



**New Jersey
Bike & Walk
Coalition**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition announces successful campaign for Essex-Hudson Greenway Connector routing plan

East Coast Greenway Alliance and September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance partner with NJBWC

MONTCLAIR, NJ (March 16, 2017) – The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition announces that they have been successful in obtaining a project to create a routing plan from the NJ Department of Transportation for the Essex/Hudson Greenway Connector. Partnering with the NJBWC are the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), and the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance. The organizations are leading a coalition of bicycle and pedestrian advocacy and environmental and civic organizations in creating an off-road multi-use path starting in Jersey City and Hoboken that will cross the Meadowlands and the Passaic River into Essex County in two places, including downtown Newark and the Branchbrook Park area. The organizations envision additional paths that will connect to the greenway and branch off to communities north and west that will ultimately connect other municipalities further west in Essex County.

In the Meadowlands, there is no off-road shared use path connection between the highly-developed areas to the east and the communities in Essex County to the west. Creating a greenway across this area would significantly benefit local communities as well as overall connectivity for the ECG across New Jersey, and for the September 11th National Memorial Trail, traversing Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark, Harrison and Kearny as it travels east from Pennsylvania and south from Washington, DC. Connections in this area would offer walking and bicycle travel between New Jersey's two largest cities for both recreational use and for commuting to work for people who choose to walk or bike.

As 16% of the population of New Jersey lives in Essex and Hudson Counties, the greenway will become both a recreation and a transportation option for the residents of these counties. Further, it will connect the PATH train and ferry terminals in Jersey City and Hoboken, and create a route to the George Washington Bridge by bike, making the greenway an excellent commuting option.

“This greenway will function as a linear park, providing safe places to walk and ride a bike. It will connect communities to each other, to parks in Essex County, and to various ‘destination’ communities like Montclair, Newark, and Jersey City,” explains Essex County Freeholder Vice President and NJBWC Board Member Brendan Gill. “Underserved communities such as Newark, Belleville and Bloomfield will benefit from connections to the greenway. These populations typically have less access to healthy activities due to unsafe streets and lack of

affordable recreation and transportation options. The greenway will provide these communities with safe, off-road access by foot or by bike.”

NJDOT will provide route planning services toward creating a greenway that will ultimately connect Jersey City and Hoboken with downtown Newark and to communities to the north and west in Essex County. The planning project will explore possible routes across the area, while identifying "fatal flaw" areas that can be ruled out. The project will provide medium-term and long-term solutions for the greenway. The outcome of this project will be planning documents that can then be advanced into future design projects.

About the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition

The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition is NJ’s only statewide advocacy organization for bicyclists and pedestrians. The NJBWC’s most recent win is the rebuild of all four entrances to the George Washington Bridge bike paths, and the rebuild of the paths around the bridge’s towers, improving safety and access for all riders and pedestrians. The organization also successfully campaigned for the bike lanes along Route 35 at the Jersey Shore. The NJBWC’s work on this project is supported by The Helen & William Mazer Foundation.

About the East Coast Greenway

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a developing trail system, linking the major cities of the Eastern Seaboard between Canada and Key West, Florida. Over 30 percent of the route is already on traffic-free greenways, creating safe, accessible routes for people of all ages and abilities.

About the September 11th National Memorial Trail

The September 11th National Memorial Trail is a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that link the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C and the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. It serves as a tribute to the men and women who perished on September 11, 2001.

The multipurpose trail system provides cyclists, hikers and walkers a valued public resource and an opportunity to experience breathtaking landscapes, meet new towns and engage in this unique historic trail. Through the efforts of The September 11th Trail Alliance, along with cooperation of local and state governments, assistance of federal agencies, and partnerships with community groups, the trail is real today.