

# CNT 2013



# PEOPLE, PLACES + PROGRESS

Dear Friends:

To commemorate CNT's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, staff from across the organization dug into the archives to chronicle 35 of CNT's most game-changing innovations. Some, like the Housing and Transportation (H+T<sup>®</sup>) Affordability Index and IGO CarSharing, you know very well. Some are stories of solar greenhouses and energy efficiency programs. Tales of feral dogs brush up against innovations like the Location Efficient Mortgage<sup>®</sup>, the Right Size Parking calculator, and the Gas Buyers' Club. The color and concept of "green" features prominently: CNT helped save Chicago's Green Line, pioneered green dry cleaning, and created the Green TIME Zone to help communities capture the value of cargo movement.

These stories, compiled in a booklet aptly titled *People, Places + Progress*, illustrate CNT's inspired approach to advancing the ways our cities can become more sustainable and prosperous for everyone.

I've certainly been inspired by CNT's contributions over the past 35 years. I'm even more excited about what's to come.

Sincerely,



Steven McCullough  
Chair, CNT Board of Directors

Dear Friends:

CNT marked our 35<sup>th</sup> year in 2013. That's 35 years of delivering sustainability solutions across America. Despite the volumes of impactful research released, the many influential tools developed, and the scores of public policies shaped, we just can't stop asking questions:

**How can we help homeowners, neighborhoods, cities, and regions prepare for and prevent urban flooding?**

**How can the right data, analysis, and tools empower smart, location- and resource-efficient land use decisions?**

**How much residential parking do cities really need? Could that space be better used?**

**How can legacy freight rail assets in urban communities be revitalized to drive local economic development?**



In 2013, we not only asked these kinds of questions, we answered them.

We contributed groundbreaking research on urban flooding and on the value and resiliency of housing located near public transit. We helped build online tools that promote location efficiency and location affordability. We influenced federal, state, and local policy on transportation, green infrastructure, and regional planning. And we had our ideas, opinions, and actions featured in several books and a wide range of media outlets.

We did all of this, and more, thanks to a brilliant and energetic staff, a dedicated and inspiring board of directors, and an unparalleled collection of donors, funders, partners, and supporters. We are ever grateful to you all.

As we take this moment to reflect on accomplishments from our 35<sup>th</sup> year, we can't help but think about how we can continue to advance our work - to create more sustainable, equitable, livable, and resilient urban communities. Which leads us to (at least) one more question: **Are you ready for what's next?**

Sincerely,

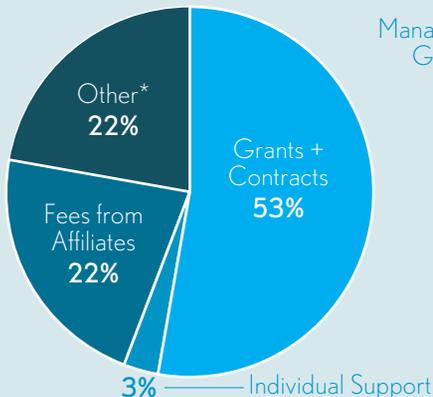


Kathryn Tholin  
Chief Executive Officer

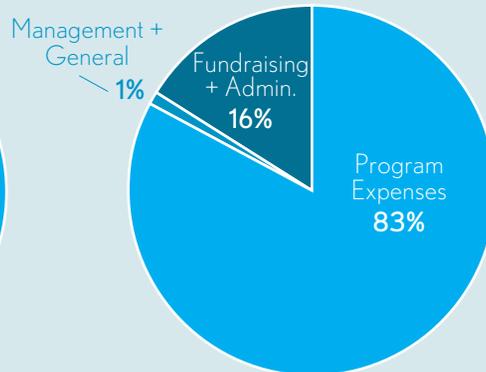


Scott Bernstein  
President

2013 TOTAL REVENUE  
\$4,872,599



2013 TOTAL EXPENSES  
\$4,247,166



\* Other includes contributions from affiliates and gain on sale of IGO assets

Interim financial report pending completion of independent audit.

# ACCELERATING CAR SHARING IN CHICAGO

OUR CAR-SHARING PROGRAM DECOUPLED AUTO ACCESS FROM AUTO OWNERSHIP, FREEING MEMBERS TO INVEST SAVINGS IN EDUCATION AND OTHER PURSUITS.

With household transportation costs second only to housing, **the hefty price of car ownership can be burdensome** on low- and middle-income Americans.

