

## VNACJ Improves Access to Healthcare by Providing Free Transportation



Access to reliable transportation can be the difference between receiving timely medical care and delaying critical treatment. Since 2021, EZ Ride has partnered with [\*\*Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center \(VNACJ CHC\)\*\*](#) to help ensure patients can get the healthcare services they need.

Through EZ Ride's [\*\*EZ Ryde4Life program\*\*](#), VNACJ CHC provides transportation for select patients traveling to its health centers in Asbury Park, Red Bank, Keyport, and Freehold. The program serves vulnerable populations, including older adults, children, and individuals managing chronic health conditions.

Many VNACJ CHC patients live beyond walking distance from their facilities, and some do not own a vehicle or cannot afford to pay for transportation. By working to allay that barrier for patients with the greatest barriers, VNACJ CHC helps its community members attend their healthcare appointments.

Today, the program provides approximately 60 trips each month dedicated to healthcare-related visits. To streamline the process, EZ Ride established a dedicated transportation account for VNACJ CHC. Eligible patients are approved by the health center, and when transportation is needed, they simply contact EZ Ride to schedule a ride. Whether arranging transportation for an individual or coordinating multiple riders, EZ Ride provides a flexible solution that allows patients to focus on their health—not how they'll get there.

*"Transportation is one of the more prominent access to care barriers facing the patients we serve," said John T. Zim, Chief Financial Officer of VNACJ Community Health Center. "Our partnership with EZ Ride has allowed us to remove that obstacle by providing*

reliable transportation for eligible patients, even when appointments are scheduled with short notice. Having EZ Ride manage the transportation logistics allows our staff to focus on delivering quality healthcare while ensuring our patients access the services they depend on."

While many organizations use the program for a variety of transportation needs, this specific partnership showcases how the service can be tailored to support a single mission—in this case, building healthy communities and enhancing well-being, the mission of VNACJ Community Health Center.

### **Bring Tailored Transportation Solutions to Your Community**

EZ Ride works with more than a dozen organizations and provides more than 500 rides a day. We can help you bridge the transit gaps in your community. We team up with local governments, healthcare networks, and community partners to streamline transportation, enhance customer care, and optimize budgets. To learn more contact Kinga Skora at [kskora@ezride.org](mailto:kskora@ezride.org) or 201-939-4242, ext. 131 to learn how EZ Ride can help your community.



**Avnish Gupta**  
COO & General Counsel | EZ Ride

## **Essex County's Route 10 and Fairfield-West Caldwell Shuttles Connect Residents to Jobs**



Since 2004, the Route 10 Shuttle and Fairfield–West Caldwell Shuttle have connected commuters to employment opportunities that are not easily accessible by traditional public transit. Funded by Essex County through the New Jersey Job Access and Reverse Commute (NJ-JARC) grant from NJ TRANSIT, these free weekday shuttle services help bridge the “first and last mile” between NJ TRANSIT bus stops and major employment centers, making it easier for Essex County residents to access jobs and build economic stability.

The **Route 10 Shuttle** serves employment destinations along the Route 10 corridor in Whippany and East Hanover. Operating Monday through Friday during morning and

evening commuting hours, the shuttle connects riders from the NJ TRANSIT bus stops at Route 10 and New Murray Road to businesses including Nutra-Med, Novartis, LIVIA Health, Fidelity Paper and many other employers throughout the corridor.

The **Fairfield–West Caldwell Shuttle** provides similar service along the Route 46 corridor, transporting riders from the NJ TRANSIT bus stop at Passaic Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue to employers throughout Fairfield and West Caldwell, including West Caldwell Care Center, Gourmet Foods, Amazon and other local businesses.

Both shuttle services are designed with commuters in mind. Riders reserve their return trip when boarding the shuttle in the morning, providing a convenient and dependable ride home after the workday.

*The shuttle gives me a dependable way to get to work every day," said Maria, a regular rider. "The distance is too far to walk, and taking a taxi every day just wouldn't be affordable for my budget. Having this free service means I've been able to keep my job without worrying about how I'll get there. It's given me real peace of mind knowing I have reliable transportation I can count on".*

By connecting commuters to locations that are not easily accessible by traditional public transportation, the Route 10 and Fairfield–West Caldwell Shuttles continue to play an important role in helping Essex County residents access jobs in the area.

### **Interested in Launching a Shuttle in Your Community?**

For more than four decades, EZ Ride has been a trusted partner in planning and operating customized shuttle services for municipalities, employers, business districts, residential communities, and special destinations across New Jersey. Last year alone, our network of 10 shuttle routes provided 197,000 passenger trips.

As a non-profit organization, EZ Ride is committed to making shuttle service accessible and affordable. We help communities identify and apply for funding to offset operating costs, and we guide partners through every step of launching a new service from drafting proposals and designing routes to submitting the final application.

Whether your community wants to improve access to downtown, parks, transit hubs, or major employment centers, EZ Ride can help design a transportation solution built around your community's unique needs.

To learn more, visit [www.ezride.org/transportation/shuttles](http://www.ezride.org/transportation/shuttles) or contact Kinga Skora at 201-939-4242, ext. 131 or [kskora@ezride.org](mailto:kskora@ezride.org).



**Kinga Skora**  
Deputy Director, Marketing & Sales | EZ Ride

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## **Driving Change: Ocean Township's Path for Safer, Walkable Streets**

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Ocean Township is making significant strides toward creating safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists through a growing partnership with EZ Ride and [Complete Streets Ocean Township Committee](#).

