

**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County
Approved
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Name/Organization

Voting Members

Troy Fischer, Chair, Regional Center Partnership (RCP)
Victoria Allen, RWJBarnabas Health
Anthony Tufaro, Ethicon Somerville
Daniel Hayes, Mayor, Bridgewater
Filipe Pedroso, Bridgewater Twp. Council
James Franco, Bridgewater
Chuck McMullin, Mayor, Raritan Borough
Dennis Sullivan, Mayor, Somerville
Jane Kobuta, Somerville Borough Council
Lisa Werner, Somerville Planning Board
Richard St. Pierre, Somerville
Brian Gallagher, Somerset County (SC) Board of Chosen Freeholders
Bernie Navatto, SC Planning Board
Walter Lane, SC Planning Division
Cindie Sullivan, SC Park Commission (Alternate)
Michael Kerwin, SC Business Partnership
John Maddocks, SC Business Partnership (Alternate)

Non-voting County Support Staff

James Ruggieri, SC Planning Division

Non-Voting Guests

Rich Reitman, The Reitman Group

The meeting commenced at 5:00 PM

Business Items

Call to Order

RCP Chair Troy Fischer called the meeting to order.

Attendance Roll Call

Principal Planner James Ruggieri read through the roll call and noted for the record the voting members that were in attendance.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Fischer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Chair Fischer asked if there were any corrections to the meeting minutes; there being none. Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes; Bridgewater Township Councilman Filipe Pedroso moved and Raritan Mayor Chuck McMullin seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 15

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019

Mr. Ruggieri gave the Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019. There being no questions, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019. Somerset County Planning Board Chair Bernie Navatto moved and Vicky Allen, VP, Strategic Marketing, Southern Region, RWJBarnabas Health seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Vicky Allen, Tony Tufaro, Dan Hayes, Filipe Pedroso, James Franco, Chuck McMullin, Dennis Sullivan, Jane Kobuta, Lisa Werner, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Cindie Sullivan, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

In light of comments made by the members about streamlining the meeting process, Somerset County Planning Director Walter Lane asked if everyone was amenable to the idea of having staff distribute future Treasurer Reports to the members for review in advance of the next meeting. Anyone who had any questions could raise them at the meeting; otherwise, if there were no issues, the Treasurer Report would be approved in an expeditious manner similar to how the minutes are approved. Everyone was in agreement with this approach.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments concerning the Action items on the agenda.

Action Items

(Marketing Consultant Rich Reitman excused himself from the meeting before any discussion commenced about the Awarding of Year 2 of Competitive Contract for Principal Marketing Services and the Authorization to Release Request for Proposal to Upgrade Website agenda items.)

Awarding of Year 2 of Competitive Contract for Principal Marketing Services

Mr. Ruggieri shared that at the March 29, 2018 meeting, following a public bidding process to procure professional services, the Regional Center Partnership (RCP) awarded a 24-month Competitive Contract to The Reitman Group to provide principal marketing services at a rate of \$18,000 per year. These tasks include newsletters, preparation of the annual report, press releases, website maintenance, website analytics, etc. Mr. Reitman has fulfilled all the tasks. Mr. Ruggieri noted that the current contract (year 1) with Mr. Reitman ends March 20, 2019. Because the 24-month contract was awarded contingent on funding being available for year 2 pending adoption of the 2019 Budget and Work Plan, it is necessary to award a marketing contract for Year 2 (March 2019-March 2020) to provide the same marketing tasks services for a not to exceed amount of \$18,000. Staff shared this information with the Marketing Committee and Executive Committee and the recommendation is to award the contact to The Reitman Group. Mr. Ruggieri noted that, if there are no objections, the recommendation is to award the contract to The Reitman Group to perform the same principal marketing tasks for a not to exceed amount of **\$18,000**.

There being no discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to award the Year 2 of Competitive Contract for Principal Marketing Services to The Reitman Group for a not to exceed amount of \$18,000. The motion was made by Raritan Mayor Chuck McMullin and seconded by Somerset County Park Commission Deputy Director/Leisure Services Cindie Sullivan.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes:	Troy Fischer, Vicky Allen, Tony Tufaro, Dan Hayes, Filipe Pedroso, James Franco, Chuck McMullin, Dennis Sullivan, Jane Kobuta, Lisa Werner, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Cindie Sullivan, and Mike Kerwin.
Nays:	none
Abstentions:	none

The motion was approved.

Authorization to Release Request For Proposal to Upgrade Website

Mr. Ruggieri distributed copies of a final draft scope of work (SOW) and summarized the work tasks to be performed to upgrade the website. The tasks include upgrading the website with a Content Management System, designing the website to be mobile responsive and visually more attractive, migrating the contents from the old to the new website, maintaining email communication capabilities, and providing on-site training and technical support. The not to exceed amount is \$15,000. The objective is to release the Request For Proposals (RFP) in time to receive and evaluate proposals in order to make a recommendation to award a contract at the May 15 meeting.

Some discussion followed. Chair Fischer noted the current website is very old and no longer supported by current technology. The hosting platform was recently upgraded to a more modern platform hosted by GoDaddy. Mr. Ruggieri added that the SOW reflects input provided by the Executive Committee.

There being no further discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to authorize staff to release the RFP to upgrade the website for a not to exceed amount of \$15,000; Bridgewater Township Local private/institutional sector representative James Franco moved and Somerville Planning Board Vice-Chair Lisa Werner seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Vicky Allen, Tony Tufaro, Dan Hayes, Filipe Pedroso, James Franco, Chuck McMullin, Dennis Sullivan, Jane Kobuta, Lisa Werner, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Cindie Sullivan, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Somerset County Business Partnership Request to Extend and Expand Grant Agreement for Strategic Economic Development Activities

Included in everyone's meeting packet was a letter from the Somerset County Business Partnership dated March 7, 2019 requesting the RCP to consider extending and expanding the Strategic Economic Development Activities grant agreement to allow the Business Partnership to pursue the recommendations outlined in the report *The Suburban Disadvantage: An Overview of the Grow NJ Program* (the "Suburban Disadvantage report").

Mr. Lane gave an overview regarding the work undertaken over the past few months in relation to the "Suburban Disadvantage" issues of the Grow NJ program. In December RCP set aside funding for Strategic Activities in anticipation that new legislation would likely have to be created to facilitate a reform of the Grow NJ program. Since then a lot has been happening at the state level. Governor Phil Murphy issued a scathing report about the Grow NJ program in his State of the State address and the legislature has been holding hearings about the Grow NJ program. In light of all this, Somerset County Business Partnership President & CEO Mike Kerwin, Somerset County Business Partnership Vice-President for Economic Development John Maddocks, Chair Fischer and Mr. Lane have had discussions and the Executive Committee met on March 13 to review a proposal by the Business Partnership to extend the previous grant to enable the Business Partnership to undertake a "Phase 2" of the Strategic Economic Development Activities work.

Mr. Kerwin reported on the first Grow NJ legislative hearing held March 8 which he, Raritan Mayor Chuck McMullin and Chair Fischer attended. Mr. Kerwin noted that the legislators now understand that 90% of the state's 565 municipalities are subject to the same "suburban disadvantage" issue and that the law governing Grow NJ is not operating as originally envisioned by the legislators. Mr. Kerwin also reported about his participation in a National Association for Industrial Office Parks (NAIOP) jury session which provided important feedback by members of the development community in relation to the role Grow NJ has had in certain projects. Mr. Kerwin concluded his remarks by noting that, in light of the impending June 30, 2019 Grow NJ expiration date and how things are transpiring at the state level, the Business Partnership is proposing to retain the professional services of the Murphy Partners who can bring the level of expertise on legislative reform to the attention of the legislators to give areas of New Jersey like the Regional Center and Somerset County a more equal opportunity when applying for state economic development incentives.

Mr. Maddocks described how Grow NJ has greatly benefited the Regional Center and Somerset County by helping retain over 4,000 jobs. He noted the positive feedback from many legislators in raising awareness of the suburban disadvantage issues. He also noted the Grow NJ program should not overlook transformative areas like designated redevelopment areas, Main Street Districts, designated Centers of Place, and Planning Areas 1 and 2 as per the State Development and Redevelopment Plan all of which exist in the Regional Center.

Following additional input from several RCP members, Mr. Lane noted that the grant request is for \$30,000 which, if approved, would be committed out of the funding previously allocated for Strategic Activities.

(At this point in the meeting Mr. Kerwin and Mr. Maddocks excused themselves from this portion of the meeting and did not participate in any action involving the grant request.)

Discussion followed. Mr. Lane noted the structure of the pending grant agreement would be similar to the previous grant agreement except that, unlike the first grant agreement, an allowance for reimbursement for administrative fees are not included in the pending grant agreement.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to extend and expand the Strategic Economic Development Activities grant agreement with the Somerset County Business Partnership by committing up to \$30,000 to be made available to the Somerset County Business Partnership to pursue the recommendations outlined in the *Suburban Disadvantage* report; the motion was made by Mr. Navatto and seconded by Ms. Werner.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Vicky Allen, Tony Tufaro, Dan Hayes, Filipe Pedroso, James Franco, Chuck McMullin, Dennis Sullivan, Jane Kobuta, Lisa Werner, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, and Cindie Sullivan.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Grant Proposals

Mr. Lane noted that funding was previously set aside for Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants. The grant applications were released and three (3) proposals were received and shared with the Executive Committee. Raritan is applying for the full \$15,000 to update the Borough's Circulation Plan Element with a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Raritan's proposal is consistent with the recommendations of the Regional Center Strategic Plan, the County's work for Supporting Priority Investment in Somerset County, and complements the County's Walk Bike Hike study. In light of this, the Executive Committee recommends approving Raritan's grant proposal. Somerville is applying for the full \$15,000 to install either two (2) or four (4) permanent high-visibility pedestrian signs at designated locations along West Main Street. The actual number of signs will depend on pricing and NJ Department of Transportation requirements. The Executive Committee recommends approving Somerville's grant proposal. Bridgewater is requesting the full \$15,000 to prepare a township-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Travel Plan which considers the entire township. Having a Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan in place will allow Bridgewater to apply for Safe Routes to School funding. Staff discussed the proposal with the Executive Committee noting that the proposal is consistent with the Regional Center Strategic Plan which discusses interconnecting the Regional Center with the rest of Bridgewater Township; in light of the foregoing, the Executive Committee recommends approving Bridgewater's grant proposal.

Chair Fischer asked if any of the mayors had any comments. Somerville Mayor Dennis Sullivan noted the importance of enhancing pedestrian safety in the downtown especially given the increasing number of pedestrians visiting the downtown amidst heavy volumes of vehicular traffic. Bridgewater Mayor Dan Hayes noted the Township has been working with the County on bicycle routes and appreciates the opportunity to prepare a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Travel Plan in light of the Township's plans to pursue Safe Routes to School funding. Raritan Mayor McMullin noted the Borough's efforts to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety and town-wide interconnectedness, adding that the Borough is working with Johnson & Johnson to interconnect with J&J's internal walkway system.

There being no further comments, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve the Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Grant proposals; the motion was made by Ms. Werner and seconded by Mr. Navatto.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Vicky Allen, Tony Tufaro, Dan Hayes, Filipe Pedroso, James Franco, Chuck McMullin, Dennis Sullivan, Jane Kobuta, Lisa Werner, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Cindie Sullivan, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Some brief discussion followed. Chair Fischer noted he thought the Challenge Grant applications were excellent proposals especially in regard to the importance of helping people reach the Regional Center.

