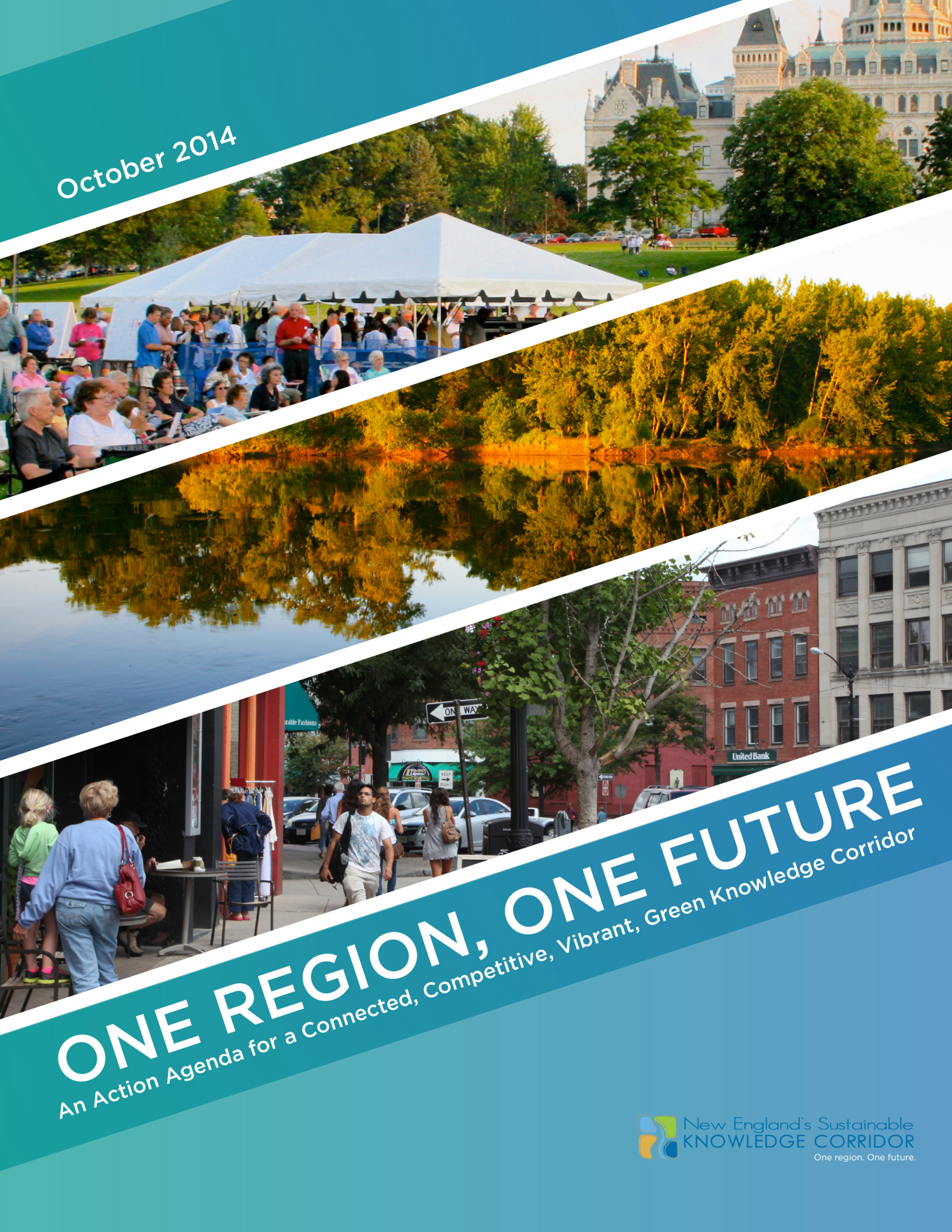


October 2014



# ONE REGION, ONE FUTURE

An Action Agenda for a Connected, Competitive, Vibrant, Green Knowledge Corridor





Photo credit: Chris Curtis

*One Region, One Future* was prepared by the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium—a partnership of forty-four public and private agencies including regional planning organizations, municipalities, educational institutions and other community partners in the greater Hartford, CT—Springfield, MA region. The Consortium was formed to oversee a bi-state planning project which is laying the foundation for preserving, creating and maintaining a sustainable, economically competitive, and equitable Knowledge Corridor. *One Region, One Future* presents a bi-state vision and action agenda that will help the Knowledge Corridor achieve a connected, competitive, vibrant and green future.

