



# Borough of Hillsdale

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Press Release

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## **HILLSDALE RECEIVES \$1.7 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS FROM NJDOT**

Hillsdale has just received three NJ Dept. of Transportation infrastructure grants in 2019 totaling \$1.7 million. Under the State's Highway Trust Fund/Municipal Aid Program, the State awarded \$192,000 for improvements to St. Nicholas Avenue and \$199,650 for new sidewalks along Piermont Avenue. Under the Transportation Alternatives Program funded through the Federal Surface Transportation Program, the State awarded a \$1.3 million grant for "streetscaping" and safety improvements to Patterson Street and Hillsdale Avenue. Both projects will use "Complete Streets" design methodology to encourage walking and biking along the roadways. The Borough has also earmarked \$250,000 for rail station improvements under the Bergen County's Historic Preservation Grant Program which is located within the project route in support of surface transportation.

The Federal project encompasses two distinct areas of the Borough linked to the downtown business district, and the work will be an extension of previous streetscaping improvements. The first area is Patterson Street in the industrial zone, from Parkview Drive to Orchard Street, about 2,750 ft. long. The second area is along Hillsdale Avenue, from Broadway to Kinderkamack Road, about 1,300 feet long. Two developers along Patterson Street are also slated together to make \$130,000 in financial contributions to the project as part of their prior land use approvals as well as other streetscaping embellishments and new sidewalks. PSE&G, who is one of the two developers, is committed to planting shade trees in the project area.

The anticipated work in the industrial zone consists of new sidewalks, possibly a bike lane, streetscaping, ornamental lighting, and pedestrian safety improvements. The grant will also provide for new granite block curbs and decorative sidewalks along both sides of the entire length of roadway where none exist today. LED ornamental street lighting matching the current downtown fixtures and new landscaping will be incorporated to visually enhance the area, particularly for commuters walking or biking from the rail station and bus stops. The project connects the most recently approved housing development to the downtown.

The section along Hillsdale Avenue will see similar improvements. This will include pedestrian safety within the George White School zone, paver sidewalks, and ornamental lighting matching the current downtown motif. Old, deteriorating sidewalks on both sides of the street will be replaced with new paver sidewalks to match the downtown. Other safety enhancements are being considered at the intersection nearest the school where a crossing guard is assigned during school days

This project's sustainable streetscape design is one of the most important strategies for the Borough's continuing urban design program to strengthen its surface transportation network. Using context-oriented planning goals, the proposed streetscape improvements are directly related to enhancing surface transportation through improvements to roadway alignment and intersections, providing pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle safety improvements along the two existing local travel routes to public transit available in downtown Hillsdale. The Borough's previous downtown streetscaping circa 1995-2005 ties directly into this project grant project. Hillsdale's downtown contains an active and historic Pascack Valley rail station with commuter amenities, 200 commuter spaces via three commuter parking lots built jointly by NJ Transit and Hillsdale. Two private bus carriers with in-town local stops and the current rail service all provide better surface transit access to NYC and other transit connection points in between. The proposed project effects are part of an overall local effort to improve alternative modes of non-motorized and local mass transit. The project is considered by the State to be "Smart Growth Planning" around the Borough's existing mass transit.

The Hillsdale Council is currently assessing the redevelopment potential of its industrial zone in which Patterson Street is located. This potential redevelopment area amplifies 'transit village' growth opportunities and is an important aspect in the Borough's affordable housing plan.

The project design includes environmental mitigation via planting of dozens of shade trees, grass median strips, new & upgraded storm water management devices, and implanting dark-sky lighting-controlled street lighting replacing PSEG streetlights and floodlights. Also the project design promotes environmental enhancement by its linkage with, and promotion of, any potential future housing redevelopment plans of the Borough which might require new stormwater management/water quality improvements from the current impervious heavy industrial uses. These will improve the water quality of the adjacent Pascack Brook/Oradell Reservoir regional water supply system.