# Transit Village

**Prepared by:**

Topology

**Presented to**

Borough of Bernardsville

# December 12, 2022

# Objectives
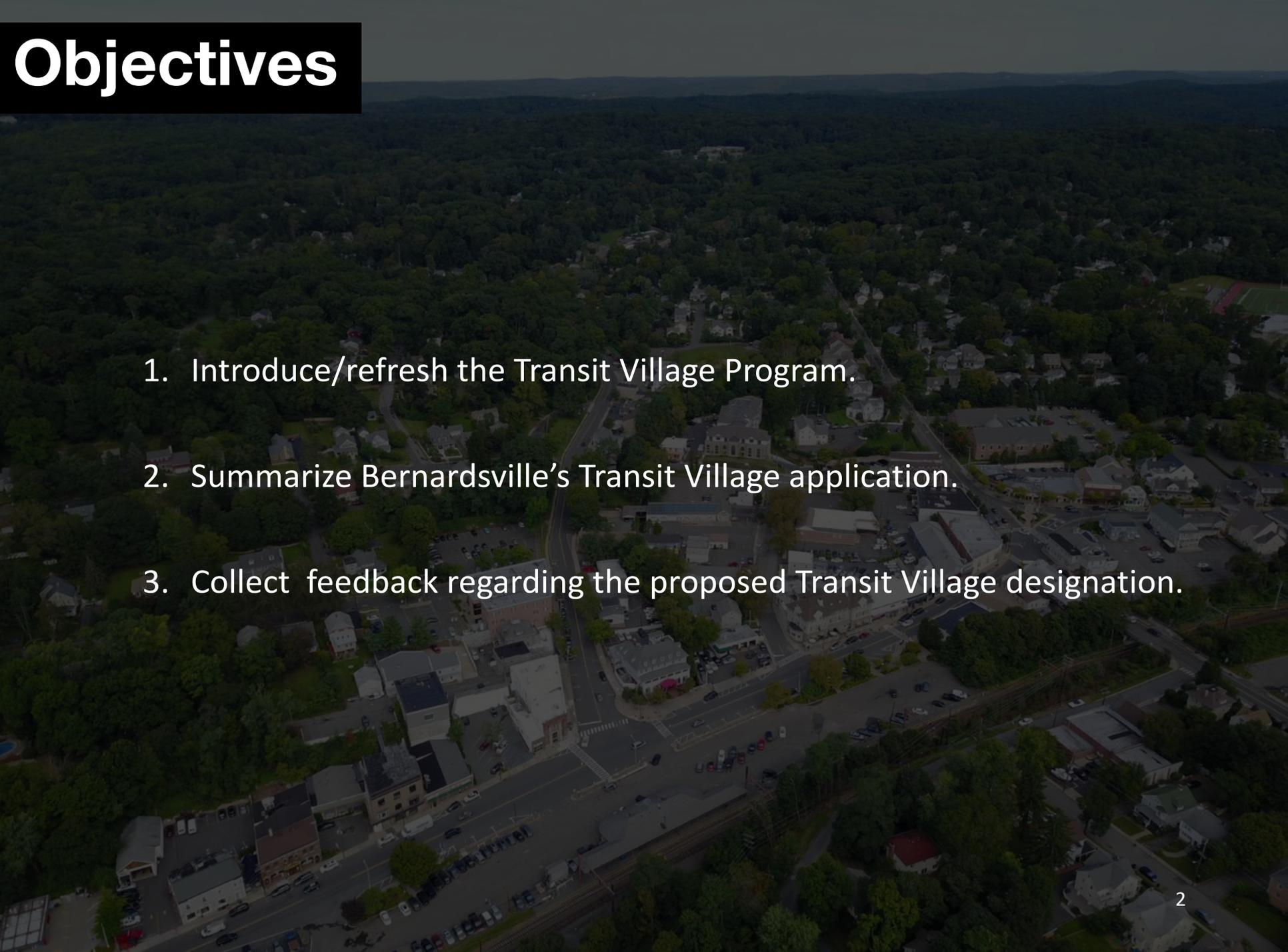
1. Introduce/refresh the Transit Village Program.

2. Summarize Bernardsville's Transit Village application.

3. Collect feedback regarding the proposed Transit Village designation.

# Transit Village Overview

- Transit Villages "support Smart Growth, revitalization and redevelopment within walking distance of transit for the purposes of increasing...ridership, reducing congestion and improving air quality."

- Transit Villages benefit from:
    - Priority funding and technical assistance from state agencies
    - NJDOT grant eligibility
    - Assistance from the Transit Village Task Force

