



NJ BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN RESOURCE CENTER

Educate. Encourage. Empower.

May 15th, 2024 | Issue: 161

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](#).

Join us for the next BPAC Meeting on May 22, 2024

General Meeting, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
coffee chat begins at 9:15 am

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.

See the May 2024 meeting agenda [here](#). This meeting will include a presentation on updates to NJDOT's Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program.

BPAC is open to everyone.

To participate, please register using the following link:

[Join the next meeting!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the meeting.

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

Missed the last meeting?

In our March 2024 meeting, **Jeremy Chrzan, PE**, PTOE, LEED AP, from Toole Design Group provided key insights into the updated Public



Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), with a brief discussion on related national guidance documents.

If you would like to view Jeremy's webinar on PROWAG, it is available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Watch the webinar on PROWAG.



13th Annual 2024

NEW JERSEY BIKE & WALK SUMMIT



SAFE STREETS & TRAILS FOR AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE NJ

NJ Bike & Walk Summit is this Saturday!

Registration is now open for the New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit, which will be held on **May 18, 2024** at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ.

The Summit is New Jersey's statewide meeting of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, elected officials, local leaders, transportation engineers, urban planners, bike shop owners and managers, cycling, walking, fitness and health enthusiasts and experts, recreation, trail and club leaders, and others who are interested in making our state a better place to live.

The New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition is pleased to offer you the opportunity to learn more about current state and federal policy issues affecting your community, information on the various public funding sources available, and the chance to network with others and to identify and develop mutually beneficial relationships that can help your town become more bike and pedestrian friendly..

Registration and more information is available at the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition.



Cultivating Community, Commerce & Transit Oriented Development in New Jersey

2024 NJTOD SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, May 16, 9 am – 4 pm

Gov. James J. Florio Special Events Forum
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901



Register Now for the 2024 NJTOD Symposium!

The New Jersey Transit-Oriented Development Symposium is presented in partnership with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, NJ TRANSIT, the NJ Department of Transportation, and the Voorhees Transportation Center. The event brings together stakeholders, experts, and professionals to explore the intersection of community, commerce, and transit-oriented development.

This is a **free** event, and will feature keynotes by Clarelle DeGraffe, the Director of PATH, and Megan Fackler, the Director of Statewide Planning for NJDOT. There will also be panel discussions on PATH & Economic Development as well as the New Jersey Transit Village Initiative. Lunch is included!

[See more info on the Symposium here.](#)





STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, state and local governments, schools, and school districts encourage and promote safe, healthy and active lifestyles for students and residents of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health-related problems and the ability to walk or bike to school offers an opportunity to build physical activity into students' daily routines; and

WHEREAS, walking and bicycling instead of transporting students to and from nearby schools in private motor vehicles reduces traffic congestion, fuel consumption, and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, all stakeholders in the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program strive to inform, assist, inspire and encourage children and their families to walk and bicycle safely to and from school and within their community in an effort to boost physical activity and exercise; and

WHEREAS, this commemoration shall provide an opportunity for students and their families in New Jersey to walk and bicycle safely to and from school and within their community with a strong effort to promote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles and create a safe environment for students and residents to walk and bike to school and around town; and

WHEREAS, Walk and Bike to School events provide an opportunity to remind everyone traveling on New Jersey roadways of the State's Safe Passing Law that requires drivers to use "due caution" wherever they encounter vulnerable road users, including children walking and bicycling to school, and move over a lane or provide a distance of at least four feet and, if not possible, slow to 25 mph to safely pass; and

WHEREAS, National Bike and Roll to School Day is Wednesday, May 8, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 2024

AS

WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this fourth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-four, the two hundred forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR

May is New Jersey Walk & Bike to School Month!

Governor Phil Murphy has declared May as New Jersey Walk and Bike to School Month. May is known for its agreeable weather, blooming flowers and pleasant springtime aromas.

There's no better time to opt for a more environmentally friendly method of transportation and celebrate by walking or bicycling to school.

Celebrate Walk and Bike to School Month - and National Bike Month - by leaving the car at home and walking or bicycling with your children to school, to a park, or anywhere for some exercise! Both biking and walking are a great way to get the heart pumping and enjoy fresh air at the same time. Walk and Bike to school Month promotes healthy living and strengthens community bonds while also increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety awareness.

