



## NJDOT NEWS



**For Immediate Release**  
July 21, 2025

**Contact:** Jim Barry  
Howard Gensler  
609-963-1975

### **NJDOT congratulates the 2025 award winners of the New Jersey Safe Routes to School program Initiative encourages walking and biking as healthy alternatives**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Commissioner Fran O'Connor, the New Jersey Safe Routes Resources Center, and New Jersey's eight Transportation Management Associations (TMA) are pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of the NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program.

This year, 357 school and municipal winners are being recognized for their commitment and support of the [Safe Routes to School program \(SRTS\)](#) by enabling and encouraging walking and bicycling in their communities. For a full list of current winners, visit the [NJ Safe Routes Resource Center website](#).

"As a Commissioner whose top priority is safety, the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program is close to my heart," NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. "Anything we can do to provide safe access for children going to and from school, we will do. I am committed to working with local officials to make improvements to ensure our communities have safe roads and sidewalks that encourage walking and biking."

SRTS is a nationwide initiative supported by NJDOT and other state DOTs, focused on empowering schools and communities to create safer more accessible environments for people to walk, bike, or use other wheeled devices through events, programs, and infrastructure projects.

Schools and municipalities apply for recognition at one of four levels: First Step, Bronze, Silver, or Gold, depending on their progress in implementing and sustaining SRTS programs. Recognition is valid for three years, after which applicants must reapply to maintain their status.

Some of this year's highlights include:

- **Orange:** Has 13 gold-certified schools, including six schools certified in 2025. Orange, the municipality, also received its gold certification in 2025. In 2024, Orange received \$912,000 for the Lincoln Avenue School Pedestrian Safety Improvements project. (EZ Ride)
- **New Providence:** Received gold certification for three schools and the municipality in 2025. In 2024, New Providence received \$534,000 for bike route improvements. (AIM)
- **Point Pleasant:** Received gold certification for two schools and the municipality in 2025. In 2024, Point Pleasant received \$752,000 for a proposed sidewalk near Ocean Road Elementary School, which was one of the gold recipient schools this year. (GMTMA)

Communities that participate in the SRTS programs often benefit from less traffic congestion, better air quality, fewer traffic conflicts near schools, and most importantly, safer, healthier and more active children, according to the New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center.

Applications are accepted annually, with a deadline of January 31, and can be submitted either by the school or municipality or with assistance from a Safe Routes to School Regional Coordinator. Schools and municipalities that have earned NJ SRTS Recognition and are also enrolled in the Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program can earn points for both programs. [Click here for more information.](#)

To learn more about NJDOT's Safe Routes to School program, find your TMA SRTS Coordinator, and discover how your school or municipality can make your community more walkable and bikeable, please visit [www.saferoutesnj.org](http://www.saferoutesnj.org).

For NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

# # #