382-12.07

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NEW RAIL TRANSIT STATION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF SMART GROWTH IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey has adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, which encourages compact, mixed use development with access to mass transit, and much of the Township of North Brunswick is located in a Smart Growth designated Metropolitan Planning Area 1; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Transit has been studying a location for a new rail station in Southern Middlesex County for many years and the Princeton Junction, Jersey Avenue, and New Brunswick Northeast Corridor Rail Line stations have multi-year waiting lists for parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Transit ridership recently grew by 6.8% to 74 million riders setting new records for ridership levels and substantiating the growing demand for mass transit; and

WHEREAS, only 8% of North Brunswick residents currently commute to work by mass transit; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth, have programs and initiatives promoting transit villages as a viable alternative to suburban sprawl that consumes open spaces, increases congestion, and contributes to air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the former Johnson & Johnson North Brunswick Campus consists of 212-acres of land with over one-mile of frontage on US Route 1, and over one-mile of frontage on the Northeast Corridor Rail Line and is located in Planning Area 1; and

WHEREAS, Johnson & Johnson operated a manufacturing and research facility at the North Brunswick Campus for more than 50 years, but ceased manufacturing in 2004 and sold the property in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the new property owner hosted a series of 10 public workshops and open houses over the course of one year that were attended by many township residents to explore the possibility of a future transit station and transit village in accordance with "smart growth" principles; and

WHEREAS, the Township Master Plan has identified existing roadway infrastructure and traffic bottlenecks that must be addressed before a new rail transit station can be located at the former Johnson & Johnson North Brunswick Campus; and

WHEREAS, the location of a new rail transit station at the former Johnson & Johnson North Brunswick Campus would benefit residents from North Brunswick and surrounding communities and Middlesex County by facilitating use of mass transit as an alternative to driving for work and other trips; and

WHEREAS, North Brunswick Township is a community committed to Smart Growth principles and has initiated steps to become a sustainable community by the year 2030, and

WHEREAS, the Township of North Brunswick Planning Board has adopted a comparable resolution with unanimous support and has forwarded this resolution to the governing body for our consideration and endorsement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, in an effort to promote the principles of Smart Growth, supports a new rail transit station as a regional multimodal transportation hub at the former Johnson & Johnson North Brunswick Campus, provided existing roadway infrastructure and traffic bottlenecks are sufficiently expanded and improved.

Robert Lombard
Business Administrator

Michael C. Hritz
Director of Community Development

Approved as to Legal Form

Ronald Gordon
Township Attorney

RECORDED VOTE:

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
ANDREWS 2	✓			
NICOLA	✓			
LYLES	✓			
SOCIO 1	✓			
CORBIN	✓			
DAVIS	✓			
WOMACK				

I, Lisa Russo, Township Clerk of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on December 17, 2007.

Lisa Russo

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk

C. M. Hritz
J. Larkin
Councilman Andrews