[Learn more about NJ Walk & Bike to School Month at Safe Routes NJ.](#)

[Learn more about Bike Month at the League of American Bicyclists.](#)



Funding Opportunity: Municipal Aid, Bikeways, Safe Streets to Transit, Transit Villages

NJDOT has announced that the grant solicitation period for Fiscal Year 2025 State Aid programs is now open. Starting April 29, 2024, applications will be accepted for the Municipal Aid, Bikeways, Safe Streets to Transit, and Transit Village programs through **July 1, 2024**. These are excellent funding opportunities for expanding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in your community. More information on state funded programs can be found on NJDOT's Local Aid Resource Center website [here](#).

[See the announcement from NJDOT here.](#)

Five NJ Municipalities to Receive Complete Streets Technical Assistance

After a competitive application process, NJTPA has selected 5 municipalities to participate in their Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program.

Belmar, Paterson, Readington, and Verona will conduct Complete Streets corridor assessments along busy roadways with the goal of making travel safer for pedestrians and cyclists. **Belleville** will develop a bicycle corridor plan along Division Avenue, a wide road that experiences increased congestion during school arrival and dismissal.



The program will assist the municipalities with documenting existing conditions, exploring potential improvements, and developing design recommendations to make it safer for people walking and/or biking through a Complete Streets approach. You can read about past initiatives on the NJTPA website [here](#).

The NJTPA funds this program and provides technical assistance in partnership with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University and Sustainable Jersey.

Read the full article at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

NEW JERSEY Safe Routes



From our Friends at the Safe Routes to School Resource Center

The NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center recently published a [video](#) on how to find your local Safe Routes Coordinator. Coordinators offer free technical assistance to schools and communities to encourage children to walk and bike to school.

The Safe Routes to School Blog - [Safe Routes Scoop](#) - has more information on what the Safe Routes Coordinators have been up to recently.

Find your Local Safe Routes Coordinator here.

If you're struck by a car on an electric scooter, insurance won't cover you, high court rules

The rider of a low-speed electric scooter is not considered a pedestrian, like bicyclists are, under New Jersey insurance law, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled Tuesday, May 14.

In insurance terms, a low-speed electric scooter (LSES) rider is not relying on "muscular power," and therefore not a pedestrian.

Read the full article on NJ.com



Bergen Street Safety Improvements Project

The City of Newark, supported by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), hosted a Virtual Public Meeting to inform local residents, officials, businesses, and the general public about proposed safety improvements on Bergen Street from Madison Avenue to 14th Avenue.

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, April 25th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. A slide presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session. The meeting was conducted in conformance with federal and state regulations and was open to all members of the public.

Written comments on the project may be made via the [Project Comment Form](#) through **May 17, 2024**.

[See more information here.](#)

Navigating Federal Funding for Green Infrastructure: a Comprehensive Guide from the EPA

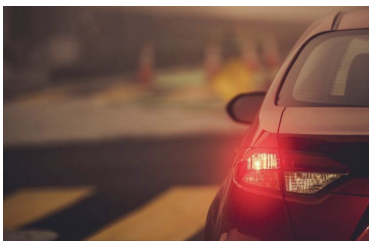
The [Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative](#), re-launched by the EPA in May of 2021, is a cooperative of agencies working on implementing Green Infrastructure.

Members work together to share knowledge, resources, and best practices to provide support for municipalities and governments looking to build Green Infrastructure in their communities.



The guide provides an overview of federal programs that offer support for planning, design, implementation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of Green Infrastructure projects. Many Complete Streets and bicycle/pedestrian safety projects incorporate Green Infrastructure in their design, so this resource is excellent for assessing some of the funding options available for active transportation projects in your community.

[View all the great funding opportunities here.](#)



Governor Murphy signs bill enhancing NJ's Safe Passing Law

Governor Murphy signed into law a bill enhancing NJ's Safe Passing Law, which was already considered one of the nation's most comprehensive.

The Safe Passing Law, which took effect in March 2022, provides clear and enforceable rules for motorists regarding when and how to pass vulnerable road users including pedestrians, cyclists, and others.

