



#

Contact: Stacy Proebstle

RELEASE

Public Information Officer
Township of Toms River
(732) 341-1000 Ext. 8234

FOR IMMEDIATE

Thursday, July 20, 2017

NJTPA Board Approves Funds for Transportation Alternatives Projects
Toms River Awarded \$939,000 for Ortley Beach Project

(Toms River, NJ) The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Board of Trustees recently approved funding for 27 transportation alternative projects, totaling \$19.46 million. As part of the ongoing recovery from Superstorm Sandy, Toms River received \$939,000 for the Ortley Beach Streetscape and Gateway Treatment Project.

To be considered for NJTPA funding, projects must include seven criteria including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, improved access to transit, community enhancements and environmental and historic preservation.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher stated, "This is welcome news to the residents of Ortley Beach. This project will both beautify and lend to the economic recovery of this major summer tourist destination on the Jersey Shore."

As part of the ongoing recovery from Superstorm Sandy, the Ortley Beach Streetscape and Gateway Treatment Project includes numerous projects that have been completed to improve transportation infrastructure, including the pedestrian and bicycle network. These improvements included roadway improvements and bike lane installations along Route 35 N and S, reconstruction of multiple local roads, and construction of new sidewalk and ADA curb ramps.

Additionally, Toms River Township received funding from the NJDCA Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program and subsequently completed a Neighborhood Plan for Ortley Beach and the Route 35 Corridor. The proposed project will implement this plan's recommendations for streetscape improvements along Route 35 N and for gateway treatments at key entrances to Ortley Beach. The project will result in a contiguous streetscape along Route 35 N and gateway treatments at five locations to welcome residents and visitors to Ortley Beach.

Councilwoman Maria Maruca, who's ward 1 represents Ortley Beach, said the project also includes plans to enhance the aesthetics of the business district. "The streetscape treatments will include pedestrian street lighting with seasonal hanging baskets and banners, beachy landscaping, custom planters, street furniture, and bike racks."

Finally, this project proposes five gateway treatments at entrances to Ortley Beach; one each on the north and south ends of Bay Blvd two on the south end of Route 35 N, and one on the north end of Route 35 S. These gateway treatments, featuring welcome signage and landscaping, will welcome visitors to the area and provide a unique sense of identity to Ortley Beach as a distinct destination.

The Transportation Alternatives Program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration. The program is administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation in partnership with the NJTPA and the state's other two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).