## The Vision

### CONNECTED

- Increased transportation and communication choices.
- Access to passenger rail and bus rapid transit services through the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield and Vermonter rail projects, and the CTfastrak bus rapid transit project.
- A network of bicycle and pedestrian paths, bike lanes, sidewalks, bike share programs, and related bike infrastructure.
- Complete streets that provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as vehicles.
- Reduced dependency on auto trips and resulting savings in energy use and less air pollution.
- High speed internet access for all businesses, schools, residences and local governments throughout the region.

### COMPETITIVE

- Improved job training and talent development programs to create a skilled workforce that is well-matched to the region's future employment opportunities.
- Increased educational attainment and job and economic opportunities for low income residents and people of color.
- More great neighborhoods in and around our urban core, with access to transit, walking and biking facilities, to attract and retain college graduates and other young workers.
- New transit-oriented development attracting a mix of housing types and employers, and supported by anchor institutions.

### VIBRANT

- Communities and neighborhoods, which are places where people want to live, work and recreate, and places in which individuals and households thrive.
- More transportation choices.
- A broader range of equitable and affordable housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities.
- Improved economic competitiveness, for workers and businesses.
- Investment to support existing communities, to make them more livable, improve their quality of life, and protect their character and cherished landscapes.
- Increased opportunities for healthy exercise, including enjoying the outdoors, trails and parks.

### GREEN

- Clean, fishable and swimmable waterways, resulting from reduced stormwater and combined sewer pollution.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions, resulting from increased energy conservation and use of green energy production alternatives.
- Smarter growth and compact development patterns, resulting in the protection of natural resources, and reduced auto travel and air pollution.
- Increased land conservation efforts focused on protecting our farmlands, wildlife corridors and special natural places.
- Better access to healthy food, parks and recreation opportunities, particularly for urban residents.

# The Action Agenda

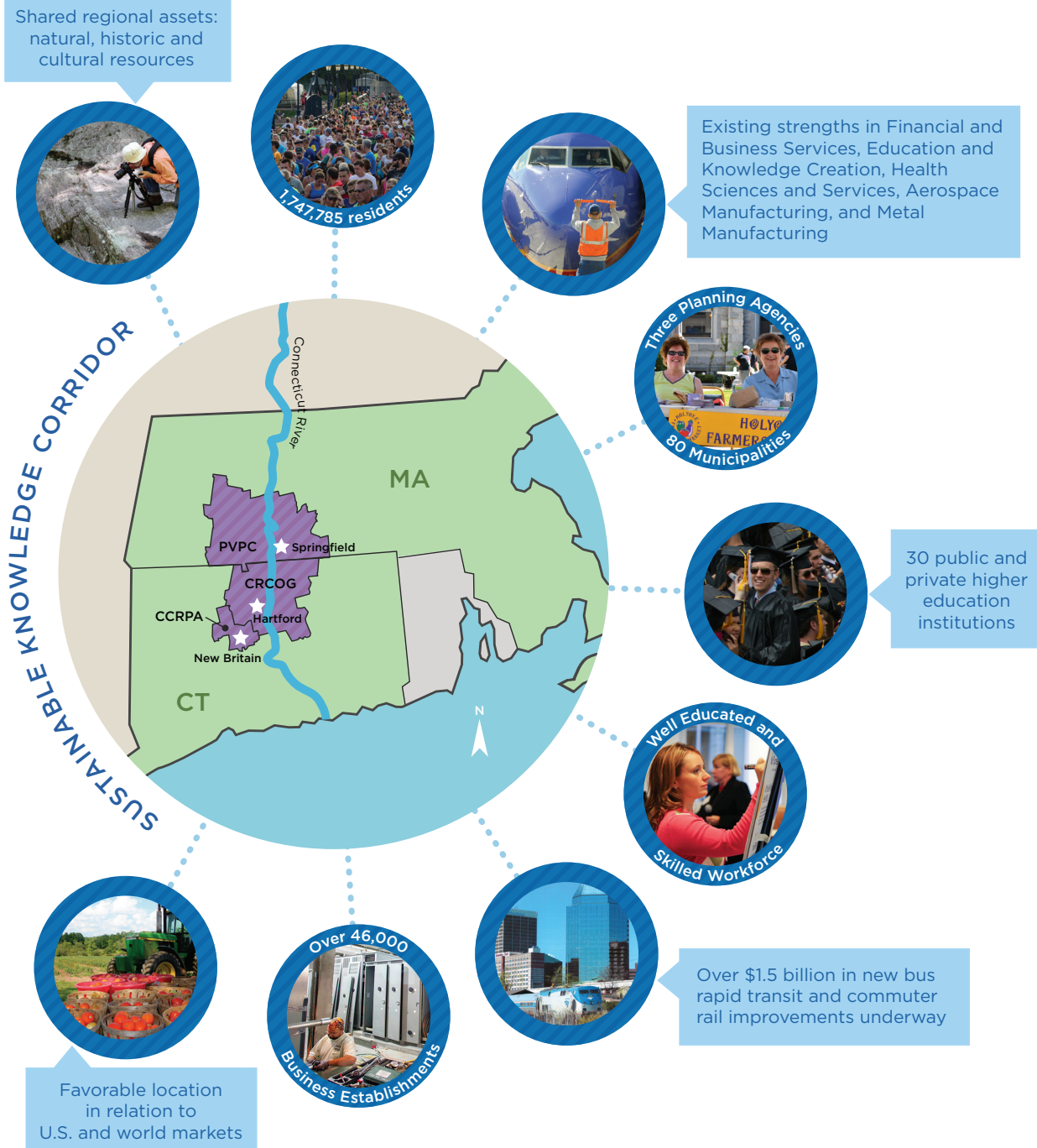
 A CONNECTED KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR  
 A COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR  
 A VIBRANT KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR  
 A GREEN KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR

