

# NEWSLETTER

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## Director's Message

Welcome to the third issue of our 2024 newsletter!

The 2024 training season is well underway...please be sure to check online for the most current schedule of workshops sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration at this link: <http://cait.rutgers.edu/cait/training>. We are currently offering most programs in person, but there are also several webinars being planned for the summer and fall.

While summer may be full of projects in your community, it might also be a good time to get an application submitted to advance safety initiatives. Local agencies looking for federal funding for safety related projects should be reminded that the application deadline for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) deadline is fast approaching on August 29th. This deadline is for planning and demonstration project applications. Examples of these projects include development or completion of, and supplements to, safety action plans. The goal of a safety action plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality or region.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## Director's Message Continued

If your agency does not currently have a plan in place, it is a likely candidate to receive funding to get the process underway, and perhaps ready for the next steps.

Interested in SS4A? Please spend some time reviewing the qualifications, requirements, example activities, and other valuable information on the [Federal Highway Administration website](#). Unfamiliar with safety action plans? [Visit here](#). Our September 25 and November 13 workshops may be particularly helpful to those seeking to develop strategies to reduce serious crashes and fatalities in their communities.

Don't forget to take a good look at the upcoming courses on our [training website](#) for all of your agency's training needs.



U.S. Department of Transportation

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## SMART Grants Program

The SMART program was established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety. SMART is a two-stage program. Stage 1 (up to \$2,000,000 dollars and 18 months) grants are open for any eligible entity to apply. Recipients of Stage 1 grants will be eligible to expand their projects through Stage 2 grants (up to \$15,000,000 and 36 months). The application window for the [FY24 Stage 1 NOFO is open today!](#)

## NHTSA Summer Driving Tips

Summertime usually means vacations and summer road trips. Now is a good time to review these summer driving safety tips. A little planning and some safety checks might spare you from dealing with the consequences of a breakdown — or worse, a highway crash. Check out the latest guides and [factsheets from NHTSA](#), and learn how you can keep you and your family safe this summer.

# ROADWAY DESIGN HIERARCHY

ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED COUNTERMEASURES TO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE ROADWAY FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES

## Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy Guide Released

The Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy is a tool that characterizes engineering and infrastructure-based countermeasures and strategies relative to their alignment with the Safe System Approach (SSA), toward the goal of eliminating traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. View the [latest guide with its changes here!](#)

## Click It or Ticket Campaign to Target Rural Crashes

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched its annual [Click It or Ticket](#) seat belt enforcement campaign, reminding the public to buckle up on every trip and emphasizing seat belt use at night and in rural areas.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Sophie Shulman previewed a [new TV ad](#) aimed at rural populations, where seat belt use has lagged. In 2022, 58% of passenger vehicle occupants killed in rural traffic crashes at night were unbelted, compared to 56% in urban areas. This year's campaign comes as lack of seat belt use — especially at night and in rural areas — continues to be a problem. Despite steady improvements, more than 11,000 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2022 were unbelted, and 57% of those killed were unbelted in nighttime crashes, according to the most recent data from NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

Learn how you can spread this word about this campaign through your community at [NHTSA](#).

## Recap 2024 New Jersey Work Zone Safety Conference

From April 15-19, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognized the 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week, hosting numerous events and an awareness campaign reminding drivers and pedestrians that work zones are temporary—but actions behind the wheel can last forever. Welcoming remarks from speakers including New Jersey Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Francis K. O'Connor kicked off the event. Experts in the field discussed best practices for work zone inspections, new safety campaigns promoting accountability in the work zone, struck-by incidences, among other topics. See the [full recap here!](#)



# Jacob's Junction

## Question #1

How is a bid considered to be mathematically unbalanced?

*A mathematically unbalanced bid contains sums which do not reflect the actual costs plus a propionate share of bidder's anticipated profit, overhead costs, etc. This differs from a materially unbalanced bid, which occurs when there is doubt that awarding the bidder will result in the lowest cost to the government. A bid found to be mathematically unbalanced, but not found to be materially unbalanced, could still be awarded, but it needs to be evaluated for reasonable conformance.*

**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

I think a change order is necessary for a project I am on, but I'm not sure how to go about submitting a change request. How do I put one together?

*When developing a change request, at a minimum, be sure to assess these four issues for every proposed change: Why is the change necessary? What will the impact be on the original scope of work? Who is responsible for costs or delays? Who should pay for the changes? Start gathering source documentation immediately to back the request up.*

## 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 -Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems \(In-Person\)](#)**

**September 5, 8:30am—12:30pm**

This course provides relevant information to individuals who must maintain asphalt pavements. The course material reviews the importance of preventive maintenance to the life of an asphalt pavement.

### **[NJLTAP - Grant Management \(In-Person\)](#)**

**September 12 9:00am—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.

### **[NJLTAP - Highway Inspection Procedures \(In-Person\)](#)**

**September 10, 9:00am—12:00pm**

This course is designed specifically for project engineers, project inspectors, supervisors and those in responsible charge of Federal-aid construction projects. It presents essential requirements and procedures for insuring conformance with contract plans and specifications including records and documentation necessary to facilitate reimbursement to recipients of federal funds.

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