Information Items

Resilient NJ –Funding Availability for Program Support

Mr. Lane described a potential funding opportunity through the Resilient NJ program Administered through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the Resilient NJ Program provides funding and technical assistance to multi-municipal regions in the counties of New Jersey most impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Though the Regional Center is not eligible to apply in the current funding round, staff will keep an eye out for potential funding in the next round which is supposed to make funding available to “non-Sandy” counties to undertake similar resiliency projects. Mr. Lane briefly described the types of eligible projects; e.g., making infrastructure more flood-resilient. In light of how the Regional Center Strategic Plan discusses resiliency there could be an opportunity to pursue a multi-municipal resiliency project in the Regional Center.

Marketing Update

Mr. Reitman reported that he worked with staff to finish and distribute the January and March newsletters and has begun work on the May Newsletter and the 2018 Annual Achievements Report. He continues to provide staff the weekly Analytics reports and continues to grow his newsletter distribution list. He issued a press release about the RCP starting off strong in 2019 which has gotten some press coverage. Mr. Reitman also put together a Regional Center ad for the Somerville St. Patrick’s Day Parade journal and is currently researching other community events that provide journals which the RCP could possibly help support financially similar to the St. Patrick’s parade ad.

Mayor McMullin suggested that perhaps an interview with the press could be arranged involving Chair Fischer, Mr. Kerwin and Mr. Maddocks to highlight the Grow N J issues to get more common press on this matter. Mr. Reitman noted he can arrange the interview.

Municipal and Other Reports:

Raritan Mayor McMullin reported Janssen Pharmaceutica is reinvesting in Raritan at their corporate complex. On Route 202 the building without the roof has been replaced with a new building to be occupied by 7-Eleven. There has been no progress with the owner of the vacant Stop & Shop. On February 2 about 40 people including representatives of Somerset County government attended the Raritan Borough Wayfinding and

Streetscape Improvement Workshop. Mayor McMullin noted the Borough is contemplating making part of Thompson Avenue and Anderson Street one-way as part of a larger circulation effort to help connect people from all of Raritan's neighborhoods and the train station to downtown, Duke Farms, John F. Kennedy School, Borough parks and Duke Island Park as well as making bicycle and pedestrian linkages with the corporate centers in town. The Borough is very appreciative of the County and RCP support for Raritan's bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement efforts throughout the entire town.

Somerville Mayor Sullivan shared that he is hopeful the proposed Brewpub will open soon despite apparent delays resolving certain brewery license requirements required by the state. The SOMA apartments on South Bridge Street have nearly all been rented. The developer of the SOMA project has shown interest in looking at other potential areas in town to develop. The proposed Somerset Station project at the train station is moving along very well and will feature a variety of residential units. Mayor Sullivan thanked his predecessors for their work to help the Borough reach a tax appeal settlement with RWJUH Somerset; from the settlement the Borough will receive approximately \$2.5 million in voluntary payments for a five-year period.

Bridgewater Mayor Dan Hayes reported that the continuing life care project on Frontier Road is under construction. The developer of the proposed Bridgewater Hills project on Frontier Road hopes to have a public hearing in April. Also the two existing office buildings on Frontier Road will be the subject of a subdivision to create a separate lot. On Route 22 at Morgan Lane the Bridgewater Choice mixed-use project proposes to develop a vacant lot into a hotel and a Goddard School. In the Bridgewater Promenade shopping center the former Golfsmith store is proposed to be filled with a yet-to-be-named specialty grocery store.

Somerset County Planning Board

Mr. Lane noted that on April 30 the Somerset County Planning Board will be hosting the annual Somerset County Land Development and Planning Awards ceremony. Mr. Lane described the details about the event.

Mr. Lane reported that in January he, Mr. Maddocks, Mayor McMullin and Raritan Borough Planner Angela Knowles spoke about the Somerset County Investment Framework and the Somerset County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) at the New Jersey Planning Conference hosted by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association. Mr. Lane noted the attendees were very impressed with Somerset County's work demonstrating a remarkable level of coordination between the County and the towns and between the public and private sectors.

Somerset County Business Partnership

Mr. Kerwin reported the Business Partnership is about to finish the report *Somerset County: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion* which is a resource that summarizes what a business operating in Somerset County "needs to know" about our growing diversity. The report includes a breakdown of data by municipality. The report can be viewed on the Business Partnership's website at <https://www.scbp.org/diversity-inclusion>. Mr. Kerwin thanked the Somerset County Planning Division for providing great demographic data for the report.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments concerning regarding any items not on the agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019 Business Meeting

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Business Checking		
1/16/19 thru 3/20/19		
Starting Bal. as of 1/16/2019:		\$70,135.77
less expenses:		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/1/19	The Reitman Group	-\$1,500.00
3/1/19	J Ruggieri reimbursement for NJ Div of Revenue annual report filing fee	-\$27.50
3/1/19	Healthier Somerset	-\$100.00
3/1/19	Somerville St.Patrick's Parade	-\$150.00
3/13/19	The Reitman Group	-\$1,500.00

Money Market Account		
1/16/19 thru 3/20/19		
Starting Bal. as of 1/16/2019:		\$156,089.61
<u>Date*</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1/31/2019	interest	\$6.01
2/28/2019	interest	\$4.79
ending bal as of 2/28/19		\$156,100.41

subtotal of expenses: (\$3,277.50)

Deposits 1/16/19 thru 3/20/19

subtotal of deposits \$0.00

Ending Balance (checking)
after expenses and deposits: \$66,858.27

Sum of checking and money market
accounts: \$222,958.68

Less total Committed But Not Expend: \$184,525.00

Uncommitted Funds \$38,433.68

**interest earned in the money
market account is not reported
by bank until after the end of
the previous month*

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019 Business Meeting

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Table Showing Amounts Committed but Not Expended

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>Project Initiation Year</u>	<u>Munic or RC</u>	<u>Committed Account Name</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
2017		BW	<i>(reserved for Bridgewater Creative Placemakg Grant)</i>	\$15,000.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant	\$7,500.00
2017	2019	SV	Somerville Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant	\$7,500.00
2017	2018	BW	Bridgewater Pedestrian Safety Challenge Grant	\$7,500.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant StreetSmart Campaign	\$5,375.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant Traffic Striping Imp	\$4,250.00
2018	2018	RC	Principal Marketing Services (contract Year 1)	\$1,500.00
2018	2019	RC	Audit/tax services for year 2018 (contract Year 2)	\$3,400.00
2018		RC	Website upgrade	\$17,500.00
2018		RC	Strategic Marketing Plan & Implementation Activities	\$30,000.00
2018		RC	Strategic Initiatives	\$40,000.00
2018			Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancmt Challenge Grants	\$45,000.00
TOTAL:				\$184,525.00

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019 Business Meeting

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Anticipated Revenue for 2019
(excluding interest payments from Money Mkt acct)

Somerset Co	\$65,792.25
Bridgewater	\$10,890.00
Raritan	\$10,890.00
Somerville	\$10,890.00
 Total Anticipated Revenue	 \$98,462.25

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County
Treasurer's Report for
March 20, 2019 Business Meeting
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Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate Program
1/16/19 thru 3/20/19

Starting Bal. as of 1/16/2019:

\$4,177.35

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount of Deductions</u>
		\$0.00

subtotal of deductions: \$0.00

ending balance after deductions \$4,177.35

Deposit (if any) | |

subtotal of any Deposits \$0.00

ending Balance after any Deposits: \$4,177.35

REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.

Business Meeting of March 20, 2019

AGENDA

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Chair's Remarks
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2019
5. Adoption of Treasurer's Report for March 20, 2019

ACTION ITEMS

"Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any action item. All comments shall be directed to the Chair and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker."

6. Awarding of Year 2 of Competitive Contract for Principal Marketing Services
7. Authorization to Release Request For Proposal to Upgrade Website
8. Somerset County Business Partnership Request to Extend and Expand Grant Agreement for Strategic Economic Development Activities
9. Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Grant Proposals

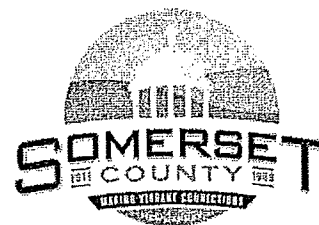
INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Resilient, NJ –Funding Availability for Program Support
11. Marketing Update
12. Municipal and Other Reports

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any items not on the agenda. All comments shall be directed to the Chair and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 5:00PM in County Engineering Conference Room



March 7, 2019

Troy Fischer
 Chair of the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc.
 C/o Bridgewater Commons
 400 Commons Way, Suite 100
 Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**RE: Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, NJ, Inc.
 Request for Extension and Expansion of Grow NJ Grant Terms and Conditions**

Dear Troy,

Thank you for your confidence in the Somerset County Business Partnership Foundation, Inc. as we engaged in an analysis of the impacts of the Grow NJ program on the Somerset County Regional Center and Somerset County as a whole.

With roughly three months remaining until expiration of existing business incentives, the time is upon us to act decisively. Therefore, we are requesting an extension and expansion of our original grant terms and conditions.

Our initial strategy of understanding how Grow NJ has, and has not, benefitted our region in anticipation of new or revised business incentives legislation at the state level has proven beneficial.

Our September 13, 2018 presentation at a combined meeting of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Somerset County Regional Center Board of Trustees concluded our initial obligations under the terms of our original grant agreement.

Since that time the Somerset County Business Partnership has invested significant time and effort in following through on our original tactical implementation objectives. These efforts included meetings with Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senators Bob Smith, Christopher Bateman, and Tom Kean, as well as Assemblymen Freiman, Zwicker, and DiMaio.

We have also communicated our requests for removal of the 90 percent limiter in Grow NJ, advocated for continued business retention incentives, and sought recognition of designated areas in need of redevelopment as priorities in new or revised business incentives legislation.

Troy Fischer
March 7, 2019
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Moving forward, we ask the Somerset County Regional Center Partnership to approve an expanded grant agreement as follows:

In consideration of a sum of \$30,000 the Somerset County Business Partnership will provide the following services:

- Research and analyze pending and proposed legislation, providing a summary of the impacts and implications of the same;
- Develop strategy and advise Client on best methods for impacting pending and proposed legislation;
- Draft white papers to legislative delegation on the impact of proposed and pending legislation;
- Draft amendments to pending and proposed legislation in an effort to implement the planned strategy;
- Prepare stakeholders for legislative testimony in the State Senate and Assembly;
- Continue outreach to representatives of the 6 Legislative Districts covering parts of Somerset County, NJ;
- Continue to engage regional chambers of commerce and economic development organizations in support of our requested changes to Grow NJ.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the opportunity of discussing continuation of our efforts with you.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Kerwin
President & CEO

Cc: Walter Lane, Director of Planning - Somerset County Planning Board
Jim Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner - Somerset County Planning Board

RCP Challenge Grant Applications for Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Phase 2

Raritan Borough Circulation Plan Element Update with Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan

Project Summary

Prepare an update to the Borough's 2003 Circulate Plan Element of the Master Plan with a focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Pursuant to this, as part of the project the Borough will also prepare a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan that will identify opportunities for creating safe passages for pedestrians and cyclists where functional connections exist, or are proposed, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the Borough.

