

New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Aaron Hyndman aaron.hyndman@njbwc.org 908-627-2306

## NJ Bike & Walk Summit to Bring Region's Best and Brightest in Transportation Policy, Implementation and Advocacy Together on February 25

Statewide Event to Feature Practical Solutions, Sustainable Policy Alternatives and Advocacy Tools

PRINCETON, N.J. (Feb. 10, 2017) – Innovation will be the theme of the day at the 2017 New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit in Princeton, New Jersey on Saturday, February 25. This year's Summit will feature interactive workshops in addition to a plenary session featuring keynote speakers Paul Steely White, Executive Director of New York City-based Transportation Alternatives, and Princeton Mayor Liz Lempert.

Held at Princeton University, attendees can participate in a full day of lectures, workshops, and panel discussions to learn about innovative approaches relating to bicycle and pedestrian policy, as well as state and federal issues affecting their communities. There will also be information about public funding sources and the opportunity to develop mutually beneficial relationships that can help communities become more livable and economically vibrant through bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure initiatives.

This year's annual Summit will introduce interactive workshops including infrastructure walkthroughs, a grassroots brainstorming session, and a hands-on demonstration of how a parklet works. "The 2017 NJ Bike & Walk Summit offers attendees an excellent opportunity to learn about best practices for bike and pedestrian infrastructure and policy," said Cyndi Steiner, Executive Director of the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition. "They will not only have the opportunity to hear the most current ideas in lectures and seminars, but will be able to participate in workshops providing practical first-hand understanding of what makes good bike and pedestrian facilities effective."

"The NJ Bike & Walk Summit is an excellent opportunity for street safety groups to share strategies for more effective advocacy and organizing," said Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives. "By taking some time to step outside of our local contexts and compare notes, we can work together to build and connect a network of people-friendly streets and public spaces throughout our region" said White, whose advocacy organization played a leading role in bringing *Vision Zero* to the US, and works to make New York City streets safer for biking and walking.

In addition to Mr. White's plenary session, Mayor Lempert will highlight the progress in Princeton to increase the amount of safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure in her municipality as part of Princeton's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. "Princeton is once again thrilled to be hosting the New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit. I'm looking forward to sharing success stories with other communities and learning new strategies to tackle our current challenges."

The NJ Bike & Walk Coalition will present its annual *Advocate of the Year Award* at the summit; the 2017 awardees are Debbie Kingsland, who retired last June from NJDOT after serving as the state's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; and Bill Feldman, also retired from NJDOT and from the firm NV5 (formerly The RBA Group) in January of this year.

The NJ Bike & Walk Summit is New Jersey's annual statewide meeting of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, elected officials and other civic leaders, transportation and urban planners, bike shop owners and managers, cycling, walking, fitness and health enthusiasts and experts, recreation, trails and club leaders and others who are interested in making New Jersey a better place to live. More information and registration details can be found online at <u>www.njbwc.org/summit-2017</u>.

## About the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition

The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition is the only statewide advocacy organization for bicyclists and pedestrians. NJBWC is dedicated to protecting the rights and safety of New Jersey's bicyclists and walkers, promoting bicycling and walking for fun, fitness, and transportation, educating cyclists, walkers, and drivers about our rights and responsibilities, and connecting our communities with a smarter transportation system. NJBWC is a collective voice for everyone who believes that a safer, more rideable and walkable New Jersey means a more livable, sustainable New Jersey.

###