Realizing that many urban residents only needed to drive for occasional trips, CNT brought the European idea of carsharing to the States in 2002. **IGO CarSharing** flourished during its decade under the CNT umbrella into a **15,000-member community** in 40 Chicago neighborhoods and four suburbs.

IGO created a market in Chicago where none existed, and became the only car-sharing service with 100% low-emission vehicles.

In May, **IGO was acquired by Enterprise Holdings** to join its national carsharing network. The Enterprise acquisition accelerated the program's expansion to meet the **growing demand for carsharing in Chicago**. That an industry leader like Enterprise has embraced carsharing in Chicago speaks not only to the foresight of our pioneering plan and years of success, but to the growing market for consumer choices that are both eco-friendly and economical.

CNT continues to explore initiatives that build on IGO's legacy and mission, primarily through our affiliate [Alternative Transportation for Chicagoland](#).





# FINDING SOLUTIONS TO URBAN FLOODING

THE WAY WE BUILD OUR CITIES AND TOWNS - COVERING ABSORBENT ENVIRONMENTS WITH IMPERMEABLE ASPHALT, CONCRETE, GLASS, AND STEEL - MAKES THEM PRONE TO FLOODING.

For homeowners across the country, a few inches of rain can mean a whole lot of misery. With nowhere else to go, water often ends up in basements and backyards, causing damage that depletes pocketbooks and deposits nothing but unhealthy mold and debris. We call this **urban flooding**.

In May, CNT released *The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding* as part of an ongoing effort to find solutions to the kind of urban flooding problems that have caused billions of dollars in damage and countless hours of stress for people across the country. The report focused on Cook County, Illinois, and found that **urban flooding can happen anywhere, not just in designated floodplains**. We later convened survivors of urban flooding at a series of “**Gross Gathering**” events around Chicago, allowing people to share their stories of emotional devastation and economic loss, and to seek help in preventing future flooding.

Our flooding work was brought to the national stage in October when CNT held the first-ever **National Urban Flooding Forum** at WEFTEC 2013, a major water conference held in Chicago. In December, the **Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act of 2013** (S.1677, H.R.3449) was introduced. This proposed federal legislation includes one of CNT’s principal stormwater innovations: the Green Infrastructure Portfolio Standard (GIPS), and would **help city officials steadily but cost-effectively increase the amount of green infrastructure elements – like bioinfiltration, permeable pavement, and green roofs – in their communities**.

As rainstorms increase in frequency and severity due to climate change, CNT will continue to work locally and nationally to help communities prepare for and prevent urban flooding.

# USING DATA TO ENABLE SMARTER LAND USE

FORWARD-THINKING LEADERS ARE STARTING TO SEE THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE OF CONVENIENT, WALKABLE COMMUNITIES, BUT RESHAPING THE STATUS QUO REQUIRES DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING.

Making transit-oriented development (TOD) an attractive option means first looking at the bottom line. In 2013 we researched how home values weathered the recession. Turns out **residential real estate located near transit kept its value better than homes not near transit**. In *The New Real Estate Mantra: Location Near Public Transportation*, we looked at real estate values in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Phoenix, and San Francisco and found that the value of properties within walking distance of rail and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations outperformed their respective regions by an average of 42%.

One of the biggest barriers to TOD is a community's **minimum parking requirements**, or the number of parking spaces that must be included with every new residential building. CNT worked in the Seattle area with King County Metro Transit, the Urban Land Institute, and the Federal Highway Administration to develop an innovative **Right Size Parking Calculator**. This web-based tool helps planners and policymakers see where parking is overbuilt, which may eventually help **free up more space for investment in housing, restaurants, shops, and other amenities**.

CNT also worked with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to **rethink community affordability**. In November, HUD and USDOT announced the launch of the **Location Affordability Index (LAI)** that estimates the cost of housing and transportation based on location. CNT contributed our expertise in location efficiency and household transportation modeling to help create the LAI and related web-based tools, which **help Americans understand the personal impacts of the combined costs of housing and transportation**.

CNT continues to develop tools that help planners, policy makers and individuals understand the true costs of housing and transportation, and in 2014 will release an update to our iconic **Housing and Transportation (H+T®) Affordability Index**.



# REACHING A MILESTONE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

CNT PRIORITIZED ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS A WAY TO PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

Early on, we realized that the high, volatile costs of energy can make it difficult for landlords to keep housing prices affordable.

