

The Transporter



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Transportation Information for Business Executives & Elected Officials in Northern New Jersey & Monmouth County

EZ Ride to Launch Two New Shuttles to Serve Monmouth County

Thanks to federal funding provided by New Jersey Transit and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), EZ Ride will introduce two new shuttle services in Monmouth County in 2020 - the Sandy Hook shuttle and Hazlet-Holmdel shuttle.

The Sandy Hook shuttle is designed to help alleviate congestion on Route 36 and visitor parking constraints at the beach. The service will operate between the Middletown train station and Sandy Hook during the summer. Visitors will be encouraged to use the train as a travel alternative, and the station lot as a parking site.

The Hazlet-Holmdel shuttle will link two major transit hubs - PNC Bank Arts Center Park & Ride and the Hazlet train station with major employers in the area. It will reduce the traveler's need for finding and paying for the limited parking at the train station.

The two shuttles could serve residents, commuters, visitors, and local employers such as Bell Works and Bayshore Medical Center. To promote these services, EZ Ride will host information sessions and distribute flyers, press releases, and brochures.

For additional information please contact:

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Join Us!

For Our

2019 Annual Campaign for Affordable Transportation



Please join us this year to provide affordable transportation for lower-income older adults in our community.

Transportation is a concern for older adults who do not drive a car. And as the nation's aging population continues to rise – with 1 in every 5 Americans expected to be 65+ by 2020 – the provision of safe and accessible transportation options remains a top concern of older adults, caregivers, and the communities where they live.

Research indicates that older individuals who cannot afford to pay for transportation attend fewer medical appointments, go shopping and out for meals less often, and reduce the frequency of their visits to friends and family. If a person is unable to travel to doctor appointments, their medical needs may go unaddressed until something catastrophic happens, resulting in an expensive ambulance ride and hospital stay.

Many elders look to their family members to fill this gap, but driving back and forth takes a great deal of time and money. Family caregivers seldom have

the resources and ability to meet all the transportation needs of their aging loved ones. Nonetheless, like many things in America, the best and most convenient alternatives to driving are likely to be the costliest.

Our goal for this year's annual campaign is to raise awareness about affordable transportation and \$200,000 in funds to provide 15,000 subsidized rides for 1,000 lower-income older adults.

We have partnered with Lyft and Uber to launch *Ryde4Life*, a program to provide reliable transportation on demand. However, the cost of the ride poses a financial burden for most of our riders who live on a fixed income and cannot always afford the trip.

Contributions can be made by sending a check, by credit card, or by PayPal and are fully tax-deductible. Visit our website at www.ezride.org to contribute.

For any additional questions contact:

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Funding Opportunities...



January 31, 2020 – Deadline to Qualify for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Recognition Award

Participation in the SRTS program is a pre-requisite for SRTS Infrastructure grants from New Jersey Department of Transportation. Our Bike and Pedestrian Program team at EZ Ride will work with you to meet the criteria needed to gain recognition and apply for grant funds. We will even help you to submit the online nomination.

The SRTS program cycle runs from February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2020 so the next deadline is coming up in two months. The program offers a step by step process to support walking and biking in your community. We can help you on multiple fronts including:

1. Strengthening your crossing guard program
2. Crafting policies to promote walking and biking for adoption by your municipality and Board of Education (BOE)
3. Implementing biking and walking educational programs for kids
4. Identifying street infrastructure needs to support safe walking and biking
5. Working with local police to encourage safe driver and pedestrian behavior

Coming Soon – Solicitations for 2020 SRTS Infrastructure Grants

Municipalities will have the opportunity to apply for the federal SRTS Infrastructure Grants in early 2020 that will be administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). These reimbursement grants can be used to make streetscape improvements and fix issues to make walking and biking safer.

Typically, applicants will have up to three months to provide the required supporting documentation that includes two resolutions – one each from the school district and the municipality. Since this could involve multiple reviews before the final vote and adoption of the resolution, it would be prudent to start this process early. EZ Ride can provide you with a template to begin the process.

Applicants are also required to submit school travel tallies and letters of support from community organizations. Again, we can provide you with templates for your use.

The following websites provide additional details:

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/srts.shtm> and

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/documents/SRTSHandbook20185-14-18.pdf>

For any additional assistance or questions, please contact:

Lisa Lee
(201) 939-4242 Ext. 123
llee@ezride.org

Program Updates...