Raritan has a Complete Streets policy (2011) and a Wayfinding Plan (2014) and, while some recommendations from those plans have been implemented using NJDOT and Community Development Block Grant funding, the Borough lacks a comprehensive strategy for linking existing sidewalks and paths and for developing new linkages and new opportunities for crosswalks, traffic calming, bike lanes, shared travel lanes, and other important features to move people safely through the town. An update to the circulation plan will restate the vision for safe pedestrian and bicycle movement through town and to nearby trail networks; will offer recommendations for improvements to existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure where needed; and will provide the comprehensive strategy for mobility of all modes of transportation for the entire town.

Total Project costs:	\$15,000
Regional Center funds requested:	\$15,000

Partnerships: coordinate with Raritan Police Department
Project Team to consist of Borough and County staff, Borough residents, Borough Pedestrian/Bike Safety committee, other select members of Borough Boards and Commissions, and a representative from one or more of the Borough's corporate neighbors (LabCorp, Ortho, etc)

Timeline: April 2019-March 2020

Somerville Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant –Permanent High Visibility Pedestrian Signage Improvements along Main Street

Project Summary

Under Phase One of the RCP Challenge Grant for Pedestrian Safety Enhancement the Borough installed many pedestrian signs in the school district to greatly help with pedestrian safety. For Phase 2 the Borough is focusing on Main Street which has a history of pedestrian accidents. Of the five (5) uncontrolled crosswalks on the most heavily travelled section of Main Street, the Borough has targeted addressing the two highest priority crosswalks –West Main at Union Street (first priority) and the mid-block crosswalk at Giardina Alley (second priority). Grant funding would be utilized to purchase four (4) permanent high-visibility pedestrian signage ("Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons") with two (2) signs installed at each intersection. Each set of two signs will activate in unison when a button is pushed to stop cars in both directions.

Because West Main Street is under NJDOT jurisdiction (NJ28), the Borough is awaiting a decision from NJDOT to see if NJDOT will allow the Borough to utilize the same type of pedestrian signage the Borough used on Borough streets at the schools which is less costly to install. If NJDOT does not allow that type of signage within their right-of-way then the Borough will have no choice but to go with the

signage allowed by DOT which has costlier construction requirements such that the grant funding will only cover 2 such signs. In light of this, the Borough has submitted two (2) budget scenarios for either 4 or 2 signs depending on the decision by NJDOT.

For the educational component of the grant the Borough Police Department will partner with RideWise to provide in-school education relative to bike and pedestrian safety.

Total Project costs: \$15,125*
Regional Center funds requested: \$15,000

Partnerships: Somerville Police Dept, RideWise TMA
Support letter from Somerville Board of Education, Downtown Somerville Association, and RideWise

Timeline: Estimated time of project completion - fall of 2019.

*will need written confirmation from the Borough that the Borough will cover the \$125

Bridgewater Town-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Travel Plan

Project Summary

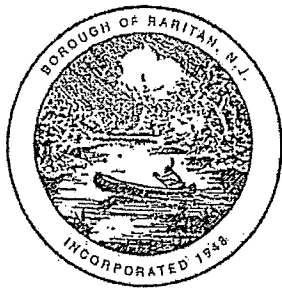
Develop a town-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Travel Plan that will identify barriers and outline a list of actions to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout all of Bridgewater as well as identify short-term solutions for immediate implementation and long-term solutions that involve future planning.

Project activities include establishing a Steering Committee and key contacts; working with the Bridgewater-Raritan School District to collect basic information related to pedestrian and bicycle travel patterns; conduct walk and bike “audits” to collect data on how drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists interact with each other and the built environment and document unsafe behaviors or conditions; compile and map data and identify priority corridors; prepare recommendations; engage the public for community feedback; draft a report/action plan for presentation and review; and finalize the report. The final Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel Plan will be added to the NJ Safe Routes to School website saferoutesnj.org.

Total Project cost: \$15,000
Regional Center Funds requested: \$15,000

Partnerships: Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center of Rutgers University, RideWise TMA, Somerset County, and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University.

Timeframe: May 2019 thru March 2020



BOROUGH OF RARITAN

Municipal Building
22 First Street
Raritan, NJ 08869-1809

Telephone: 908-231-1300
Fax: 908-231-0810
Website: www.raritanboro.org

March 12, 2019

James Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner
Somerset County Planning Board
20 Grove Street; PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876

RE: 2019 Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant – Raritan Borough application

Mr. Ruggieri,

The Borough of Raritan is pleased to submit this application for funding to the Regional Center Partnership's Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant. The Borough is requesting \$15,000 to develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan that will identify opportunities for creating safe passages for pedestrians and cyclists where functional connections exist, or are proposed, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the Borough.

Over the past year Raritan has engaged in a number of projects where traffic calming and pedestrian safety have been the focus. In the summer of 2018 the Borough participated in RideWise's Street Smart Campaign which began to identify problem areas on Somerset Street. In 2017 the Borough received a \$1 Million grant from the NJDOT to implement wayfinding from the train station to the river and in 2019 the Borough will receive technical assistance from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority to develop an Economic Development Plan for the business district. Beyond these individual projects, the Borough is keen to develop a comprehensive plan to address pedestrian and bicycle connectivity as well as safe passage.

Enclosed you will find our application and proposal for funding and the resolution of support from the Borough Council.

Please feel free to reach out to me should you need any further information or have any questions. I can be reached at (908) 231-1300 or cmcmullin@raritan-nj.org. Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this proposal. We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Charles McMullin, Mayor
Raritan Borough

SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

1. Municipality / Grantee(s): Borough of Raritan
2. Address: 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869
3. Name of Project: Circulation Plan Element Update with Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Plan
4. Designated Contact Person: Chuck McMullin, Mayor
5. Project Manager: Angela Knowles, Planner
6. Email: aknowles@vancleefengineering.com
7. Phone: 908-872-0128 (mobile)
8. Regional Center Funds Requested: \$15,000
9. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$15,000
10. Description of Project Goals to be Achieved, e.g. To help achieve the goal of pedestrian safety in the Regional Center, the proposed project(s) will identify opportunities for creating safe passages for pedestrians and cyclists where functional connections exist, or are proposed, and make recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the Borough.
11. Detailed Description of Project: Include (a) a brief summary; (b) a detailed scope of work; and (c) either a map and/or clear description of the location of the project or projects. Identify the following:
 - a. Work Tasks
 - b. Police Department Coordination
 - c. Partnerships
 - d. Any matching funds
 - e. Estimated timeline of project activities
 - f. Work products / deliverables (eg. Detailed report, purchase orders, etc.)

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

James Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner
Somerset County Planning Board
20 Grove Street; PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 231-7021

DUE DATE: March 15, 2019

Additional sheets and materials (plans, estimates, letters) may be attached.

Authorized Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

Detailed Description of Project: Include (a) a brief summary; (b) a detailed scope of work; and (c) either a map and/or clear description of the location of the project or projects. Identify the following:

- a. Work Tasks
- b. Police Department Coordination
- c. Partnerships
- d. Any matching funds
- e. Estimated timeline of project activities
- f. Work products / deliverables (eg. Detailed report, purchase orders, etc.)

Project Summary:

Raritan Borough has a vision to become a truly walkable, bikeable, and pedestrian-friendly community, while recognizing the fact that the town sees over 100,000 vehicle trips per day. The Borough is situated at the crossroads of Routes 206, 202 and 28 and many use the town as a cut-through to these major roadways. The Borough recognizes an opportunity to harness this activity and capitalize on the traffic to help revitalize the main street (Somerset Street). Through this effort we want to ensure that residents and visitors who choose to walk and/or bicycle around town are at the forefront of the revitalization effort.

The town has a Circulation Plan Element of the Master Plan, (adopted in 2003), a Complete Streets policy (2011) and a Wayfinding Plan (2014) and while some recommendations from those plans have been implemented using NJDOT and CDBG funding, the Borough lacks a comprehensive strategy for linking existing sidewalks and paths and for developing new linkages and new opportunities for crosswalks, traffic calming, bike lanes, shared travel lanes, and other important features to move people safely through the town. An update to the circulation plan element will restate the vision for safe pedestrian and bicycle movement through the town and to nearby trail networks; it will offer recommendations for improvements to existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure where needed; and will provide the comprehensive strategy for mobility of all modes of transportation for the entire town.

There are many factors in and around the Borough that suggests this is an opportune time for Raritan to engage in such a project, aside from the Borough currently engaging in bicycle and pedestrian safety programs:

1. Somerset County is preparing a Walk-Bike-Hike Plan that will link county trails, paths, and greenways to each other and to more regional trail systems. The Borough and the County have a close partnership on projects that promote public health and safety and support a wider network of circulation planning.
2. The Borough has a strong desire to connect neighborhoods north of Route 202 to neighborhoods south of Route 202 and ultimately give all Raritan residents easy and safe access to the train, the downtown, all of the town's schools and churches, and the river.
3. Since the opening of the "North Gate" at Duke Farms, Raritan Borough has a heightened interest in encouraging pedestrians and cyclists to utilize the pedestrian bridge on Nevius Street to access the riverfront on the Raritan side and for visitors at Duke Farms to cross

**SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION**

over and patronize the businesses on Somerset Street. Similarly on the western end of the Borough, access to Duke Island Park from the Woodmere neighborhood is an important connection across Old York Road.

4. The need to provide safe east/west Pedestrian and Bicycle passage to connect our JFK primary school and public pool on the west end of the Borough to residents, as well as the Frelinghuysen Park/public pool located on the east end of the Borough near Route 206 to residents.

It is for these reasons that Raritan Borough seeks to obtain funding from the Regional Center Partnership to prepare an update to the Circulation Plan Element of the Master Plan with a focus on Pedestrian and Bicycle safety.

Scope of Work / Timeline:

Tasks	Team Member Responsible	Target Completion
1. Formalize the Project Team to include Borough staff, County staff, Borough residents, Borough police department, Borough Pedestrian / Bike Safety committee, and other select members of Borough Boards and Commissions. The Project Team will also include a representative from one or more of the Borough's corporate neighbors (LabCorp, Ortho, etc.).	Planning Consultant; Mayor; Planning Board Chair	Month 1
2. Hold Kickoff meeting with Project Team to determine community vision, goals, and objectives around Borough-wide circulation / mobility and pedestrian and bicycle safety	Planning consultant	Month 2
3. Project team works with the local police department to research crash data from around the town and prioritize proposed pedestrian and bicycle safety measures.	Project Team	Month 2
4. Map existing conditions of infrastructure around the Borough; Map crash data	GIS Consultant; Project Team	Month 2
5. Planning consultant reviews and analyzes recommendations in existing documentation the Borough's Circulation Plan Element and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (Wayfinding Plan, and Complete Streets Policy).	Planning Consultant	Month 2
6. Hold Public Workshop to gain community input on pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Borough and to gain feedback on a comprehensive circulation plan update.	Planning Consultant; GIS consultant	Months 3 - 4
7. Develop recommendations to close the gap in missing pieces of infrastructure including sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, bike paths, etc.	Planning Consultant and Project Team	Months 4 - 5
8. Prepare a draft update of the Circulation Plan Element including supportive mapping.	Planning consultant	Months 4 - 9

SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

9. Project Team to review and comment on the draft plan and maps.	Project Team	Months 9 - 10
10. After revisions to the draft, present a final plan for adoption at a public hearing.	Planning Consultant	Months 10 - 12

Proposed Community Outreach Activities & Timeline (if known):

1. Booth at Raritan / Eco-Day – *April 2019 (Month 1)*
2. Booth at RiverFest – *September 2019 (Month 6)*
3. Environmental Speaker Series hosted by the Environmental Commission – *May or June (Months 2 or 3) during this ongoing series*
4. Public Hearing upon completion of the draft plan to be held at a joint meeting of the Borough Council and Land Use Board – *March 2020 (Month 12)*
5. Announcements on Borough website and Facebook page – *Ongoing, and at least quarterly*
6. Feedback surveys on bicycle and pedestrian safety in conjunction with public workshops – *Ongoing, and at least following each public outreach session*

Proposed Evaluation and Reporting Steps & Timeline (if known):

1. Provide summary report regarding the data collection process and how the data will be incorporated into the planning of infrastructure. – *Month 4, following review and analysis of background documents and first public workshop.*
2. Provide report on attendance and interest in the Public Outreach efforts following each event – *Months 6 and 12*
3. Provide report on collaboration among the Project Team and the preparation of the plans. – *Months 6 and 12*

Proposed Project Study Area:

The Borough proposes to prepare the update of the Circulation Plan Element of the Master Plan to address the entire town. Concurrent studies and planning projects are looking at smaller, more specific study areas like Somerset Street and the routes from the Train Station to the Riverfront. The purpose of this project and grant application is to provide a comprehensive look at Circulation for all modes and for Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility and Safety throughout the whole town.

