



TRANSIT VILLAGE INITIATIVE

Presentation by:  
New Jersey Department of  
Transportation

# Overview of NJ's Transit Village Initiative

## The Transit Village Initiative...

- ▶ is a multi-agency Smart Growth Partnership spearheaded by NJDOT and NJT that incentivizes the redevelopment and revitalization of areas around existing transit facilities.
- ▶ strives to create vibrant, attractive, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods where residents can live, shop, work and play without relying on automobiles.
- ▶ seeks to reduce traffic congestion and improve the air quality by increasing transit ridership



# What is a Designated Transit Village?

## A Designated Transit Village:

- Has a transit facility with significant convergence of transit services
- Demonstrates a willingness to grow in a transit supportive way
- Adopts Transit-oriented Development (TOD) redevelopment plans or TOD zoning ordinances
- Identifies and pursues TOD sites\projects



# The Transit Village Initiative started in 1999 with five pilot communities:



Pleasantville (Atlantic)



South Orange (Essex)



Morristown (Morris)



Rutherford (Bergen)

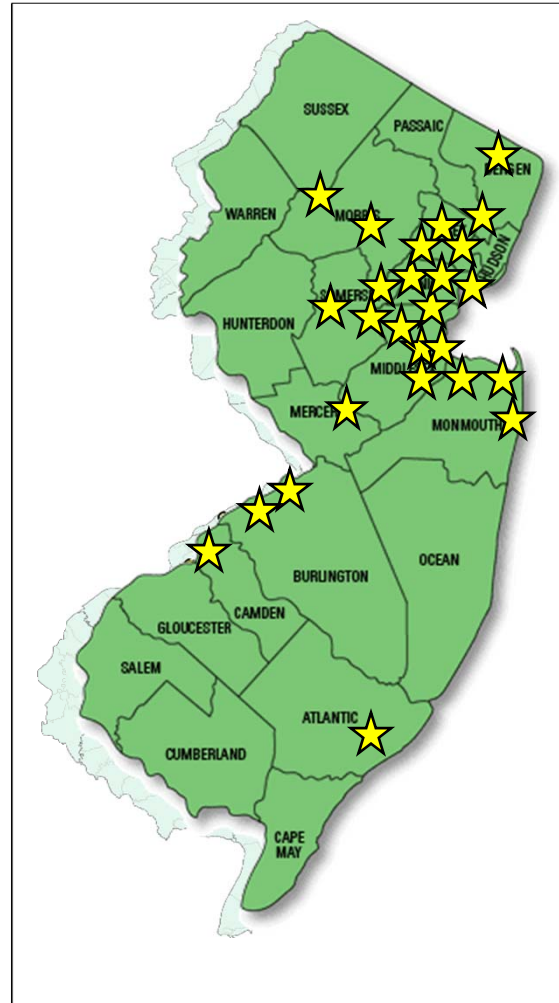


South Amboy (Middlesex)



# The Transit Village Program is...

## 33 municipalities strong



## ...And growing!



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## Four Transit Villages are located in the DVRPC area:



Riverside (2001)



Collingswood (2003)



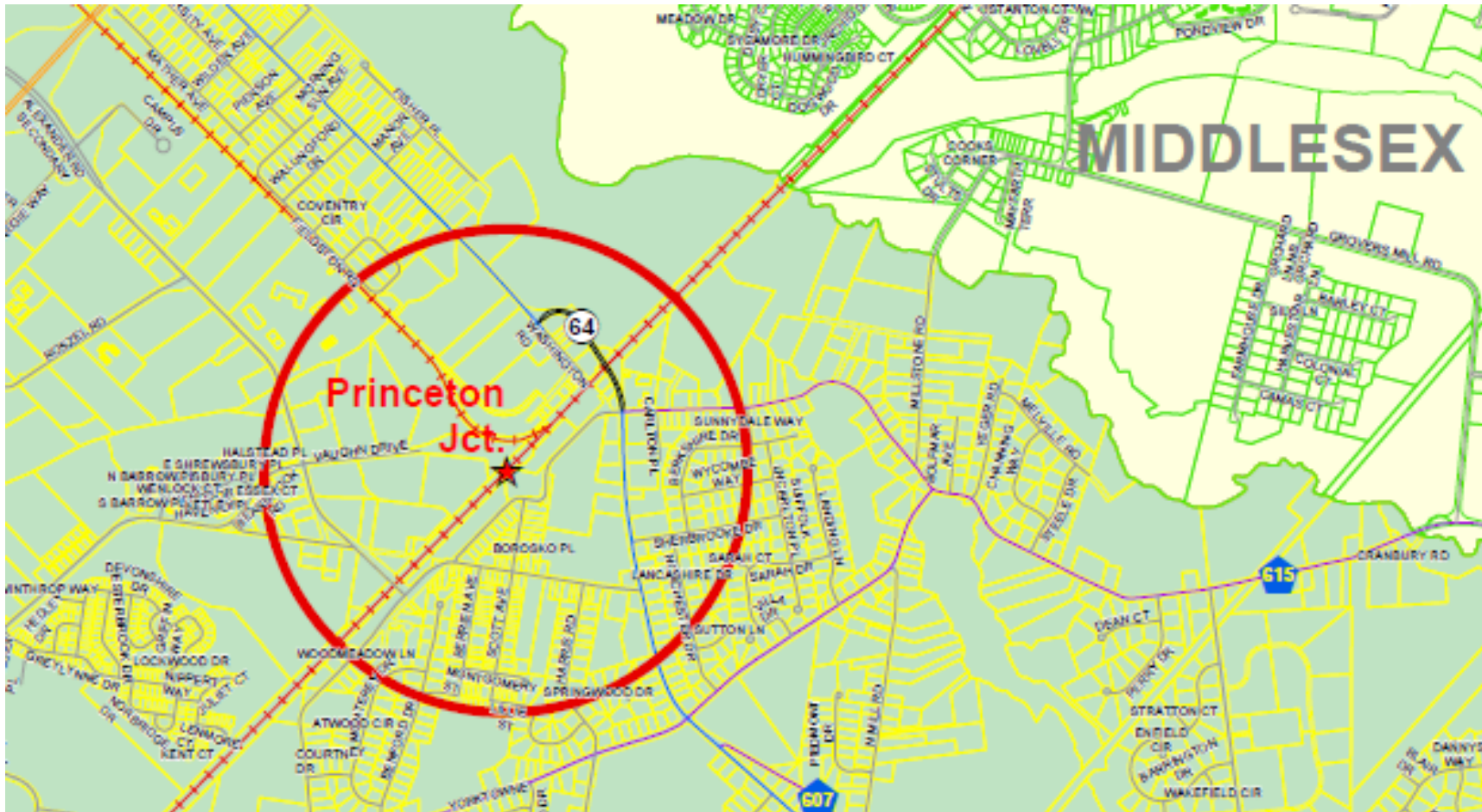
Burlington City (2007)



