

PENNDel / MIDDLETOWN

Towns unite to apply for development grant

The aim is to improve the PennDel train station and the surrounding area.

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Ask and you shall receive.

At least that's how it happened for PennDel.

Borough Councilwoman Barbara Heffelfinger asked Middletown's supervisors Tuesday to participate in a partnership that would enable the borough to apply for a Transportation Revitalization Investment District — or TRID — grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Middletown committed \$15,000 to the project, which calls for improving the PennDel train station and its surrounding area.

"I think it's a good idea because part of land they want to improve, the parking lot around the train station, is in Middletown," Middletown Supervisor Jasper Caro said Thursday. "With just about anything you do, you need a study, and this will help get that out of the way. If everything comes to fruition and there is a marked improvement in that area, then it will be that much more worthwhile."

The purpose of TRID is to spur transit-oriented community revitalization and enhance the community character around public transit facilities. The major objective is to encourage municipal cooperative approaches to generate new investment, reinvestment and revitalization through transit-oriented development as well as increasing public transit.

In addition to the \$15,000 from Middletown, PennDel would chip in \$10,000 to match part of the \$75,000 TRID grant.

"Middletown voted to commit to the funds for the match if the grant is awarded to PennDel," Ward McMasters, PennDel's council president said Thursday.

"Heffelfinger, her committee, the borough council, borough planner Joseph Luste and other consultants are to be commended for what has been achieved in the last seven years," McMasters said. "There have been a number of grants that have resulted in a number of critical studies and recommendations leading the borough to the last piece of the puzzle, a TRID application."

Middletown also is one of several groups that have written letters of support for the grant application. Langhorne Manor, Neshaminy School District, SEPTA and other county agencies also have given their support, McMasters said.