



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### Governor's Weekly Radio Message

**Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.**

**Gov. Whitman's message this week focuses on her commitment to better development of New Jersey's cities, towns and highways through use of the State Plan. The goal of the plan is to improve the quality of life for New Jerseyans by preserving more open space, reducing congestion on our roads, and revitalizing our cities.**

**Attached is the text of the message.**

**The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.**

#### Governor's Weekly Radio Address February 27, 1998

**If you're like me, you're proud of New Jersey. You're impressed by our diversity, our history, and our people. And you're hopeful about our future.**

**But you are also a bit concerned about the rapid development that has been going on all throughout New Jersey, especially in places that used to be rolling meadows or quiet woodlands. And unless you don't own a car, you've got to be frustrated by the traffic jams that tie up so many of our roads each day.**

**You're not alone.**

**For years, many of your fellow citizens have been hard at work on a long-term solution to these problems. They have been either contributing to or reacting to a document called the State Plan for Development and Redevelopment.**

**While the document itself may not prove to be exciting bedtime reading, the goals it represents are goals we all want for New Jersey:**

**More open space preserved. Less congestion on our roads. Thriving cities. Development where it makes sense - where the roads and sewers and schools are already in place to serve that development.**

**The State Plan, in short, is a blueprint for a higher quality of life for us all.**

**Like most action plans, the State Plan is only as good as the intentions of those who use it.**

**I, for one, plan to use it to make a difference. And I'm calling on mayors, town councils, and other local officials to do the same.**

**I have instructed my Cabinet members to use the State Plan as a fundamental guide in their permit and funding decisions. And to take it one step further, I have instructed them to give priority to reviews of applications that meet the goals of the State Plan.**

**I also want to work with towns that are committed to carrying out the State Plan and keeping our roads less busy and our open space more open. I have proposed that we create a partnership between the State and local governments that speeds up the approval process for good, sensible projects.**

**Under the partnership, the local government will guarantee that it will conform to the State Plan guidelines for building where it makes sense. For our part, the State will then grant up-front approval for all development projects.**

**What will a successful State Plan mean to you?**

**Perhaps it will mean 12 minutes off your commute each day - which would give you another hour with your family each week.**

**Perhaps it will mean that the open space in your town won't become a strip mall or an office building but will remain a natural beauty or become a park for everyone to enjoy.**

**Perhaps it will mean that the abandoned buildings in your downtown will be reclaimed, refurbished, and re-occupied by new businesses or new neighbors.**

**Perhaps most important, it will mean that the New Jersey your children and their children inherit will be a place you would still be proud to call home.**

**I encourage you to talk to your local officials about how your municipality and county are using the State Plan. With your help, we can design a bright future for the great Garden State we all share.**

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