- Key Transit Village criteria:
    - Demonstrate municipal willingness to grow around the transit facility in a transit-supportive manner.
    - Adopt a TOD redevelopment plan and/or TOD zoning ordinance which includes a residential component.
    - Identify sites where TOD projects are anticipated.
    - Identify bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
    - Identify "placemaking" efforts near transit.
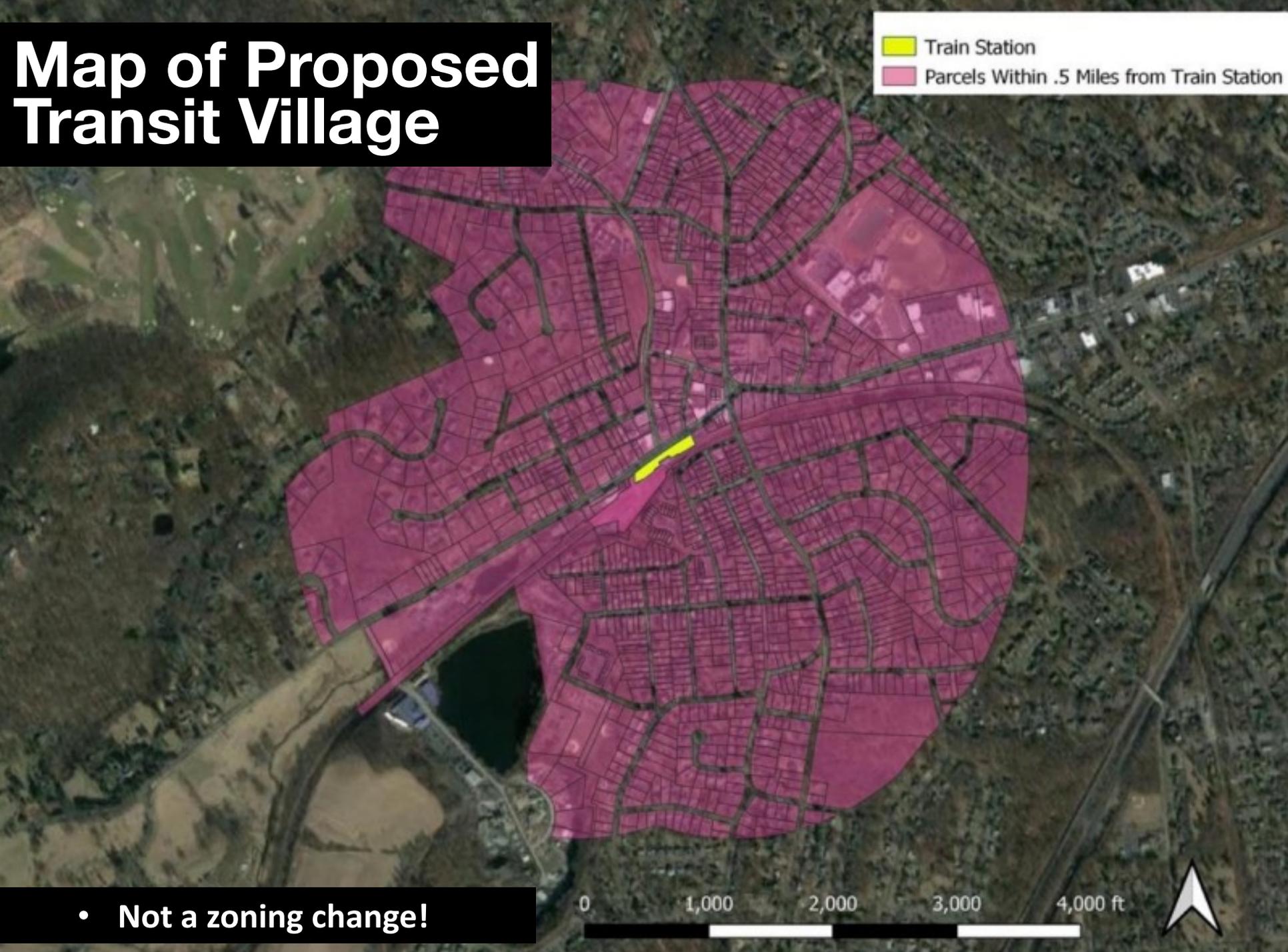
# Application Status

- Topology retained by Borough Council to explore designation in April 2021.

- Resolution authorizing submission of an application to become a Transit Village was adopted in October 2021.

- Topology submitted application in October 2021.

- Since submission, Topology and Borough have responded to questions and comments from NJDOT review committee.
  - NJDOT review committee suggested a public meeting to discuss the application.

# Fulfillment of Transit Village Ideals to Date

- Adoption of new transit-oriented zoning districts and redevelopment plans, in and around the downtown, that encourage mixed use development and promote walkability.
  - New downtown zoning ordinance
  - Quimby Redevelopment Plan, 65 Morristown Road Redevelopment Plan

- Emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian improvements in recent years. Actions include adopting a Complete Streets resolution, completing a walkability study, pursuing funding for the Boylan Terrace connection and other bike/ped improvements.

- Downtown Bernardsville, Inc. has been engaging the community with the downtown area through local programming and events. The organization operates completely within the proposed transit village district.

# Map of Proposed Transit Village

Train Station

Parcels Within .5 Miles from Train Station

0    1,000    2,000    3,000    4,000 ft

• **Not a zoning change!**
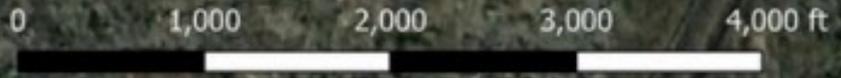
# State Assistance

- TV program provides opportunities for state agency assistance.

- In Bernardsville's TV application, state assistance is requested on the following items:

  o Working with NJ Transit regarding various pedestrian and public space infrastructure projects.

  o Working with the NJDOT regarding potential streetscape improvements along Route 202.

  o Working with NJDEP regarding technical assistance for development around the flood area.

  o Working with the State to identify and pursue funding opportunities for open space development.

# Discussion

- Do you support the Borough's efforts to become a Transit Village?

- What opportunities are there for additional bicycle/pedestrian improvements around the Train Station?

- Do you support continued focus on revitalization of the downtown including growth and mixed-use development around the Train Station?

- Do you support an increased focus on improving transportation service, infrastructure, and connectivity around the Train Station? How so?

- What other assistance should the Borough request from the State?

- Other thoughts?