



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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COUNTY GRANT TO EAST HAMPTON TOWN WILL “JUMP START” PLANS FOR BIKE/WALKING PATH IN MONTAUK, LINKING DOWNTOWN AREA AND LIRR STATION

Connecting central business area and transportation site, enhancing alternative transportation and pedestrian options, will advance community goals identified in draft Montauk Hamlet Study

\$400,000 Award from County JumpStart program announced by County Executive Steve Bellone at East Hampton Town Hall

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone , with East Hampton Town Board members on hand, announced the county grant to East Hampton Town for infrastructure improvements along Edgemere Street in Montauk at a press conference on October 11.

The “multi-use” path would extend for approximately 5,000 feet from the Long Island Rail Road station to the downtown area, providing a bicycle and pedestrian access. Connecting the two key destinations is among the goals outlined in the draft Montauk Hamlet Study. In addition to improving public safety, the path, by increasing the walkability of the hamlet, will encourage train travel to Montauk and help to reduce summer traffic. The path will be contained entirely within the road right of way, and will be designed to avoid impacts to wetlands adjacent to Fort Pond.

East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc said that he had suggested the multi-use path between the Montauk train station and downtown, when asked by County Executive Bellone if there were any shared infrastructure projects that would support the town and county’s shared goals of improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity within the town. “This grant is proof positive of the commitment he made to me some months ago,” Supervisor Van Scoyoc said.

“I’m grateful to the county for providing the funds for this infrastructure project, which furthers the town’s goals of increasing safety and walkability in the Montauk community, and supports the goals of the Montauk hamlet study,” said East Hampton Town Councilwoman Sylvia Overby, the board’s liaison to Montauk.

The project in Montauk was among eight projects funded in the most recent JumpStart budget of \$5 million. Other projects included improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in downtown Riverhead and in Bay Shore; pedestrian and streetscape improvements in Lindenhurst, parking area construction and improvements in the villages of Patchogue and Port Jefferson, and the restoration of Argyle Lake and waterfalls in downtown Babylon Village.

In previous grant awards, \$7.3 million of Suffolk County JumpStart funds were awarded for infrastructure improvement and downtown revitalization projects to the Towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, and Huntington, and an additional \$4 million to projects in the Villages of Patchogue and Port Jefferson, and the Towns of Babylon and Brookhaven.