

DRAFT

Asylum Farmington Trident Steering Committee Report to the Implementation Committee

“To further refine and prioritize 2010 recommendations and provide input, feedback and recommendations to the Implementation Committee.”

(Mission, 2008)

The Asylum Farmington Trident Steering Committee met on four occasions over the course of the past several months. The Committee addressed the challenges and opportunities this very important area presents to the future of Hartford.

Some of our observations are as follows:

1. The Trident areas of impact include The Hartford, Aetna, the former CT Mutual, the former Hartford High School site and the areas to the east; Capitol West, 555 Asylum and Union Station. All of these are at the eastern end of Asylum Hill and are our gateway with downtown Hartford.
2. Future design must address our streets (Asylum Avenue and Farmington Avenue) and equal weight should be given to their roles of:
 - **CONVEYANCE** - all modes of transportation especially pedestrian, bike and public transportation should be balanced with automotive uses;
 - **COMMERCE** - that shops, offices and residential uses be promoted in a mixture that strengthens all; and
 - **COMMUNITY** – so that they serve as places where people have the opportunity to meet, converse and socialize.
3. To achieve the Committee’s goals regarding conveyance, commerce and community, we propose that grant funds be allocated to:
 - continue the Farmington Ave streetscape design that has been begun further west that will help unify the Avenue,
 - continue the traffic calming design work begun by Fred Gorove Associates when a proposed school was being considered at the Hartford High School site, and
 - Make temporary adjustments to traffic flow by lane striping until a more functional plan is identified.
4. The Committee also suggests:
 - that safety improvements should be implemented to ameliorate and encourage pedestrian traffic from this area east to downtown,
 - the former site of Hartford High School (which is currently vacant) should be landscaped in such a way as to reflect positively on Asylum Hill and Hartford to all who pass by on I-84 or Broad St, Farmington or Asylum Avenues. This could be a temporary use for this parcel until future improvements to public transportation and the routing of

- I-84 are allowed to have their effect toward improving the possibilities for significant long term development of this space.
- the City and Metro Hartford capital region should focus on the development of Union Station and its surrounding parcels into a state of the art transit center. This ideal location is central and proximate to several "tridents" and would facilitate the growth and infrastructure for a vibrant mass transit capability servicing the entire region.

The Committee has completed its work for 2008.