Over the years, we honed a strategy to overcome barriers and make it easy for building owners to invest in efficiency. Operated by our affiliate Elevate Energy, formerly known as CNT Energy, the **Energy Savers** program helps multifamily building owners navigate the process of auditing and retrofitting properties to improve energy efficiency. Energy Savers offers assessments, financial guidance, and construction oversight, giving owners the security of knowing that they have trusted experts by their side.

At the beginning of 2013, **Energy Savers reached a major milestone, completing its 10,000<sup>th</sup> retrofit.** By the end of the year, Energy Savers had retrofitted over 17,000 units. With an average energy savings of 30%, building owners can keep rents affordable, harmful emissions go down, and tenants stay comfortable in all weather. More than 500 new jobs were created in the Chicago region for this energy efficiency work. The 17,000+ retrofits led to a collective savings of more than **11 million kWh of electricity** and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **33,000 tons**. Energy Savers' success shows that new constructions aren't the only ones that can be energy efficient—with the right guidance, existing buildings can be too.

CNT and Elevate Energy continue to advance energy efficiency programs in Chicago, and in 2014 will expand to work with partners in Michigan, Minnesota, and Connecticut.





# FIXING OUR LEAKY PIPES

AMERICA'S LEAKY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE - WHICH IN SOME AREAS IS EASILY 100-YEARS-OLD - LOSES NEARLY SIX BILLION GALLONS OF EXPENSIVE, TREATED WATER A DAY.

Every time we turn on a faucet, we expect to see fresh water flowing. What we don't see are the aged, crumbling pipes that transport our water from treatment facility to sink.

To start a national conversation about water loss and potential solutions, we released *The Case for Fixing the Leaks* in November. It's part of a collaborative campaign calling for improved water management in the Great Lakes states. **The Great Lakes states lose approximately 66.5 billion gallons of water annually**, enough to fill Chicago's Willis Tower 16 times. We found that although water loss means revenue loss for water utilities, almost three-quarters of the Great Lakes utilities we surveyed have no water loss policy in place. In *The Case for Fixing the Leaks*, we advocate for adoption of water loss auditing methods so that utilities can **find the leaks and take action to fix them**.

Our report was covered by media outlets across the nation, including [Chicago's NBC5](#) and several influential industry publications.

CNT continues to educate and advocate for unified standards for water loss control in an effort to help cities conserve natural resources and keep utility costs low.

# HARNESSING THE VALUE OF CARGO

CONVENTIONAL THINKING PAINTS FREIGHT AS A DIRTY INDUSTRY THAT SHOULD BE KEPT FAR FROM RESIDENTIAL AND RETAIL DISTRICTS, BUT WE THINK THIS MISSES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SPARK NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Many American cities that grew up around freight rail face the same challenge: hundreds of trucks and trains pass through every day, yet the economic activity doesn't benefit the community at large as much as it could.

CNT is a national leader in **cargo-oriented development (COD)**, the development of places that are both multi-modal nodes of freight transportation and centers of employment in logistics and manufacturing businesses. Our COD work advocates using green supply chain technology to help freight become a cleaner, quieter neighbor, and to **help cities turn their freight yards into anchors for new job centers**. CNT president Scott Bernstein traveled the country in 2013 to work with regional planners and councils of government on how they could take advantage of COD opportunities in their communities.

COD got a boost in Illinois when lawmakers passed a bill to incentivize the remediation and reuse of **brownfields** to **create intermodal, warehousing and light manufacturing jobs** in freight-rich southern Cook County. The **Brownfield Remediation and Intermodal Promotion Act (BRIMPA)**, researched and promoted by CNT, leverages unique south-suburban assets, such as the existing intermodal freight terminals and excellent access to rail and interstate highway networks.

CNT continues to analyze trends in intermodal freight transport and investigate ways freight rail can spark new economic growth, especially in legacy cities with underutilized freight assets.



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## CORPORATE, FOUNDATION + GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

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*CNT is a proud member of EarthShare of Illinois. Through EarthShare of Illinois, employees can elect to donate a single gift or enroll in a payroll deduction program.*

## ABOUT CNT

CNT is a nonprofit innovations hub for urban sustainability. CNT's research, strategies, and solutions are implemented across America and around the world to create more equitable and resilient communities. Our 35-plus years of work in transportation and community development, water, energy, and climate have inspired a generation of new approaches and earned the highest of honors.

## SUSTAINABILITY CIRCLE + FRIENDS

### **Visionary (\$5,000+)**

Nancy Juda + Jens Brasch • Jerald Much • Kathryn Tholin + Steven Starr

### **Leader (\$1,000-\$4,999)**

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### **Inventor (\$360-\$999)**

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