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ASBURY PARK AWARDED \$237,000 FOR MAIN STREET STREETScape

Transportation Alternatives Program [TAP] grant goes towards bike racks, benches, trees, and more

6/27/17, *Asbury Park, NJ* – Asbury Park’s Main Street is one of the 27 projects awarded a grant through the 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), funded by the Federal Highway Administration of the US Department of Transportation. The \$237,000 grant will outfit Main Street with bike racks, benches, street trees, and more.

TAP provides funding for construction of community-based “non-traditional” projects which are meant to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the county’s infrastructure. The North Jersey Transportation Authority (NJTPA), the agency responsible for disseminating Federal funding for the North Jersey region received 77 project submissions in November 2016, with 27 programs selected throughout the region for a total of \$19,460,000.

“Main Street is one of Asbury Park’s biggest and busiest roads, and is a real artery for the City,” said Mayor John Moor. “As we work towards structural improvements for the road, we are delighted that we can improve the overall look and feel of the street, through the assistance provided by this grant. I’d also like to thank the staff members who worked so hard to obtain this grant funding, so that we aren’t using any taxpayer dollars for this project.”

“So many people come into Asbury Park through Main Street, or drive and bike along it to get to work or enjoy the City,” said City Councilperson Jesse Kendle. “Making the street more beautiful will touch all of those lives, and change the experience of Asbury Park for thousands of people.”

The eligible categories for TAP funding include provisions of facilities for bicycles and pedestrians, landscaping and other scenic beautification, and historic preservation. The funding received by the City of Asbury Park will be utilized on streetscape amenities to be installed along the sidewalk.

The grant comes after the official approval of another transformation plan for Main Street between the curbs. The City Council approved a Road Diet Pilot for the State highway, which will transform the four-lane street into a three-lane street, complete with center turning lanes and bike lanes. The new striping configuration will be implemented following the repavement of Main Street by NJDOT, a project which is anticipated to be completed in 2019.