Dear Readers,
Welcome to this issue of the NJ Walks and Bikes Newsletter, a bi-weekly service prepared by the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (NJBPRC). If you would like to learn more about NJBPRC, please visit us here.

Next New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) Meeting Thursday March 17, 2016
First meeting of the new year at Rutgers University

Thursday, March 17, 2016
Rutgers University | 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
9:30AM - 12:00PM

General Meeting: 10:30AM - 12:00PM | Rm. 369

Subcommittee Meetings: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

- Design & Infrastructure: Rm. 369
- Education & Outreach: Rm. 370
- Safety: Rm. 369
- Policy & Legislative: Rm. 370 (will take place immediately following the General Meeting)

The Alliance for Biking and Walking Releases its 2016 Benchmarking Report
New Jersey improves in several key categories

The Alliance for Bicycling & Walking has published its annual benchmarking report, and we’re pleased that New Jersey continues to rate well across several categories. The report also cites two BPRC reports: The New Brunswick Ciclovia Evaluation Report and The Economic Impacts of Active Transportation in New Jersey. Here are some New Jersey highlights:

- Pedestrian fatalities decreased by 8.4% between the two three-year periods of 2005-2007 and 2011-2013
- Fatality rates per 10,000 bicyclist commuters decreased by 1% between the two three-year periods of 2005-2007 and 2011-2013
- New Jersey ranks third in the nation for the percentage of commuters who walk, bicycle, or take public transit (which often includes walking) to work
- New Jersey is one of only:
  - 3 states where over 75% of the state highway network has wide paved shoulders or bicycle lanes
  - 8 states that have a bicycle box on any state highway
  - 13 states that offer incentives to employees for bicycle and pedestrian commuting
  - 17 states that have a "Vulnerable Road Users Law"

To download the benchmarking report, click here.

Liberty Bridge: A History of Pedestrian Bridges Comes Full Circle in New Jersey

A long-shot proposal to link Jersey City and Manhattan by foot stimulates a reflection on the role pedestrian bridges play in NJ

Last year, a group of Jersey City residents proposed a 5,000 foot long pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Hudson River. The plan calls for the new bridge to start at the Jersey City embankment and end in Battery Park City.

Done well, non-vehicular bridges provide vital connections between bicycle and pedestrian networks, advancing NJDOT’s goal of making New Jersey "a state where people choose to walk and bicycle." Whether or not the Liberty Bridge gets built, the proposal
continues the important conversation about how to best provide bicycling and walking options to New Jersey residents. Read more here.

News Spotlight: February 20th - March 4th 2016
The rising demand for walkable neighborhoods

This new section selects provides thoughtful insights from today's top journalists and writers about pressing topics that impact bicycle and pedestrian planning and policy. Learn the issues, get the facts, and invest in planning for New Jersey's tomorrow.


With all the talk of the millennial generation - folks in their 20s and early 30s - dominating the rental market in cities across the country, it might come as a surprise that they also make up the nation's largest segment of home buyers. According to *National Public Radio's Marketplace*, as millennials grow up and start families, many, 49 percent, are reassessing their housing choices. For those looking for their first house, they're starting to look toward the suburbs - but just not their parents' 'burb. Rather, they want mixed-use, walkable communities.

Read More


However, demand is growing faster than supply. According to a new report released by the *Regional Plan Association*, 56 percent of millennials and 46 percent of baby-boomers prefer walkable, mixed use neighborhoods. And while there is a shortage of multi-family housing, supply of single family homes is estimated to exceed demand for the next 25 years.

+ READ MORE: An opinion article in Grist, titled "Want to Encourage the Development of Walkable Neighborhoods? Fix This," also details the impact federal loan policies have had on shaping the financing and construction of new housing in walkable, multi-family neighborhoods.

New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit Recap
BPRC presents at the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition Annual Summit February 27th, 2016
On Saturday, February 27th, the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition hosted their annual New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit. This popular event brings together planners, engineers, advocates, elected officials, and others interested in learning the latest about bicycling and walking in New Jersey and around the country. The summit has continued to grow in popularity, and for the first time was held in Princeton to accommodate the growing crowds. The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) was well-represented among conference presenters. Read more here.

Announcements

Events

- *Next Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting*: March | Rutgers University | 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ | 9:30AM - 12:00PM | [Link](#)

Other

- The [East Coast Greenway Alliance](#) is hiring a Tri-State Greenway Coordinator. To apply, click [here](#).

Complete Streets in New Jersey

*An up-to-date list of Complete Streets policies in New Jersey*

There are currently **125** municipalities and 7 counties with Complete Streets policies in New Jersey, with the **Township of Westampton** in Burlington County being the most recent addition. This brings the total New Jersey population living in municipalities with Complete Streets policies to over 3.3 million people, or 38.3% of the population. Essex and Bergen Counties lead the way with 13 municipalities having adopted policies each, followed by Mercer County with 12. Salem and Passaic Counties remain the only counties without any municipal Complete Streets policies.

To access the most up-to-date list of Complete Streets policies adopted in the state, please [click here](#).
Bike/Ped Newsfeed

February 20th - March 4th, 2016

San Diego Plans to Connect a Downtown Protected Bike Lane Network All at Once
People for Bikes - February 24th

Bike Counts Rising Fast at Automated Counters Around the World
NJ.com - February 7th

Six Locations Selected for the Second Phase of Pedestrian Safety Campaign
Street Smart - February 23rd

Portion of park at SJ’s ‘gateway’ will finally open
Courier Post - March 3rd

Head-on Collision Kills South Jersey man
NJ.com - March 2nd

For more local NJ bike/ped headlines, national news, opinion pieces, and the crash report, click here!