



For Immediate Release

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Black Horse Pike Economic Development Project Conducts Four Visioning Workshops in September

Bellmawr, NJ – Do you own or operate a business along the Black Horse Pike? Do you shop, travel along, or live in the vicinity of the Pike? Is the Pike everything you think it can be? Are you interested in helping to transform this region into what you envision for it? Then bring your friends and neighbors for stimulating discussion and hands-on activities at one of the four Black Horse Pike Visioning Workshops that will be held during September 2008. Your input and ideas for improving the corridor across the eight municipalities involved in this initiative is extremely vital as the project consultants draft the Black Horse Pike Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The eight participating municipalities are: Audubon Borough, Audubon Park Borough, Bellmawr Borough, Brooklawn Borough, Haddon Heights Borough, Haddon Township, Mount Ephraim Borough, and Runnemede Borough. This initiative, managed by the Camden County Improvement Authority, has been underway since February 2008.

Broad and diverse participation at the workshops will lead to strategies that are most appropriate and relevant to the needs and interests of the people who live, work, shop, and travel along the Black Horse Pike. This will help ensure long-term success as these strategies are advanced. The purpose of the workshops is to visualize the feedback and ideas received so far about improvements that will benefit the Pike. This will help to advance the overall purpose of this project which is to support local governments and businesses within the Black Horse Pike region so they can, cooperatively, take greater advantage of economic development opportunities within their communities.

The workshops are based on input received from the Steering Committee and from the Black Horse Pike Business and Customer Survey that was launched in July. If you have not completed a survey, there's still time to do so. The survey will be available on-line through the end of September 2008. It can be accessed at <http://blackhorsepike.blogspot.com>.

Workshop participants will discuss, debate, and reach consensus on the improvements to the Pike that will advance its economic competitiveness and attractiveness. We will also examine transportation improvements that make the Pike a safe place to walk, bicycle, and drive. The consultant team will utilize state-of-the-art modeling and visioning tools so participants can see the impact of different decisions on the Pike. Each 3-hour workshop will focus on a portion of the larger Black Horse Pike region.

The workshops will be held on the following dates, times, and locations. Refreshments will be served, and reservations are required as seating is limited. To reserve your place, please call Neil Desai at Brown & Keener at 215-751-1133 or E-mail bhp@bkurbandesign.com.

- 1. Saturday, September 13, 2008, 9 a.m. to noon**
For Audubon, Audubon Park and Haddon Township
Audubon Senior Center, 247 Oakland Ave, Audubon, NJ

- 2. Saturday, September 20, 2008, 9 a.m. to noon**
For Haddon Heights and Mount Ephraim
Bell Avenue Fire Station, Mt Ephraim, NJ

- 3. Thursday, September 25, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**
For Bellmawr and Brooklawn
Bellmawr James "Bud" Mullen Community Center, 29 E. Browning Road, Bellmawr, NJ

- 4. Saturday, September 27, 2008, 9 a.m. to noon**
For Runnemede
Harry Williams Complex – Senior Center, Broadway and Black Horse Pike,
Runnemede, NJ

Local officials, business owners, or residents with questions regarding the survey or workshops, or interested in attending one of the Steering Committee meetings, may contact Andrew Levecchia at the Camden County Improvement Authority at andrewl@camdencounty.com.

The lead consultant is Philadelphia-based Brown & Keener. Assisting Brown & Keener are the Philadelphia firms of Urban Partners and the IBI Group.

This project has been made possible by a Transportation and Community Development Initiative grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to the Camden County Improvement Authority.

For more information about this initiative and to join the dialogue about the future of the Black Horse Pike region, visit the project blog/website at <http://blackhorsepike.blogspot.com>.

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