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## ASBURY PARK DESIGNATED NEW JERSEY'S NEXT TRANSIT VILLAGE New Jersey Department of Transportation partners with Asbury Park's development goals

7/6/17, Asbury Park, NJ – Asbury Park has been designated as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Transit Village municipality in the state by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, NJ Transit, and the seven other state agencies that make up the Transit Village Inter-Agency Task Force. The Transit Village area includes Memorial Drive and Main Street from Boston Way to Summerfield Avenue, extending from Bangs Avenue to Atkins Avenue along Springwood Avenue.

As a Transit Village, in the next calendar year Asbury Park will be eligible to apply for DOT funding for projects such as improvements to transit stations, information kiosks, traffic flow improvement, way-finding signage, traffic calming measures, bicycle route signs and lanes, and pedestrian paths. 2017 recipients received between \$30,000 and over \$350,000 in grant funding. Transit Villages can also receive technical assistance from various state agencies.

A letter from Commissioner Richard T Hammer informed Asbury Park of its new Transit Village designation in June, and listed the criteria for a Transit Village, including "...growth and economic revitalization; a commitment to compact, mixed-use development; a strong residential component; jobs, restaurants, arts and entertainment and preservation of a rich architectural character, all within walking distance of a passenger transportation facility."

"A municipality can only be designated a Transit Village after performing the important visioning and planning work that sets the stage for redevelopment to occur," the letter states. "We applaud Asbury Park's careful planning efforts and the proactive approach that has been taken with respect to redevelopment."

"In a year full of good news for Asbury Park, this is the best so far," said Mayor John Moor. "It's the product of years of policy and dedication by Asbury Park staff, and I have to thank those who worked so hard to make this happen."

"The Transportation Center is truly the heart of Asbury Park," said City Council member Yvonne Clayton. "By improving this area for those in a car, train, bus, on a bike, or on foot, we hope to improve Asbury Park for all, from East to West."

"The vision for the area is a pleasant, walkable, bikeable vibrant community around the train station – both East and West side," said Director of Planning and Redevelopment Michele Alonso. "This designation falls in line with the City initiatives to revitalize the area around the train station, and gives us additional resources to implement improvements in the public realm."