 2017 we're launching an updated version that covers the full United States.



TECH CHALLENGE

In cities across the United States, technology is revolutionizing the way we engage with nearly every facet of our built environment—

from public transportation systems to parking meters, financial institutions to grocery stores. Yet, many people in low income communities are being largely passed over by this revolution, particularly as problem solvers and producers.

CNT created a tech challenge six years ago to raise the profile of digital innovation as an economic development opportunity in low-income communities—we worked with entrepreneurial talent from Chicago's neighborhoods, helping them shape and build their business ideas. "It was exciting to see them build the confidence to pitch their innovations to the judges," said CNT's Steve Perkins, watching the finalists present at CNT's annual 2016 Sustain-a-City Celebration.

Through the challenge, we've deepened relationships with neighborhood organizations such as Bethel New Life and Blue1647, and worked in collaboration with corporate partners Microsoft and ComcastNBCUniversal, to engage directly with neighborhood entrepreneurial talent.

We're seeing first-hand the incredible barriers entrepreneurs from Chicago's west and south sides have to overcome in participating in the tech revolution, and the unique role CNT can play in bridging the gap. Bethel New Life contributed six of thirteen competitors in CNT's 2016 Tech Challenge. Based on that experience Bethel's President and CEO, Edward Coleman, has said that Bethel is "interested in evolving our partnership with CNT in the effort to create sustainable, technology-based solutions that are originated on the West Side of Chicago."

CNT is confident about the depth of motivation and quality of talent in Chicago's neighborhoods to solve local issues through entrepreneurship. Moving forward, CNT is working to connect these entrepreneurs to urban sustainability issues, supporting community engagement in the major infrastructure pillars of the national economy. There are challenges with communal infrastructure that people experience or see on a daily basis, while utilizing public transportation, for instance; but for many reasons our constituents often do not perceive that they are empowered to solve these problems.



Harini Aiyer (right) is the idea leader for Compost Crossing, an app that supports a network of neighborhood compost producers and users, with team members John Mandalakas and Allison Chen.

Corliss King, developer of People's Choice Award winner Schedule Scout that promotes easier co-parenting through a shared app, talks app strategy with Christina Ptak, developer of the Beauty on Demand, a mobile platform linking beauticians and customers at the community level.



Steven Luker, with team member Patrick Sier, garnered Second Place for Chi Safe Path, an app that allows users to submit geo-tagged images of sidewalk problems that hurt accessibility to Chicago's 311 System. This will help wheelchair users and others with limited mobility access public spaces, stores, and buildings. The app also gives the users of wheelchairs a safe way to move around by identifying accessible routes.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
APPS COMPETITION

SUSTAIN-A-CITY
CELEBRATION

Maurice Gunn (third from left), with his wife, accepting First Prize for Stop Crime App, a smart phone app that allows community residents to report and document crimes. The judges included (from left) Shelley Grach (Microsoft), Scott Bernstein (CNT), Brenna Berman (City of Chicago), Devin Matthews (ParkerGale Capital), and Janice Jackson (Chicago Public Schools).



EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

CNT continues its decades-long work in transit-oriented development throughout the country.

Equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) takes this one step further by making sure that the benefits of living near transit are available to people of all income levels. For eTOD to work, buy-in from real estate developers is fundamental. Recognizing a need for more conversations with stakeholders, CNT formed a cohort of community developers working on affordable housing in areas with access to transit. The group is looking at the challenges and barriers to overcome, in particular how to translate the opportunities to people in the communities, including alternative mobility (e.g., bikes), and land control.

With the cohort in mind, and to help make the case for eTOD in communities, CNT developed an eTOD Social Impact Calculator that shows the environmental and social benefits of developing affordable housing in a particular location. This calculator was particularly useful for one organization in the cohort, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives (CNI), in their efforts to develop artists' housing in Pullman. Ciere Boatright, CNI's project manager, said "understanding your community and having the data to validate your community's story is very important. The Social Impact Calculator helps in applying for grants, tax credits, and just telling other folks about your community."

