

The Transporter

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

Essex County: Ryde4Life Program Set to Double Ridership



In 2019, Essex County expanded its partnership with EZ Ride and joined their **Ryde4Life Program** to supplement its existing county transportation services. In the first full-year of operation (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), the program provided less than 6,500 trips. However, in the last six months of 2021 (July to December), the program provided more than 6,000 trips and that trend is expected to continue at least for the next six months. Over the same time, the number of Essex County riders has also increased from less than 200 to approximately 500 riders.

A large majority of the trips, approximately 65 percent, are for medical purposes, including 15 percent for dialysis. In addition to medical appointments, riders use the service to access the pharmacy, the food pantry, grocery store, or even employment and job training. Transdev, the county's para-transit operator, compiles the list of rides needed and sends it to EZ Ride in advance. Rides are provided Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If your county or municipality is interested in learning more about how the Ryde4Life Program can help your residents with their transportation needs, contact Kinga Skora at kskora@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242 ext. 131.

Ryde4Life Program

Merck: Despite Pandemic, One More Vanpool Returns



As more employees return to the office, **vanpools** are making a slow come back. Recently, Merck has brought back their third vanpool for seven employees, which transports them from Plainsboro to the Merck office in Rahway.

The 70-mile round trip on the vanpool saves money for the employees using the service – thanks to subsidies provided by NJ Transit. The support of \$325 per month from NJ Transit is deducted every month from their monthly vehicle lease.

All vanpools are eligible for New Jersey Transit \$175 monthly subsidy and an additional \$150 subsidy for using HOV lanes on the New Jersey Turnpike between exits 11 and 14. In addition, EZ Ride offers an Emergency Ride Home program which provides transportation to employees in the vanpool should an emergency come up. For information on our vanpools, contact Kinga Skora at kskora@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242 ext. 131.

Vanpool Program

Washington Township:

Focus - A Pedestrian-Friendly Community



With the influx of younger families moving into Washington Township in Bergen County, the township's Green Team decided to make the town a more walkable and bikeable community.

“We have many new families who want their kids to be able to walk and bike to school safely,” said Washington Township Councilman Tom Sears, a local Green Team leader. “We want a community where residents can safely ride their bikes for recreation as so many are working and learning from home during the pandemic, and they want to get outdoors and exercise, enjoy suburban living and reduce traffic and emissions.”

EZ Ride will assist the town by creating a school travel plan, helping the Township to pass a Complete and Green Streets Policy, apply for state grants, and hosting a pedestrian and driver safety program for senior citizens and school students.

For details on EZ Ride's ***Bike & Pedestrian Program***, contact Lisa Lee at llee@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242 ext. 3.

Bike & Pedestrian Program

New Ryde4Life Program Software: Easy Access to Data for Corporate Clients

EZ Ride is currently implementing a new software to revamp operations of its ***Ryde4Life Program***.

The new software will provide a customized portal for our corporate clients to view their account information, including ridership reports, invoices, and expenses. It would also allow them to schedule trips for their riders directly from the portal – no more phone calls or emails to our coordinators will be necessary for last-minute requests. EZ Ride plans to launch this new software in the next few weeks.



For more information, contact Avnish Gupta at agupta@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242 ext. 118.

Ryde4Life Program

Borough of Fair Haven: Puts the Brakes on Vehicle Idling



EZ Ride will assist the Fair Haven Green Team to launch an anti-idling education program at their schools using resources from the Safe Routes Resource Center at Rutgers University.

The program will provide information about the impact of idling vehicles on our health and the economy. According to the Argonne National Laboratory, idling of vehicles not only pollutes our air leading to global warming, but it also adds an unnecessary expense of more than six billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline annually which costs consumers and businesses more than \$20 billion.

For information about the program, contact Mike Johnson at mjohnson@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242 ext. 3.

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The Transporter is a monthly newsletter about transportation information in our region and is prepared by Meadowlands Transportation Brokerage Corporation dba EZ Ride. For any comments, corrections or suggestions, please call 201-939-4242 Ext. 131 or email info@ezride.org.

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