



Monday, November 12, 2007

DECD Strategic Plan Information Forums

To: Our Economic, Housing and Community Development Partners
From: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

As commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), I recognize the need to have a comprehensive and coordinated economic development strategy that evolves with Connecticut's changing economy.

DECD is currently developing such a plan, which will (1) closely examine the state's economy and the factors that affect it, (2) outline economic goals for the next five, ten, fifteen and twenty years, and (3) recommend specific strategies for achieving these goals. DECD will be preparing this plan in consultation with regional councils of governments, regional planning organizations, economic development agencies, interested state and local officials and others. This plan we develop will need to be consistent with Governor Rell's Responsible Growth Strategy and transit-oriented development initiatives.

As part of this process we will be hosting ten regional forums at various locations around the state (see below for details). Any assistance you can provide in spreading the word about these forums is greatly appreciated.

I believe that broad participation and input from diverse perspectives and disciplines is critical to the success of this effort. Social and economic systems are vast complex constructs and as such it is imperative that community and economic planning be comprehensive and conducted in a coordinated and inclusive fashion. As a result of the public input, an economic strategic vision will be established, from which a "road map" will be developed which will become the plan.

In conclusion, I want to be clear that I am not a proponent of "planning for planning's sake." Plans must be able to be implemented. Goals and objectives must be achievable. As Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development I am not interested in creating more documents for the shelves of the state's libraries. I am interested in creating a comprehensive development strategy, one that has specific initiatives. It is my expectation that the strategic plan will help ensure continued and expanded economic prosperity for the citizens of our state.

Your participation is critical in this regard. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joan McDonald
Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

State Economic Strategic Plan Information Forums

Date and Time	Location - with link to directions. Use the hyperlinks below (<i>CNTRL + click to follow link</i>) or see DECD's website for additional detail at www.decd.org .
Thursday, November 15, 2007	5:00–8:00 pm UCONN Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington
Tuesday, December 4, 2007	5:00–8:00 pm Middlesex Community College, 100 Training Hill Road, Chapman Hall Multi-Purpose Room, Middletown
Thursday, December 6, 2007	5:00–8:00 pm UCONN Avery Point, Eastern Point Road, Academic Building, Room 308, Groton
Tuesday, December 11, 2007	5:00–8:00 pm Eastern CT State University, 83 Windham Street, Betty Tipton Room, Student Center, Willimantic
Thursday, December 13, 2007	5:00–8:00 pm Western CT State University, University Boulevard, Ballroom, Westside Campus Center, Danbury
Thursday, January 3, 2008	5:00–8:00 pm Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Parkway, Mainstage Theatre, Fine Arts Center Bldg., Waterbury
Tuesday, January 8, 2008	5:00–8:00 pm Southern CT State University, Corner of Fitch and Crescent Streets, Michael J. Adanti Student Center Theater, New Haven
Thursday, January 10, 2008	5:00–8:00 pm University of Bridgeport, 136 Park Avenue, Littlefield Recital Hall, Arnold Bernhard Arts & Humanities Center, Bridgeport
Thursday, January 17, 2008	5:00–8:00 pm Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Room 2C, Hartford
Tuesday, January 22, 2008	5:00–8:00 pm UCONN Stamford, 1 University Place, (Corner of Washington Blvd & Broad St), Genre Auditorium, Stamford

For additional information concerning the development of this plan or to send your comments please contact:

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