



# SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE & GREENWAYS SYSTEMS CONNECTION PLAN

KICK-OFF MEETING  
STEERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008  
10:00 A.M. TO NOON  
SOMERSET COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ROOM, SOMERVILLE, NJ

## AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce consultant/SAC representatives, review scope of work/schedule, and discuss roles/responsibilities for all.

- Welcome .....Somerset County
- Introductions ..... SAC
- Project Overview ..... The RBA Group
  - Scope of Work
  - Schedule
  - SAC Roles/Responsibilities
- Visioning Exercise ..... SAC/Consultant Team
- Preview of Route Plans/Existing Data ..... SAC/Consultant Team
- SAC Discussion ..... SAC/Consultant Team
  - Draft Community Involvement Plan
  - Next Steps/Action Items





## **ABSTRACT**

# **Somerset County Regional Center Pedestrian, Bicycle & Greenways Systems Connection Plan**



Somerset County received a grant from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) to conduct a study entitled "Regional Center Pedestrian, Bicycle and Greenways Systems Connection Plan." The study was initiated by the Somerset County Planning Board in December 2007 and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. The study's intent is to progress recommendations, specifically related to pedestrian, bicycle, and greenway transportation, that were contained in the Planning and Implementation Agenda (PIA) established during center designation in May 1996. Using the PIA as a guide, the study will create a plan that will provide a planning framework with the goal of improving pedestrian, bicycle and greenways connectivity within the Regional Center through the integration of pedestrian safety measures, bicycle-friendly facility designs and innovative "green" and sustainable design practices.

### **Why is the study needed?**

The study will identify potential bicycle routes, "green corridors", pedestrian safety hotspots, missing pedestrian linkages and develop pedestrian, bicycle and greenway improvements to enhance sidewalk, bicycle and greenways connections between Regional Center destinations. The study will also outline strategies to improve connectivity between existing transit facilities and residential neighborhoods and improve pedestrian bike and greenway connections between community facilities such as schools and major trip generators. While improving connectivity, strategies will be incorporated to enhance greenway opportunities and provide stream corridor protection.

### **How will the study be conducted?**

Developing a successful plan that bike, pedestrian and greenway connectivity requires not only comprehensive planning on the part of the consultant team but the valuable input and involvement of key stakeholders. Key stakeholders include those who bike and walk in the region, residents of the region, and regional and municipal officials and staff involved with the development and implementation of the Plan.

A Steering Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Stakeholder Committee will provide much of the background information that will be the basis of the vision, goals, strategies, and preferred bicycle, pedestrian and greenway network. These two committees will work closely with the consultant team and local communities to develop recommendations, design solutions and implementation strategies consistent with the Regional Center's original Vision Initiative and subsequent planning reports and related studies. Over the course of the 18-month study, three public workshops will be held to engage the public in the progress and as a mechanism to provide feedback.

The project team will initially identify existing, programmed and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities as well as greenways. Existing conditions, suitability and demand of potential bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be thoroughly examined. Based on the analyses and synthesis of data, identification of the draft network, initial recommendations and public feedback, a preferred network will be proposed. The consultant team will identify a set of recommended concept improvements in each municipality and a draft of the plan will be developed for review by the County, municipalities and stakeholders.

The final products, a Somerset County Regional Center Pedestrian, Bicycle and Greenways Systems Connection Plan will incorporate input, suggestions, and review comments and will include a summary matrix of recommendations with an anticipated implementation schedule and order-of-magnitude costs. Design guidelines showing a variety of potential tools for advancing pedestrian, bicycle and greenway improvements in the Regional Center will also be provided.

### **Who is conducting this study?**

The Somerset County Planning Division is conducting the study with assistance from a consultant team led by The RBA Group in association with AmerCom Corporation, The Louis Berger Group, and Newwork, Inc.

# Somerset County Regional Center Pedestrian, Bicycle & Greenway Systems Connection Plan Project Flow Chart

