



Initiatives

New Urbanists have a long history of rolling up their sleeves to change conventional building practice in favor of more urban forms of development. From the beginning, with the Charter of the New Urbanism, new urbanists have been advancing reforms in order to overcome obstacles to urbanism and revive the fine art of town building.

The strength of the New Urbanism movement lies in the expertise of our members. As an organization, CNU aims to harness this expertise through our initiatives and then disseminate the principles, tools and techniques among the professions.

CNU Illinois seeks to provide a forum for New Urbanists to discuss solutions to the obstacles we encounter in everyday practice. By launching **CNU-IL Initiatives** New Urbanists in Illinois are encouraged to further the movement by forming initiatives.

Once you have connected with fellow practitioners around a reform idea—and your team sees potential for a wider distribution or involvement—contact CNU using our initiatives process to move the project further along.



LEED-ND Workshop CNU-IL Fall Conference 2008

Definition of Initiatives

(Source: CNU website...www.cnu.org)

Member-led reform work that proposes a specific change in professional practice. The method of the change typically involves proposing an alternative way of practice in publications, manuals, standards, and policy.

Initiative work is based on tasks that can be completed within a specific timeframe and directly relate to CNU's strategic goals: Sustainability, Transportation, Regionalism, Affordability, Financing and Entitlements, and Accessibility and Visitability.



Left: Context Sensitive Streets -Main Street Peoria Workshop CNU-IL Fall Conference 2009

Have an idea for how to overcome a common barrier to the implementation of New Urbanism? The strength of the movement lies in the expertise of our members and their continued work to reform the development professions. As an organization, CNU aims to harness this expertise through our initiatives and then disseminate the principles, tools and techniques to increase the implementation of New Urbanism. We have identified two steps in developing a successful new initiative: connecting with other members and developing an initiative proposal and developing an initiative workplan for additional support from CNU.

Values of the Strategic Plan

CNU's [strategic plan](#) identified a list of critical issues to guide the creation of initiatives and the allocation of CNU resources:

- Sustainability
- Transportation
- Affordability
- Accessibility and Visitability
- Regionalism
- Implementation

Step 1: Connect

Connect with other members around an idea and invite fellow volunteers to join the project. CNU-IL provides the following ways to network with other members:

- [CNU-IL Annual Statewide Conference](#): annual conference where members can create and manage their own working sessions.
- [Initiatives After-hours](#): where members gather to discuss broad reform ideas.
- [Small Groupss](#): local groups of members across the state working on the dissemination of New Urbanism in their region.

Approved by the CNU Illinois Board of Directors

September 1, 2010



Above: **Context Sensitive Streets -Main Street Peoria Workshop CNU-IL Fall Conference 2009**

Step 2: Develop

Develop a work plan and [submit an initiative proposal](#) to CNU Illinois to become an official initiative. CNU Illinois can provide assistance with communication, coordination, and potentially funding. The CNU Illinois board will review proposals on a semi-annual basis according to the following criteria:

- Coordination with the strategic plan.
- Progress to date and momentum.
- Critical mass of volunteers.
- State-wide implications of the project.
- Existing commitments and funding.
- Board liason.

Current Initiatives

- Residential Infrastructure Cost Group
 - Rob Bielaski & Jeremy Foss are studying infrastructure costs comparing different development patterns, specifically the costs of a residential street in a compact neighborhood vs. the costs of a residential street in a low density neighborhood.