

Community Champions: EZ Ride's 2025 Award Recipients



On September 25, 2025, EZ Ride celebrated the achievements of schools, municipalities, and businesses at its Annual Awards Luncheon, honoring those who have shown exceptional leadership in promoting safer, cleaner, and more efficient transportation initiatives.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Awardees

This year, the [SRTS program](#) recognized 224 award recipients, including 77 municipalities and 147 schools. Throughout the year, these partners collaborated with EZ Ride to host over 800 safety-focused events, reaching more than 44,000 participants across Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Passaic, and Union counties. Notably, 67% of awardees represented disadvantaged communities.

Activities ranged from safety presentations and community audits to bike skill classes, poster contests, and walk/bike-to-school days. Many communities have made SRTS activities a staple in their annual event schedules. SRTS recognition extends beyond accolades—top-tier awardees achieve Sustainable Jersey certification, qualify for mini-grants, and gain a stronger position when applying for infrastructure grants like Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside via the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) Awardees

EZ Ride also recognized 120 worksites with Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership ([EVAL](#)) awards, celebrating their commitment to sustainable transportation. EVAL is a workplace EV charging certification program supported by the U.S. Department of Energy. The program assists employers in advancing clean transportation for employees with initiatives such as EV charging, carpooling, biking, public transit options, and incentives for sustainable commuting.

Honoring Legacy and Individual Excellence

A special moment at the luncheon honored Kent E. Hansen, a beloved EZ Ride Trustee and legal advisor whose wisdom and generosity helped guide the organization. The new Kent E. Hansen Friends of EZ Ride Award will annually recognize individuals who exemplify his spirit of kindness and service.

This year, William M. Yarzab, Senior Planner at the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), received the inaugural Kent E. Hansen Friends of EZ Ride Award for his work advancing pedestrian and driver safety through the Street Smart NJ program. Michael L. Hornsby, Chief Project Development Officer at the NJ Board of Public Utilities, was also honored with the Champion for Change Award for his leadership in electric vehicle safety and first responder education.

Program Presentations and Inspiration

Attendees enjoyed presentations from Michael Vieira (Essex County Special Transportation Services), Mayor Shelley Brindle (Westfield Sustainability), and Martin Ceperley (*SOMa Bike Bus* co-founder), each providing inspiration and practical insights

into advancing safe, sustainable, and innovative transportation solutions.

EZ Ride congratulates all award recipients and invites additional organizations to participate in future programs and recognition opportunities. To access presentation slides, videos, or event photographs, please visit our [event page](#).

For more information about Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL), or the awards process, contact info@ezride.org or call 201-939-4242, ext. 3.



Krishna Murthy
President & CEO | EZ Ride

Isles Earns Gold and Platinum EVAL Certifications & Expands Access to Clean Transportation in Trenton



Isles, a nonprofit based in Trenton, NJ, reached a significant milestone by earning Gold and Platinum Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (**EVAL**) certifications for its Mill One and Perry Street sites in August.

Isles installed six public EV charging stations to address a key barrier to EV adoption: convenient access to charging. Revenue from the stations is reinvested in Isles' sustainability initiatives, helping ensure long-term impact.

“EVAL certification helped us support our employees to make green travel choices. We conducted staff listening sessions and sent surveys to identify commuting barriers, which resulted in workplace charging, internal incentives for EV adoption, and education about sustainable options. Our Center for Energy and Environmental Training equips staff and local residents with the skills needed for careers in clean energy and transportation.”

- Ben Haywood, Director of Policy and Partnership, Isles

Isles has also gained national recognition for its innovative, community-based mobility solutions. Through its **GoTrenton!** e-mobility pilot, Isles launched the city's first subsidized electric rideshare service, designed to connect residents with jobs, healthcare, and essential services. This program also tackles a local public health challenge: childhood asthma rates in Trenton are four times higher than the county average. By providing sustainable transportation options, Isles is helping reduce reliance on polluting vehicles while advancing Trenton's environmental and health goals.

EZ Ride congratulates Isles on its EVAL certifications, which highlight leadership in sustainable commuting, workplace EV charging, and advancing access to electric mobility in Trenton.

If your community is interested in earning EVAL certification or improving access to clean transportation, please contact EZ Ride at ev@ezride.org or 202-939-4242 option 6. We provide free technical assistance with EVAL certification and EV charging at multi-unit dwellings or workplaces.



Lisa Lee
Director, Sustainability Programs | EZ Ride

Garwood Implements Demonstration Project to Improve Safety



Congratulations to the Borough of Garwood for launching a temporary demonstration project designed to show how redesigned streets can improve pedestrian safety and reduce speeding.

Under the leadership of Mayor Jennifer Blumenstock, Garwood held a design contest this spring at the Elementary School to gather ideas. The winning theme—flowers—became the centerpiece of the project.

On June 21, Borough leaders, community volunteers, and EZ Ride partnered to create colorful, temporary curb extensions at Center Street and Willow Avenue. Local police closed the street to traffic while two five-foot curb extensions were installed with the approval of the Borough engineer. Reflective foil tape marked the new extensions, and stencils were used to paint bright purple, orange, yellow, and pink flowers on a sky-blue background. The vibrant designs, along with traffic delineators, now help slow turning vehicles, prevent illegal corner parking, and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians—making the intersection safer for everyone.

“The curb extension demonstration project was a tangible way to show our residents how we can improve safety by just slightly changing our street infrastructure. It allowed us to really elevate the idea that these types of measures can make a difference in the lives of pedestrians and cyclists,” said Mayor Jen Blumenstock.

Project supplies were provided by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and the Borough of Garwood, while EZ Ride coordinated the effort. A community survey is underway to gather feedback.

EZ Ride congratulates the Borough of Garwood for its successful implementation and commitment to safer streets for people walking, biking, and riding. If your community is interested in a demonstration project, EZ Ride can help—at no cost. Contact us at bikeped@ezride.org or call 201-939-4242, option 3.



Michael Johnson
Manager, Bike & Pedestrian Program | EZ Ride

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Murphy Administration Announces \$20 Million in Electric School Bus and Charging Station Grants to Mark Drive Electric Month



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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 over 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, we were 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 mobility needs, EZ Ride is here to help
Download Our Capabilities

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