Transit Hub Planning Program





Partnership between North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and American Planning Association NJ Chapter.

Provides pro-bono planning services to communities looking to create vibrant transit hubs near their transit stop / station.

- Solicitation with competitive selection.
- Enlists volunteer planner teams to conduct extensive community engagement.
- Team evaluates findings and develops transit hub strategic plan tailored to the community.
- Plans define action steps and advancement opportunities.

NJTPA NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY

Berkeley Heights Transit Hub











NJTPA Joint Committee Meeting
October 19, 2026

Township of Berkeley Heights
Community Planning Assistance Program - APA-NJ
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority





Joint effort between NJTPA's Transit Hub Program & APA-NJ Community Planning Assistance Program

Competitive award for Planning Services around the Station Area

15-person volunteer team of planners, architects, & landscape architects







Project Goals

Develop a community and business-supported transit hub area plan around the Berkeley Heights Train Station leveraging the commercial district along Sherman and Springfield Avenues.

Provide strategies to improve safety, accessibility, and active transportation opportunities for residents and visitors.

Recommend zoning policies to align current parking needs, driveway access, and land use compatibility with the town's current buildings, land areas and public spaces.

Informing the On-going Planning

Complete Streets Policy

Township Master Plan

Downtown Development (DD) District regulations

Complete & Green Streets Task Force Report

Sherman Avenue and Peppertown Park Revitalization Project

Union County Transportation Master Plan

Outreach & Visioning

Transit Hub Plan

Circulation Plan

Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

Parking Inventory & Analysis

Master Plan & Zoning Updates

Design Standards & Streetscape Specs









Existing Conditions

Key Concerns

Pedestrian safety near station

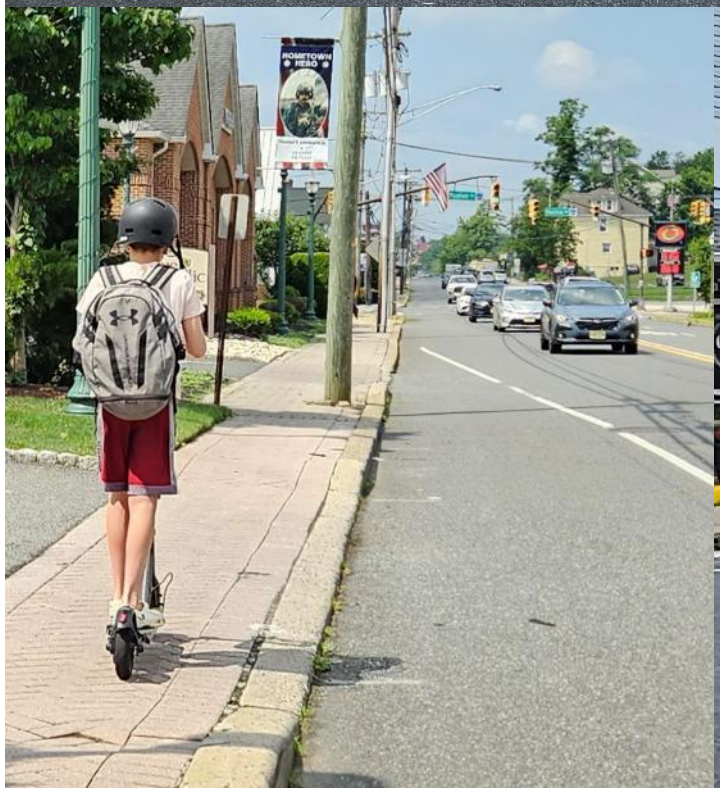
Challenged circulation & traffic

Confusing & unbalanced parking

Lack of bike infrastructure

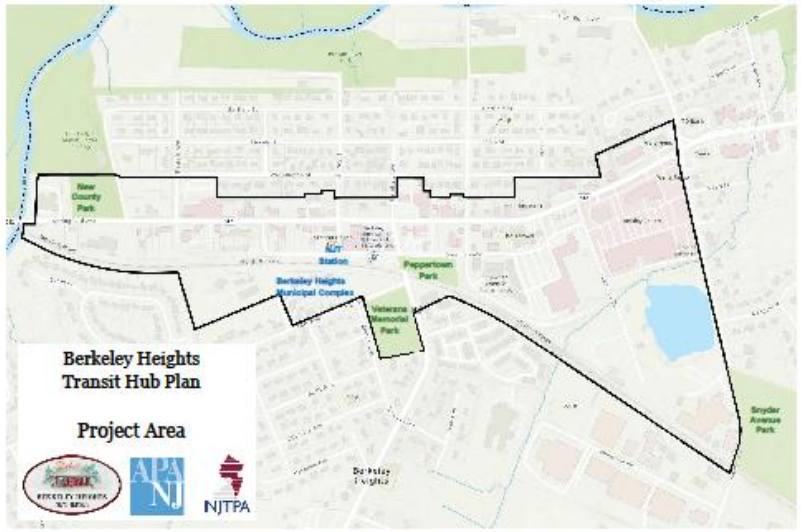
Need for better streetscape design













What would improve access & make walking & biking safer?



What types of public spaces & activities would you like to see?



How can we add landscape features & help mitigate flooding?





Survey Overview

Online Mentimeter survey

Launched at 2025 Winter Walk

Online December 2025 to February 2026

Over 500 responses

Columbia Middle School Student Survey (361respondents)

