

## Long Branch fun a ride away



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A seasonal jitney service will take visitors from the Long Branch train station to and from various points in the city, including the beach. The fare is only \$1 each way.

The **Shore E-Z Ride Shuttle** will operate through Labor Day.

More than 800 visitors, mostly from New York City and North Jersey, rode the jitney to the city's beaches last year, according to Wendy Arias of Meadowlink, the company that runs the shuttle.

"The goal of the program is to get more users to take public transportation," Arias said. "A large number of people *are* leaving their cars at home."

The jitney will run from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Two mini-buses sporting the EZ-Ride logo will serve Long Branch, beginning at the Long Branch train station.

The route to the beach will be marked with EZ-Ride signs at pick-up and drop-off points. The jitney schedule is timed to meet the train.

The shuttle, which holds up to 24 passengers and is wheelchair-accessible, will take visitors to and from Long Branch's **downtown** and **beaches**, as well as to **Pier Village**, the upscale shopping and restaurant complex.

E-Z Ride is considering adding a stop to Monmouth Park in Oceanport as well.

A year-round jitney also transports travelers to Monmouth University in West Long Branch from the train station on weekdays.

Initiated in 2011, the Shore E-Z Ride Shuttle aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Federal money, with matching funds from the city of Long Branch, make the service possible.

"We encourage people to look at the NJ Transit website for coupons, because they sometimes offer free rides on the shuttle," Arias said. "There are also beach packages available throughout the summer."

Call 877-462-1333 or visit [www.ezride.org](http://www.ezride.org).