Formed in 2025, the Committee was created in response to concerns about speeding, unsafe crossings, and the need for more walkable, bike-friendly streets. One of its first successes came in April when community advocacy helped reduce the speed limit along several key corridors from 35 mph to 25 mph.

Just days later, local parents launched three Bike Bus routes, giving students a safe and fun way to ride to school together with their parents. Today, approximately 60 to 70 students participate every Friday across the three routes. Ocean Township joins other communities like South Orange, Maplewood, and Montclair with successful Bike Bus programs and the initiative continues to gain support from parents, schools, and community volunteers.

*“The progress we’ve made over the past year shows what can happen when residents, schools, Township leaders, and community partners like EZ Ride work together toward a common goal. From developing Bike Bus programs to improving roadway safety and planning for the future, we’re creating a community where walking and biking are safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable for everyone,”* said Maura Guetz, Chair of the Complete Streets Ocean Township Committee.

EZ Ride is helping build on this momentum by assisting Ocean Township in drafting a [Complete and Green Streets Policy](#) and by identifying opportunities to improve crosswalks, signage, and pedestrian infrastructure where the community has concerns. We are also providing bicycle and pedestrian safety education in Ocean Township’s three elementary schools this September to encourage safe travel habits among students, and plan to assist with a demonstration project to install high-visibility painted crosswalks where residents have found it difficult to cross.

The Township applied for and will receive assistance via the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority’s [Complete and Green Streets Technical Assistance Program](#). Staff from the Voorhees Transportation Center and Sustainable Jersey will conduct a walkability assessment and prepare a report to identify future improvements and strengthen Ocean Township’s ability to pursue transportation funding.

Ocean Township’s commitment to safer streets has also earned statewide recognition. This year, EZ Ride nominated the Township for a Bronze New Jersey Safe Routes to School Award, recognizing its growing efforts to improve safety through education, community engagement, and active transportation initiatives. Through continued collaboration with Township officials, schools, and community partners, EZ Ride is helping Ocean Township

build a safer, more connected community for everyone who walks, bikes, and travels its streets.

If your municipality is interested in improving pedestrian safety, EZ Ride's Bike & Pedestrian Team can help you plan, implement, and evaluate options tailored to your community's needs. Contact us at [bikeped@ezride.org](mailto:bikeped@ezride.org) or call 201-939-4242, option 3, to get started.



**Michael Johnson**  
Manager, Bike & Pedestrian Program | EZ Ride

## Cranford Township: Building a Cleaner, Greener Community



The **Township of Cranford** is taking a community-wide approach to building a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable community. From electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to safer walking and biking, environmental education, and green business initiatives, Cranford is working across the community to protect its natural resources and create more sustainable ways to live, work, and travel.

This effort brings together the Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Clean and Green Cranford Committee, Complete Streets Advisory Committee, and EZ Ride. Together, they educate residents about environmental concerns and solutions while advocating for cleaner air, sustainable transportation, and a healthier community.

Cranford is expanding its electric transportation infrastructure, including EVs for its police force, two public charging stations at the Cranford Crossing Parking Garage, and a charger at the library. Five apartment complexes also have EV charging.

Cranford's sustainability efforts extend into the community through its Green Business Certification Program. The Township also promotes cleaner transportation through anti-idling initiatives, a community bikeways map, and a Home Eco-Guide with practical tips for residents.

Trees are another important part of Cranford's environmental strategy. Through its Tree Canopy Project, residents have planted more than 450 native trees in their yards, helping beautify the community, reduce stormwater runoff, and strengthen the local tree canopy.

*“Cranford’s commitment to sustainability is about creating a community where residents can live, work, walk, bike, and raise their families in a clean, healthy environment. From expanding EV infrastructure and protecting our tree canopy to engaging our schools, businesses, and residents, we are taking practical steps today that will benefit Cranford for years to come.” — Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty*

EZ Ride has partnered with Cranford to advance cleaner transportation and safer active mobility. Through its ***EV Adoption Leadership (EVAL) Certification program***, EZ Ride supported the Township’s recognition for its investment in electric vehicle infrastructure, resulting in Silver EVAL Certification.

The partnership also extends to Safe Routes to School (SRTS), where EZ Ride works with the Township and Cranford schools to promote safe walking and bicycling. This year, the Township and eight Cranford schools have been nominated for SRTS Recognition, to be presented at EZ Ride’s annual recognition event in September.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how Cranford is turning sustainability goals into practical community action from expanding EV infrastructure to encouraging students and families to walk and bike safely. EVAL certification can also help municipalities document their sustainability progress and earn Sustainable Jersey points when pursuing funding for future initiatives.

EZ Ride supports municipalities and businesses throughout New Jersey in advancing cleaner transportation, active mobility, and sustainable community initiatives.

To learn more about the EVAL program and EZ Ride’s mobility services, contact Lisa Lee at 201-939-4242 ext. 123 or [llee@ezride.org](mailto:llee@ezride.org).



**Lisa Lee**  
Director, Sustainability Programs | EZ Ride

## News From Our Partners



**WALK**

Mini-grant applications now open!  
Apply by Friday, September 4, 2026



**NJ TRANSIT**  
The Way To Go.

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**Paterson Plank Road (CR 681) Bridge over Route 3 at MP 10.04 Replacement**

**Submit Comments by September 4, 2026**



**Department of Environmental Protection**

**ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS GRANT PROGRAM**



## 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.

**Whatever your mobility needs, EZ Ride is here to help**  
***Download Our Capabilities***

(201) 939-4242 | [info@ezride.org](mailto:info@ezride.org) | [www.ezride.org](http://www.ezride.org)



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EZ Ride | 144 Park Place East | Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075 US

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