



The Transporter

Mobility Updates for Community Leaders



Krishna's Note

Krishna Murthy | President & CEO

Beyond Rides & Ridership

Transportation has always been the means to an end – to get to work, visit the doctor, or go shopping. And transportation providers like EZ Ride are trying to augment the historical metrics of rides and ridership with the outcomes and impact of providing these rides – access to jobs, reduced unemployment, improved air quality, and better health care.

Today, all transportation providers operate at the nexus of, and directly impact, energy and environment, health and safety, land use, and economic development. Often, technology is the hammer that breaks the boundaries between these different fields and the glue that holds them together. We have revamped our newsletter to report on this symbiotic relationship inviting experts to share their views, links to other articles to provide additional depth, and our efforts to move the needle. We hope you find the information relevant and useful. Please keep your comments flowing by writing to us at info@ezride.org

Health & Safety



Avnish Gupta | EZ Ride

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a movement that aims to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. The first **federally funded** program was created in 2005 and in 2006, New Jersey launched the **state program** using federal funds. NJDOT has recently **announced** \$19.6 million in federal grants to help municipalities make pedestrian safety improvements.

A **recent report** by the Governors Highway Safety Association found that pedestrian fatality rate increased by 21% in the first six months of 2020 killing 2,957 pedestrians nationwide, even as vehicle miles traveled dropped 16.5%. Pedestrian fatality rates are continuing to rise into 2022. **NHTSA data indicates** that on average, a pedestrian is killed every 85 minutes somewhere in the continental US.

The EZ Ride **Bike & Pedestrian Program** team hosted more than 200 events in 2021 to promote safe walking and biking that was attended by approximately 60,000 students.



- NJDOT announces Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Grants AND pre-application meetings are mandatory for all applicants: [Saferoutesnj.org](https://www.saferoutesnj.org)
- New Technology Promises Safer Cycling: [Bicycle Retailer](#)
- When cities made monuments to traffic deaths: [Bloomberg](#)
- Pedestrian Fatalities Are Surging. Here Are Strategies to Bring Them Down: [Route Fifty.com](https://www.route50.com)
- USPS testing mail delivery by electric bike with these neat little US-built mail bikes: [electrek](#)
- Ford Trials Geofencing Tech that Could Automatically Reduce the Speed of Vehicles to Improve Safety: [ElectricCarsReport.com](#)
- NJ Legal weed in full swing, but still no rules for detecting if workers are high on the job: [NJ.com](#)
- Distracted driving spurs calls for laws, culture shift: [Bloomberg](#)
- Traffic Noise Slows Children's Memory Development, Study Finds: [The Guardian](#)

Land Use & Economic Development



Diana E. Fainberg | Diana E. Fainberg Associates, LLC

Transportation planning in the Meadowlands is gaining momentum. The **Gateway Project**, which will supplement the century-old rail tunnels under the Hudson River, received an upgraded federal funding priority this winter. The **Portal Bridge**, long a bottleneck to Northeast Corridor trains, has a funding guarantee and a \$1.5 billion construction contract.

Promising new projects for the Meadowlands include **NJ Transit's Innovation Challenge**, designing a dedicated busway between Secaucus Junction and the Sports Complex, and the reconstruction of the 88-year-old **Route 3 Bridge**, now envisioned with a light rail line capability for rapid travel through the Meadowlands.

New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority is updating the **Meadowlands District Transportation Plan**, for completion by the end of 2022. The plan is identifying key improvements to benefit traffic flow, safety and pedestrian and bicycle routes.

In a recent address to the Meadowlands Chamber, NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti spoke of the opportunities offered by micro-mobility projects – an area where **EZ Ride** aims to lead the way. EZ Ride is at the forefront of creating innovative connections through private-public partnerships supporting 10 **shuttle routes** that enable employees to access jobs and major transportation hubs in the Meadowlands.



- Less parking could mean more housing: [PEW](#)
- We have got to stop requiring parking everywhere: [NY Times](#)
- NJ to order emergency rules on new construction in areas slammed by floods: [NJ.com](#)
- Coastal cities are already sinking: [Grist](#)
- More people are moving into Manhattan than before the pandemic: [Bloomberg](#)
- SRO housing, nearly zoned out of existence could re-emerge: [Governing.com](#)
- Inrix has data from 500 million vehicles taking transportation into the future: [CNBC](#)
- Traffic at NYC-Area Bridges and Tunnels Hits Pre-Pandemic Levels: [Bloomberg](#)

Energy & Environment



Tom Schulze | Center for Community Planning

Soaring gas prices are a concern for commuters returning to the work site on a more regular basis. In response to the rising gas prices, the IRS has **announced** that for the final six months of 2022, the standard mileage rate for business travel will increase by 4 cents from 58.5 cents to 62.5 cents.

At EZ Ride, the hike in gas prices, a shortage of drivers, and the increased cost of shuttle buses by approximately 50 percent will increase the cost of our shuttle services that link businesses with primary transit hubs like Secaucus, Newark, and Harrison.

Vanpools have been the salvation for some EZ Ride clients like **Nuts.com** and **Garfield Buff Company**, which depend on skilled blue-collar workers who do not have the luxury of working from home. On July 10, the carpool discount plan for commuters using the GWB will end when the Port Authority implements the new **cashless toll system**, increasing the commute cost for carpools.



- Podcast - Fuel Costs Help Drive Inflation to New Four-Decade High: **WSJ**
- Gas Prices Soar to Records, but Exclusive Data Show Gas Stations Aren't the Problem: **Barrons**
- Households are now spending an estimated \$5,000 a year on gasoline: **CNBC**
- Can E-Bikes replace short car trips: **Bike Adviser**
- I rented an electric car for a four-day road trip. I spent more time charging it than I did sleeping: **WSJ**
- EVs heading into price ranges fit for mass adoption: **The Hill**
- Ford to invest \$3.7B in US Factories, add 6,200 union job in push to build more EVs: **TechCrunch**
- Self-driving trucks are just around the bend: **WSJ**
- Broad band could revolutionize the transportation industry: **Forbes**
- How much better are electric cars for the environment: **Newsweek**

About EZ Ride



At EZ Ride we believe that a safe, affordable & reliable transportation system is vital to maintaining our quality of life and promoting the economic growth of the region. Transportation is a daily concern for commuters who cannot afford to drive to work, for older adults who do not drive a car, and for businesses whose employees and customers may not have easy access to public transportation.

For almost 40 years, we have helped people overcome transportation barriers by partnering with businesses and governments to implement transportation programs and services like carpools, vanpools, shuttles, biking & walking programs and even transportation with companies like Lyft and Uber.

EZ Ride is a non-profit organization and in 2013, was recognized for excellence in serving the needs of the community and named the Urban Community Transportation System of the Year by the Community Transportation Association of America. Whatever your transportation needs, EZ Ride is here to help.

Download Our Capabilities



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