# CNU INITIATIVES

CNU promotes sustainable communities and healthy living conditions through walkable, mixed-use neighborhood development. CNU's initiatives advance bipartisan reforms that deliver market-based improvements to the economy, environment and public health.



# **CNU's Project For Transportation Reform**

CNU's Project for Transportation Reform stands for the revitalization of the performance and mobility of our communities' streets. The initiatives within the project – Transportation Networks, Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares, Highways to Boulevards, and Emergency Response and Street Design - call for multi-modal street designs that place the pedestrian back into the public realm.

www.cnu.org/transportationreform



### **Sprawl Retrofit**

Building on the books *Retrofitting Suburbia* and *The Sprawl Repair Manual* by CNU authors, this initiative is developing incremental sprawl repair designs for affordable suburban infill at the parcel and building scale; best practices in design, coding and systems integration at the corridor scale; and new tools at the metro scale for strategic targeting of where to re-green, redevelop, and re-inhabit underperforming properties.

www.cnu.org/sprawlretrofit



## **Highways-to-Boulevards**

Through its Highways-to-Boulevards initiative, CNU has argued that successful highway-to-boulevard conversions reconnect neighborhoods, improve access to key resources such as waterfronts, and put underperforming land to use. Highway-to-Boulevard conversions in cities such as San Francisco, Portland, Milwaukee and Seoul, South Korea, have all raised property values, enhanced quality of life and added value and vitality to their respective cities.

www.cnu.org/highways



## Live/Work/Walk: Removing Obstacles to Investment

Working with a growing coalition of supporters, CNU is advocating for the removal of regulatory obstacles in financing standards to allow for live/work/walk, mixed commercial-residential development. Updating current financing restrictions to better reflect today's marketplace could expand affordable housing options, deliver livability goals, and spur economic development.

www.cnu.org/liveworkwalk



# **Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares**

Along with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), CNU has produced *Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach*. The how-to manual illustrates best practices for the design and implementation of walkable, mixed-use streets, and has been adopted by the City of El Paso, TX and TxDoT. In 2013, FHWA endorsed this manual as a way to provide street design flexibility in the urban context.

www.cnu.org/streets



#### **Health Districts**

With assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CNU will advance urban design criteria for neighborhoods with hospital and Veteran Health Administration (VHA) facilities. Criteria will focus on "Lifelong Communities," a healthy built environment for patients and their families, and will be guided by the latest research in Evidence-Based Design (EBD).

For more, see www.cnu.org/healthdistricts

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### **Street Vitality Index**

CNU's Street Vitality Index (SVI) seeks to measure the "vibrancy" of streets and neighborhoods through an annual *Smart Streets* ranking and an interactive, online application. SVI will measure the three traditional functions of the street: movement, commerce and social interaction.

Webpage coming soon.



## LEED for Neighborhood Development

Partnering with the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), CNU helped to create LEED for Neighborhood Development, the first system in the US for rating and certifying entire neighborhoods as green. LEED-ND encourages development teams, planners and local governments to construct sustainable, compact neighborhoods with the principles of traditional city and town design, as promoted by CNU

For more, see www.cnu.org/leednd



# The Emergency Response & Street Design

The Emergency Response & Street Design initiative aims to integrate standards for walkable streets and good emergency access. Together with fire marshals across the country and the EPA's Smart Growth program, CNU is working to edit the International Fire Code to allow local fire code officials greater flexibility in employing street connectivity to decrease emergency response times and per capita station costs.

For more, see www.cnu.org/emergency response



#### **Rainwater in Context**

The Rainwater in Context initiative works to institute rainwater management practices that integrate New Urbanism at all scales. High-performance rainwater solutions and dense, walkable urbanism can benefit each other when skillfully coordinated. The initiative works with state, local and federal EPA official to improve existing and proposed regulations. Initiative leaders present at conferences, engage in public debates and write articles for various publications.

For more, see www.cnu.org/rainwater



Urbanism +2030

URBANISM+2030, a collaboration between CNU and Architecture 2030, will provide retrofit and development models to help communities visualize and implement low-carbon, resilient development. These efforts will help break down the barriers that encourage auto-dependent sprawl and consequently prevent high infrastructure costs.

For more, see www.cnu.org/urbanism2030



### **Transportation Networks**

CNU has long recognized that the street network is a fundamental part of human civilization because it serves as the setting for both commerce and culture. Transportation networks not only accommodate a region's mobility needs, but also help determine the location, type, and form of land development. CNU has compiled a set of principles and key characteristics into the Sustainable Street Network Principles.

For more, see www.cnu.org/networks