

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN THE FUND FOR NEW JERSEY

PRESS RELEASE

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

Today, the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) and the Fund for New Jersey awarded two grants to municipalities in New Jersey that are actively promoting more equitable and sustainable types of development around transit hubs.

The two grants, \$20,000 each, were awarded to the City of Newark and the City of Trenton to support transit-oriented development, or mixed-use development within a quarter to a half mile of train and bus stations.

These grant awards mark the first year of the transit centered development grant program supported by The Fund for New Jersey and One Region Funders Group, and administered by TSTC. They are awarded after a competitive request for proposal process and the Cities of Newark and Trenton were chosen from six finalists.

Working with the Infrastructure Planning Department at NJIT and NJ TRANSIT, Newark will utilize the grant to conduct a corridor planning study along the recently implemented Springfield Avenue GO BUS line. The study intends to capitalize on the new service and to counter claims that bus service cannot act as a catalyst for future development.

Trenton will implement the grant to build community support for mixed-use and mixed-income development around its newly rebuilt train station, which provides service for Amtrak, NJTransit, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and RiverLine stops.

“The Fund for New Jersey 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 Jenny Kershner, program officer for The Fund for New Jersey. “We believe our cities are part of the solution, not the problem.”

Applicants were evaluated based on a set of criteria including interest in growing in population and promoting sustainable development near transit hubs. Grants could support a variety of

projects, including community “visioning” processes that engage disparate stakeholders or technical expertise to help design transit oriented development projects.

“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, a regional transportation policy and advocacy organization. “The Newark and Trenton projects are ideal opportunities for successful transit oriented development and can serve as models for redevelopment statewide.”

“This grant will help to further the creation of sustainable, vibrant and mixed use commercial and transit corridors throughout our city’s neighborhoods,” said Mayor Cory A. Booker. “I applaud the Tri-State Transportation Campaign and the Fund for New Jersey for their continued support and investment in Newark’s future.”

“This award not only recognizes the importance of corridors as vital transit hubs, but also the revitalization work we’ve begun along Newark’s historic Springfield Avenue, including implementing provisions for higher density residential, commercial and retail uses designed to further support the newly installed “Go Bus” rapid transit system, which in just one year has already exceeded ridership expectations,” said Toni L. Griffin, Director of Community Development.

“The Trenton Transit Center already is a powerful driver of our city’s economic strength – and its impact on revitalization will grow significantly as mixed-use development takes shape in the area,” Mayor Douglas H. Palmer said. “With the support that the Tri-State Transportation Campaign and the Fund for New Jersey are announcing today, the City will be able to bring together residents, business owners, transit users, public officials, and other stakeholders for informed dialogue. We will be able to fully support our new train station area advisory committee – and ensure that everyone is on the same page concerning the tremendous economic opportunities associated with Trenton’s regional transit hub.”

The Fund for New Jersey is a philanthropic organization dedicated to supporting projects that enhance education, advocacy, public policy analysis and community problem-solving for the citizens of New Jersey.

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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