

The Transporter

Transport information for business executives, elected officials, and school administrators in NJ

EZ Ride Marks 100th Edition of "The Transporter"



Welcome to the 100th issue of our EZ Ride newsletter! We are pleased to celebrate our 100th issue and thank you for being a loyal reader and subscriber. Our newsletter started as a quarterly publication back in the Summer of 2011. It became a monthly publication in February 2021 to keep pace with the accelerating changes in the transportation industry.

The Transporter serves elected officials, business and non-profit executives, and municipal and school administrators. We are pleased that more than 2,000 subscribers receive the newsletter every month.

Our goal is to keep you informed about current transportation trends that affect the commute of your clients, employees, residents, or students. The topics range from shuttles, vanpools, carpools, walking and biking, convenient on-demand transportation with Lyft or Uber, and public transit. We hope that you find the news and information helpful and relevant. Keep on reading.

Municipalities and Counties Should Get to Work on EV Charging Plans to Tap \$7.5 Billion in Federal Funding

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act offers \$5 billion for national EV charging infrastructure and \$2.5 billion for community and network charging. Grants will be awarded through a competitive grant application. Policymakers recommend that municipalities begin work on their plans as soon as possible so that they can qualify for federal assistance. This funding aims to help shape the future of the nation's EV charging infrastructure system. Read [more](#) for insights from EV experts on how this funding will shape the future of the nation's EV charging infrastructure system.

The feds have issued guidance for state EV charging plans to take on the goal of building out a national electric vehicle charging network in the next five years. The states have until August 1 to submit their plans to the feds. *New Jersey's Energy Master Plan* requires all towns to comply with its statewide clean energy plan to prevent climate change. The plan's goal is for the state to reach 100 percent clean energy by 2050.

Most municipalities own many vehicles used and operated by the Police Department and the Department of Public Works. A fleet transition plan could help map out the transition to electric vehicles, and the plan could be a requirement to tap future funding streams. Call (201) 939-4242 ext. 117 or email Krishna Murthy at kmurthy@ezride.org for more information.



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Preventing Injuries in March for Brain Safety Month – Free Helmets?

The bikeadviser.com website states that there were 846 cyclists killed in the United States in 2019, making up 2.3 percent of traffic fatalities. The purpose of bicycle helmet laws for children is to reduce the number of severe and fatal head injuries to children involved in bicycle crashes. Bicycle helmets, when used properly,



reduce head injuries and fatalities, according to the [CDC](#). Attewell, Glase, and McFadden (2001) examined all research studies published between 1987 and 1998. They found that helmets reduced overall head injuries by about 60 percent and reduced fatalities by about 73 percent.

Children living in the states with child helmet legislation were more likely to wear a helmet than those without any mandate. Safety professionals can reinforce the

need to wear helmets through educational programs and free or discounted helmet distribution programs.

Preventing crashes and injuries is the goal of our Bicycle & Pedestrian Program at EZ Ride. Our team strives to help municipalities and school districts educate residents and students about the importance of safety while driving, walking, and riding a bicycle.

Last year, EZ Ride's Bike & Pedestrian team hosted more than 250 programs for children, including 25 safe bike skills workshops. At these bike events, we distribute free bike helmets for those children who do not have one. For more information, call (201) 939-4242 ext. 123 or email Lisa Lee at llee@ezride.org or visit our website ezride.org.

Bike & Pedestrian Program

Vanpools: The Answer to Cost-Effective Commuting and Rising Gas Prices



As employees gradually begin returning to the office, they will have to contend with rising gas prices and higher commuting costs. Many businesses know that vanpooling is the

most cost-effective way for their employees to commute to work – about \$6 per day – with a daily roundtrip commute of at least 40 miles and a 21-workday month.

Vanpools are economical because NJ Transit provides a subsidy of \$175 per month. Those who travel on the HOV lanes of the New Jersey Turnpike are eligible for an additional \$150 per month. Employers could also offer to subsidize the vanpool cost partially or entirely.

The cost will vary depending on the average monthly miles and the costs of operation, maintenance, insurance, and vehicle depreciation. Based on 14 passengers, monthly fees per rider are generally between \$90 and \$170 a month, and leases are issued monthly. A typical lease ranges from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per month, depending on the van and your monthly mileage. The lease includes maintenance, insurance, and 24-hour roadside assistance.

EZ Ride can help you with the setup and application process to start a new vanpool. If you are interested in creating a new vanpool to help your employees reduce the daily rising commuting costs, please contact Kinga Skora at (201) 939-4242 ext. 131 or email kskora@ezride.org or visit our website ezride.org.

Vanpool Program

Essex County Uses EZ Ride Shuttles to Transport Residents for Special Events

Essex County used EZ Ride's shuttle service to transport residents to a special event at the county's Branch Brook Park on March 25.

Many county residents rode the WAVE Shuttle to the park's roller skating center for the county's annual Project Homeless Connect Day event. The residents could access health screenings, haircuts, public assistance, giveaways, mental health services, employment services, veterans' services, etc. The county's roller-skating rink was transformed into an information center where residents could connect with various agencies to help them get their lives in order.



Many New Jersey counties offer special events like this, and EZ Ride can help with your shuttle transportation needs. Please call (201) 939-4242 ext.131 or email Kinga Skora at kskora@ezride.org, or visit our website ezride.org.

Shuttle Program

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