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Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and Mayor Mironov announce Bikeway Grant award for East Windsor State funds will be used to extend the Union Transportation Trail

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti and East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov on January 22 announced the award of a \$450,000 Bikeway Grant through the Bikeway Grant Program that will extend the Union Transportation Bike Trail in Mercer County.

This grant will fund the construction of a 3.2-mile gravel extension of the Union Transportation Trail in East Windsor between Old York Road and Airport Road. The Union Transportation Trail starts in Monmouth County from the Crosswicks Creek Greenway at Route 537 and runs parallel to Route 539 through Crosswicks, Upper Freehold, and Allentown, and extends into Mercer County at Old York Road County Route 539.

The extension will provide access to open space in Mercer County and pass through two Township parks – Turnpike Park and Woods Road Community Park.

"This project will create a safe off-street pathway for runners, walkers, bicyclists and equestrians," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "It is an example of how the Murphy Administration has been working toward improving the quality of life for our residents by promoting healthy, safe alternate modes of transportation."

"This is an exciting announcement for East Windsor Township," Mayor Mironov said. "We are really grateful for these resources because they are the type of support that both enable the project to move forward and underscore our goals and ambitions to expand our bicycle trails and pathways within East Windsor Township and the region."

"This grant funding will go a long way in helping the Township bring this quality of life improvement to the people of East Windsor," said Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo. "With a brand new trail extension, residents will have another place to go to and enjoy the outdoors right in their own neighborhood."

The <u>Bikeway Grant Program</u> is part of NJDOT's Local Aid program funded through the State Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The Bikeway Grant Program provides \$1 million in grants annually to counties and municipalities to promote bikeways as an alternate mode of transportation to support the State's goal of achieving 1,000 new miles of dedicated bikeways in New Jersey. This year the Department received 41 applications requesting about \$18.2 million. Grants are selected through a highly competitive process with three recipients awarded in FY2020 – East Windsor, Lakewood, and Pennsville.

Last year NJDOT created a <u>Local Aid Resource Center</u> to support local public agencies, fulfilling a pledge to offer proactive assistance. The Resource Center assists communities with project planning, grant applications, project delivery, and guidance through the federal grant process by offering customized inperson training sessions, webinars, a library of YouTube videos, and a dedicated telephone hotline.

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