The updated legislation modifies the Safe Passing Law's language, defining the terms "pedestrian" and "personal conveyance" to eliminate potential ambiguity. The new language includes, but is not limited to, low-speed electric bicycles and scooters, manual and motorized wheelchairs or similar mobility assisting devices, and motorized scooters

and skateboards.

[Read more about the Safe Passing Law here.](#)



Recap of the Micromobility 2.0 Workshop: Safely Accommodating Micromobility Innovations

Micromobility devices - the class including shared bicycles, individual electric bikes, hoverboards, electric scooters, and electric wheelchairs - are changing how we move around and continue to grow in popularity. Though they provide essential first- and last-mile linkages for people of all ages and abilities, these devices also present safety, regulatory, and aesthetic concerns to the communities where they are used.

The Micromobility 2.0 Workshop at Rutgers on March 22, 2024 brought together over 100 researchers, public officials, industry leaders, and activists to discuss these problems and explore possible solutions. Some key takeaways from the summit highlight the need for **more miles of dedicated and protected** facilities for these devices, **improved safety and regulatory standards**, an expansion of training and education among both users and policymakers, and better **data collection** on uses as well as crashes.

The workshop demonstrated how an interdisciplinary partnership between researchers in urban planning, engineering, public informatics, and computer science expands research, literature, and science to broaden the understanding and implementation of micromobility solutions.

[Read the full blog post from the NJ State Policy Lab here.](#)



BPRC at New Jersey TransAction 2024

Our own Hannah Younes and Sam Rosenthal spoke about micromobility at the 2024 New Jersey TransAction conference in Atlantic City on May 2nd. Their presentation, titled **Advancing Micromobility Safety and Access in New Jersey**, explored emerging research and resources related to micromobility classification, regulation, and safety with a focus on improving understanding among law enforcement, elected officials, and the public.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen presented in two other sessions. **Jumpstarting a Walkable, Bikeable Future: An Insider's Guide to Accessing State and Federal Dollars** focused on exploring opportunities to secure funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects in New Jersey municipalities. **Challenges and Opportunities with Complete Streets Implementation** covered different approaches to communicating the benefits of Complete Streets and supporting its implementation in our communities.

The TransAction conference hosts a wide variety of transportation professionals ranging from small community-based transportation systems, to regional, county, statewide, and federal agencies. Participants include planners, engineers, managers, community transportation providers, consultants, and metropolitan planning organizations, among others.

NEW JERSEY

PLANNING & REDEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2024

VIRTUAL JUNE 5-6 / IN-PERSON JUNE 7

The New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference is Coming in June!

[New Jersey Future](#) and the [NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association](#) are hosting the New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference, with virtual presentations on **June 5th and 6th** and in-person sessions on **June 7th** at the **Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick**. The conference brings together hundreds of professionals, elected officials, and community activists who are working to improve planning efforts in New Jersey.

The 37 planned sessions range across focus areas that include housing, public health, transit-oriented development, design, and sustainability. Here are some transportation-focused sessions you may be interested in:

- 6/5** TOD in Your Community: Building a Strong Foundation
- 6/5** Connecting Communities to Capital for Greenways, Trails, & Bike Paths
- 6/6** Get with the Program: Planning for NJDOT Grant Funding
- 6/7** Advancing Micromobility Safety and Access in New Jersey
- 6/7** Putting Parking in Its Place

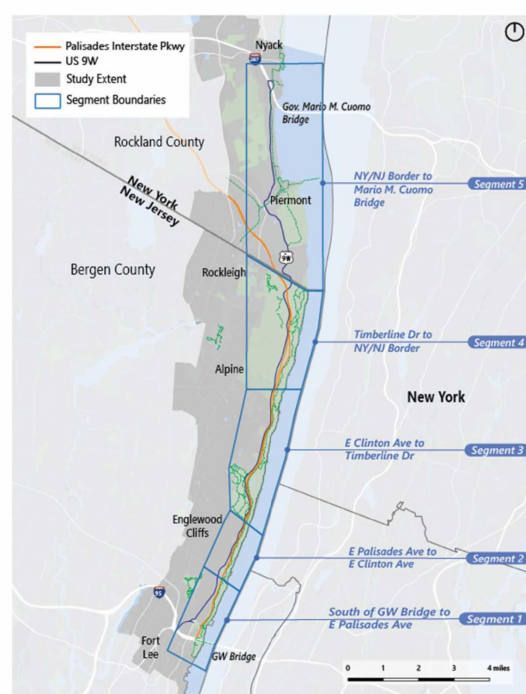
[Read more about the conference here.](#)

