



NEWS RELEASE

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NJ Mayors Convened to Develop Best Practices for New Jersey Revitalization Strategies

Recommendations: Cluster Development Around Transit; Connect People to Water; Design for Safety and a Mix of Incomes; Foster Connections Between Municipalities

(NEW YORK, NY) A new report released today by Regional Plan Association explores redevelopment strategies for six New Jersey municipalities.

This 28-page report, titled, “Designing for Success: The New Jersey Regional Design Institute,” resulted from a two-day-long intensive planning exercise in which the Mayors from six New Jersey cities, towns, and villages worked with a resource team consisting of experts in planning, design, sustainable development, transportation, and planning law.

The key recommendations that arose include clustering development in interconnected hubs, particularly around transit; connecting people to the water; designing for safety and a mix of incomes; and fostering inter-municipal connections and cooperation.

For detailed recommendations on each municipality, visit:

<http://www.rpa.org/pdf/20100330-RPA-Report-NJ-Institute-Jan-09.pdf>

The participants gathered at the Arts Council of Princeton on January 29-30, 2009 and included chief elected officials of the City of Orange, Pemberton Township, the City of Perth Amboy, the City of Pleasantville, Princeton Borough, and the Township of South Orange Village. Each community presented his/her case study or specific problem to resolve, which was then followed by an hour and one-half brainstorming session about the solutions.

-more, more, more-

“This was our first Institute in which every case study -- urban, suburban and rural – involved redevelopment of previously developed areas. It is quite clear that this is the future in New Jersey. We should watch these cases closely and ensure they are successful,” said Carlos Rodrigues, Vice President and Director, New Jersey Office of Regional Plan Association.

The New Jersey Regional Design Institute is a program organized by Regional Plan Association with the assistance of the NJ Office of Smart Growth to promote and implement better design and planning in communities throughout New Jersey. This Institute and report also received generous funding from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Regional Plan Association (RPA) is an independent, not-for-profit regional planning organization that improves the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the 31-county New York-New Jersey-Connecticut region through research, planning, and advocacy. For more than 80 years, RPA has been shaping transportation systems, protecting open spaces, and promoting better community design for the region's continued growth. We anticipate the challenges the region will face in the years to come, and we mobilize the region's civic, business, and government sectors to take action.