



For Immediate Release:

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NJDOT and SJTPO announce \$900,000 Federal grant to Millville for Millyard Riverfront Walk Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grants

help municipalities provide bicycle and pedestrian improvements

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in partnership with the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO) today announced the award of a \$900,000 federal grant under the <u>Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside</u> (<u>TA Set-Aside</u>) program.

"As part of NJDOT's Commitment to Communities, we work with the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to provide federal funding to counties and municipalities for local transportation projects that improve safety and strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of our transportation system," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "The grant announced today will fund the Millyard Riverfront Walk in Millville to improve pedestrian and bicycle trails in Cumberland County."

The competitive TA Set-Aside program provides funds to build pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation, and create trail projects that serve a transportation purpose while promoting safety and mobility. It is administered by the NJDOT in partnership with SJTPO, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The DVRPC announced its grants on April 27 and NJTPA will announce its grants in early May.

The grant announced today in the SJTPO region will provide \$900,000 to Millville for Millyard Riverfront Walk, which serves as a half-mile extension to the Maurice Riverfront Walk and Bikeway Trail, offering off-road connectivity for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation via historic pathways, bridges, and previous rail lines along the Maurice River and Union Lake spillway.

The solicitation round for applications was July 31, 2020 to November 24, 2020. A total of 13 applications requesting approximately \$11.1 million were received from municipalities in the SJTPO region. Total available grant funding was \$900,000. The SJTPO covers four counties in Southern New Jersey – Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties.

New this year was an equity component to the program. Projects in eligible communities received additional technical assistance with the grant application, as well as additional points during the scoring process. Eligible communities were determined by U.S. Census data identifying low-income residents, racial and ethnic minorities, those with limited English proficiency, persons with disabilities, children, and older adults.

Each individual municipality is responsible for implementing their Transportation Alternative Set-Aside projects. For further details on a specific project, we recommend reaching out to the municipality.

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