West Windsor (2011)



Designated Transit Village Districts receive benefits from initiative.



... Cannot extend more than  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the Transit Facility





## Designated Transit Villages are Eligible for:

- Coordinated assistance from the Transit Village Task Force Member Agencies
- Priority funding and ranking in various state agency programs
- NJDOT Transit Village Grant Program
- Technical assistance from participating state agencies
- State of NJ commitment to municipality's vision for redevelopment





# Transit Village Task Force – Nine NJ State Agency Voting Members:

1. Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
2. NJ TRANSIT (NJT)
3. Department of Community Affairs
4. Department of Environmental Protection
5. Economic Development Authority
6. Redevelopment Authority
7. Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
8. Office for Planning Advocacy (Dept. of State)
9. State Council on the Arts (Dept. of State)



Three NJ MPOs (DVRPC, NJTPA, SJTPO)  
participate on the Task Force as non-voting  
members



# Elements of a Successful Transit Village

Sufficient reliable transit options at the focal point



Willingness to grow into a compact, mixed use neighborhood built for people who will use transit



# Elements of a Successful Transit Village

Ease of biking and walking for less reliance on motor vehicles



Transit-supportive architectural design guidelines

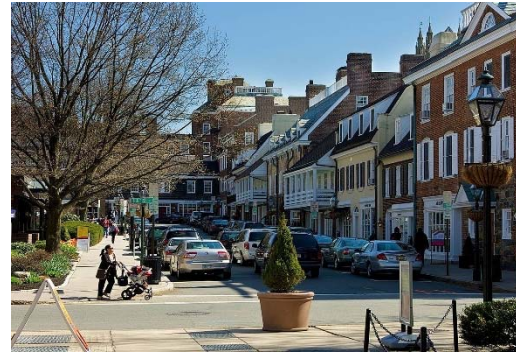


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# Elements of a Successful Transit Village

Parking does not dominate the landscape

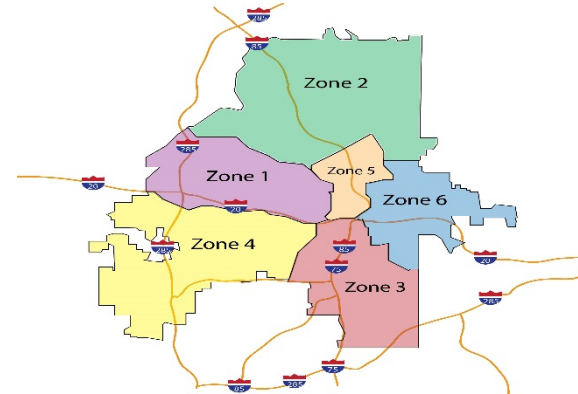


“Sense of place” that attracts residents, jobs and visitors



# Successful Transit Villages are not Self-Defeating

No overlay zoning in the Transit Village District



No new drive-through establishments in the Transit Village District



# Designation Process

1. Contact the NJDOT Transit Village Coordinator
2. Attend the required Pre-Application Meeting
3. Submit an Application
  - As requested, provide additional information to support designation
4. Task Force recommends designation to Commissioner of Transportation
5. NJDOT Commissioner announces the Transit Village Designation
  - The process is highly confidential until an official announcement is made by Commissioner/Governor.





## Am I ready to do what it takes for Transit Village Designation?



The citizens of my community have embraced a vision for transit supportive development/redevelopment



This embraced vision has come to reality through public input and stakeholder outreach



The current municipal “by-right” zoning reflects this community embraced vision



My community actively promotes transit usage by enhancing access to and improving the experience at the transit facility



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## Resources

NJDOT Transit Village Initiative Web Site at  
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/village/>

Manual of Best Practices for Transit-Oriented Development at  
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/village/bestpractices.shtm>

DVRPC Transit-Oriented Development Web Site at  
<http://www.dvrpc.org/TOD/>





# Questions?

