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August 12, 2010

District 4 Manager
Division of Local Aid and Economic Development District
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1 Executive Campus
Route 70 West, 3rd Floor
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Dear Sir:

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA) strongly supports Downtown Hightstown's application for funding for the construction of the Greenway Walking Bridge over Peddie Lake in Hightstown under the Centers of Place Program of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The WWBPA was established in January 2006 as a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making our community and the surrounding area safer for bicyclists and walkers of all ages. Construction of the Greenway Walking Bridge would complement our goals by enabling more people to safely access Hightstown, a regional center for education, employment, recreation, residence, and shopping.

Replacing the previously removed footbridge, which was deemed structurally unsafe in 2009, the Greenway Bridge would improve the safety and efficiency of pedestrian access to downtown Hightstown, the Hightstown Library, three schools (Walter C. Black Elementary School, Grace N. Rodgers Elementary School, and Hightstown High School), Peddie Lake, and Memorial Park. The new bridge would be designed to be accessible under the Americans with Disability Act.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, "a walkable community is much more than just sidewalks." It includes continuous systems and connectivity, well-functioning facilities, linkages to a variety of land uses, and accessibility by all users. http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/docs/00-01156walkablecommunity.pdf

The Greenway Walking Bridge fulfills these criteria and will continue to make Hightstown a model for pedestrian safety and access in the region. The WWBPA encourages you to grant funds for this important project.

Sincerely,

Chris Scherer,
1st vice president