Gathered feedback on travel behavior, design preferences, and improvements

Key Planning Takeaways

Improve walkability and safety

Enhance downtown character

Better organize parking

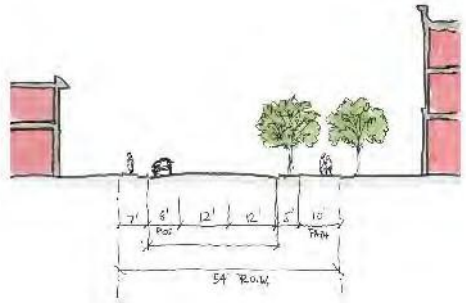
Activate public spaces

Strengthen connections between station, downtown, and parks



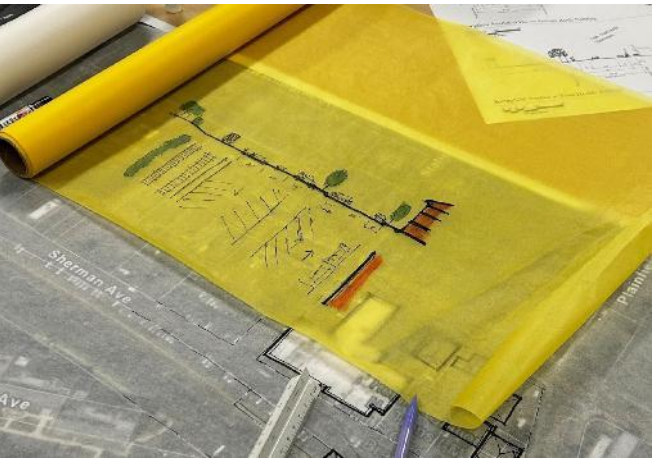


Design Process





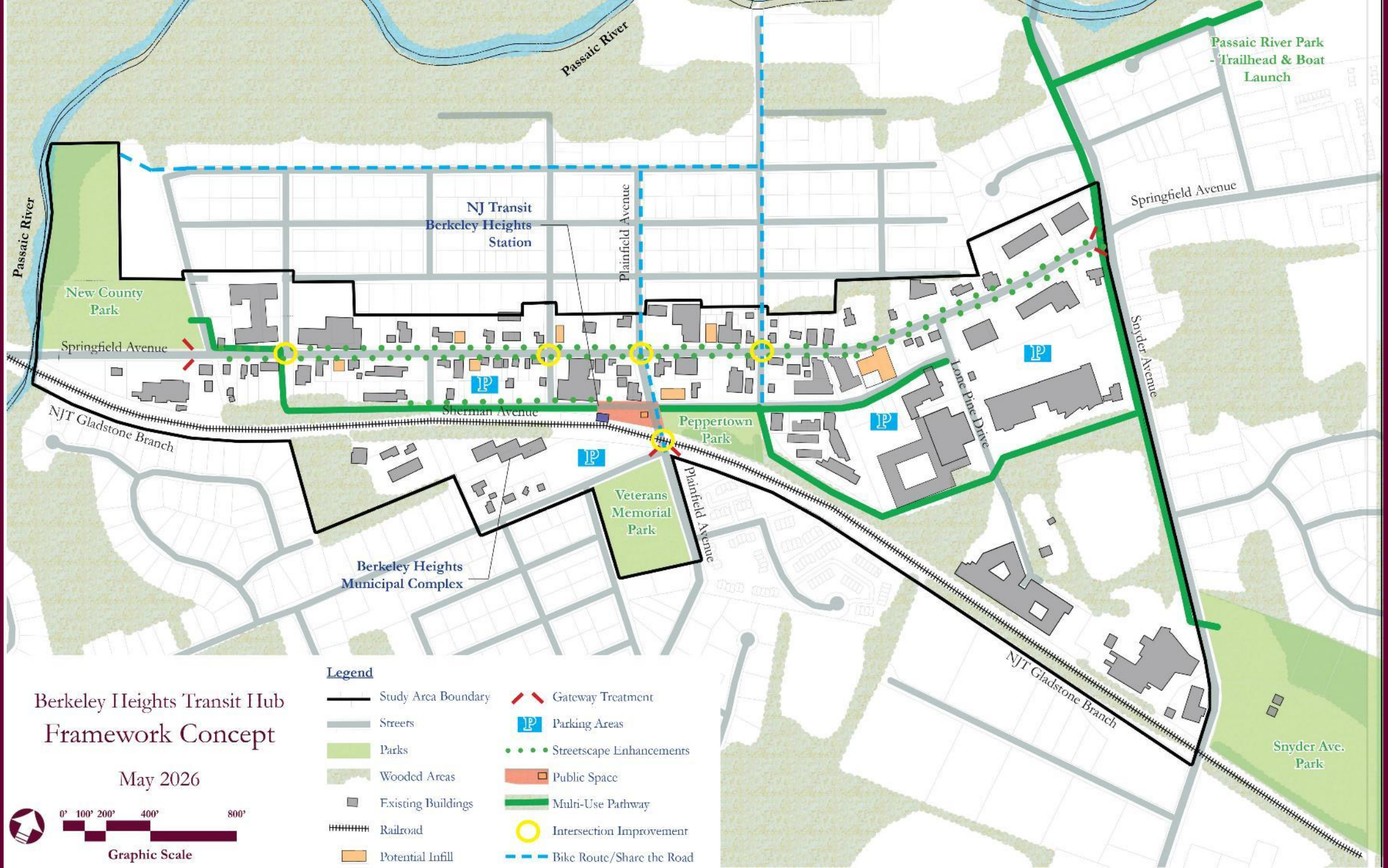











Passaic River
Passaic River
Passaic River Park - Trailhead & Boat Launch
NJ Transit Berkeley Heights Station
Plainfield Avenue
Springfield Avenue
New County Park
Springfield Avenue
Snyder Avenue
Lone Pine Drive
Sherman Avenue
NJT Gladstone Branch
Peppertown Park
Veterans Memorial Park
Plainfield Avenue
Berkeley Heights Municipal Complex
NJT Gladstone Branch
Snyder Ave. Park
Berkeley Heights Transit Hub
Framework Concept
May 2026
0' 100' 200' 400' 800'
Graphic Scale
Legend
Study Area Boundary
Streets
Parks
Wooded Areas
Existing Buildings
Railroad
Potential Infill
Gateway Treatment
Parking Areas
Streetscape Enhancements
Public Space
Multi-Use Pathway
Intersection Improvement
Bike Route/Share the Road



