



Affordable-housing advocates back Princeton Junction transit village

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By **Samantha Costa/The Times**



Laura Sommerville/The Times Princeton Junction map by Laura Sommerville

WEST WINDSOR — As the long-debated InterCap transit village at Princeton Junction nears final approval by West Windsor officials, groups that advocate for more affordable housing in the state have joined in supporting the 800-unit project.

The ordinances approved last week call for the transit village on Washington Road to include 98 units as affordable housing. The affordable units will be 50 percent for moderate-income families, 40 percent for low income, and 10 percent for very low income.

“We are pleased that the township is moving forward with a project that will produce 98 units of affordable housing with people that really need them,” said Herb Levine, executive director for Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness.

Peter Kasabach, executive director of NJ Future, said this type of project was needed in Mercer County and should serve as a model for other regions in the state.

“I think not only are they going to be another example for the state, but I think the people in Mercer County will really like what they get and will want to do more of it,” Kasabach said. “This is exactly the kind of project we want in New Jersey.”

Adam Gordon of the Fair Share Housing Center said this type of project will benefit a wide range of people.

"West Windsor has a real shortage of homes that meet the demand from a number of different groups this would serve," Gordon said. "Not everybody, when they get older, wants to live in a five-bedroom house."

Nancy Kieling, 63, is a West Windsor resident who is among those attracted to the idea of a transit village, primarily for the convenience.

"What I'm interested in personally is living someplace I can do the tasks of daily living on my feet within some proximity to the drugstore, dry cleaners, the bank," she said. "I feel strongly that affordable housing makes all the sense in the world to put in close proximity to transit."

The ordinances passed last week by council are scheduled to go before the planning board Aug. 17 for review. The council's public hearing is set for Sept. 19.

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