



## Competitive.

A competitive North Jersey is a place where residents have the education, training, skills, and transportation needed to find (and get to) well-paying jobs. It's home to a variety of growing industries, especially high-tech and cutting-edge fields, that offer a range of opportunities accessible to all residents. It supports innovation, collaboration, partnership and entrepreneurship in a flourishing 21st century economy.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Ample job opportunities
- Competitive wages and salaries
- Opportunities to build new skills and upward mobility

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Start an internship program to create opportunities for high school or college students
- Organize or sponsor a networking event for locally based entrepreneurs and small business owners
- If you own a business, consider a location with easy access to public transportation



## Efficient.

An efficient North Jersey makes the most of past investments. Residents and businesses use energy, water and natural resources wisely. A convenient, safe, reliable and energy-efficient transportation system connects people with the places they need to go. Growth happens in places that already have infrastructure, conserving open space and reducing the costs of public services.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Less time spent sitting in traffic
- A cleaner environment and better air quality
- More choices to live closer to jobs, transit, shopping and other amenities
- Preservation of open, natural lands for our kids and future generations
- The potential for lower taxes

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Get a home energy audit done and learn about simple ways to reduce energy use
- Compost/recycle at your home and office
- Walk, bike or take public transportation whenever you can
- Live where you can walk, bike or take transit



## Livable.

A livable North Jersey is a place where people of different lifestyles and life stages can find and afford a community that fits their needs. It's a place with available housing options, providing access to arts, culture, recreation and high-quality schools. Livable communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and vibrant places to live, work, play and raise a family.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Access to high-quality education, no matter where you live
- Arts and entertainment destinations nearby
- Lots of housing choices that are affordable through all phases of life
- Plenty of places to get fresh air and exercise

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Support local businesses and shops downtown
- Support local arts—go see a show!
- Attend a public meeting in your community
- Explore other unique and diverse neighborhoods around the region
- Start a neighborhood watch program to promote safety in your community



## Resilient.

A resilient North Jersey is ready for adverse events—extreme weather, climate change, economic downturns or other major setbacks—and can quickly bounce back from them. It protects wetlands and other crucial ecosystems, and has strong, well-maintained infrastructure (transportation, utilities, water, sewer, etc.). A resilient North Jersey takes steps to be prepared and reduce negative impacts on our communities.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Peace of mind knowing you and your family are prepared for adverse events
- Communities in North Jersey can quickly recover from adverse events
- A region that adapts to the changing environment

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Stock up on food and supplies and have a family plan in case of emergencies.
- Volunteer as an EMT or firefighter
- Join the Citizens Corp and be ready to help
- Encourage your city or town to develop its own hazard mitigation plan

# Leading the Way.

**Together North Jersey** funded 18 local projects (see map) in 36 towns throughout the region. This work created action plans to address critical local challenges and demonstrate how communities facing similar issues can do the same.

Together North Jersey also funded 22 local planning projects led by nine counties, five cities and eight community-based organizations. Lessons from all these projects can help lead the region to a competitive, efficient, livable and resilient future.



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# Who We Are.

**Together North Jersey** is a voluntary partnership of nearly 100 cities, towns, counties, agencies, civic organizations, educational institutions and others in northern New Jersey that have agreed to work together with the public to plan for the region's future. The partnership is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's sustainable communities regional planning program.

## THE PLAN.

The Together North Jersey Regional Plan provides a blueprint for creating a competitive, efficient, livable and resilient region. The Plan recommends things we can all do to achieve these common goals:

- Grow a strong regional economy.
- Create great places.
- Increase access to opportunity.
- Protect the environment.
- Work together.

Regional planning is not just for elected officials and governments. It is a process that brings all of us together.



Read more to find out what The Plan means for our region...and for you.