Top Rated Image – Bike Improvements



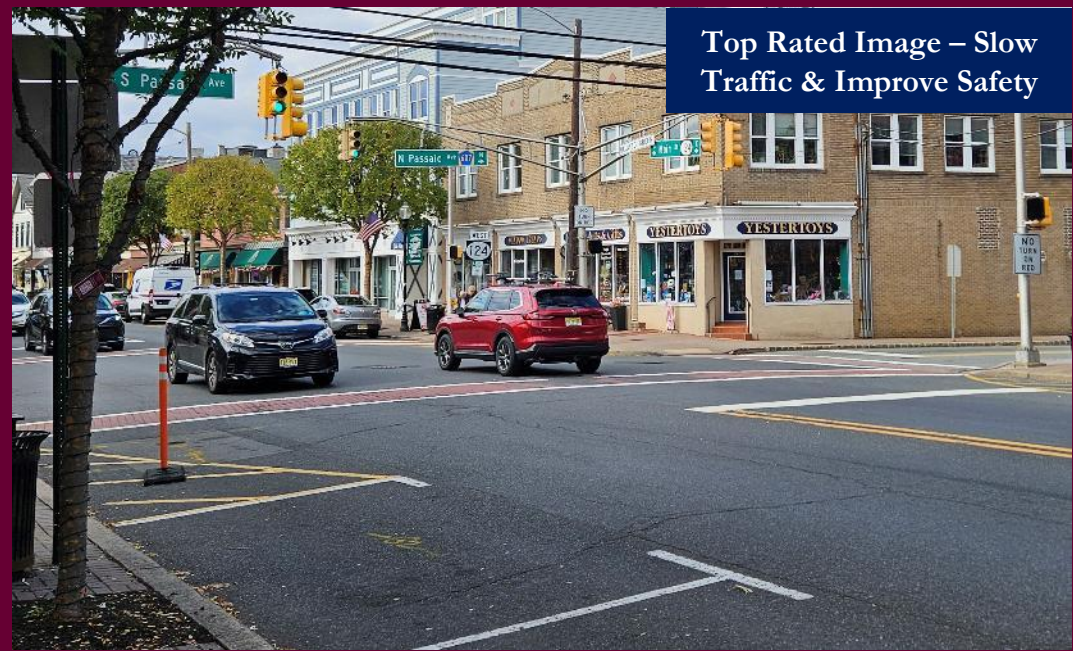


Top Rated Image – Slow Traffic & Improve Safety



Top Rated Image – Bike Improvements





Top Rated Image – Slow Traffic & Improve Safety

Circulation and Safety



Land Use and Zoning

Infill Buildings

Consolidated Parking

Façade Improvements & Signage Upgrades

Dining Area/Pocket Parks



Bumpout w/ Green Infrastructure

Additional Streetscaping

Crosswalk

Land Use and Zoning

Berkeley Heights Transit Hub Plan

Design Visualizations









Existing



Springfield & Summit Avenues

Short-Term

CONCEPTUAL AI RENDERING

Painted Bumpouts / Curb Extensions

High Visibility Crosswalks

Pedestrian Crossing Signage



Long-Term – with Green Infrastructure

Curb Extensions

Possible Green Infrastructure

RRFB Pedestrian Crossing Signals



Existing







Springfield Ave – Central Section

Long-Term

CONCEPTUAL AI RENDERING

Clearly Delineated Parking

Additional Infill & Building Improvements

Streetscape Improvements



Springfield Ave – Central Section

Station Parking Area



Station Parking Area Rendering

CONCEPTUAL AI RENDERING



Station Area Event Rendering



Next Steps & Implementation

Circulation Plan

Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

Parking Inventory & Analysis

Downtown Development (DD) Zone Updates

7.1 Circulation and Parking Planning

Program/ Improvement/ Activity	Detail/Process Steps	Time Frame	Possible Technical Assistance & Funding Sources	Possible Stakeholders & Partners	NJTPA Demo Library
Conduct Parking, Circulation and Mobility Study	A. Inventory total parking capacity within the downtown study district. B. Analyze parking utilization v. capacity under normal and peak/event conditions. C. Evaluate vehicular circulation patterns and volumes in the downtown district. D. Evaluate multi-modal access and mobility needs. E. Engage community stakeholders F. Develop/test potential circulation, access and safety strategies and identify application locations. Possible use of the **NJTPA Demo Library.** G. Consider potential regulatory, design, and management strategies to maximize available parking use while balancing multi-modal access and safety. H. Select Strategic Plan improvement strategies best suited / locally preferred for specific locations. I. Prepare final report of recommended policy, operational and design changes.	Short	Engineering/ Planning Consultant New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA)	Berkeley Heights (BH) Council BH Engineering BH Planning Board Businesses/BID Property Owners) Union County Planning and Engineering NJEDA NJ TRANSIT Community Friendly Planning	
Update Circulation Element of Municipal Master Plan	A. Select findings from the **Parking, Circulation and Mobility study,** including updated guidance and prioritization for addressing municipal parking, circulation and mobility needs. Confirm preferred strategies and identify expected project partners and funding approaches. B. Incorporate into draft Circulation Element Update. C. Conduct community outreach and incorporate final refinements. D. Seek municipal adoption.	Medium	Engineering/ Planning Consultant Union County	BH Council BH Planning BH Engineering New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA)	