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-02-048

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL CENTER
PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM FOR PHASE 2
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. has created the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program to help achieve the broadly accepted goals and objectives of the Regional Center Partnership as articulated in the adopted Regional Center Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership has approved the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program for Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement and has made available grants in the amount of \$15,000.00 to each municipality in the Regional Center to implement pedestrian safety enhancement projects and activities that are eligible and consistent with the Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant Program grant application guidelines and criteria; and

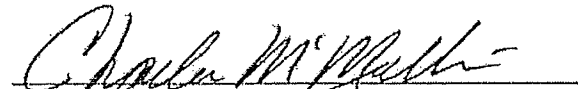
WHEREAS, the Borough of Raritan desires to apply for a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the purposes of preparing a Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan that will advance the goals and objectives of the Regional Center for enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Regional Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Raritan hereby authorizes the submission of a program application for the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grants for Pedestrian Safety Enhancement.

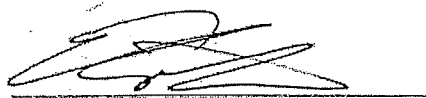
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Raritan are hereby authorized to sign a contract and such other documents which may be required between the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. and the Borough of Raritan.

ATTEST:

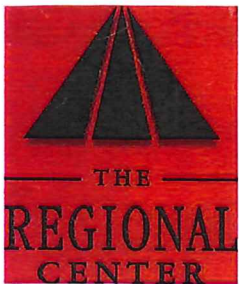

Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk


Charles McMullin
Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey at a Regular Meeting held in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869, on February 26, 2019.


Eric M. Colvin
Borough Clerk

MOTION	SECOND	MEMBER	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
	✓	Bray	✓			
✓		Carra	✓			
		Giraldi	✓			
		Melitsky				
		Orozo	✓			
		Tozzi				✓



SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

- Municipality / Grantee(s) BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
- Address 25 W. END AVE, SOMERVILLE, NJ, 08876
- Name of Project RCP PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
- Designated Contact Person BRENDAN NALLY
- Project Manager BRENDAN NALLY
- E-Mail: BNALLY@SOMERVILLENJ.ORG Phone 908-313-5481 Fax 908-725-2859
- Regional Center Funds Requested: \$ 15,000
- Estimated Total Project Cost: \$ ~~15,000~~ \$15,125
- Description of Project Goal to be achieved; e.g., To help achieve the goal of improving pedestrian safety in the Regional Center, the proposed project(s) will SEE ATTACHED.
- Detailed Description of Project: Include (a) a brief summary, (b) a detailed scope of work, and (c) either a map and/or clear description of the location of the project or projects. Identify the following:
 - Work tasks
 - Police Department coordination
 - Partnerships
 - Any matching funds
 - Estimated time line of project activities
 - Work products/deliverables (eg, detailed report, purchase orders, etc)

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

James Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner
Somerset County Planning Board
20 Grove Street; P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876 (908)-231-7021

DUE DATE: March 15, 2019

Additional sheets and materials (plans, estimates, letters) may be attached.

Authorized signature  Date 3-4-19

Name BRENDAN NALLY

Title ASSISTANT TO THE ENGINEER

Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program

Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant

Description Goal: The proposed project will assist in making motorists more aware of and cause a stop for pedestrians in crosswalks on Main Street where we have high pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Detailed Description of Project:

Under Phase One of the RCP grant last year the Borough of Somerville was able to install many pedestrian signs in the school district which was a great help to pedestrian safety. In this new Phase we would like to turn our attention to Main Street where we have had a history of pedestrian accidents. There are 5 uncontrolled crosswalks on the most well-travelled portions of Main Street Somerville including Main/Union, Main/Giardina Alley, Main/Maple, Main/Warren, Main/Grove.

Under this grant we would like to address two areas: 1.) the intersection of Main Street and Union St with second priority being 2.) the mid-block crosswalk at Giardina Alley.

We would like to install permanent high visibility pedestrian signage called Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) with a total of 4 signs 2 at each intersection. Each set of two will activate together in unison when a button activator is pushed to stop cars in both directions. What will determine if we can treat both intersection locations hinges on the outcome of an application to NJDOT. Being the locations are in the state right of way NJDOT may subject us to more expensive construction detail requirements. I am therefore presenting two budgets with scenario 1. Using a simple direct burial style installation and scenario 2. installing a full foundation. To fill out any remaining funding balance we would like to purchase temporary pedestrian warning signage. To satisfy the educational component of the grant the Somerville Police Department will partner with Ride Wise TMA to provide in-school education in the area of bike and pedestrian safety. The program will cover where and how to safely walk and ride to school and the dangers of distracted walking, cycling without a helmet and crossing mid-block. A pedestrian and bicycle safety power point presentation will be made to students at both the high school and middle school. The program will take place in August-September 2019 with an estimated project time of completion being fall of 2019.

Budget Estimate: Scenario 1 (Direct burial of sign post)

RRFB Permanent Signs			
Item	Unit cost	quantity	Total
RRFB Sign incl. installation(direct burial)	\$3,692.50	4	\$14,770.00
Temporary Signs			
State Law road centerline rubber base			
Stop for Pedestrian temporary sign	\$325.00	1	\$325.00
Total			\$15,095.00

Budget Estimate: Scenario 2 (Foundation Requirement)

RRFB Permanent Signs			
Item	Unit cost	quantity	Total
RRFB Sign	\$3,400.00	2	\$6,800.00
Foundation installation	\$4,000.00	2	\$8,000.00
Temporary Signs			
State Law road centerline rubber base			
Stop for Pedestrian temporary sign	\$325.00	1	\$325.00
Total			\$15,125.00

RESOLUTION 19-0219-075

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE
REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM FOR
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. has created the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program to help achieve the broadly accepted goals and objectives of the Regional Center Partnership as articulated in the adopted Regional Center Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership has approved the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program for Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement and has made available grants in the amount of \$15,000.00 to each municipality in the Regional Center to implement pedestrian safety enhancement projects and activities that are eligible and consistent with the Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant Program grant application guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Somerville desires to apply for a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the purposes of preparing a 2019 Somerville Pedestrian Safety Improvements that will advance the goals and objectives of the Regional Center for enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Regional Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Somerville hereby authorizes the submission of a program application for the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grants for Pedestrian Safety Enhancement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Clerk of Borough of Somerville are hereby authorized to sign a contract and such other documents which may be required between the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. and the Borough of Somerville).

Adopted by Borough Council on February 19, 2019




Mayor



Clerk/Administrator

I, Kevin Sluka, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Somerville, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council on February 19, 2019.



Kevin Sluka, Clerk/Administrator

Somerville Board of Education

Administrative Headquarters

**51 West Cliff Street
Somerville, NJ 08876**

Bryan P. Boyce
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Telephone: 908-218-4102
Fax: 908-526-9668

March 12, 2019

Brendan Nally
Assistant to the Engineer
Somerville Public Works
25 West End Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876

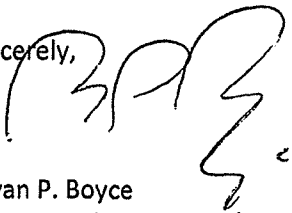
Dear Mr. Nally:

The Somerville Board of Education strongly supports the Borough of Somerville's grant application for the Regional Center Partnership (RCP) Program to improve pedestrian safety.

In Phase 2 of this RCP grant request, the Borough is trying to further improve safety at two busy crosswalks which are particularly vulnerable to pedestrian accidents. The intersections of West Main Street/ Union Street and West Main Street/Giardina Alley see a considerable amount of foot and bicycle traffic due to popular stores and restaurants in the area, as well as being a main route for students to get to and from the Somerville Middle School (SMS) and Somerville High School (SHS). By installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the crosswalks, there is a potential to improve Main Street safety for all, including the children walking and biking to and from school.

In addition to the support of this grant application, the Somerville Board of Education will also work with the Borough to schedule educational sessions at SMS and SHS on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Sincerely,



Bryan P. Boyce
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Somerville Board of Education
908-218-4102
bboyce@somervilleschools.org



March 14, 2019

Kevin Sluka
Borough Administrator
Borough of Somerville
25 West End Avenue
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Dear Mr. Sluka:

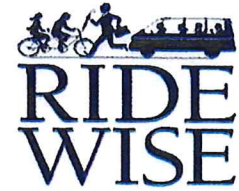
I have learned that the Borough of Somerville is making an application for grant funding through the Regional Center Partnership for pedestrian safety improvements. As you know, the Downtown Somerville Alliance, Inc., strongly encourages walking in the downtown area.

The Downtown Somerville Alliance, have invested in sidewalk pavement improvements and promoted many events throughout the borough over the past several years to encourage and enhance the downtown walking experience. Most recently, we completed the resealing of Division Street to ensure longevity of the pedestrian mall and financed the replacement of failing pavers and added tree grates on Main Street.

We are extremely pleased to learn of the grant application to continue to improve pedestrian safety and offer our assistance in anyway. We fully support the application and would be willing to attend any meetings necessary.

Sincerely,

Natalie Pineiro
Executive Director



March 5, 2018

Officer George F. Obiedzinski
Somerville Police Department
24 S Bridge Street
Somerville, NJ 08876

Officer Obiedzinski,

This letter is in support of the Borough of Somerville's Regional Center Partnership grant application for pedestrian safety.

The goal of the pedestrian safety challenge grant application is to help make downtown Somerville more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly by installing flashing beacons at the intersections of Main Street and Union Street and Main Street and Giardina Alley.

The intersection of Main Street and Union Street is in close proximity to popular restaurants which generates significant pedestrian activity in the area. It is for this reason that the Somerville Borough Police chose this intersection for the Street Smart pedestrian safety and education campaign conducted by RideWise in June 2017.

Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons can enhance safety at the two Main Street intersections by increasing driver awareness of pedestrian crossings.

RideWise fully supports Somerville Borough's Regional Center Partnership grant application for flashing beacons and will provide additional assistance by partnering with the police on in-school bicycle and pedestrian safety in August-September 2019.