Essex County Seniors Participating in *Ryde4Life* Program Reached 3,000 Rides Milestone

In just six months, the number of rides provided to Essex County seniors has more than doubled from 300 to 600 a month. The program was launched by Essex County to augment the county's paratransit system. It is popular because the riders do not pay a fare, there are no reservation requirements, and they get a personal ride in a Lyft or Uber vehicle.

More than half the riders are from Newark, East Orange, and Irvington, and they also account for about 2,000 of the 3,000 rides provided. Two-third of all the trips are for medical purposes, including dialysis. Most of the riders are women – again about two-third. At an average cost of \$16 per trip, the program is very cost-effective compared to paratransit services.

The rides are relatively short, about six miles, and take an average of 17-minutes.

The *Ryde4Life* program is available for all residents in New Jersey, 18 years or older. The service is open seven days a week, and rides can be scheduled between 8 am – 8 pm during the weekday and 8 am – 5 pm on weekends. In addition to Essex County, the Township of Montclair, Affordable Housing Alliance, Ocean Community Economic Action Now, Inc., and Asbury Park Alliance provide discounted or free trips.

For more information please contact:

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100 Monmouth County Residents Participate in *Flex-T Mobility Partner* Program

Many people with disabilities need specialized transportation. Lack of transportation resources limits their access to work, health care, independent living, and enjoyment of life.

The *Flex-T Mobility Partner* Program provides transportation for more than 100 Monmouth County residents, with about 15 from Englishtown participate in the program. About a dozen riders have been with us for eight years or more – a testimony to excellent service and the lack of other suitable options. Most of the rides are provided using mini-vans to optimize ridership and reduce travel time. The average trip length is about eight miles and takes about 30-minutes. Unlike older adults, these riders need the service regularly and typically take about 200-300 rides a year.

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and New Jersey Transit help fund the program. More than 96 percent of the rides are to access training, education, or employment at different locations such as Prime Time Center in Eatontown, Family Resource Associates in Red Bank, Dorbrook Activity Center in Colts Neck, Young Chefs Academy in Morganville, and ARC of Monmouth in Tinton Falls.

For more information about our *Flex-T Mobility Partner* program, visit our website www.ezride.org or contact:

Barbara Friedman
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RIDER SPOTLIGHT



Harold Meltzer
Totowa, NJ

About six years ago, Harold and his wife Frances moved from Hillsborough to Totowa to be closer to family. Like most of us, Harold always drove to wherever he wanted to go. However, driving in inclement weather posed a challenge, and one day, he barely avoided an accident, and he decided that he was not driving anymore. They used taxis and would often get rides from family members. But taxis were getting more expensive, and they were concerned about being too dependent on family members.

One day in March 2019, they learned about the *Ryde4Life* program from a social worker at their residence and signed up immediately. They have been using it ever since, especially for medical appointments during the week when their family is at work. Harold said he appreciates that the drivers are reliable, always on time and that they're "extremely courteous and helpful with his walker" and "it's like having a personal chauffeur".

For additional information or to sign up for the program, call:

(866) 208-1307, Option 4

or visit

www.Ryde4Life.org

Comments? Suggestions?

Feel free to forward
your thoughts on
improving the

The Transporter

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Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Update...



7,500 Students Celebrate “Walk to School Day”

Walk to School Day is an international event celebrated in October each year. Thousands of communities join in with the fun and safe Walk to School Day events that get families, teachers, city staff, and community members walking together while educating children and families about the benefits of walking.

Over 7,500 students from 41 schools in EZ Ride’s service area registered and participated in the event this year on www.WalkBiketoSchool.org website.

The ultimate goal is to develop a walk to school program that is not limited to one day or one event but to create a culture of walking all year round. Farmingdale School in Monmouth County embodies that spirit and encourages its students to walk to school regularly. In addition to celebrating “Walk to School Month” in October and “NJ Bike Month” in May, the school host weekly “Walk to School

Wednesdays.” Having an ongoing walking program earned them the Silver Safe Routes to School Recognition Award.

“Walk to School” days are a fun way to encourage and increase the number of students and their parents who walk to school. They help to reduce congestion around school areas, eliminate unnecessary idling of cars, and decreases the potential for crashes between vehicles and pedestrians.

For more information about walking and biking programs, please contact:

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Freebies gallery...

FREE Transit Displays



EZ Ride is an advocate for public transportation with a ‘transit-first’ policy. Our displays provide information about NJ TRANSIT bus and rail services. They are available free of charge for your worksite.

We will customize the displays and set them up at your worksite at your convenience.

Each display holds all relevant commuter brochures, together with information about carpool and vanpool services.

To get your FREE display, please contact:

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