CRCOG has been working with the City of Hartford, CTTRANSIT, the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Greater Hartford Transit District to improve downtown Hartford bus circulation. The results of this work will form the foundation for redesign of City streets to implement the federal TIGER funded Intermodal Transit Triangle project.

That project will redesign City streets and upgrade traffic signals to provide improved amenities for pedestrians and bus passengers while improving bus travel times and maintaining traffic viability of the dense downtown area. Key to the proposal to improve downtown transit circulation is reopening the “Isle of Safety”, the segment of State Street from Market Street to Main Street. Additionally, Asylum Street will be redesigned to allow east bound bus traffic and potentially will be made 2 way for all traffic. Bus routes from the east will be extended beyond their current terminus at Market Street to a mini transit hub at Union station. Bus routes from the west will travel past Main Street instead of ending on Main Street. CTfastrak buses and east west routes will travel on either Pearl Street or Asylum Street, with north south bus routes remaining on Main Street.

The result of these improvements will be to make the downtown bus system more legible, provide an efficient route for CTfastrak vehicles into the heart of downtown, improve the efficiency of downtown transit service for all users, and provide for improved passenger amenities at major bus stops.