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Susan M. Zellman, Chairman
Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director

September 10, 2008

Dear Interested Citizen:

The year 2035 may seem like a long way off, but it is not too early to start planning for our future transportation needs. The transportation planning and investment decisions we make today will determine what our county, region and state will look like years from now.

As Sussex County's representative on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), I am pleased to invite you to an interactive workshop where we will create a vision for our region's future transportation system. Certainly the challenges we face in this regard are many. With gas recently hitting \$4 a gallon, we are experiencing the highest average fuel prices this country has ever seen. How will the future price and availability of oil affect our plans for transportation and growth?

The questions we need to consider are many. What will changing environmental conditions and an aging population mean for the world economy and how will these issues impact our region? How will we maintain and invest in our transportation infrastructure with fewer state and federal dollars available? How can we maintain our rural character and meet the transportation needs of our residents?

I invite you to join us on **Thursday, October 2, 2008** to explore these and other issues as part of the development of Plan 2035, the latest update of the NJTPA's Regional Transportation Plan. This federally required long-range plan establishes a vision and blueprint for annual road, bridge, rail and other transportation investment that totals more than \$2.5 billion in federal and state funds each year. All federally funded transportation projects in the region must have their roots in the plan.

This workshop is an opportunity to learn more about these challenges and to discuss where you want our region – and your own community – to be heading. **Your participation will help us better analyze the challenging transportation and land use choices that must be made and the issues surrounding funding improvements to our transportation system.**

The details of the workshop are as follows:

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m. (refreshments, registration), 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. session
Location: Sussex County Technical School, McNeice Auditorium Lobby, Rt. 94, Sparta

RSVP to Scott Giering of Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, at sgiering@hshassoc.com or by phone at 917-339-0488 **no later than Tuesday, September 30** to confirm your attendance. Please indicate that you will be attending the Sussex County workshop.

Please be sure to visit www.njtpa.org for more information on the Regional Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Susan Zellman, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NJTPA