



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 a grant of \$50,000 to the Town of Stratford to support transit-oriented development, or mixed-use development within a quarter to a half mile of train or bus stations.

The grant award marks the first year of the transit centered development grant program supported by One Region Funders' Group and administered by TSTC. Similar grants were awarded to Brookhaven and Babylon in Long Island, Ossining, Peekskill and Mount Vernon in Westchester, and Newark and Trenton in New Jersey. The eight awardees were chosen from over forty applicants.

The Town of Stratford will utilize the grant to create a community-driven plan about appropriate types of transit-oriented development (TOD) in Stratford Center. The Town plans on forming a Steering Committee of key partners to assist in guiding the recommendations.

"The One Region Funders' Group is excited to support the efforts of communities to plan and implement projects focused on transit oriented development. These projects create benefit to citizens and the environment through spurring investment in our downtowns, promoting transit use, and creating walk-able communities that can reduce the need for car travel," said Nicole Chevalier, program director of the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation, a member of the One Region Funders' Group. "We believe our cities are part of the solution, not the problem."

“The Town of Stratford has the opportunity to be a leader in transit oriented development in Connecticut,” said Yolanda Caldera-Durant, program director of the Fairfield County Community Foundation, also a member of One Region. “We hope surrounding communities follow Stratford’s lead in promoting sustainable economic and environmental development. These are the types of innovative projects that our state needs in order to strengthen the economy”.

“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 Stratford project is an ideal opportunity for successful, community-driven, transit oriented development and can serve as a model for redevelopment statewide.”

Stratford Mayor James Miron has been interested in promoting the Town’s transportation assets for some time and was pleased with the announcement.

“After meeting with elected leaders and design professionals from around the country over the past two years, I am convinced that the future of Stratford lies in its ability to maximize its development potential,” said Mayor Miron. “This grant provides us an excellent opportunity to do that.”

“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 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 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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