## KEY ACTIONS

	Improve Rail Connections	●	●	●	●
	Create Integrated Bus Systems	●	●	●	●
	Adopt a Complete Streets Ethic	●		●	●
	Build a Linked Network of Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes and Amenities	●		●	●
	Assure Access to High Speed Internet for All Businesses, Schools, Residences, and Local Governments	●	●		●
	Match Talent Development to Jobs, Through Implementing a Bi-State Talent Development/Retention Strategy	●	●	●	●
	Aggressively Expand Development Near Transit or at Rapid Transit and Rail Stations	●	●	●	●
	Ramp-up Bradley International Airport (BDL) as Western New England's Airport of Choice	●	●		
	Zone to Promote Compact, Mixed-Use, Mixed-Income Village Centers and Downtowns	●		●	●
	Encourage Placemaking and the Programming of Public Spaces to Support Neighborhood Vitality		●	●	
	Adopt TOD Zoning Districts Around Commuter Rail and Transit Stations or Stops	●	●	●	●
	Zone to Expand Housing Choice and Support Economic Growth	●	●	●	●
	Support Strategic Collaborative Investments to Strengthen Neighborhoods		●	●	
	Revitalize Urban Centers by Attracting Jobs, Market Rate Housing, and Mixed-Use Development		●	●	●
	Develop, Adopt and Implement Complete Streets Plans and Policies	●	●	●	●
	Improve Access to Resources that Improve the Health of the Region's Residents, including Promoting Food Security for All and Reducing Hunger		●	●	●
		Institutionalize the Application of Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design and Development Techniques	●	●	●
Clean Up the Connecticut River and its Tributaries Through Cutting Pollution from Combined Sewer Overflows and Stormwater, and Promoting Green Streets and Developments			●	●	●
Revitalize Urban Areas Through Remediating and Reusing Brownfields, Maximizing Access to Parks and Recreational Areas, and Maximizing Access to Local Food Sources			●	●	●
Adopt Municipal Zoning Strategies and Other Policies That Will Reduce Our Impact on the Environment and Help Reduce Greenhouse Gases			●	●	●
Cooperate in Promoting Clean Energy Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases		●	●	●	●
Adopt Coordinated Climate Adaptation Strategies			●	●	●
Coordinate Regional Efforts for Land and Water Conservation, and Protection of Key Natural Resource Areas				●	●

# Implementation

The geographic area covered by this action agenda includes the Hartford, Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts metropolitan areas, which comprise the central portion of the New England Knowledge Corridor. All of the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium partners—as well as other municipal, state, federal, non-profit, and private entities—have a role to play in implementing the *One Region, One Future* vision for a connected, competitive, vibrant and green Knowledge Corridor.



Visit [www.SustainableKnowledgeCorridor.org](http://www.SustainableKnowledgeCorridor.org) for more information.

This report was prepared by the Capitol Region Council of Governments ([www.crcog.org](http://www.crcog.org)) and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission ([www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org)) on behalf of the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium. The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government. *Photo credits, clockwise from top: Barbara Steele, Riverfront Recapture, Ed Gonzalves, Chris Curtis, Brittany Muller, FHI, Chris Curtis, Jonathan Rose Companies, Barbara Steele.*