7.2 Mobility and Safety Improvements

Program/ Improvement/ Activity	Detail/Process Steps	Time	Possible Technical Assistance & Funding Sources	Possible Stakeholders & Partners	NJTPA Demo Library
Snyder Avenue Pedestrian & Bicycle Links	1. Pilot multi-use shoulder on the western side via the **NJTPA Demo Library.** 2. Complete new sidewalk and crosswalk construction on Snyder Avenue connecting the shopping center to Snyder Park, 3. Construct full long-term streetscape improvements consistent with Bike Network & Circulation Plans	Short Medium Long	NJDOT Local Aid NJTPA Safe Routes to School	BH Council BH Engineering BH DPW BH Police Union County Engineering	
Crosswalk State of Good Repair	1. Upgrade crosswalks with high-visibility markings.	Short Medium	NJDOT Local Aid NJTPA Safe Routes to School & Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside	BH Engineering BH DPW BH Police	
Sidewalk State of Good Repair	1. Complete sidewalk gaps along primary roadway corridors.	Short Medium	NJDOT Local Aid NJTPA Safe Routes to School & Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside	BH Engineering BH DPW BH Police	
Springfield & Summit Intersection	1. Pilot Traffic Calming via **NJTPA Demo Library** 2. Upgrade crosswalks with high-visibility markings & stripes on-street spaces	Short	NJDOT Safe Streets to Transit	BH DPW BH Police NJTPA	
Springfield Ave. Central Section	4. Based on the findings of a **Study,** including traffic study & counts, upgrade crosswalks with high-visibility markings & stripe on-street spaces. 5. Pilot Traffic Calming via **NJTPA Demo Library.** 6. Construct full long-term streetscape improvements on Springfield Avenue, including lane adjustments, continuous street trees, wide sidewalks, and café zones.	Short Medium Long	NJTPA Transportation Alternative Set-Aside	BH Engineering NJTPA	
Springfield Ave. West Section	1. Based on the findings of the **Parking & Circulation Study,** including traffic study & counts, upgrade crosswalks with high-visibility markings & stripe on-street spaces. 2. Pilot Traffic Calming via **NJTPA Demo Library.** 3. Construct full long-term streetscape improvements on Springfield Avenue, including lane adjustments, continuous street trees, wide sidewalks, and café zones.	Short Medium	NJTPA Transportation Alternative Set-Aside	NJTPA	

Transit Hub Planning Program Accomplishments

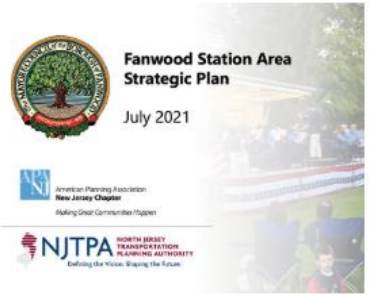


June 2019



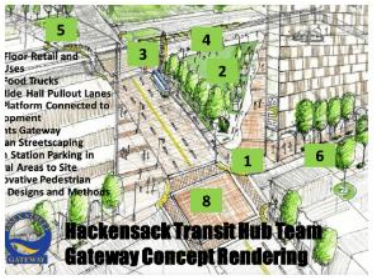
Transit Hubs Pilot Program

2019 - 2020



Fanwood Transit Hub

2021



Essex Street Gateway Transit Hub (Hackensack)

2022 - 2023



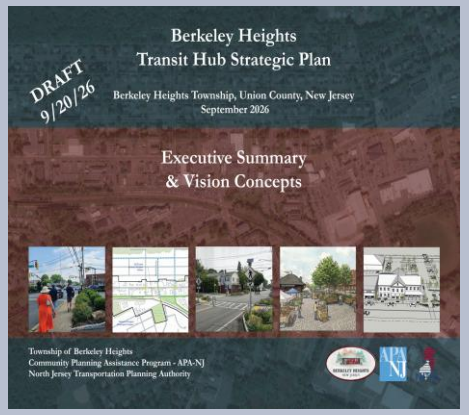
Perth Amboy Transit Hub

2024



City of Passaic Transit Hub

2024



2025 - 2026

Conducted Transit Hubs Pilot Program to test municipal collaboration.

Developed *Guidebook for Transit Hub Planning* outlining strategic planning process.

Conducted program and produced strategic planning reports for communities.

- Seven (7) Transit Hub Strategic Plans Transit Hub Strategic Plan Reports
- NJTPA Guidebook for Transit Hub Planning NJTPA Guidebook for Transit Hub Planning

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