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CONTACT: Rick Sinding, Senior Communications Consultant (609) 529-2885

GLASSBORO PROJECT WINS SMART GROWTH AWARD - AWARDS CEREMONY SET FOR JUNE 3 -

TRENTON – A Glassboro project is one of seven exemplary projects to be honored for setting New Jersey on a course toward smart growth – growth that spurs the economy, improves communities and protects the environment, according to New Jersey Future, the nonprofit smart-growth research and advocacy group.

New Jersey Future will honor these projects with Smart Growth Awards at an awards celebration June 3 at the Newark Club.

One of this year's celebrated efforts is Rowan Boulevard, a project aimed at revitalizing a deteriorating residential area that borders the Rowan University campus. The Boulevard will form a 26-acre corridor between the campus and Glassboro's central business district, with the goal of turning the downtown into the first "town and gown" destination in South Jersey.

The first phase of the project includes construction of housing for nearly 900 Rowan students, scheduled to be completed by the start of the fall 2009 academic term. Also part of the plan is a 107-room hotel/conference center, as well as mixed-use buildings featuring retail on the first floor and either commercial or residential units on the upper levels, creating a walkable community for residents, students and business owners.

"The plan is an outstanding example of what a community can do to restore its commercial core, enhance existing assets and create a walkable downtown where people live, work, shop and dine," reads the citation honoring the project. "The project minimizes vehicular traffic and encourages mutual use of space by office workers, shoppers, residents, students and visitors without creating sprawl."

Peter Kasabach, executive director of New Jersey Future, hailed the project, as well as the other award-winners, for charting a new course toward smart growth and redevelopment in the Garden State. "The winners of these awards are outstanding examples of the kind of creativity, dynamic and forward-thinking leadership that will revitalize New Jersey's downtowns, provide more housing and transportation choices, protect our environment and generate robust economic growth," Kasabach said.

- AWARDS CEREMONY SET FOR JUNE 3 -

This year's winners will be recognized at a reception at the Newark Club, Newark on June 3 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Title sponsors are New Jersey Natural Gas and SJP Properties.

The seven 2009 Smart Growth Award winners are:

Sustainable Design and Implementation: 14 Maple Avenue in Morristown, a mixed-use project that employs sustainable, environmentally sensitive design features while also promoting street-level activity, providing business opportunities and adding parking spaces in a robust downtown business district.

Town Center Redevelopment Plan: Bloomfield Center Redevelopment Plan in Bloomfield, a plan growing out of an intensive public-participation process that creates a vision and a comprehensive set of principles for economic, social and environmental sustainability of a revitalized downtown area.

Comprehensive Revitalization Strategy: Broad Street Station and Living Downtown Redevelopment Plans in Newark, the first a project that promotes creation of a transit-oriented neighborhood of mixed-use, mixed-income developments, the second setting forth a vision for a revitalized, vibrant and sustainable downtown Newark using residential development as a primary catalyst.

Creative Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Preservation: Fairview Village in Camden, a redevelopment project aimed at restoring a once-vibrant neighborhood through rehabilitation and new construction of housing, rental units, a community center, retail space and improvements to infrastructure.

Main Street Redevelopment: The Avenue Development and The Marketplace at Eden in South Orange, a project that adds new residences, new businesses and new jobs, all in close proximity to public transportation, while preserving the character and community of South Orange.

Participatory Neighborhood Plan: North Camden Neighborhood and Waterfront Park Plan in Camden, an update of a 15-year-old plan that serves as a roadmap for community revitalization and provides a long-term vision for the future of North Camden, crafted through an extensive and inclusive public-participation process.

Community-University Partnership: Rowan Boulevard in Glassboro, a project aimed at revitalizing a deteriorating residential area that borders the Rowan University campus and turning downtown Glassboro into the first "town and gown" destination in South Jersey.

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Note to editors: More detailed descriptions of the projects, along with photographs and other artwork, are posted on the New Jersey Future website: www.njfuture.org.