

NEWSLETTER

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Inside THE ISSUE

- ⇒ Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Grants Open
- ⇒ Maintaining Minimum Pavement Marking Retroreflectivity
- ⇒ Updated Video Content Overview of MUTCD Sections
- ⇒ Making Healthy Connections in Transportation
- ⇒ Learn how you can submit your Mousetrap entry!

Director's UPDATE

Welcome to the fresh, new look of our newsletter! Our new design will help you find what you are looking for quickly, and includes familiar favorites such as Jacob's Junction, transportation news and funding opportunities, and upcoming training events.



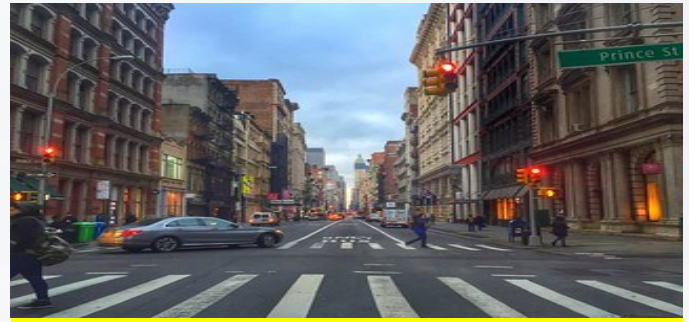
Janet Leli

The [Fall calendar is full of workshops](#). There are LTAP events currently scheduled in Piscataway (Middlesex County) and Hamilton (Mercer County), as well as online. Topics for the upcoming season include pavement maintenance and management, roadway safety, guide rail design and inspection, and much more. Please "save the date" for two special offerings - the 25th Annual New Jersey Department of Transportation Research Showcase on October 25, 2023, and a Train-the-Trainer for Traffic Incident Management Responder training on December 8, 2023.

Don't forget- we are also on [Facebook!](#)

The Vision Zero Community Pairing Program

Vision Zero is a fundamental change in how organizations approach and address safety. The real change, however, comes when the approach becomes action, and safety is front and center in every decision. Learn [about the results](#) from each of the pilot communities and how they enacted Vision Zero into their plans.



Maintaining Minimum Pavement Marking

Almost one year ago, FHWA published a new final [rule](#) on Maintaining Minimum Pavement Marking Retroreflectivity. The rule provides new minimum standards for pavement marking retroreflectivity, or the light reflected off of materials used in pavement markings to make them more visible in the dark. Total estimated fatalities during nighttime increased by 11 percent from 2020 to 2021. The nighttime fatality rate is also about three times the daytime fatality rate. This new rule will help reduce nighttime crashes by making pavement markings more visible and easier to see. [Learn more at FHWA.](#)



Updated Video Content Overview of MUTCD Sections

Two new videos are being developed that give an overview of the contents of the new pavement markings section in the MUTCD. They will be posted under Implementation Tools on FHWA's [Pavement Markings website](#), consider which method(s) might work for them and their agencies. Three additional videos go into the five specific methods for implementing the rule. Check them out today!

Sharing the Road with Schools

School days bring congestion: Buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school. Check out the tips sheet from the National Safety how [your community can stay safe.](#)

NEW JERSEY Safe Routes



Safe Routes to School is now Open!

In conjunction with DVRPC, SJTPO, and NJTPA, the Division of Local Aid is offering Pre-Application meetings for the upcoming SRTS Solicitation. The prospective applicant can discuss their project concept and get guidance on whether the proposed project is a good fit for the program. Don't miss your chance to secure funding! [Apply here!](#)

Making Healthy Connections in Transportation

Transportation and health are interconnected. Beyond moving people and goods, transportation plays a key role in improving physical, mental, social, environmental, and economic health. Through programs, policies, and infrastructure investment, the U.S. Department of Transportation and its Federal partners, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are working together to improve the connection between transportation and health, underscoring the vital importance of making equitable investments in our communities. Safe and reliable transportation is fundamental to the health of people, communities, and economies, making it a social determinant of health. The factors that influence health outcomes—including overall health status and individual and community quality of life—are known as social determinants of health. The places where people live, learn, work, and play have a large effect on an individual's health outcomes. Read how your organization can build and strengthen partnerships to leverage federal programs and funding opportunities [here](#).

NJDOT announces \$161.25 million in FY24 County Aid

The New Jersey Department of Transportation announced the release of \$161.25 million in Fiscal Year 2024 County Aid to help make infrastructure improvements on the local level. The program is funded through the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

"NJDOT is committed to a safe, efficient, and equitable transportation system throughout the State, which means making investments in local infrastructure," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said.

Read the [full release here](#)



Jacob's Junction

Question #1

What are the requirements to serve as an "employee in responsible charge" of a federal-aid project?

The person must be a full-time employee of the LPA, although he or she does not have to be an engineer, nor dedicated full time to a specific project. The person should be familiar with day-to-day project operations including safety issues, and is responsible for reviewing project financials and directing staff to carry out project administration. This person should also conduct field reviews, including a final inspection to ensure project delivery.

As an instructor for NJLTAP, Lloyd Jacobs draws on four decades of experience when he teaches professional development courses and trainings. See what he has to say!

Question #2

What do I do if I have determined the lowest bid on the project to be unbalanced?

The bids should be rejected if: (1) the public interest would be best served in cancelling the defectively estimated proposal or (2) awarding the contract to the apparent low bidder using a corrected quantity estimate would be unfair to the other bidders who had relied on the original quantity estimate to develop their bid.

New Jersey's Build a Better Mousetrap Competition

People involved in the transportation industry often find better ways to do their job. Whether it's a new gadget that improves the quality and safety of a project, or an innovative process that reduces costs and improves efficiency, it is typically the people on the front lines that often realize the latest and best practices.

Now is the time to share those new ideas with others in New Jersey's **Build a Better Mousetrap Competition**. We are looking for submissions from any employee of a **local** or **state** public agency (municipalities, counties, parks commissions, NJ Department of Transporta-



tion, NJ Transit) that has created an alternate or better way of doing something in a transportation project. We will gather the best ideas from around the state and judge them using a 5-point rating system. As a reminder, this competition is open to **any** local, county, or state transportation agency, including NJDOT and NJT employees. Two winners will be selected: one for the best local agency and another for the NJDOT/NJT submission.

<https://cait.rutgers.edu/mousetrap/>

Download the entry form today!

Upcoming CLASSES

NJLTAP - Basic Math and Plan Reading (In-person)

September 14

This course provides a refresher on basic math skills related to construction inspection and road maintenance, as well as how to locate information within a set of plans.

NJLTAP - Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings (In-person)

October 13

This course reviews the basic regulations and engineering guidelines for the installation of pavement markings and properly establishing and posting regulatory, warning, and guide signs.

NJLTAP - Commonsense Solutions for Intersection Problems (In-person)

September 26

This course provides participants with (1) a basic understanding of intersection safety issues, (2) "how to" information for common safety tasks and low cost safety improvements that do not require an engineered design, and (3) background information on safety tasks that do not require an engineer.

NJLTAP Team

Janet Leli, Director
jl@soe.rutgers.edu

Ted Green, Project Manager
tngreen@soe.rutgers.edu

Jessica Brown, Program Coordinator
job32@soe.rutgers.edu

Omid Sarmad, Program Coordinator
sarmad@soe.rutgers.edu

David Maruca, Program Developer
dem200@soe.rutgers.edu

Lloyd Jacobs, NJLTAP Instructor
ljacobspe@verizon.net

Workshop Information
caitregistrar@soe.rutgers.edu



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