

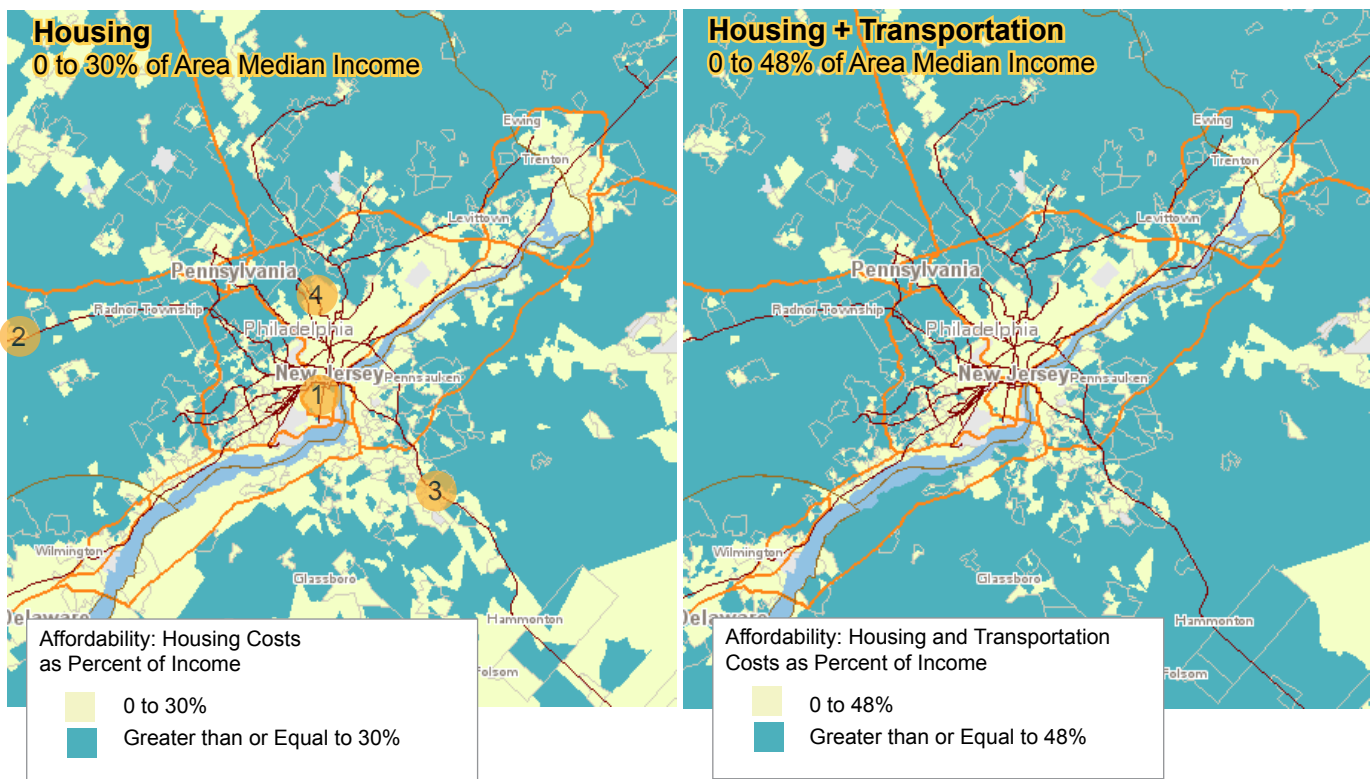
# H+T Affordability Index



The Housing + Transportation (H + T) Affordability Index is a new and more comprehensive way of thinking about the cost of housing and true affordability by exploring the impact that transportation costs associated with location have on a household's economic bottom line.

## Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD

Two Views of Affordability



### Neighborhood Profiles

|  | 1                      | 2                            | 3                         | 4                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Old City, Philadelphia | West Chester, Chester County | Lindenwold, Camden County | Mount Airy, Philadelphia |
| <b>Transportation Cost</b>               | 13.71 %                | 30.22 %                      | 23.69 %                   | 19.55 %                  |
| <b>Housing Cost</b>                      | 46.10 %                | 35.43 %                      | 25.92 %                   | 21.39 %                  |
| <b>Housing Cost: Renters</b>             | 22.54 %                | 17.19 %                      | 20.19 %                   | 16.08 %                  |
| <b>Housing Cost: Owners</b>              | 64.71 %                | 37.97 %                      | 29.99 %                   | 25.29 %                  |
| <b>Autos per Household</b>               | 0.99                   | 2.37                         | 1.80                      | 1.40                     |
| <b>Transit Ridership</b>                 | 12.87 %                | 1.17 %                       | 6.37 %                    | 17.59 %                  |
| <b>Households per Acre</b>               | 8.09                   | 0.24                         | 1.60                      | 6.72                     |
| <b>Workers per Household</b>             | 1.08                   | 1.24                         | 1.59                      | 0.99                     |
| <b>Monthly Transportation Cost in \$</b> | \$ 543                 | \$ 1,197                     | \$ 938                    | \$ 774                   |
| <b>Median Household Income</b>           | \$ 49,107              | \$ 62,143                    | \$ 50,147                 | \$ 49,750                |

### Philadelphia Metropolitan Area Representative Transportation Costs

| Transportation Costs as a Percent of Average Median Income (AMI) | Community                  | Transportation Costs as a Percent of AMI |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| 0 – 15% of AMI   | Phila – West Philadelphia  | 12.7 %                                   |
|  | Phila – Northern Liberties | 13.5 %                                   |
|  | Phila – Old City           | 13.7 %                                   |
|  | Phila – South Philadelphia | 15.8 %                                   |
| 15 – 18% of AMI  | Phila – Fairmount          | 16.6 %                                   |
|  | Phila – Roxboro            | 17.0 %                                   |
|  | Phila – Germantown         | 17.8 %                                   |
|  | Wilmington, DE             | 18.0 %                                   |
| 18 – 20% of AMI  | Jenkintown                 | 19.5 %                                   |
|  | Phila – Mt. Airy           | 19.6 %                                   |
|  | Conshohocken               | 19.8 %                                   |
|  | Collinswood, NJ            | 19.9 %                                   |
| 20 – 28 % of AMI   | Quakertown                 | 21.3 %                                   |
|  | Levittown                  | 21.8 %                                   |
|  | Maple Glen                 | 23.4 %                                   |
|  | Richboro                   | 24.2 %                                   |

### Background

The Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, developed by CNT and partner, the Center for Transit Oriented Development (CTOD), is an innovative tool that measures the true affordability of housing. The traditional measure of affordability used by planners, lenders, and most consumers recommends that housing should be less than 30 percent of income. The Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, in contrast, takes into account not just the cost of housing, but the costs of housing and transportation.

$$H + T \text{ Affordability Index} = \frac{(\text{Housing Costs} + \text{Transportation Costs})}{\text{Income}}$$

The Index has received much attention from policy makers for its benefits to planners and TOD advocates and is already being used for additional research. This work represents the development the Housing + Transportation Affordability Index for 52 metropolitan areas.

The results are available through an interactive mapping website at:  
<http://htaindex.cnt.org>

### AFFORDABILITY IS ABOUT MORE THAN HOME PRICE

- Housing and transportation costs give a more complete picture of affordability than just the housing cost alone.
- Transportation costs are driven more by neighborhood characteristics than by the number of people in a household or their income.
- Places with access to services, walkable destinations, extensive & frequent transit, access to jobs, and density have lower household transportation costs.
- Creating neighborhoods with housing and transportation affordability requires multiple and targeted strategies and coordination within and across government agencies and the private sector.
- Underutilized transit station areas present an opportunity to create additional affordable and diverse neighborhoods.

**The newest product using the H+T Affordability Index models neighborhood-level data for 52 different metropolitan areas with results available through an interactive mapping website.**  
<http://htaindex.cnt.org>

**For more information contact:**  
Nicole Gotthelf  
Director of Development & Communications  
(773) 269-4029  
nicoleg@cnt.org