NYMTC Examining Shared Use Path along the Hudson

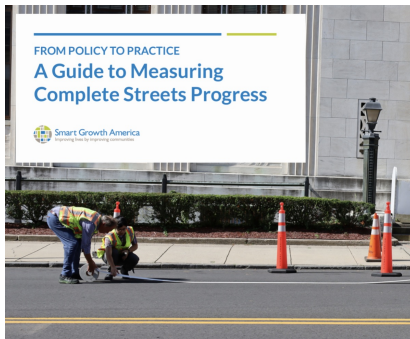
The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) is conducting a [study](#) on the potential for a **20-mile separated shared use path** for pedestrians and

cyclists between the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee and the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in South Nyack, NY.

The study, expected to be completed in early 2025, aims to fill a gap in the cycling network along the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. The path could help improve mobility and access for residents, tourists, and businesses by improving the cycling network and accommodating latent demand. The study is analyzing five segments of the proposed path, 4 of which are in NJ.



[Read more about the proposed path from the NJTPA.](#)



Measuring the Progress of Complete Streets in your Community

We know that Complete Streets initiatives contribute much to the accessibility, safety, sustainability, and economic growth of the communities where they are implemented. But how do we measure this progress?

[Smart Growth America](#) recently released a report to aid practitioners in measuring Complete Streets initiatives in a way that can be easily tracked, communicated, and addressed. The report identifies over 100 different measures for gauging progress on Complete Streets, organized into three categories:

- Process: How are decisions made and capacity improved?
- Implementation: What actions are taken?
- Impact: What are the short-term & long-term effects of the policy overall?

[Read the full report from SGA here.](#)



A Chat with Barkha Patel, Who Helped Achieve Zero Traffic Deaths in Jersey City

The *Strong Towns Podcast* recently sat down with Barkha Patel, the Director of Infrastructure for Jersey City (and a Bloustein alum!). In case you missed it, Jersey City achieved [zero traffic deaths](#) on its city streets in 2022, primarily by focusing on tactical urbanism, community engagement, traffic calming, and dispersing small-scale interventions along six major corridors in the city.

[Listen to the Podcast on Strong Towns.](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series

This FHWA webinar series shares equitable strategies and tools implemented by state, regional, and local transportation agencies that can be integrated into programs and projects to close disparities in roadway fatalities on the way to our shared goal of zero deaths. This series will highlight equitable design strategies, delve deeper into data analysis tools, and share promising practices to improve roadway safety for people experiencing homelessness.

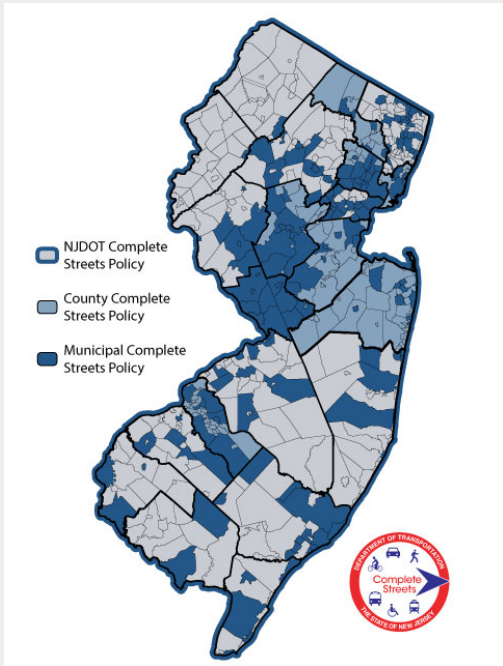
Each of these sessions are scheduled from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM ET.

- **May 22, 2024:** Equitable Data Analysis
- **July 24, 2024:** Roadway Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness

APA and other professional development certifications will be available. Information will be shared during the webinars.

[Register here.](#)

[Learn more about the webinar series here.](#)



Complete Streets in New Jersey

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

There are currently **180** 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-to-date 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**



[Visit Our Website](#)



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