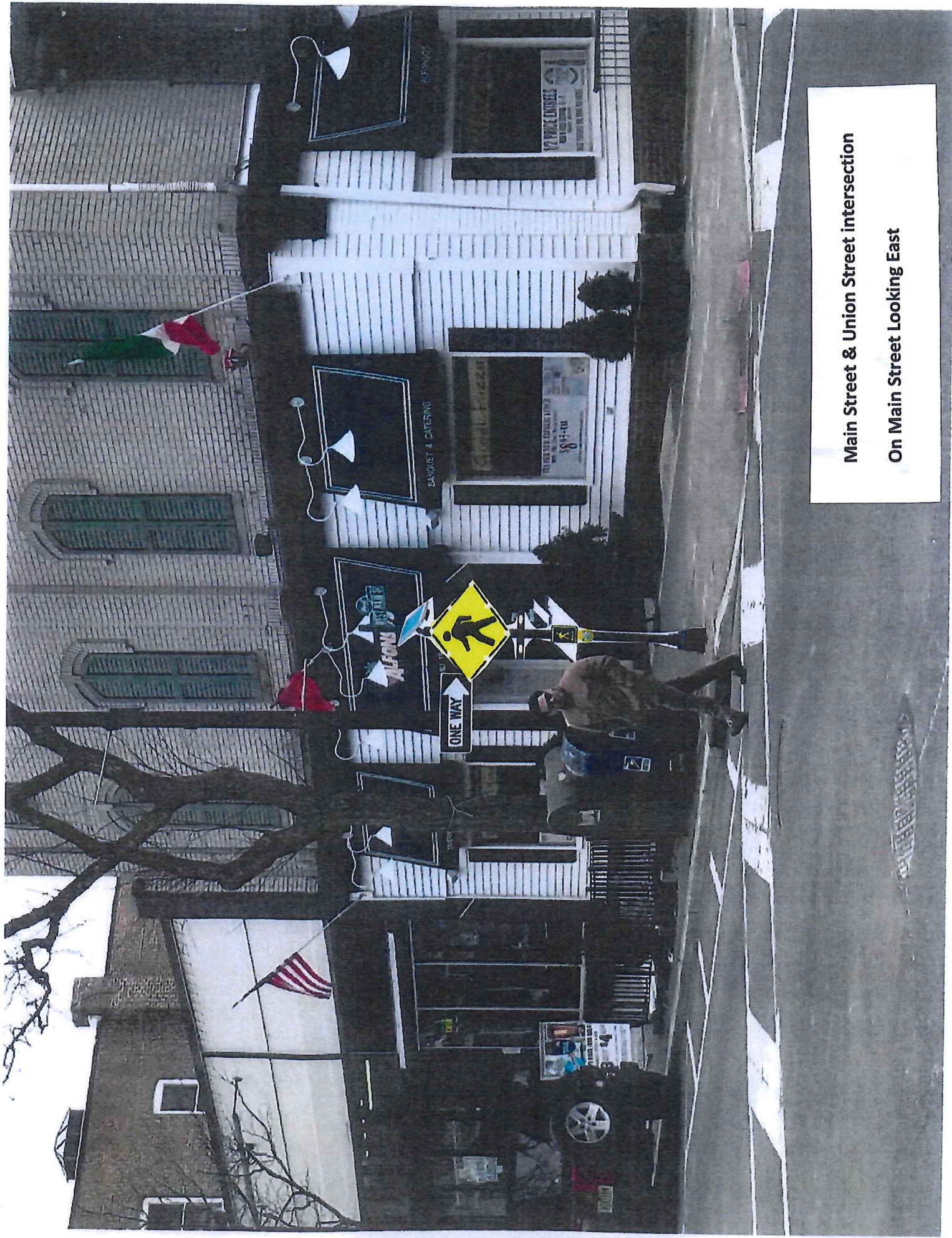
Sincerely,

Donna Allison
Executive Director



Key Map





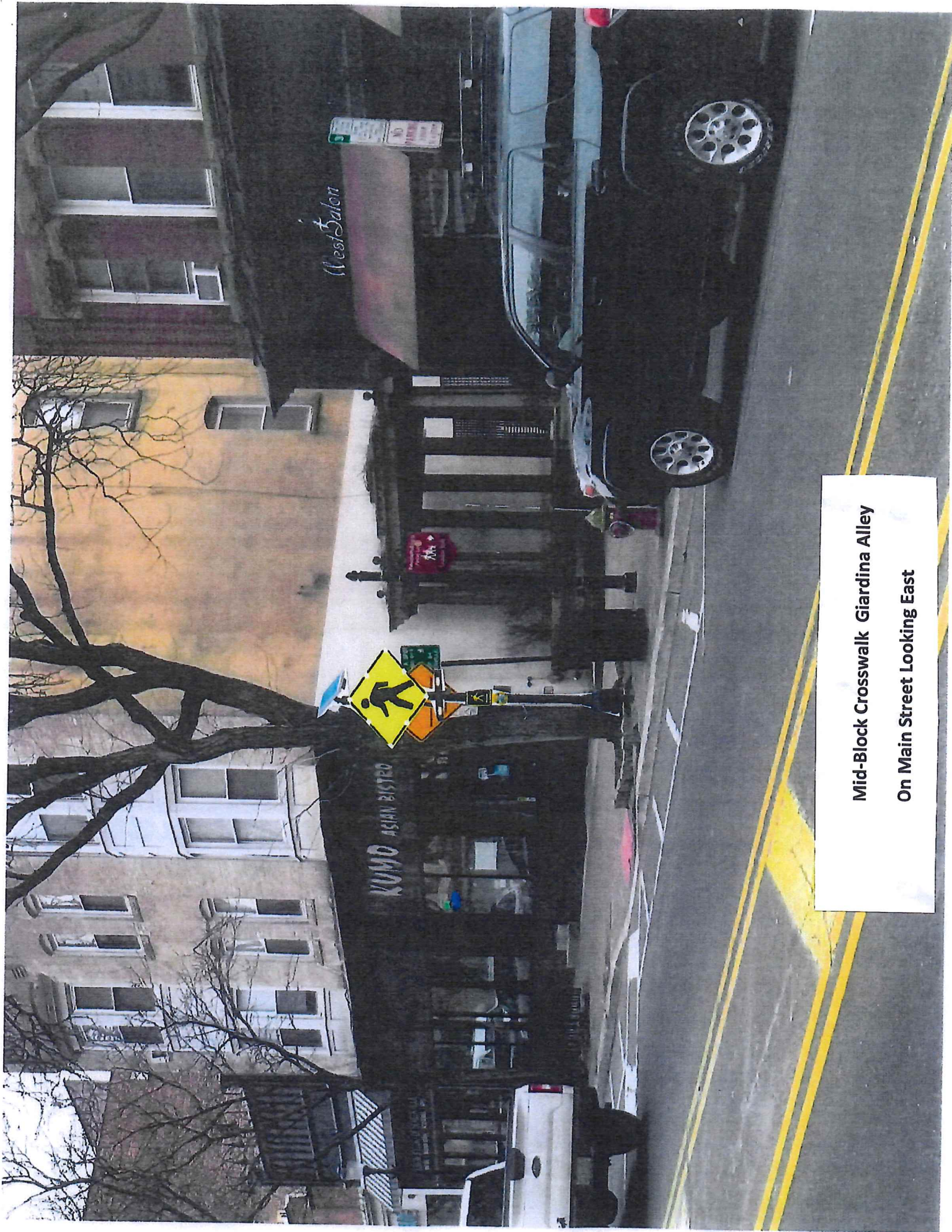
Main Street & Union Street intersection

On Main Street Looking East



Main Street & Union Street Intersection

On Main Street Looking West



Mid-Block Crosswalk Giardina Alley

On Main Street Looking East



Mid-Block Crosswalk Giardina Alley
On Main Street Looking West

N.J.D.O.T. STANDARD RREFB SIGN.



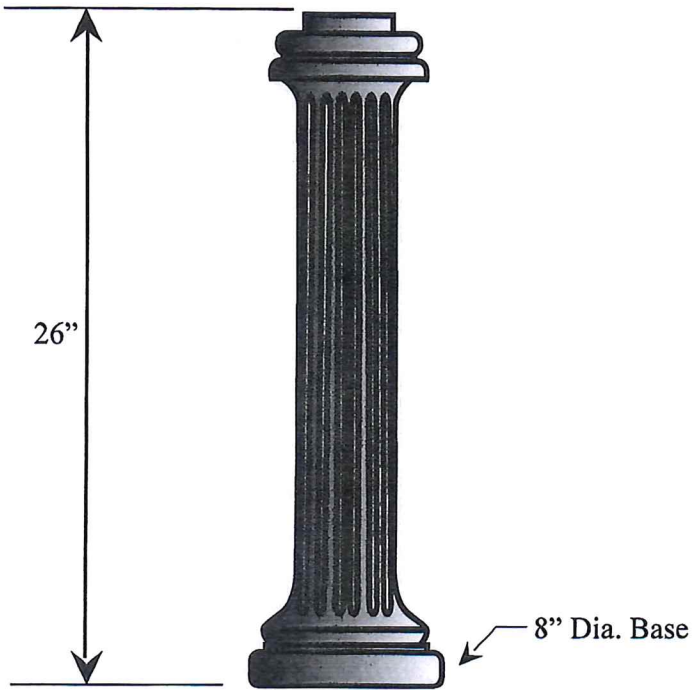
WRB1 (Classic Series Decorative Wrap Around Base)

WRB1 - Decorative Wraparound Base

- Decorative base that fits over a 3" O/D round post
- Made of Rust Free Cast Aluminum

Finish

- The fixture will be finished with a premium quality thermoset polyester powdercoat for a durable finish.



BA-4** (3" O/D Smooth Breakaway Pole)

Poles available in the following heights:

Model #	Length	Model #	Length
BA-410	10 ft.	BA-414	14 ft.
BA-412	12 ft.	BA-416	16 ft.

