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Tri-State Applauds NJDOT Funding for Safe Streets to Transit, Transit Villages

In its preliminary review of the FY2013 NJDOT Draft Capital Program released today, Tri-State Transportation Campaign found that New Jersey programs that encourage walkable, transit oriented communities have been restored. Tri-State Transportation Campaign applauds the NJDOT's decision to fully restore \$1 million in funding to New Jersey's Transit Village program and increase funding for the Safe Streets to Transit program to \$1 million.

For years, the successful and popular Transit Village program has helped make New Jersey a leader in promoting new development around transit hubs. However, this nationally recognized Transit Village program was completely defunded in the 2012 state budget leaving existing Transit Villages, and those still in the process of obtaining official designation, without the benefit of financial support from the state. Twenty-four municipalities have already received the designation and demand continues to grow. The restoration of these funds is a big victory for New Jersey municipalities working to make their communities sustainable.

Safe Streets to Transit, which awards state funds to municipalities seeking to make streets safer around transit hubs, received an increase in funding from \$500,000 last year to \$1 million. The NJDOT generally receives over 75 applications from municipalities annually, but less than 8 percent are actually funded due to limited funding.

Tri-State thanks NJDOT Commissioner Jim Simpson for fulfilling his promise to restore funds to the Transit Village program in addition to applauding the efforts of numerous mayors, assemblymembers, senators, and organizations who urged for the restoration of these funds. Tri-State urges legislators to ensure these programs remain funded in the Final Capital Program.

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit advocacy and policy organization working for a more sustainable transportation network in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Visit www.tstc.org for more.