

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 14, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
201-547-4836
201-376-0699
jenniferm@jcnj.org

City Receives \$175,000 Grant from North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority for the Morris Canal Greenway Plan

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the **Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce, Division of Planning** have received a **\$175,000 grant** from the **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority** to complete the Morris Canal Greenway Plan.

The purpose of this study is to prepare a plan for a bicycle and pedestrian greenway that is, to the greatest extent possible, on the former right-of-way of the historic Morris Canal in Jersey City. The future greenway is envisioned to be a continuous facility that will enhance bicycle and pedestrian opportunities, increase the amount of recreational space, and celebrate the history of the Morris Canal. Currently, the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is the only off-road facility for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Morris Canal Greenway is consistent with the Circulation Element of the Jersey City Master Plan as well as the City’s Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

“The Morris Canal Greenway will support walking and bicycling as both a means of transportation and recreation,” said Mayor Healy. “A survey the City conducted in 2008 found that 26 percent of respondents who live and work in Jersey City either walk or bike to work and this project will help provide greater ability to do that.”

The public outreach plan for the study includes a website (www.jcmcgreenway.org) and two public meetings. The first public meeting will be held from **4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2012** at **City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302**. An open house will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, during which members of the public will be able to view maps and displays and talk one-on-one with members of the project team. At 6 p.m., the project team will make a presentation that will include potential routes for the greenway. Following the presentation, the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback during a hands-on mapping session in Caucus Room until 8 p.m. The draft report will be presented at the second public meeting, which will be held in early spring 2013.

(more)

(2)

The plan will identify long-term and near-term routes for the Morris Canal Greenway, develop design guidelines, and prepare a strategy for implementation of the greenway. The final report will be complete in spring 2013. The City has hired a consultant team led by The RBA Group to prepare the plan. A Steering Committee consisting of representatives from city, county, and state agencies; transportation professionals; and local advocacy groups has been convened to assist the project team.

The greenway will connect local destinations, including parks, schools, neighborhoods, and businesses, and build on the City's multi-modal transportation network. The greenway will also connect to regional facilities, such as the East Coast Greenway, Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, and public transportation. Furthermore, various municipalities and counties in the region have prepared plans and created public spaces along the path of the former Morris Canal across northern New Jersey.

Beginning in 1836, the Morris Canal carried goods 102 miles across New Jersey from Pennsylvania to the Hudson River Waterfront, bringing new business and industries to Jersey City. As the use of rail to transport cargo increased, commercial activity on the Morris Canal decreased, until it was abandoned in 1924. The Morris Canal is listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. The former Morris Canal right-of-way links the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers and travels around the upland Palisades formation in the southern half of Jersey City. It is approximately 6 miles long.

For more information, please visit the study website: www.jcmcgreenway.org

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////