How to Order: (example)

BA-4**-BLK

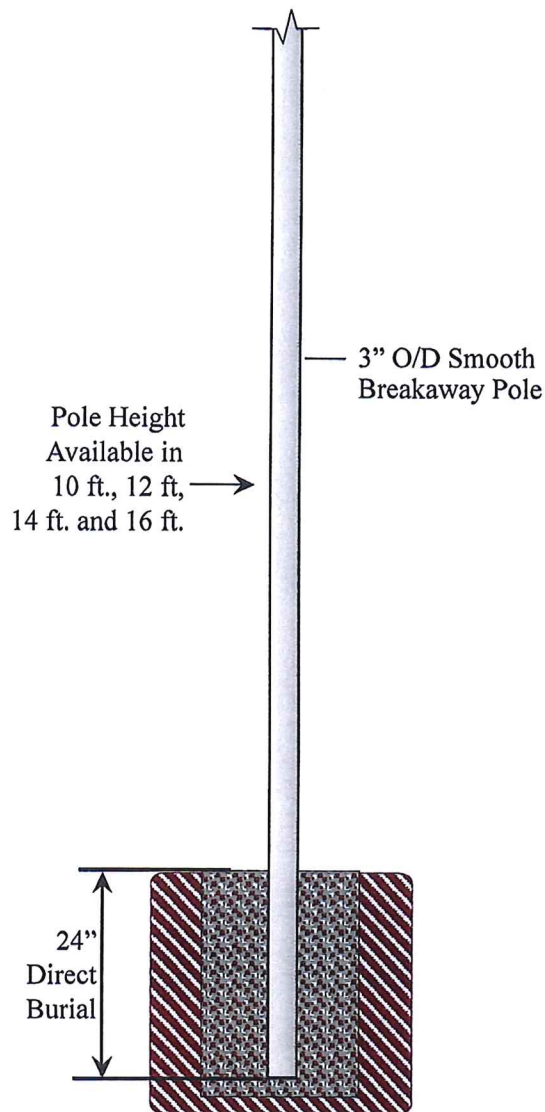
Pole - Color

(** indicates pole height)



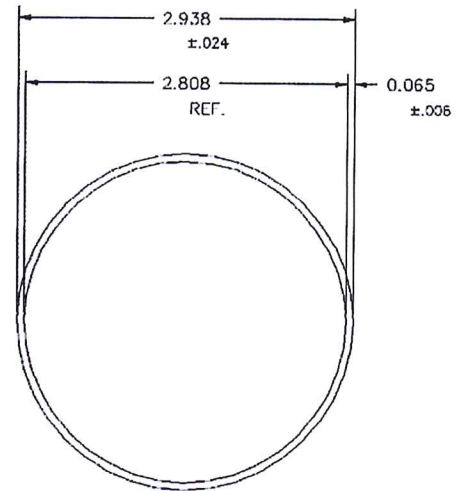
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Approved Breakaway Pole



BA-4** Smooth Breakaway Pole

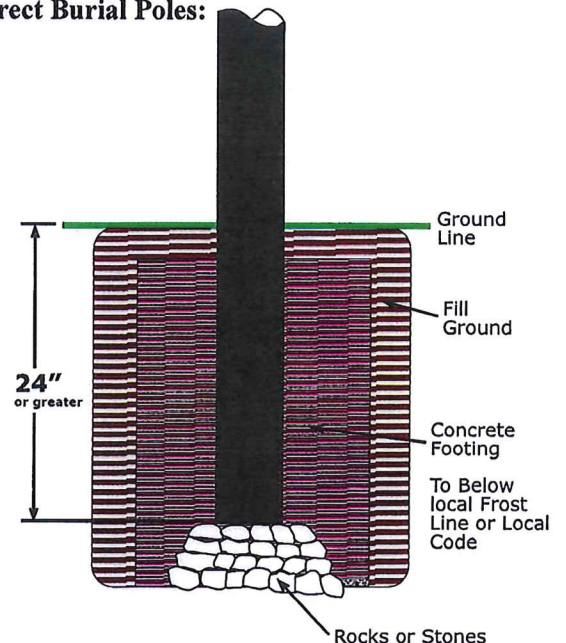
- 3" O/D Smooth Pole
- Made of Extruded Aluminum
- .065 Wall Thickness
- Direct Burial



Finish

- The fixture will be finished with a premium quality thermoset polyester powdercoat for a durable finish.

Installation Instructions for Direct Burial Poles:



****NOTE** FABRICATION TO BEGIN AFTER DRAWING HAS BEEN APPROVED, SIGNED AND FAXED OR EMAILED .**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

9-C



THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

100 COMMONS WAY / BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807

908/725-6300 / FAX 908/707-1235

TDD 908/725-6300 / 908/722-4111

March 14, 2019

James Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner
Somerset County Planning Board
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876

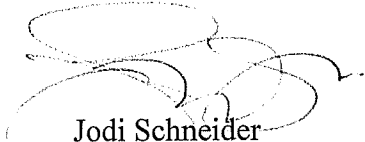
Re: 2019 Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program
Pedestrian Safety Enhancements PHASE 2

Dear Mr. Ruggieri:

I am hereby transmitting a 2019 grant application for the above referenced program. This application requests funds to develop a town-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel Plan that will outline actions to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel through Bridgewater, as well as identify short-term solutions for immediate implementation and long-term solutions that involve future planning.

If you need any further information, please contact me at 908-725-6300 ext. 5080.

Sincerely,



Jodi Schneider
Grants Manager

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM – PHASE 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A TOWN-WIDE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAVEL PLAN

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. has created the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program to help achieve broadly accepted goals and objectives of the Regional Center Partnership, which include downtown redevelopment, neighborhood revitalization, connecting the three sub-centers of the Regional Center and using the Center's natural resources to shape development consistent with community planning initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Center Partnership has approved the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program for Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement and has made available grants in the amount of \$15,000.00 to each municipality in the Regional Center to implement pedestrian safety enhancement projects and activities that are eligible and consistent with the Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant Program grant application guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Bridgewater desires to apply for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of developing a town-wide pedestrian and bicycle travel plan to outline actions to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel within Bridgewater Township; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Human Services, Kristen Schiro and Grants Manager, Jodi Schneider, recommend that said application be submitted to the Regional Center Partnership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bridgewater Township Council hereby authorizes the submission of a program application to the Regional Center Partnership Challenge Grant Program-Phase 2 and accepts subsequent award of this grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Daniel J. Hayes, Jr. and Township Clerk, Linda Doyle, are hereby authorized to sign a contract and such other documents that may be required between the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. and Bridgewater Township.

Introduced	Seconded	Council	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Kurdyla				✓
		Pedroso	✓			
✓		Rose	✓			
	✓	Norgalis	✓			
		Moench	✓			

Adopted: March 4, 2019

I, Grace Njuguna, Deputy Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, do hereby certify this is a true copy of a Resolution introduced by the Township council on 3/4/2019

Grace Njuguna



THE
REGIONAL
CENTER

SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP
PHASE 2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

- Municipality / Grantee(s) Bridgewater Township
- Address 100 Commons Way Bridgewater, NJ 08807
- Name of Project Bridgewater Township Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan
- Designated Contact Person Jodi Schneider
- Project Manager Tom Forsythe
- E-Mail: jschneider@bridgewaternj.gov and tforsythe@bridgewaternj.gov
- Phone (908) 725-6300 x5080 Fax (908) 722-4977
- Regional Center Funds Requested: \$15,000
- Estimated Total Project Cost: \$15,000

Description of Project Goal to be achieved; e.g., To help achieve the goal of improving pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Regional Center, the proposed project(s) will result in a town-wide travel plan that will identify barriers and outline a list of actions for short-term and long-term solutions to encourage safe, healthy and sustainable travel options within our town.

- Detailed Description of Project: Include (a) a brief summary, (b) a detailed scope of work, and (c) either a map and/or clear description of the location of the project or projects. Identify the following:

➤ Work tasks

Task 1: Set Up Steering Committee Team and Key Contacts

The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) Team (Leigh Ann Von Hagen and Sean Meehan), RideWise and Bridgewater Township will obtain some initial data and information from the community and identify a core team of representatives from the school district, local government, and interested agencies and organizations who will guide the process.

Task 2: Gather Information on Existing Conditions and Policies

The VTC team, RideWise TMA and Bridgewater contacts will work together to collect basic information from the municipality and school district related to pedestrian and bicycle travel patterns and support for walking and bicycling to school, including:

Information/data from schools/school districts:

- School catchment areas
- Student address (not including student names)
- School start and end times, school breakfast times, timing of any afterschool activities
- Policies related to student travel and school wellness
- Local travel data
 - Schools will be asked to conduct student arrival and dismissal travel mode tallies. A survey will be provided to appropriate school personnel for completion over a consecutive three-day period.

- Each school administrator/principal will be asked to complete a brief survey to provide information that includes, but is not limited to, official and unofficial walking and bicycling to school routes and cut-throughs, existing walking and bicycling educational programming, and any safety incidents and concerns.

Information/data from municipalities:

- Crossing guard locations, hours of operation, and crossing guard training information
- Any traffic or speed studies available
- Current master plans and redevelopment plans
- Complete Streets or similar policies or ordinances
- Sidewalk maintenance and snow removal ordinances
- Any maps of bicycle infrastructure (lanes, parking, trails, etc.)

Task 3: Hold Initial Steering Committee Meeting

The VTC team, RideWise TMA and Bridgewater staff will plan and execute a meeting involving all Steering Committee members and key partners. The VTC team will present initial demographics, mapping, and findings and make recommendations for next steps in additional data collection and conducting walk audits.

Task 4: Conduct Analysis, Mapping and Identify Priority Corridors

Based upon project needs and data quality/availability, once initial data has been collected the VTC team will map several items including demographics, land use, existing infrastructure, key pedestrian and bicycle areas, pedestrian and bicycle crashes, student locations, and characteristics unique to the community.

Task 5: Conduct Audits

The VTC team, RideWise and Bridgewater staff will schedule walk and (potentially) bike audits based on feedback from identified priority areas. Audits involve observing how drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists interact with each other and the built environment (e.g., roads, sidewalks, intersections) and documenting unsafe behaviors or conditions.

Task 6: Develop Draft Recommendations and Action Plan

Once countermeasures have been identified, the VTC team will develop an action plan that prioritizes actions in a series of three tables: municipal and school policy countermeasures; non-infrastructure countermeasures; and infrastructure countermeasures. These tables will be used to collect community feedback and prioritize countermeasures.

Task 7: Engage Public for Community feedback

The VTC team and RideWise, with assistance from Bridgewater staff, will hold an open house/public event or participate as a part of a larger existing community event to identify the top priorities and needs with regards to walking, bicycling and general travel within Bridgewater. This interactive event will allow participants to provide feedback on walking and bicycling safety. The municipality and school district will be responsible for organizing and advertising the public engagement event.

Step 8: Draft Presentation

The VTC team and RideWise will present the draft report to the full steering committee and invited guest. This meeting will highlight findings from the data collection, mapping, analysis and audits and present prioritized recommendations. The VTC team and RideWise will make updates based on feedback from this meeting and finalize the report. Before finalization, the report will also be shared for review and comment with NJDOT.

Step 9: Final Report

The VTC team and RideWise will circulate the final report to the full steering committee. The final Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel Plan will be added to the NJ Safe Routes to School website, saferoutesnj.org.

- Police Department coordination N/A
- Partnerships
 - Bridgewater Township
 - Somerset County
 - *Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center
 - *Ridewise
 - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

**with support from the NJDOT*

- Any matching funds
 - In-Kind Services:
 - VTC Senior: LeighAnn Von Hagen - Approx. 100hrs (2019) & 80hrs (2020) =\$20,961
 - VTC Project manager Sean Meehan - Approx. 100hrs (2019) & 80hrs (2020) =\$14,922
 - RideWise Staff - Approx. 200hrs (2019) & 100hrs (2020) =\$9,000
- Estimated time line of project activities

May-July 2019	Meeting, data collection, audits
July-Sept 2019	Compilation of data, draft recommendations
Sept-Oct 2019	Community engagement/feedback
Nov 2019-Mar 2020	Draft report/action plan presentation/review, finalize report
- Work products/deliverables (eg, detailed report, purchase orders, etc)

The final product will be a Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel Plan that outline actions to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel through Bridgewater, as well as identify short-term solutions for immediate implementation and long-term solutions that involve future planning.

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

DUE DATE: March 15, 2019

James Ruggieri, Principal Community Planner
 Somerset County Planning Board
 20 Grove Street; P.O. Box 3000
 Somerville, NJ 08876 (908)-231-7021

Additional sheets and materials (plans, estimates, letters) may be attached.

Authorized signature _____ Date _____

Name Jodi Schneider

Title Grants Manager

Sean Meehan

Mr. Meehan is a Project Manager for the New Jersey Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Resource Center at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (VTC). With over fifteen years of experience, Sean works in the area of pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety with a goal of making it easier and safer for both children and adults to walk and cycle more frequently. Sean oversees projects for the New Jersey SRTS program in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and with the State's eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs). As part of his work with the NJ SRTS Resource Center, Sean provides services, training, coordination and technical assistance to TMAs, local and regional governments, schools and school districts and other organizations to encourage students to walk and bicycle to school and to identify opportunities for infrastructure and policy improvements that make walking and biking to school safer.

