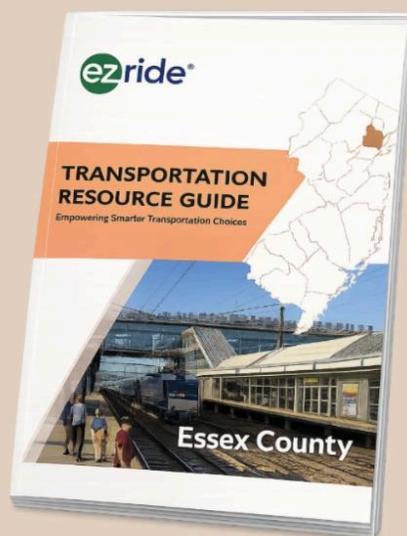


## Essex County Transportation Resource Guide: *Connecting You to Local Transportation Options*



EZ Ride is pleased to announce the release of the [\*Essex County Transportation Resource Guide\*](#), a comprehensive, easy-to-use online tool designed to help residents navigate local transportation options. Developed in collaboration with Essex County, the guide offers clear, up-to-date information about transportation programs and services throughout the county.

The guide brings together essential resources in one convenient location, from local shuttle routes and senior transportation programs to paratransit services and innovative mobility partnerships. Whether traveling to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, or community events, residents can quickly identify the services that meet their needs.

*“Providing safe and reliable transportation options is essential to supporting the well-being and independence of all of our residents, especially seniors and those with limited mobility. The Essex County Mobility Resource Guide is a valuable tool that will increase awareness of the transportation services readily available in our county.”* said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

In addition to assisting residents and caregivers, the guide is also a planning resource for local officials, transit planners, and service providers. It offers valuable data and insights to evaluate current services, identify gaps, and shape future improvements that strengthen mobility across the entire community.

At EZ Ride, we believe mobility creates opportunity. The Essex County Transportation Resource Guide represents an important step in our ongoing commitment to making Essex County more connected, accessible, and equitable. Visit our website to explore the guide and us in building a stronger, healthier, and more mobile community.

Download the Guide Today



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

## Turning Challenges Into Opportunities Inside EZ Ride's 2025 Impact Report



At EZ Ride, every program, partnership, and mile traveled centers on one purpose: improving quality of life through access to transportation. Our newly released [2025 Impact Report](#) brings that mission to life through the stories, data, and community impact behind every ride.

### **Every ride makes a difference.**

In 2025, EZ Ride's shuttle program delivered more than 200,000 rides. A highlight of the year is our 20-year partnership with Essex County, which continues to connect residents to employment opportunities. By helping workers get to their jobs reliably, we strengthen local businesses, support workforce participation, and contribute to long-term economic stability in the region.

Our statewide EZ Ryde4Life program, in partnership with Lyft and Uber, served more than 5,000 older adults and riders with mobility challenges. Ridership nearly doubled over two years - from 74,000 rides in 2023 to 140,000 rides in 2025. Beyond the numbers, these rides empower older adults to be independent, reduce isolation, and remain active participants in their communities.

Our Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program engaged thousands of students across hundreds of schools and municipalities. Through bike skills classes, Walk & Bike to School Days, and community-based safety initiatives, students and parents became advocates for safer streets. The impact extends beyond school grounds, as families carry these lessons into their neighborhoods to promote safer, more walkable communities.

At the same time, our Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) program highlighted workplaces and first responders leading the transition to cleaner transportation. By expanding EV charging access, supporting grant funding, and increasing electric vehicle safety awareness, these partners are helping shape a healthier, more sustainable future for New Jersey.

As we look ahead, the need for accessible, safe, and reliable transportation remains as critical as ever. With your continued support, EZ Ride will build on this momentum, removing mobility barriers, expanding opportunity, and strengthening communities across New Jersey.

Thank you for being part of our journey

[Download EZ Ride 2025 Impact Report](#)



**Krishna Murthy**  
President & CEO | EZ Ride

## A Bike Can Change a Life



Lack of transportation should never stand in the way of a job or an education.

If you need a reliable way to get to work or school and can ride a bike, EZ Ride is ready to help. Through our bike donation program, eligible individuals receive a free refurbished bicycle to power their daily commute and move their lives forward.

Every bike comes fully equipped with a helmet, reflective safety vest, front and rear lights, a bell, and hands-on safety training. We don't just provide a bike; we provide the tools and confidence needed to ride safely and independently.

This program is available to residents of Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Passaic, and Union Counties. Adults must be currently employed or actively seeking employment,

demonstrate financial and transportation need, and be referred by a nonprofit or human services organization. Youth participants must use their bike to travel to and from school.

