October 30, 2023 | Issue: 155

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this issue of the NJ Walks and Bikes Newsletter, prepared by the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (NJ BPRC) with support from the NJ Department of Transportation. If you would like to learn more about the NJ BPRC, please visit us here.

Important Information Regarding the 2023 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit!

<u>Directions & Parking:</u> If you are driving, you <u>MUST pre-register your car</u> online to park at the student center parking lot. Failure to do so will result in a ticket. Please visit http://go.rutgers.edu/CSParking to register your vehicle.

The Rutgers Student Center is easily accessible by public transit. The New Brunswick train station is just a 10-minute walk up College Avenue. You can also rent a Veo scooter to travel between the train station and the student center using their app. College Avenue features a two-way protected bicycle lane between the train station and the student center. (See map below)

<u>Capacity:</u> If you are no longer able to attend in person, please let us know ASAP by emailing us at (<u>njcompletestreets@ejb.rutgers.edu</u>). We have reached capacity for the Summit and have people on a waiting list still hoping to attend. If you can no longer join us, please free up space for others.



DIRECTIONS AND PARKING



Introducing the 2023 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kelcie Ralph!



Dr. Kelcie Ralph is an Associate Professor of Transportation Planning and Policy at Rutgers's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Her work has been recognized for excellence with an Outstanding Paper Award at the Transportation Research Board on three occasions: from the Standing Committee on Traffic Law Enforcement (ACS30) in 2023 and the Committee on Transportation Safety Management (ANB10) in 2018 and 2019.

In her keynote session, titled **Uncovering Deep Stories About Our Transportation**, Dr. Ralph will explore how we think about transportation, how we talk about it when we interact with the public, and how it profoundly informs the strategies we pursue and the level of public support given to them.

Click Here for the Full Summit Agenda



Bridging the Gap: The Connection Between Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Safe Systems Approach

In recent years, three concepts have taken center stage in transportation planning. These concepts— Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Safe System Approach—aim to create safer, more accessible streets for all road users, including pedestrians and bicyclists. This post will explore the connections between the three and how they can work together to foster safer and more inclusive streets in New Jersey.

Click here to Read the Full Article



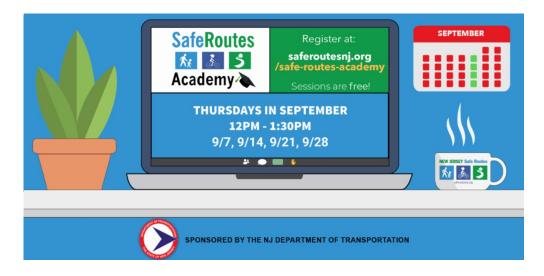
Cycling During and After COVID: Has There Been a Boom in Activity?

Covid brought the world to a screeching halt, but did it slow down cyclists? Anecdotal evidence suggests that cycling boomed during the early stages of the pandemic, but it's unknown whether increased cycling activity has continued.

Researchers from the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University collected

Researchers from the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University collected evidence from over 2,400 New Jersey residents to understand bike usage during the pandemic and their intention to continue cycling after the pandemic was over. Read their published report to see if the bike boom will continue!

Click here to read the full article.



View the 2023 NJ Safe Routes Academy Recordings

The NJ Safe Routes Academy, sponsored by NJDOT, featured free online sessions to help participants make their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for all users of all abilities. The NJ Safe Routes Academy is designed for parents, teachers, students, municipal leaders, local volunteers, and anyone else interested in improving conditions for walking and bicycling. Learn about the best practices and resources that you can use to increase the safety and accessibility of walking and bicycling in your community.

View Recordings

Answer the Academy Questionnaire

From our Friends at NJ Safe Routes Resource Ce nter Celebrating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day 2023

November 14, 2022 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



A Day of Dialogue...

...Youth Making a Difference

Register now www.rubybridges.foundation

Ruby Walk to School Day is a commemorative event dedicated to honoring the bravery and resilience of Ruby Bridges, a trailblazer in the fight for equal education. This day encourages schools and communities to unite to celebrate progress and reflect on the ongoing journey toward inclusive education. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is historically held on November 14th.

Join us as we remember Ruby's historic journey and continue the pursuit of justice for all.

Register your event and learn more on our website.

Register Your Event

Read the Scoop

Join us for the next BPAC Meeting on December, 6th 2023

General Meeting, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Join early at 9:15 am for a virtual coffee chat (BYOC- Bring Your Own Coffee)

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) is coordinated by the Voorhees Transportation Center on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

BPAC is open to everyone. To participate, please register using the following link:

njbikeped.org/join-the-next-meeting/

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To learn more about BPAC, please visit the website here. You can also contact James Sinclair at james.sinclair@ejb.rutgers.edu



October is Pedestrian Safety Month

October is recognized as Pedestrian Safety Month, highlighting the need for increased attention to roadway safety as pedestrian fatalities and injuries continue to be a significant issue across the country. In this blog post, our friends at the Greater Mercer TMA provide an overview of several infrastructure applications that prioritize safety through traffic calming measures.

Read the Full Article Here.



Meet the First Cohort of Community Connectors!

Smart Growth America has announced the inaugural Community Connectors Cohort. Over the next two years, 15 organizations will participate in a learning exchange that links local leaders to experts and other cities, as well as receive a grant of up to \$130,000 to build local capacity and co-design a project to repair damage from divisive infrastructure. Meet the cohort!

The Community Connectors program is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and led by Smart Growth America in partnership with Equitable Cities, the New Urban Mobility Alliance, and America Walks.

Click here to learn more.



US pedestrian deaths are soaring. Is it time to ban right turns on red lights?

A movement is growing across the country to ban the practice of turning right at red traffic lights. This has been allowed for the past 50 years, but with pedestrian fatalities reaching a four-decade high, there's increasing support for prohibiting this maneuver. San Francisco supervisors have expressed unanimous support for the ban, while Cambridge, Massachusetts, and New York have already implemented it.

Researchers point to evidence that drivers tend to focus more on their left side when looking for gaps in traffic to turn right, potentially leading to more fatalities.

Click here to read the full article.



New Jersey High Court to Hear E-Scooter Rider's Bid for No-Fault Auto Benefits

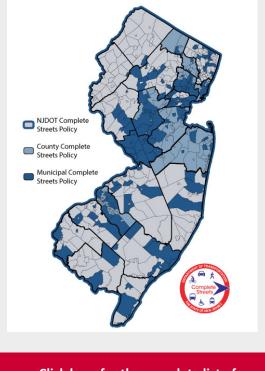
David Goyco was injured while riding a low-speed electric scooter. Under New Jersey state law, he sought personal injury protection (PIP) benefits from his auto insurer, Progressive Insurance, which treats bicyclists like pedestrians. However, Progressive and New Jersey courts denied his claim, asserting that his Segway scooter did not meet the legal definition of a qualifying automobile or a pedestrian. Goyco's argument that low-speed electric scooters should be considered equivalent to bicycles was rejected by the trial and state appeals courts. The New Jersey Supreme Court has now agreed to hear Goyco's final appeal to determine whether someone operating a low-speed electric scooter can be classified as a "pedestrian" entitled to PIP benefits.

Click Here to Read More

Complete Streets in New Jersey

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

There are currently
174 municipalities and 8
counties with Complete
Streets policies in New
Jersey.



This brings the total New Jersey population living in municipalities with Complete Streets policies to over 4 million people, or 46% of the population.

To access the most up-todate list of Complete Streets policies adopted in the state, click the button!

Click here for the complete list of policies.

Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center



www.saferoutesnj.org







Visit Our Website





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