The focus of Sean's work has been on active, sustainable transportation and working with multi-disciplined stakeholders and partners to help individuals and communities integrate these healthy and physically active forms of transportation into daily routines. Working with a wide array of partners, Sean helps to cultivate a culture of safe walking and bicycling by providing technical assistance and community outreach, contributing to research, creating instructive resources, and developing and distributing informative training programs for a variety of audiences.

Prior to joining VTC in 2008, Sean worked for five years as a Transportation Planner and Program Coordinator for Keep Middlesex Moving TMA based in New Brunswick, NJ. Sean received a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the Bloustein School at Rutgers University and a B.S in Environmental Policy from Cook College at Rutgers.

Firm
Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
Education
• M.C.R.P. Concentration in Transportation Policy and Planning
• BS: Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior
Relevant Training
• Health Impact Assessment
• LAB Certified Bicycle Education Instructor (LCI)
Years of Experience 16
Years with Firm 10

Relevant Project / Work Experience

New Jersey Safe Routes to School Resource Center New Jersey Department of Transportation

As a Project Manager of the federally funded NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center housed at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Sean provides support for the NJ Department of Transportation through research and outreach initiatives and management of statewide coordinators at all eight New Jersey Transportation Management Associations. Activities include research and writing technical reports on topic issues, coordination of statewide interest groups, outreach and presentations of technical materials, preparation of user-friendly guidance documents including resource materials, newsletters, toolboxes, forms, templates and

development of evaluation and other research protocols. Work tasks include:

Technical Assistance, Training & Education

- Crossing Guard Supervisor Training for local police departments (statewide)
- School Physical Education Teacher training for on-bike youth education (statewide)
- How-to Conduct Walkability and Bikeability Assessments Trainings (statewide)
- Walking School Bus Training (e.g. Perth Amboy, Brick, Ridgewood)
- Creating School Travel Plans Trainings (statewide)
- Creation of School Travel Plans in low-income communities (e.g. Elizabeth, Trenton,

- Plainfield, Bayonne, Jersey City, Bound Brook & South Bound Brook)
- Youth Pedestrian and Bicycle Education Curriculum Trainings (statewide)
- Federal Grant Training for Potential Local Applicants (statewide)
- Planning Walking and Bicycling Events Trainings (statewide)
- Technical Assistance at education, encouragement, and outreach events;
 - Bike rodeos
 - Walk and Bike to School events
 - Engagement meetings with local officials
 - Public outreach meetings and events
- Transportation Management Association SRTS Coordinator Program Training
 - Orientation meetings for new SRTS staff
 - Conducting bicycle and pedestrian education events
 - Updating School Travel Plans and creating District School Travel Plans
 - Broadening Outreach of SRTS to Children with Disabilities & Special Needs
 - Walkability Assessment training
 - Effectively Working with schools and Municipalities to Initiate SRTS Programs
 - On-bike Bikeability Assessment training
 - Best practices regarding community involvement and public engagement bicycle and pedestrian planning

Research

- Gender Differences in Youth Bicycling
- In-School Bicycle Education
- School Bus Funding & Cuts
- School District Transportation Model Policy
- School District Liability & Transportation Policies
- Crossing Guard Focus Groups & Hazard Mitigation
- Addressing SRTS in Urban Disadvantaged Communities
- NJ SRTS Program Monitoring, Performance Measures and Evaluation
- Low-Stress Bicycle Networks
- Understanding Perceptions of Cycling among Vulnerable Populations
- SRTS Community Profiles and Funding Case Studies
- Satellite (remote) Drop-Off Points at New Jersey Schools

Peer and Community Outreach

- NJ Safe Routes Academy
- NJ Crossing Guards Working Group

Transit Industry Training Needs Assessment – National Transit Institute

The goals of this continuing project are to identify and assess the nationwide current and future training needs of the public transit industry. As part of the project oversaw coordination of and assisted with conducting listening sessions, focus groups, a national survey, and key informant interviews with transit industry professionals to determine transit staff training needs to satisfy current demand and to provide recommendations and guidance for fulfilling future workforce needs of the transit industry.

Complete Streets in the City of Trenton: Existing Conditions Analysis – Trenton Health Team

As part of a Trinity Health - Transforming Communities Initiative grant, compiled existing Trenton city plans/maps and data to develop an existing conditions summary. Using this identified existing conditions data, developed a screening process to explore areas not well studied, areas with crash fatalities, and areas with significant bicycle/pedestrian traffic generators to identify and prioritize target Complete Streets Corridors. Once target corridors were chosen, trained and oversaw students as they completed and documented fieldwork to complete an existing conditions inventory for each corridor. The final report covers the findings from the audit on a block-by-block basis, reviewing the conditions of the sidewalks, the roadway, the intersections, the bus stops, and the comfort and appeal of each corridor, ending with general recommendations that address the most common issues found taking into account proven best practices in building Complete Streets.

Coordinating School and Public Transportation- TCC/FTA Research Program.

Oversaw this project that explored existing relationships and the potential for improved efficiencies, cost savings, retention and expansion of mobility by coordinating transportation between the schools and public transit. Supervised contributing staff members as we led and conducted interviews with statewide agencies such as the NJ Department of Education, NJ Department of Transportation, School Transportation Supervisors of NJ, NJ School Boards Association and NJ Transit. Oversaw the development of a literature review and report which reviewed the current status of coordination in New Jersey, evaluated and described successful models nationally, assessed the pros and cons of coordinated transportation, and determined potential barriers and strategies for pursuing transportation coordination within the State of New Jersey.

New Jersey Youth Bicycle Education Pilot Program - NJ Department of Transportation/ Division of Highway Traffic Safety/Federal Highway Administration.

The goals of the pilot program included: educating children about how to ride safely and avoid injury in addition to how to safely share the road with motor vehicles and pedestrians; increasing bicycle helmet use; and educating children on how bicycling helps their health and the environment. The pilot program targeted fourth and fifth grade students and was offered through municipal or YMCA summer recreation programs, after-school programs, and school physical education classes throughout the State. As part of the program, promotional materials were sent home with the children who were encouraged to discuss what they have learned with their families, effectively spreading the safety messages of the program to a wider audience. By bicycling properly and sharing what they learned, students who completed this course served as an example and an educator for their friends and families.

Highland Park Parking and Mode Choice Survey and Study - Highland Park, New Jersey.

Worked with the Borough of Highland Park in expanding transportation mode choices by identifying and taking inventory of existing parking facilities and mode choices within the community. Developed and coordinated a survey for Borough residents to explore their knowledge of existing modes and obstacles to their use as well as to identify acceptable alternative modes.

PUBLICATIONS

- DiPetrillo, S., Von Hagen, L.A., Meehan S., & Shivaraman G. "Delays, Detours, and Diversions Paths to Fully Executed Safe Routes to School Projects." Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, March 2017.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen, AICP/PP

Leigh Ann Von Hagen is a Senior Researcher and Adjunct Professor with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center and a Founder of the Planning Healthy Communities Initiative at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She has worked in the transportation-planning field for over twenty years with a focus on developing sustainable transportation and land use solutions for communities. She is currently a manager for the NJ Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Resource Center (saferoutesnj.org) and the statewide School Crossing Guard Training program (njcrossingguards.org.) She specializes in initiatives that address pedestrian and bicycle safety, health, equity, and access through research, training, education, community engagement, and best practice in policy and design. In addition, she conducts and provides training on Health Impact Assessment and facilitates health in all policies discussions and research (phci.rutgers.edu.) She was instrumental in launching several statewide health, safety and environmental initiatives including Planning Healthy Communities Initiative, Safe Routes to School, Sustainable Jersey, Mayors Wellness Campaign, and Shaping NJ. Through these and similar initiatives, Ms. Von Hagen has worked to make the healthy choice the easy choice through changes to the built environment and by supporting a culture of healthy, active living. She has worked for several private engineering firms (The RBA Group, Urbitrans Associates and The Louis Berger Group) on projects including roadway, intersection and trail analysis using state and federal guidelines.

Education

- BS, Human Ecology, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Professional Registration

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
- Certified New Jersey Professional Planner (PP)

Relevant Training

- Health Impact Assessment
- LAB Certified Bicycle Education Instructor (LGI)
- Americans with Disabilities Pedestrian Design
- Safe Routes to School

Recent Awards

- Smart Growth Award, Plainfield District School Travel Plan
- SafeKids Outstanding Individual Award

Years of Experience 24

Years with VTC 14

RELEVANT PROJECTS/WORK EXPERIENCE

NEW JERSEY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

As principal investigator and manager of the federally funded NJ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Resource Center housed at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Ms. Von Hagen provides support for the NJ Department of Transportation through research and outreach initiatives and management of statewide coordinators at all eight NJ Transportation Management Associations. Activities include research and writing technical reports on topic issues, coordination of statewide interest groups, outreach and presentations of technical materials, preparation of user-friendly guidance documents including resource materials, videos, newsletters, toolboxes, forms, templates and development of evaluation and other research protocols. Research and practical application of projects include:

Improving the Federal Grant Process in New Jersey. New Jersey is not meeting federal obligation rates and has not fully expended or contracted to spend on awarded projects through competitive federal grants offered to local public agencies/municipalities. Researchers are conducting a combination of focus groups and individual interviews to gather information from local public agencies like municipalities who have received past Transportation Alternative Set-Aside and Safe Routes to School grants from NJDOT and from Departments of Transportation outside NJ to gather information about how to improve the federal grant process and the state's obligation rates.

Predictable is Preventable: Tracking Pedestrian Near-Miss Incidents. As part of a recent study to identify, and gather information on, a list of challenging school crossings, researchers surveyed municipal traffic safety officers (police) for information on school crossings that the officers considered most challenging for pedestrians. Survey respondents identified pedestrian near misses with vehicles as significantly more common experiences than pedestrian crashes with vehicles at crossings identified as challenging. Pedestrian crashes are relatively rare and may not be an effective predictor of future conflict at a crossing. Near-miss data may be more predictive of future pedestrian-vehicle conflict at certain locations, and can support efforts to prevent serious pedestrian injury or death at these locations.

Gender Differences in Youth Bicycling. Bicycling rates of males and females in the United States differ, but little is known about when or why these differences begin to occur. With demonstrated benefits for human health and the environment, bicycling should be experienced equally throughout the population. This paper explores gender differences in cycling in order to better understand when bicycling habits become established and how children ride

their bicycles on a day-to-day basis to assist researchers and advocates in their efforts to create infrastructure design, policy, training, and educational and encouragement programs.

Broadening Outreach Efforts of Safe Routes to School to Children with Disabilities. Encouraging children, including those with disabilities, to be physically active and participate in SRTS is a vital component of the program. Inclusion in SRTS may not only enable children with disabilities to achieve important health benefits but also they can gain independence by learning important life skills about safe walking and bicycling and build relationships with peers. Conducted interviews with key stakeholders in the disability community, performed a literature review and co-wrote the report. Findings included various strategies for successful inclusion of children with disabilities in SRTS activities. Planned, coordinated and conducted training to TMAs on broadening outreach of SRTS to students with disabilities within their service areas.

