



TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



## **Grants Awarded to Support Development near Transit Hubs In Tough Economic Times, Program Helps Towns Plan for a Vibrant Future**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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Today, the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) and One Region Funders' Group awarded grants to Long Island townships that are actively promoting more equitable and sustainable types of development around transit hubs.

The two grants, totaling \$50,000, were awarded to the Town of Babylon and the Town of Brookhaven, to support transit-oriented development, or mixed-use development within a quarter to a half mile of train and bus stations.

The Town of Babylon will receive \$25,000 to hire a consultant that will develop low impact, transit oriented development techniques for use around the Wyandanch train station. The Town will publish a 'best practices' toolkit upon completion of the study. The other \$25,000 will be used by the Town of Brookhaven to undertake a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for their Land Use Plan around the Ronkonkoma train hub. This DEIS is a necessary next step towards implementing any transit oriented development measures around the train area.

The grant awards mark the first year of the transit centered development grant program supported by One Region Funders' Group and administered by TSTC.

"The One Region Funders' Group is thrilled to support such innovative and forward thinking projects that will promote transit use, create walk-able communities and spur investment in our downtowns and cities," said John McNally, environment program officer for the Rauch Foundation, a member of the One Region Funders' Group. "We believe our downtowns are part of the solution, not the problem."

Similar grants were awarded to Ossining, Peekskill and Mount Vernon in Westchester, Stratford in Connecticut, and Newark and Trenton in New Jersey. The eight awardees were chosen from over forty applicants.

“These two communities have the opportunity to become leaders in transit oriented development on Long Island,” said Suzy Sonenberg, executive director of the Long Island Community Foundation, also a member of One Region. “We hope these grants help the towns plan for a greener and more equitable future and serve as models for other towns in our region.”

“Promoting mixed-use development around existing transit service is good for the economy, environment and quality of life,” said Kate Slevin, executive director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

“We are thankful to have been chosen as a recipient of the \$25,000 grant awarded by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign and One Region Funders’ Group,” said Supervisor Bellone. “This grant will assist the town with its downtown revitalization efforts for Wyandanch, one of the most economically distressed communities on Long Island. A transit oriented development will serve as an economic engine for Wyandanch revitalizing and improving local businesses and industry and creating additional job opportunities in the area.”

“We are excited and encouraged in the support and generosity extended by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign and The One Region Funder’s Group,” said Paul Rogalle, planning director for the Town of Brookhaven. “A comprehensive approach to sustainable new development and use of smart growth principles for redevelopment will incorporate land use and design elements that foster neighborhood identity and improved quality of life. The centerpiece of the Ronkonkoma Train Station will create the foundation for sustainable transit oriented development and a quality community.”

“The MTA applauds the initiative by Tri-State Transportation Campaign and the One Region Fund to support localities which are promoting sustainable development within the New York metropolitan region,” said MTA Executive Director and CEO, Elliot G. Sander. “The MTA plays an important role in encouraging compact, transit-based development that reduces the fossil-fuel consumption and the carbon footprint of the entire region. As we project continued population growth, the MTA will continue to work closely with municipalities to strengthen the beneficial relationship between land use development and transit.”

“The MTA Long Island Rail Road is very interested in, and supportive of, transit-oriented development at our stations,” said Helena Williams, LIRR President. “In fact, the LIRR virtually invented the idea as Long Island developed along with the LIRR and communities sprouted up within walking distance our stations. As we celebrate the LIRR’s 175th anniversary this year, we remain committed to encouraging this type of smart growth. I applaud the One Region Funders’ Group and the Tri-State Transportation Campaign for their grant efforts in support of mixed-use development near transit hubs.”

*The One Region Funders’ Group is a partnership of private funders from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey learning and working together to advance and support transportation planning and reform in the Tri-State region. Foundations participating in the One Region Funders’ Group and contributing toward this initiative include Long Island Community Foundation, Rauch*

*Foundation, Fairfield County Community Foundation, New York Community Trust, Surdna Foundation, Emily Hall Tremain Foundation, and Westchester Community Foundation.*

*The Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) is a non-profit organization working towards a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.*

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