

November 14, 2017

An open letter to state leaders:

We write as Mayors from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut who believe our small cities, towns, and villages are places of prosperity, economic growth, health, and inclusion.

We each host a commuter rail station, and believe our proximity via public transportation to other destinations in the region is one of our best assets. Many of our citizens rely on public transportation to travel to work, school, medical appointments, or for recreation.

As Regional Plan Association releases its Fourth Regional Plan, we share in the organization's desire for more responsible growth near transit. Our rail stations should be hubs for new market rate and affordable homes, offices, stores, schools and restaurants. Compact growth patterns have social, environmental and health benefits for our residents and residents throughout the region – they reduce driving, revitalize our local economies, allow more walking and biking, and help protect open space from development.

Some of us have just started to talk with our constituents about potential development plans, while others are far along in our efforts to promote transit-oriented development. We are each using our own strategies – changing zoning to allow construction of multifamily, affordable buildings, establishing overlay zones to encourage a mix of uses near stations, or working directly with developers and master planners on participatory planning processes. And we need support.

We ask that our multiple layers of government work together to help us capitalize on our rail stations. In each state, we hope you will establish or support programs that provide technical and financial assistance to support more transit-oriented development. This include coordination of state agencies to help us address difficult zoning and land use issues, and providing better public transportation service. A good model is the New Jersey Transit Village Program, which creates incentives for municipalities to redevelop or revitalize areas around train stations.

Thank you for your consideration, and support,

Mayor Derek Armstead  
**City of Linden, NJ**

Village President Sheena  
Collum  
**Village of South Orange, NJ**

Mayor Victoria Gearity  
**Village of Ossining, NY**

Mayor Noam Bramson  
**City of New Rochelle, NY**

Mayor Matt Doherty  
**Borough of Belmar, NJ**

Mayor Nora Radest  
**City of Summit, NJ**

Mayor Peter Cavallaro  
**Village of Westbury**

Mayor Timothy Dougherty  
**Town of Morristown, NJ**

Mayor Reginald Spinello  
**City of Glen Cove, NY**

Jean A. Celender, Mayor  
**Village of Great Neck Plaza,  
NY**

Mayor Drew Fixell  
**Village of Tarrytown, NY**

Mayor Tom Roach  
**City of White Plains, NY**

Mayor Joseph Ganim  
**City of Bridgeport, CT**

Mayor Michael Venezia  
**Township of Bloomfield, NJ**