

# Together North Jersey Focus Areas

## **FA1** Create and retain well-paying jobs by supporting growth in our region's key industries

- 1.1** Develop and implement a pilot program that makes it easier for businesses to obtain the permits they need to locate and expand in the region.
- 1.2** Explore creating an organization to help coordinate economic development activities region-wide.
- 1.3** Provide a forum for highlighting the economic and workforce development needs of our key industries.
- 1.4** Consider creating a North Jersey "Futures Council."
- 1.5** Connect small businesses that support the region's innovation clusters to growth and development opportunity.

## **FA2** Enhance North Jersey's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem

- 2.1** Expand the technical assistance and networking resources available to the region's startups and second-stage companies.
- 2.2** Establish a regional system of virtual incubators.
- 2.3** Foster other types of shared workspaces and connect them to economic development and finance programs.
- 2.4** Create and capitalize a regional innovation fund.

## **FA3** Strengthen the region's economy by building on existing assets and infrastructure

- 3.1** Use our region's transportation infrastructure as a framework for future investment.
- 3.2** Leverage the region's role as a major freight distribution hub.
- 3.3** Strengthen tourism by promoting North Jersey's arts, cultural, recreation, historic and natural amenities at the regional scale.
- 3.4** Support and expand agricultural businesses, urban farming and agritourism.

## **FA4** Align workforce training with industry needs

- 4.1** Align workforce development efforts with industry needs through improved data collection and enhanced coordination.
- 4.2** Expand occupational and soft skills training to address barriers to employment for disadvantaged workers.
- 4.3** Help incumbent workers transition to living-wage occupations.
- 4.4** Create regional apprenticeship and internship programs for non-college-bound students.
- 4.5** Promote skilled trades and other traditional vocational and technical programs.
- 4.6** Promote workforce development strategies to support the state's tourism industry.

## **FA5** Locate most new housing and commercial development in places with existing and planned infrastructure

- 5.1** Promote transit-oriented development (TOD).
- 5.2** Encourage infill and redevelopment on existing vacant and underutilized properties.
- 5.3** Prioritize brownfields for redevelopment.
- 5.4** Expand the use of innovative planning tools that promote smart development.

## **FA6** Create vibrant places and neighborhoods that will attract and retain residents, workers and visitors

- 6.1** Design places that meet the diverse needs of people in all age groups.
- 6.2** Create a physical vision for new development based on an understanding of the unique characteristics that define each place, including historic context.
- 6.3** Establish programming and management practices to create active, actively-managed spaces.
- 6.4** Locate development in areas that are walkable, bikeable, and accessible by public transit.
- 6.5** Invest strategically in catalyst spaces, rather than stand-alone building projects.
- 6.6** Create the local organizational framework to implement and manage these strategies.

## **FA7** Connect people and places with safe, convenient and reliable transportation

- 7.1** Maintain transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair.
- 7.2** Adopt and implement "Complete Streets" policies.
- 7.3** Improve conditions and service at "Transit Hub" locations.
- 7.4** Enhance and improve existing public and private transit services.
- 7.5** Increase transit system capacity in strategic locations.
- 7.6** Use New Jersey's State Highway Safety Plan and NJ TRANSIT Safety Programs to improve safety.
- 7.7** Use technology to improve transportation operations.

Find detailed Action Plans at:  
[togethernorthjersey.com/  
actionplans](http://togethernorthjersey.com/actionplans)

## **FA8A** Expand and diversify the region's housing supply to meet current and future demand

- 8A.1** Increase housing variety and choice by removing regulatory and other barriers to housing production.
- 8A.2** Target financial and other incentives to increase production of housing options not well-supplied.
- 8A.3** Increase the supply of housing affordable to a range of household sizes and incomes, especially in areas that are well-served by public transit.
- 8A.4** Ensure that the region's existing supply of deed-restricted affordable housing units remain affordable.

## **FA8B** Address barriers to housing mobility, increase access to areas of high opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing policies region-wide

- 8B.1** Affirmatively further fair housing policies region-wide.
- 8B.2** Promote regional housing mobility by fostering innovation in the use of Housing Choice Vouchers.
- 8B.3** Use public investment programs to create, connect, and strengthen access to opportunity.
- 8B.4** Increase the supply of affordable, accessible housing options for people with disabilities and seniors in appropriate locations.

## **FA9** Create a system of public education that prepares all students for the 21st century economy

- 9.1** Address school funding disparities.
- 9.2** Expand school programming for the 21st Century.
- 9.3** Improve access for pre-K and early childhood education.
- 9.4** Improve educational outcomes by implementing "Community Schools," wraparound services, and school-community partnerships.
- 9.5** Expand boundaries and access to high performing schools.

## **FA10** Enhance the resiliency of the region's communities and infrastructure

- 10.1** Identify the region's vulnerabilities to extreme weather and climate change.
- 10.2** Adapt communities to be resilient to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change.
- 10.3** Expand floodplain buyout programs and return flood-prone areas to their natural function.
- 10.4** Use green infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and climate change.

## **FA11** Transition to a clean energy economy

- 11.1** Reduce energy use through conservation and increased efficiency.
- 11.2** Transition to carbon-free electricity generation, including increased use of renewables.
- 11.3** Modernize and upgrade the region's power infrastructure.
- 11.4** Reduce petroleum use in the transportation sector.

## **FA12** Improve health outcomes for our region's residents

- 12.1** Integrate public health considerations in all aspects of planning and policy-making.
- 12.2** Increase access to affordable healthy foods and maximize access to locally produced fresh food.
- 12.3** Increase access to quality healthcare facilities, especially for medically underserved communities.
- 12.4** Enhance health education programs.
- 12.5** Create safe and healthy buildings, neighborhoods and communities through planning and design.
- 12.6** Expand the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.
- 12.7** Improve conditions for communities that are disproportionately burdened by air pollution.

## **FA13** Improve stewardship of natural lands, agricultural lands, open space, parks, historic resources

- 13.1** Work with landowners to stewardship of privately owned natural lands and green space.
- 13.2** Expand programs to preserve parks, open space, natural and agricultural lands permanently.
- 13.3** Improve stewardship of public parks, open space and natural lands.
- 13.4** Implement best practices for stewardship of private and preserved agricultural lands.
- 13.5** Expand programs to preserve historic resources.
- 13.6** Improve stewardship of publicly-owned historic sites.

## **FA14** Manage water systems to improve water quality and supply

- 14.1** Improve management of stormwater runoff.
- 14.2** Protect water supplies through planning and enforcement.
- 14.3** Reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows.

## **FA15** Revitalize and strengthen communities by expanding arts and cultural opportunities

- 15.1** Develop financing tools for arts and culture.
- 15.2** Support cultural programs and activities.
- 15.3** Integrate arts and culture into the local, county, regional, and statewide planning efforts.
- 15.4** Fund arts education for all New Jersey students.







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