NEWSLETTER



October 2023

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Director's Message

The 2023 workshop season is not winding down yet! We still have plenty of opportunities to earn Certified Public Works Manager and engineering Professional Development Hours before the end of the calendar year.

The NJLTAP team is proud to have just wrapped up the 25th Anniversary of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Research Showcase. Did you miss the Showcase last week?

Recordings, photos, and the full proceedings from the event will posted shortly to the <u>NJDOT Tech Transfer</u> website. While we are on this subject- we are happy to share the good news that the NJDOT was just awarded a 2023 American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) TransComm Skills Award for the best event in the Virtual Events Category for last year's 24th Annual Research Showcase!! Well done!

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We are starting to develop the 2023 training calendar and are pleased to note there will be some new programs available to meet your needs. Continue to monitor <u>our website</u> for the most up-to-date information.





Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDX) Use Spreads Around the Country

The Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx) Specification enables infrastructure owners and operators to make harmonized work zone data available for third party use. The objective is to make travel on public roads safer and more efficient through ubiquitous access to data on work zones. The project aims to get data on work zones into vehicles to help automated driving systems (ADS) and human drivers navigate more safely. Improving access to work zone data was one of the top needs, and US DOT aimed to model a replicable approach to harmonize local data sources that could improve roadway safety and efficiency,. Learn more about this initiative and when it will be implemented in New Jersey at



Winter Weather Driving: Be Prepared

Whether it's snow, sleet or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. Winter in New Jersey is a time of unique beauty and unique risks. Wind chill can cause frostbite. Freezing rain can cause dangers on the road. Nor'easters have the potential to cause more damage than hurricanes. Last year, there were 374 fatal crashes, and an estimated 25,000 injury crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. Preparing yourself and your vehicle for winter weather is key. Read <u>NHTSA's</u> winter weather driving tips, and resources to keep your roads safer as the temperature drops in New Jersey.

Traffic Fatalities Decline in 2023

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration today released its early estimates of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2023, estimating that traffic fatalities declined for the fifth straight quarter. An estimated 19,515 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, representing a decrease of about 3.3% as compared to 20,190 fatalities in the first half of 2022. See the full data estimates at <u>NHTSA.gov</u>



Source: FHWA.

Enhancing your Infrastructure

The Nation's highway infrastructure requires condition assessment of more than 620,000 bridges to ensure safety, sustainability, and resiliency. Traditional methods of assessing bridges, such as coring or chain dragging, can cause economic and time constraints as well as pose safety risks to the structure's integrity. Read about <u>the newest non-destructive methods</u> being developed.

Can Chemistry Improve the Nation's Roadways?

Local Freight Impact Fund Applications Being Accepted

The New Jersey Department of Transportation announced the grant solicitation period for the Fiscal Year 2024 Local Freight Impact Fund program is open, with applications being accepted through December 13, 2023. The program helps New Jersey's municipalities and counties fund projects that emphasize and enhance the safe movement of large truck traffic, renew aging structures that carry large truck traffic, promote economic development, and support new transportation opportunities. Project eligibility has been expanded this year to include projects that address pedestrian safety. Apply here!



The Federal Highway Administration's Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (TFHRC) has had the Chemistry Laboratory for more than 100 years. That may seem strange in a highwayoriented world of civil engineers, program managers, construction inspectors, environmental and transportation specialists, planners, and other corresponding personnel; however, the scientists and researchers in the Chemistry Laboratory have been able to earn their keep, helping to foster innovation in support of FHWA's long-standing mission of increasing safety on the Nation's roadways. From performing research on concrete and asphalt to the development of standards to conducting forensic investigations on pavements and other highway structures, the FHWA Chemistry Laboratory plays a key role behind the scenes to develop state of the art tools enhance the nation's infrastructure.

Learn about the <u>newest tools at your disposal</u>.



Question #1

I have a federal-aid project that is using a small quantity of non-domestic steel. Can I still comply with my Buy America requirements?

The contract minimum threshold section allows the use of a minimal quantity of non-domestic iron or steel in a Federal-aid project. The cumulative value of nonconforming material cannot exceed 0.1 percent of the total contract amount or \$2,500, whichever is greater. If the cumulative value reaches this minimum threshold limit, then all additional installed material must be of domestic origin. 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 today!

Question #2

What is the waiver process for Buy America requirements?

To obtain a waiver, you must prepare and submit a formal request through your State DOT to FHWA to waive the Buy America requirements. A waiver may be granted upon finding that following the requirements would not be consistent with the public interest, or there are not enough domestic steel or iron products of satisfactory quality available.

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.

<u>https://cait.rutgers.edu/mousetrap/</u> Download the entry form today!

Upcoming CLASSES

NJLTAP - Federal-aid Responsible Charge (Webinar)

November 8 & 9

This course will provide information for the first time Federal-aid recipient, but can also serve as a refresher of the conditions and expectations attached to the position.

NJLTAP – Introduction to Crash Analysis and Design Exception (In-person) December 4

This new workshop is for public agency personnel and consultants working on their behalf to gain an understanding of crash analysis tools and methods.

NJLTAP - Traffic Engineering Studies -(In-Person) December 15

This course will review basic concepts in probability and statistics and their application in designing traffic control features and regulating traffic, as well as examining methodologies for conducting speed studies, evaluating intersection controls, and safety analyses.

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Publication Statement

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program, Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation, Rutgers University, using funds from the Federal Highway Administration and the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The opinions, findings, or recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Highway Administration nor the New Jersey Department of Transportation nor Rutgers University. Any product mentioned in this newsletter is for information purposes only and should not be considered a product endorsement.