*“Transportation is a basic need. EZ Ride provides bicycles, safety training, and essential safety equipment to help students get to Passaic County Community College. This program directly benefits our students by providing an affordable way to get to and from school and to after-school jobs. Riding a bicycle is also a great way for them to be independent and stay physically well. We greatly appreciate this program and EZ Ride for providing our students with bike-riding and safety training, so they can get around Passaic County.”* - Shannon De La Cruz, Coordinator of Wellness and Basic Needs, Passaic County Community College

For many, a bicycle is more than transportation—it is access to employment, education, health, and independence. It is the difference between missing an opportunity and reaching it.

If you or someone you know urgently needs transportation to work or school, contact EZ Ride today at 201-939-4242 (option 3) or [bikeped@ezride.org](mailto:bikeped@ezride.org).

Opportunity shouldn't have to wait.



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

## Upcoming Event

- April 14, More E-Scooters, More E-Bikes and More Safety Concerns Street Safety in the Era of Mobility | NJ TransAction | 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - [Register](#)

## Emerson Fire Department Hosts Regional EV Awareness Training for First Responders



On Thursday, January 15, the Emerson Fire Department, in partnership with EZ Ride and the New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA), hosted a First Responder EV Awareness Program to help local emergency personnel prepare for the rapid growth of electric vehicles. Eighty two first responders from Bergen County communities attended, including Bergenfield, Bogota, Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, Emerson, Hackensack, Hillsdale, Northvale, Oradell, Paramus, Park Ridge, South Hackensack, Saddle Brook, River Edge, River Vale, Tenafly, and Westwood.

NJEVA volunteers and local auto dealers provided 11 electric vehicles for hands on assessment, including the Rivian R1T, Ford F-150 Lightning, Chevy Bolt, Chevy Equinox EV, Hyundai Ioniq 5, Hyundai Kona EV, Tesla Model X, 3, S, Y, and Smart for Two EV. By encouraging regional participation and cross-department collaboration, EZ Ride expanded the program's reach and strengthened coordination among neighboring agencies.

Although electric vehicles are generally considered safe, their advanced systems present unique challenges for emergency response. EVs involved in a collisions or fires may pose chemical, electrical, and thermal hazards. Awareness and hands-on familiarity are essential to ensure first responder safety, operational confidence, and effective incidence management.

The two-hour EV Awareness Program combines one hour of classroom instruction with hands-on interaction across multiple electric vehicles. Participants learn to identify electric and hybrid vehicles, locate and disengage high-voltage components, stabilize incident scenes and proceed safely with extrication. Participating municipalities could earn up to 15 Sustainable Jersey certification points.

*"The EV First Responder event held by EZ Ride was an outstanding training experience," said Joseph D. Mara, Chief, Emerson Fire Department. "It covered critical topics including how to locate and disengage high-voltage battery cables, how long an EV system takes to discharge after being disabled, and safe extinguishment methods for EV fires. Being able to walk around and physically interact with the newest EV vehicles truly brought the training full circle. The training was especially timely, as an Amazon Delivery EV crashed into a power pole in River Vale just the week prior, requiring multiple Bergen County fire departments to respond. I would recommend this training to any department looking to broaden their knowledge about EVs."*

Program sessions are led by EZ Ride's EV Accelerator staff and Mike Hornsby, a retired firefighter and electric vehicle specialist with experience in emergency response, utilities, academia, and public service. His expertise ensures the program remains practical, credible, and grounded on real-world responder needs.

One session is offered each month. To request the First Responder EV Awareness course at your facility, [complete the application here](#). Space is limited and a waitlist is in place, so early registration is strongly recommended.

EZ Ride's EV Accelerator program also provides free technical assistance to local governments, transportation providers, and multi-unit dwellings to install EV charging or transition their fleet to electric vehicles. Participants could earn national recognition through the Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) certification. For more information, contact [ev@ezride.org](mailto:ev@ezride.org) or call 201-939-4242, option 6.



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

## Upcoming Events

- March 18, Wheels & Watts meeting to discuss EV Charging for Communities | 2:00 pm - 3:00pm - [Register](#)
- March 26, First Responder EV Awareness | South Essex Fire Department in South Orange | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- April 16, Certified to Win: How to Leverage EVAL Certification for Sustainable Jersey Certification Grant Success | NJ TransAction | 8:45 am - 9:45 am - [Register](#)

## News From Our Partners



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**Call for Local Government On-Road Vehicle Electrification Projects!**

**But Wait... There's MORE!**



**Free Energy Technical Assistance for Municipalities and School Districts Across New Jersey**



**NJ Bike & Walk Summit on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Crowne Plaza Princeton – Conference Center



**ECOPATROL: EV RIDE & DRIVE**  
**Learn & Earn!**

**Ride Drive!**



**March 16, 2026**  
2 PM to 4 PM

**The College of New Jersey**  
Lot 4 - Ewing, NJ



## 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

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



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