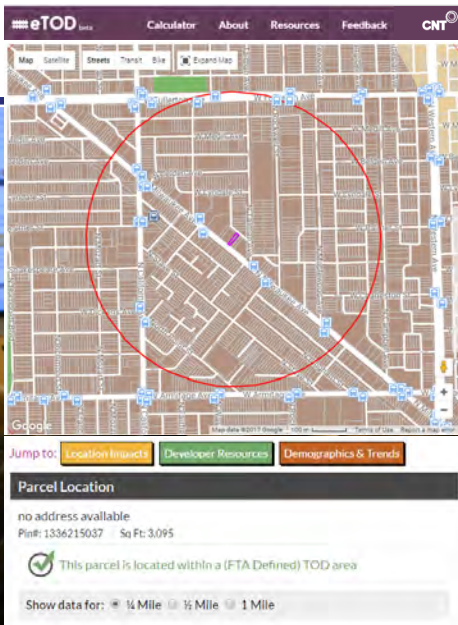
CNT brought together partners from across the spectrum—foundations, politicians, real estate developers, corporate representatives, university leaders, and other organizations

working on eTOD—to meaningfully consider the challenges to affordable housing from different perspectives. Perhaps the most exciting of multiple community workshops, the eTOD Laboratory, was open to the public and exceeded the venue seating capacity. It discussed gentrification, both how to identify it and strategies to deal with it. CNT's Vice President, Jacky Grimshaw, said "the eTOD Laboratory initiated really powerful conversations about affordable housing close to transit, and we showed how CNT's Social Impact Calculator can help people on the ground and developers justify an investment in their neighborhood."

Most importantly, we're seeing results from the cohort. In 2016, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation successfully got control of a parcel at Chicago's Logan Square CTA 'L' station, and is preparing now to develop an

affordable housing project. Furthermore, CNT's research in "Stalled Out: How Empty Parking Spaces Diminish Neighborhood Affordability" has been a key component in the conversation; Bickerdike and partners are working to justify reduced parking in that development in favor of more housing units.

We're excited about the implications of the eTOD cohort on affordable housing. Going forward, CNT is a leader in the Chicago partnership, L-Evated, which is funded by the Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC). Through this collaboration we will invest in the half-mile radius around transit stations in low-income neighborhoods. Our experience working with communities, developers, and decision-makers will be instrumental in L-Evated's success.



URBAN OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

The cost of living is growing faster than wages, and not just for people living below the poverty line.

The working and middle classes are feeling pinched and poverty rates are on the rise. Traditional anti-poverty programs offer subsidies, which have helped millions of families—they are critically important. Yet, poverty is really a two-sided equation. What if we looked at reducing some of the largest expenses for poor families, too?

CNT's Urban Opportunity Agenda looks at both expense reduction and income generation to reduce poverty and create more economic opportunity. We analyzed twelve United States cities, and found that the number of people living in poverty could be reduced by 25% or more through a set of smarter public and private investments that will reduce expenses and create jobs.

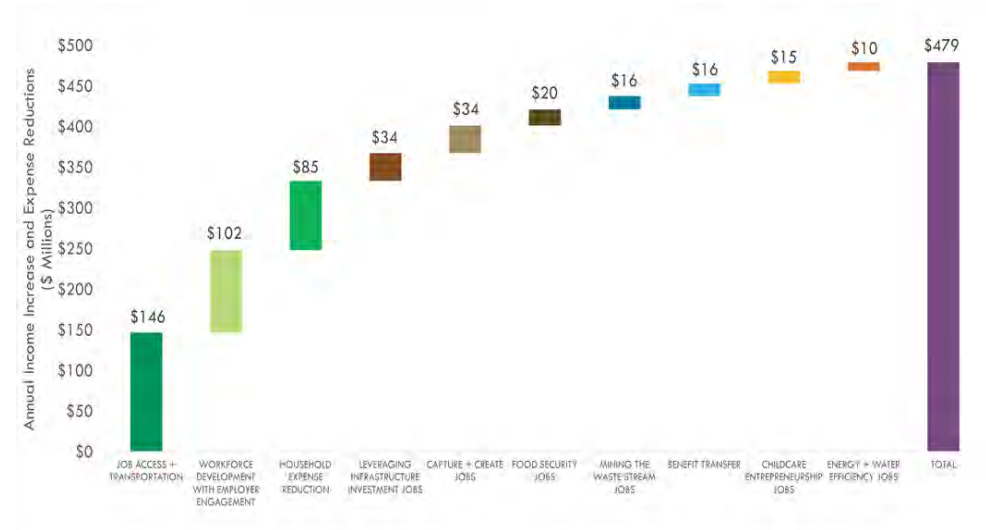
In Albuquerque, New Mexico, CNT is implementing these ideas. We're working with civic leaders on the potential for transportation strategies to reduce the cost of living for residents. For example, their new Rapid Transit system will improve access to jobs and spur property development near the transit