New Jersey Youth Bicycle Education Program. The goals of the pilot program included: educating children about how to ride safely and avoid injury in addition to how to safely share the road with motor vehicles and pedestrians; increasing bicycle helmet use; and educating children on how bicycling helps their health and the environment. The pilot program targeted fourth and fifth grade students and was offered through municipal or YMCA summer recreation programs, after-school programs, and school physical education classes in Camden, Pemberton, Hanover, and all of Hudson County, NJ. As part of the program, promotional materials were sent home with the children who were encouraged to discuss what they have learned with their families, effectively spreading the safety messages of the program to a wider audience. By bicycling properly and sharing what they learned, students who completed this course served as an example and an educator for their friends and families. This project was jointly funded by the NJ Department of Transportation and the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

School Crossings on State Highways. Pedestrian crossings on state highways in New Jersey are challenging to engineer for safety. It is important that state policy makers understand the risks associated with school children walking to school. Investigating the condition of school crossings on state highways is a priority for the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). This report assesses the safety of school crossings on New Jersey state highways and provides guidance about possible areas for improvements. The six most troublesome intersections were examined in depth.

Safe Routes to NJ's Disadvantaged Urban Schools. This study details the NJ Department of Transportation's Urban Demonstration Program to understand why Safe Routes to School programs do not take hold as well and aims to empower inner city school communities with tools and strategies to overcome barriers to walking and bicycling to school by addressing the issues that are important to them.

Identifying and Addressing Fear, Perception and Risk Related to Walking and Bicycling to School. Declining physical activity for children has become grave enough to seize the attention of physicians, public health officials, parents, schools, planners, and policymakers, who are now seeking possible solutions. One of the ways children can obtain more physical activity is through active travel, primarily walking or bicycling to and from school. With the goal of improving both our understanding and interventions to increase currently low physical activity and active travel rates, this paper examines parental perceptions, how and why these perceptions form, and how they impact travel mode choice. Children's perceptions were also examined to better understand their perceptions of the built and social environment in regard to mode choice.

Middle School Student's Perceptions of Active Travel: A Mixed methods Analysis. Children's perceptions, particularly of safety, may be an important link to not only their present health and travel behaviors, but also their future health. Prepared and coordinated presentations to middle school students in Hudson County, NJ which included a visual

survey as well as structured interactive classroom discussions. This research examined middle school students' perceptions of safety and the built environment on their walk to school.

The Evolution of School Siting and its Implications for Active Transportation in New Jersey. This study examines historical changes in the size and location of schools in New Jersey and their relevance to children walking and bicycling to school. It compares the characteristics of schools, students, and surrounding areas of schools established in different decades to identify the critical issues that affect active transportation to school in the state.

Can I Bicycle to School? This research examined school policies on active travel in one county in New Jersey — Middlesex County. All 165 public schools in Middlesex County were contacted and surveyed to determine whether policies on active travel existed and collected specifics about the policies (grades affected, modes, etc.) The results of the surveys were compiled and summarized along with inferences based on the data and suggestions for changing and clarifying school policies.

Is it Safe to Walk to School? This research study reviews literature on risk perception and data from surveys that were distributed to parents throughout six public school in New Jersey. Questions comprising three main categories: (1) traffic dangers, (2) Social dangers (such as crime) and (3) child/community perceptions were included in the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Parent/Caregiver survey.

School Bicycle Parking Guide. School bicycle parking, particularly for elementary and middle-school students, requires additional considerations than for bike parking in other environments. Universally, bike parking should be secure, sheltered, easy to use, and have adequate capacity, but factors such as school location and riders' ages are important when determining the most appropriate type of bike rack. With younger students, for example, ease-of-use is especially crucial, while schools where large numbers of students arrive by bike may need to select high-capacity racks. This guide provides information to help schools make appropriate decisions when purchasing and installing racks.

Confronting School Bus Cuts. School districts throughout New Jersey are forced to make budget cuts, and transportation particularly courtesy busing which is not state funded, is usually targeted. As a result, school districts are reaching out for help with planning so students can safely walk and bike to school when busing is eliminated or reduced. Led and conducted interviews with school districts throughout New to collect information on cost reductions in school transportation, changes implemented, effects and reactions from the school community as well as steps taken once busing was reduced. Conducted interviews and wrote report that included strategies and recommendations are suggested when courtesy busing is reduced or eliminated.

Short Topical Papers. NJDOT often has a need to conduct research on critical issues as they emerge. Short topical papers are developed to research cutting edge ideas, find best practices in other states or countries, and/or prepare case studies. Recent papers include:

- Employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in the NJ Safe Routes to School Program
- Safe Routes to School Funding Case Studies (Montclair, Brick, Garfield, Ridgewood)
- Case Study of the Effectiveness of Satellite (remote) Drop-Off Points at New Jersey Schools
- Cost Benefit Analysis of Safe Routes to School Programs in New Jersey
- Distracted Driving in School Zones

Technical Assistance, Trainings & Education

As a national leader in active transportation and addressing health and socio-economic disparities by developing sustainable transportation and land use solutions for communities, Ms. Von Hagen creates opportunities for practical

application of research through direct technical assistance to NJ communities and through multiple trainings and educational programs. Recent projects include:

- Creation of School Travel Plans in low-income communities (e.g. Elizabeth, Trenton, Plainfield, Bayonne, Jersey City, Bound Brook & South Bound Brook)
- Creation and instruction of youth on-bike education programs in low income communities (e.g. Irvington, Camden, Pemberton, Hudson County)
- Leader of school & neighborhood walkability and bikeability safety assessments (e.g. Trenton, Newark, Brick, Garfield, Jersey City)
- School Physical Education Teacher training for on-bike youth education (statewide)
- Crossing Guard Supervisor Training for local police departments (statewide)
- How-to Conduct Walkability and Bikeability Assessments Trainings (statewide)
- Walking School Bus Trainings (e.g. Perth Amboy, Brick, Ridgewood, Trenton, Camden)
- Creating School Travel Plans Trainings (statewide)
- Broadening Outreach of SRTS to Children with Disabilities & Special Needs Trainings (statewide)
- Youth Pedestrian and Bicycle Education Curriculum Trainings (statewide)
- Federal Grant Training for Potential Local Applicants (statewide)
- Planning Walking and Bicycling Events Trainings (statewide)
- Transportation Management Association SRTS Coordinator Program Training

NEW JERSEY CROSSING GUARD TRAINING & RESOURCES PROGRAM

The NJ Crossing Guard Training & Resources Program provides research-based training and tools for crossing guards and the traffic safety officers who supervise them. School crossing guards assist children in crossing the roadways on their way to and from school, and they model appropriate street skills and behavior for young children. As part of the NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center, the Crossing Guard Program prepares crossing guards for their duties and supports them through projects that address pedestrian safety.

New Jersey School Crossing Guard Training Manual and In-Person Training Program. Conducted research and developed a training manual and a uniform statewide Crossing Guard Training Program for municipal police traffic safety officers. The program provides guidance and policy on crossing guard training and supervision. To date, police from over 260 municipalities in New Jersey have received this training. This project was jointly funded by the NJ Department of Transportation and the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

New Jersey School Crossing Guard Research, More Than Crossing Streets. Crossing guards play a vital role in the lives of children who walk or bike to school each day. At the same time, the position of crossing guard is one of the most dangerous of NJ municipal jobs due to slips, trips, and falls, and crashes involving motor vehicles. Research and analysis included focus groups with school crossing guards covering work conditions in New Jersey and interviews with national experts to identify current best practices in use throughout the country. This project was jointly funded by the NJ Department of Transportation and the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

PLANNING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

As a founder of the Planning Healthy Communities Initiative housed at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Ms. Von Hagen works to reconnect the disciplines of public health and community planning to combat health and equity challenges by conducting Health Impact Assessments (HIA) and by considering possible health and equity outcomes of decisions that might not ordinarily consider all impacts. Recent HIAs and Health in All Policy projects include:

Rutgers University Bike Share Health Impact Assessment. This project provided analysis of the health and equity impacts of the new bike share program planned for Rutgers and the three surrounding communities of New Brunswick, Highland Park, and Piscataway. The research highlights the existing bicycle use and transportation infrastructure with a focus on communities of concern and analyzes the physical, mental, social, and economic health impacts of the potential bike share program for users and residents, paying special attention to the needs of vulnerable subpopulations.

Middlesex Greenway Access Plan Health Impact Assessment. Analysis of and recommendations for mitigating health impacts associated with increasing access and utilization of the Greenway. Recommendations included addressing infrastructure, signage, crime, facilities and programming to best protect and promote health, focusing on providing benefits to populations that could benefit disproportionately, such as senior citizens and lower income populations.

Bloomfield Avenue Complete Streets Corridor Plan Health Impact Assessment. Analysis of and recommendations for mitigating health and equity impacts of a road diet including pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicle safety (crashes, injuries) and impacts to the local economy, air quality, crime, recreational opportunities (wellness/fitness), and specific impacts to vulnerable populations, such as minorities, the young, elderly and those with limited mobility.

Health Impact Assessment Continuing Education Training, Rutgers Office of Continuing Education. Ms. Von Hagen trains professionals in such fields as health, housing, transportation, energy, land use, environment, and education by teaching a process for projecting health and equity impacts and providing evidence-based recommendations to actively promote health, prevent diseases and/or injuries, and lead to economic benefits.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

As senior research staff to the former NJ Sustainable State Institute, Ms. Von Hagen facilitated the Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the NJ Sustainable Communities Working Groups. In addition, she was responsible for creating resource documents, tools, process and incentives to create a set of criteria defining what New Jersey municipalities need to accomplish to be recognized as Sustainable Jersey communities. Currently Ms. Von Hagen leads the Land Use and Transportation Committee, develops actions for implementation, and is a reviewer of completed actions for Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

PUBLICATIONS

- Bull, C, Von Hagen, L.A., Lubin, A., et. al., "Engaging police to identify challenging school crossings and potential improvements." *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, March 2018.
- DiPetrillo, S. & Von Hagen, L.A. "Delays, Detours, and Diversions Paths to Fully Executed Safe Routes to School Projects." *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, March 2017.
- Sweeney, S. & Von Hagen, L.A. "Stranger Danger, Cell Phones, Traffic and Active Travel to Schools: Perceptions of Parents and Children." *Transportation Research Record*, Spring 2016.
- Sweeney, S. & Von Hagen, L.A. "Middle School Students' Perceptions of Safety: A Mixed Methods Study." *Journal of School Health*, October 2015, Vol. 85, No. 10.
- Deka, D. & Von Hagen, L.A. "The Evolution of School Siting and its Implications for Active Transportation in New Jersey." *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 11/2014
- Park, H., Noland, R., Von Hagen, L.A. & Chatman, D. "A Mode Choice Analysis of School Trips in New Jersey." *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, Vol.7 No. 2, 2014
- Lachapelle, U., Noland, R., & Von Hagen, L.A. "Teaching children about bicycle safety: An evaluation of the New Jersey Bike School program." *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 03/2013.
- Burger J, Pflugh KK, Lurig L, Von Hagen LA, Von Hagen, S. "Fishing in Urban New Jersey: Ethnicity Affects Information Sources, Perception, and Compliance." *Risk Analysis* 1999; Vol.19, No.2.
- Pflugh, KK, Lurig, L, Von Hagen, LA, Von Hagen, S, Burger, J. "Urban Angler's Perception of Risk from Contaminated Fish." *Science of the Total Environment* 1999; 228(2-3):203-218.