

NEWSLETTER

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Director's Message

The New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program has reached about 5,500 people this year through just under 100 training events. That means bringing you about 2 opportunities every week to earn professional development hours, continuing education credits, and lots of knowledge! We have just a few courses remaining on the calendar, but we are getting ready to post the offerings for Spring.

Our agenda for 2024 will include a combination of in-person and webinar-based courses, the NJ Work Zone Safety Conference and Public Works EXPO in April, and the NJ State League of Municipalities Conference in November. If you are looking for e-learning, please visit the library of on-demand courses available from the [Federal Highway Administration's Center for Local Aid Support website](#).

Also, do not forget to share your great ideas with peers! Entries for the 2024 Build a Better Mousetrap competition can be submitted any time between now and May 1, 2024. Unfamiliar with Build a Better Mousetrap? [Find out all about it here](#).

We are excited about the possibilities that the coming year brings. Our team looks forward to seeing you again soon and wishes all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!





Local Agency BIL Guidance

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announces new training to assist local and Tribal agencies with applying for transportation funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Approximately \$567 billion is available across all transportation modes over five years with about \$351 billion of that for highway-specific programs. Visit [FHWA's Training Tools website](#) to learn about funding opportunities, federal project delivery requirements, steps to take prior to application, pre-award requirements and resources to leverage throughout the Federal project and grant application processes.

USDOT Call to Action

The United States Department of Transportation issued a Call to Action urging both public and private organizations from around the country to adopt its National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS). The Call to Action implores all agencies at all levels to do their part to implement the Safe System Approach (SSA) to make our streets safer. [Read about how your agency can join in and do their part here.](#)

25th Annual NJDOT Research Showcase Recap and Recordings now Available

The 25th Annual NJDOT Research Showcase provided an opportunity for the New Jersey transportation community to learn about the broad scope of academic research initiatives underway and share technology transfer activities being conducted by institutions of higher education partners and their associates. This year's Research Showcase theme, "Commitment to Safety," served as the organizing framework in highlighting the benefits of transportation research, including NJDOT's own program. The [Research Showcase Program Agenda](#) provides more information on the day's proceedings, including presented topics and invited speakers. Recordings of the plenary and breakout sessions, as well as a full recap, with links to presentations, posters, and a video recording, can be found [on the NJDOT Technology Transfer website.](#)



Unmanned Aerial Systems for Work Zones Peer Exchange

This [peer exchange brought together](#) State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to discuss and share UAS work zone management practices. States that have implemented UAS programs have found that the using UAS can save time and money, and increase safety and efficiency of construction zone management, traffic operations, and inspections in the field.

New Safe System Approach Materials Available

The Office of Safety has been busy developing new products and resources for practitioners that highlight current challenges and illustrate how applying the Safe System Approach (SSA) can help overcome them and improve safety for all road users across the Nation. We encourage you to share these with your networks by including them in your organization's e-newsletters, websites, intranets, and social channels.

The [links contain guidebooks, videos, and case studies](#) that you can use to help develop your own Safe System Approach in your local agency!

Strategic Workforce Development Roundtable

Strategic Workforce Development, an FHWA Every Day Counts (EDC) Round 6 and 7 innovation, anticipates collaboration between government agencies, trade organizations, private agencies, and communities to prepare individuals for the construction workforce. The demand for workers in highway maintenance, construction, and operations is growing, as is the demand for new skill sets required for work with emerging technologies. The recruitment and retention of women and minorities in the construction sector is integral to the initiative. Through on-the-job training and supportive services program, NJDOT is exploring ways to work with contractors, contracting associations, and unions on shaping the future workforce, including programs aimed at increasing representation of women, minorities, and other disadvantaged populations in the construction and operations workforce. This round table hosts several professionals in the field whose [programs are actively helping people get involved.](#)



Jacob's Junction

Question #1

What does it mean to be considered a "responsible bidder", and how can I make sure my bid is seen that way?

A responsible bidder is one who is physically organized and equipped with the financial means to undertake and complete the contract. A responsible bidder is also one that is not suspended or debarred, or whose business ethics have not been otherwise determined to be inadequate. The Federal government maintains a list of all parties, called the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), which have been suspended or debarred.

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 does it mean to have an unbalanced bid?

There are two types of unbalanced bids, mathematical and material. Mathematically unbalanced bids contain lump sums or unit bid items that do not reasonably reflect the actual costs to construct the item. Materially unbalanced bids create reasonable doubt that award to that bidder would result in the lowest ultimate cost to the government.

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



Transportation, 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.

[Click Here to Find Out More or...](#)

Download the entry form today!

Upcoming CLASSES

NJLTAP - Highway Inspection Procedures

January 23, 8:00am—12:00pm

This course is designed specifically for project engineers, project inspectors, supervisors and those in responsible charge of federal aid construction projects.

NJLTAP - Grant Management

January 24, 8:00am—12:00pm

Are you a recipient of a Federal-aid grant? Effective and efficient “management” of the funds received from such a grant is critical to insuring future eligibility and reimbursement. This course highlights key requirements and responsibilities that must be met as a condition to the grant.

NJLTAP – Traffic Incident Management (Webinar)

March 8, 8:00am—12:00pm

Using a multi-discipline approach, first responders in New Jersey will learn how to operate more efficiently and act collectively. The training covers topics including TIM guidelines, fundamentals, and terminology; notifications and scene size up; scene safety and risk management; traffic management; special circumstances; clearance; and termination.

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