



Grant Awarded for Housing Study near Flushing Transit Hub Program Supports Equitable, Sustainable Development Throughout the Region

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: May 24, 2012

Contact: Kate Slevin, Steven Higashide

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

P: 212-268-7474 | C: 908-705-3665

Today, the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) and One Region Funders' Group awarded a grant of \$14,000 to the Flushing-Willets Point-Corona LDC to support efforts to promote equitable, sustainable development near the Flushing Long Island Rail Road station.

The grant will support a market analysis of the Flushing area to refine the LDC's proposal to construct affordable and senior housing as part of a mixed-use development on what is currently a municipal parking lot. The development is part of a larger proposal to overhaul the LIRR station and make it more convenient and accessible for pedestrians.

"The One Region Funders' Group is thrilled to support such an innovative and forward-thinking project that will promote transit use, create walkable communities and spur investment in Flushing. We hope that this modest grant will leverage far more in community support and public resources," said Pat Jenny, program director for the New York Community Trust, a member of the One Region Funders' Group.

"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 Flushing project is an ideal opportunity for successful, community-driven, transit-oriented development and can serve as a model for redevelopment."

"As Flushing continues to cement its status as one of the city's premier economic and cultural centers, its existing affordable housing resources and mass transit options are experiencing a corresponding strain. The LDC's Flushing TCD proposal is an opportunity to counter the area's swelling congestion while adding an infusion of sorely needed affordable and senior housing units. We are grateful to the One Region Funders' Group and Tri-State Transportation Campaign for their generous support -- this grant provides welcomed assistance in helping us move forward a project of great importance to Flushing and to the region," said Claire Shulman, executive director of the LDC.

TSTC and the One Region Funders' Group received letters in support of the project from local elected officials including State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, State Assemblymember Grace Meng, and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall.

"This site calls out for a multi-use, multi-modal improvement that will enhance an already vibrant Flushing community," said Sen. Stavisky.

"The rapid development of Flushing has put an increasing level of strain on all forms of mass transportation. If implemented, this project will continue to facilitate the development of downtown Flushing sustainably into the future," said Assm. Meng.

"Flushing is a fast-growing economic center and transportation hub in our borough. With growth and progress, however, come great needs and challenges. That's why this support to promote sustainable development is so important and welcome in the downtown Flushing community," said Borough President Marshall.

TSTC and the One Region Funders' Group also awarded the following grants:

- \$48,000 to the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, in Connecticut, for a market study and case study review aimed at stabilizing existing neighborhoods and supporting development around the South Norwalk Metro-North Railroad station.
- \$44,500 to the Town of Brookhaven, on Long Island, for a sewer infrastructure study which will support private redevelopment proposals for the area around the Bellport Long Island Rail Road station.
- \$38,500 to the Village of Mamaroneck, in Westchester County, for a transit-oriented development zoning study to support affordable housing, public space, and mixed-use development around the Mamaroneck Metro-North Railroad station.

The four grantees were chosen from over forty applicants throughout the region. The grant award marks the second year of the transit centered development grant program.

####

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 Fairfield County Community Foundation, Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Long Island Community Foundation, New York Community Trust, Rauch Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Westchester Community Foundation, Fund for the Environment & Urban Life, Rockefeller Foundation, and Ford 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.