

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WOODBINE RECEIVES \$433,500 AWARD FOR TRAIN STATION PROJECT**

**Woodbine**—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has been awarded a \$433,500 grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Small Cities Innovative Development Fund for a train station project along with parking facilities which would encourage the area's eco-tourism.

This award will provide funds from a Small Cities CDBG program grant to assist the Cape May Seashore Line railroad for reconstruction of a portion of the Cape May Seashore Line tracks from the Woodbine County Route 550 trestle bridge to the site of the proposed Woodbine Train Station, as well as construction of a train platform, an access road (designed as an extension of the Woodbine Bikeway), and parking facility to serve the new excursion train service to be provided as an expansion of the current Buena Vista to Tuckahoe service.

Local tourist attractions such as Woodbine antique district, equestrian farms, Belleplain State Forest, the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage located in the Woodbine Brotherhood Synagogue keystone of the downtown antique district, and the Woodbine Airport would become more accessible to the public, area residents and visitors alike, and thus encourage utilization of these local recreational and educational opportunities. A train car fitted to carry bicycles will allow easy access to the areas numerous biking and walking trails. Woodbine's Bikeway is part of the High Point to Cape May bikeway. Woodbine is also on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail as well as being on the New Jersey Pinelands scenic byway route, which leads into Belleplain State Forest.

In the past, the Borough Housing Rehabilitation and Public Facilities Programs have improved the quality of life in the Borough, while the new sanitation plant, airport business park development, and the freight service being provided by Cape May Seashore Lines is improving its economic future. This Train Station project will add tourism as an important component to Woodbine's continuing revitalization.

The rail lines reconstruction efforts will gradually connect a series of unique historical villages, including Richland, Tuckahoe, Woodbine, Dennisville, Cape May Court House including the County Park and Zoo, Cold Spring, and Cape May.

"We want to thank the Department of Community Affairs for acknowledging the importance of and providing these funds which make it possible to be able to include eco-tourism along with the passenger service being provided by the Cape May Seashore Lines," added Mayor Pikolycky.