corridor. Plus, as CNT's co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Scott Bernstein says, "as location efficiency goes up, vehicle ownership and the cost of travel goes down."

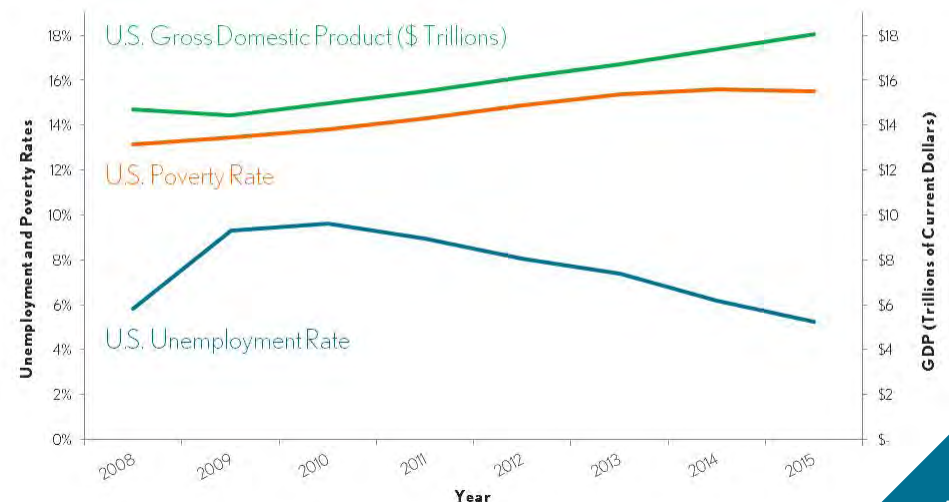
Smarter investments would benefit all of us, because it would lead to more environmentally sustainable communities; reduced spending on transportation, energy, and water by households and businesses; and improved access to basic services, jobs, and education. "The Urban Opportunity Agenda gives communities a blueprint for how to use public resources more efficiently and make a real difference for families of all incomes," said Bruce Katz, Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution.

CNT wants to give decision makers in cities the tools they need to make smart investments, and we're working to turn this interest into implementation with national organizations. The director of Gary, Indiana's Economic Development Corporation, Bo Kemp, said this agenda "gives us a detailed roadmap for how we can reduce the cost of living for working families while growing our economy in a way that benefits everyone. It's a win-win."

What if we look at poverty a different way? CNT proposes a new framework to help civic leaders make choices about investments to build stronger cities.



ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS NOT REDUCED POVERTY



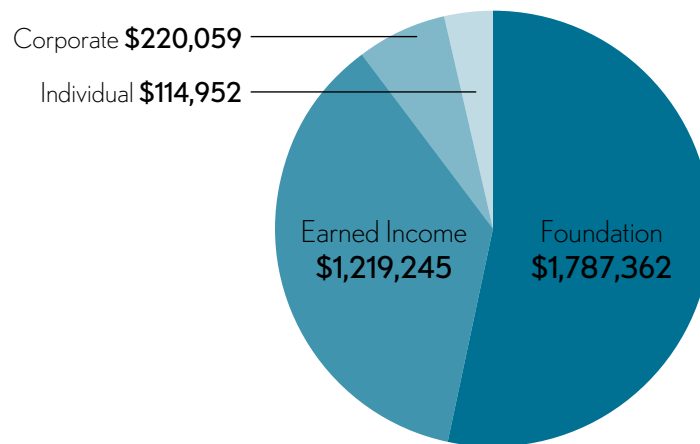
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