

Five Town Rural Transit, Inc. NYS SMSI Grant Award Statement

September 18, 2006. Southampton, N.Y. On behalf of Five Town Rural Transit, Inc., we would like to congratulate all involved in achieving the NYS Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) Grant Award to study the feasibility of establishing a coordinated rail and bus shuttle network on the East End to replace existing transit services. In particular, we would like to thank:

- Andrea Lohneiss, Director of Community Development for the Town of Riverhead, who first advised us of the program after we presented our East End Shuttle Development Proposal last December.
- Skip Heaney, Southampton Town Supervisor, who agreed to be the Lead Applicant in the SMSI Process.
- Our East End Town Supervisors and Village Mayors, as well as their Boards, that agreed to join the SMSI process as Co-Applicants.
- Walter Bundy, Southampton Town Grantwriter, who prepared the SMSI submission with help from 5TRT Board members Hal Ross and Vince Taldone.
- Governor George Pataki, who instituted the SMSI Grant Program in 2005 and who approved our grant.
- Our NYS Legislators Thiele, La Valle and Alessi, who advocated for this grant with NYS Officials.

This grant provides funding to study the feasibility of developing, testing and ultimately operating our own regional transportation system on the East End, which is an alternative approach to current initiatives to improve public transit by working with existing transit providers. This study is consistent with the legislation being filed by our NYS Legislators to create the Peconic Bay Regional Transportation Council, comprising elected officials who would have the same goal.

Our East End Shuttle Feasibility Study recommended appointment of a well-recognized organization from outside the region to conduct an objective, detailed analysis of the concept. To that end, we propose the USDOT Volpe National Transportation Systems Center for most of the work. They have provided similar assistance to the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority. We have met with both organizations in the preparation of our Shuttle Development Proposal and highly recommend their work.

We look forward to working with our Town and Village Officials, as well as our State Legislators, on this exciting project in 2007. Thank you.

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