

# Memorandum

**TO:** Alan Miller

**FROM:** Vivian Baker and Megan Massey

**DATE:** July 24, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Bedminster PE – Opportunities and Constraints Review

Residents in Bedminster Township are in close proximity to Gladstone station, Peapack station and Far Hills station on the Gladstone Branch of the Morris and Essex Line operated by NJ TRANSIT. The line has service to Hoboken, New York Penn Station, the ferry and PATH services. Rail Station permit/daily parking is provided at the Far Hills station and free parking is provided at the Gladstone and Peapack stations. Service from Gladstone, Peapack and Far Hills to Hoboken is provided seven times during the morning commute with one direct service to New York from Gladstone and one direct service to New York from Peapack and Far Hills. In the evening commute, service from Hoboken to Gladstone is available five times and direct service from New York is available two times.

In their Plan Endorsement, Bedminster desires to provide opportunities and access for alternative transportation systems with respect to buses and vanpooling. NJ TRANSIT bus service is provided from Bridgewater Commons to New York on bus #114 with local stops in Somerville, Bound brook, Plainfield and Springfield five times in the morning commute and five times in the evening commute. Service to Newark on bus line #65 or #66 has no service between Bridgewater and Newark during commuting hours.

Ridewise, the traffic and transportation division of the Somerset County Business Partner, provides carpooling/vanpooling, Park-Ride facilities, and buses and shuttles to commuters in the County. There are limited carpooling and vanpooling options from Bedminster. The nearest Park-Ride facility is located in Bernards Township, approximately a 10-minute drive. Residents can park their vehicle and take the Lakeland bus line Rt. 78 service to New York. Bus service is available to New York six times during the morning commute and ten times in the evening commute from New York. The Rt. 78 service also has stops in Bedminster but they are limited to three times in the morning and two times in the evening. There is also limited service from Bedminster to Hillsborough three times per day via the SCOOT service. If more localized service is desired, the municipality should work with Ridewise, provided by Somerset County, to add service.

Based upon an analysis of population density, employment density and zero car household density, Bedminster has a low transit score. This score illustrates that the area

would be sufficiently serviced by access to an existing park-ride; bus service to High Transit Score areas; bus service extensions from Marginal Transit score areas to serve major trip generators; Paratransit; and vanpools. Bedminster currently meets the potential transportation opportunities for a low transit score. Based on the future growth of the area and projected demand for additional transit service, NJ TRANSIT has no immediate plans to increase bus and rail service between Bedminster and New York.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Vivian at (973) 491-7822 or Megan at (973) 491-8597. Thank you.