Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Town Council Members Timothy Mazzei and Kathleen Walsh today announced that the Town has been awarded a $25,000 grant by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) and One Region Funders' Group for the active promotion of more equitable and sustainable types of development around the Ronkonkoma transit hub. Brookhaven was one of only two municipalities on Long Island to be awarded this grant.

Brookhaven will use the grant to undertake a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for their Land Use Plan around the Ronkonkoma Transportation hub. This DGEIS is a necessary next step towards implementing any transit-oriented development measures around the area.

"This grant is good news for Brookhaven, helping to move forward with plans for the Ronkonkoma Transportation to create jobs and boost our economy," said Councilman Mazzei, who represents the area where the transportation hub is located. "Once this study is completed, we can move forward with smart growth strategies to take advantage of this area's proximity to MacArthur Airport, the Long Island Expressway and Long Island Railroad."

"The vision for this area is to use smart growth principles to promote mixed use development near existing transportation centers, which benefits the environment, the economy, and the quality of life for our residents," said Councilwoman Walsh. "This grant will help us move forward with this land use planning.

The One Region Funders' Group is a partnership of private funders from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey learning and working together to advance and support transportation planning and reform in the Tri-state region. Foundations participating in the One Region Funders' Group and contributing toward this initiative include the Long Island Community Trust, the Rauch Foundation, the Fairfield County Community Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the Surdna Foundation, the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, and the Westchester Community Foundation. The Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) is a non-profit organization working towards a more balanced, Transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

"The One Region Funders' Group is thrilled to support such innovative and forward thinking projects that will promote transit use, create walkable communities and spur development in our downtowns and cities," said John McNally, environment program officer for the Rauch Foundation, a One Region Funders' Group member. "We believe our downtowns are part of the solution, not the problem."

In addition to Brookhaven, similar grants were awarded to the Town of Babylon, Ossining, Peekskill and Mount Vernon in Westchester, Stratford in Connecticut, and Newark and Trenton in New Jersey. The eight awardees were chosen from over 40 applicants.