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PlanSmart NJ Receives Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Grant

Trenton, NJ – PlanSmart NJ has received a \$45,000 environmental grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, which funds projects that contribute to a sustainable human society and the environment which shelters it.

PlanSmart NJ will use the funds to support the identification of areas that may be suitable for receiving areas for Highlands Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) that are within Highlands Counties but outside the designated Planning Area. Finding Receiving Areas is essential to providing opportunities for growth in the region while protecting the significant environmental and water quality attributes of the Highlands. If the TDR program can be made to work, it could offer landowners the opportunity to preserve their land while receiving compensation for selling their Development Rights to developers to use in towns and other centers in the region.

“We are looking forward to working with the Highlands Council and advocacy groups in the region – such as the Highlands Coalition and Environmental Defense – to help local governments build capacity for understanding their role in land use planning for the Highlands region,” said PlanSmart NJ President Dianne Brake.

PlanSmart NJ is the state's celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year, having built a reputation for integrity, substance and balance. For four decades, this Trenton-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit has worked to improve the environment, reduce disparities and improve job, housing and transportation choices for people across New Jersey. (Go to www.plansmartnj.org for more information.)

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation helps broker eco-to-social system exchanges to move toward sustainability. They emphasize connecting local decision makers and the next generation of leaders to the environment to produce better outcomes. (Call 973-540-8442 or visit www.grdodge.org for more information.)