



**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

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### **PlanSmart NJ Receives Smart Future Grant**

Trenton, NJ – PlanSmart NJ in partnership with Voorhees Transportation Center of Rutgers University has received a \$75,000 Smart Future grant from New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs’ Office of Smart Growth which funds projects that further the State’s efforts to promote smart growth principles.

PlanSmart NJ will use the funds to provide a Guidance Report that demonstrates sound circulation planning techniques that encourage walking, biking and public transit for New Jersey’s municipalities. Emphasis will be on overcoming obstacles to innovation; transforming existing practice of circulation planning to reduce auto-dependency and increase access to opportunities. The Office of Smart Growth developed this project to encourage the replacement of the auto-focused thinking behind many current circulation plans, which generate plenty of cul-de-sacs, set-backs and free surface parking designed to serve the automobile almost exclusively. Because of New Jersey’s dense rail infrastructure, relatively high level of transit services, and interest in the current Administration to reduce our energy consumption and our greenhouse gas emissions, New Jersey has more potential to succeed in a shift from auto-dependence than most states.

“We are looking forward to working with the Office of Smart Growth, the awardees of OSG’s “Reconnecting Your Community” grant and Voorhees Transportation Center to help local governments provide development patterns that encourage a shift to transit use, biking and walking,” said PlanSmart NJ’s Senior Project Planner Jeffrey Wilkerson.

*PlanSmart NJ is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.plansmartnj.org) for more information.)*

*The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) is a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. Located within the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, the Center brings to bear the full array of resources of a major research university on transportation issues of regional and national significance.*