

NEWSLETTER

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Hello Readers,

This is our last edition of our newsletter for 2024, which means we want to include a heartfelt thank you to all who attended our programs throughout the year and for all the hard work you do in your communities. The New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program has had another far-reaching year, with more than 5,000 people trained!

Where are we now? Our training will take a hiatus between mid-December and mid-February. If you are looking for some on demand e-learning over the winter, please visit the library of on-demand courses available from the Federal Highway Administration's Center for Local Aid Support [website](#).

What's on the horizon? The 2025 calendar is already starting to fill up. Most classes for the first half of the year will be open for registration in very early January. We will be offering some new courses, including in-person Safe System Approach (SSA) training and some helpful webinars to navigate stormwater management. Please save the date for the Annual NJ Work Zone Safety Conference that will be in person on April 9 in Piscataway, NJ.

On a final note, we urge you to please take care this winter season to be safe in and around the roadway. Shortened daylight, fatigue, and weather conditions all add to the likelihood of traffic related crashes. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has released preliminary 2024 data [here](#). While early, these estimates are showing a slight improvement in the numbers of fatalities. It is critical that we all do our part to keep the numbers trending downward.

The New Jersey LTAP team looks forward to seeing you again soon and wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season!



NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT Seek Public Input for KEEP IT MOVING NJ! the 2050 Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan

NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT are excited to announce the development of the 2050 Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, KEEP IT MOVING NJ! This plan aims to look 25 years ahead to enhance public transit, improve road infrastructure, and expand options for walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation.

Public input is a key component of KEEP IT MOVING NJ! which will be shaped with feedback from those who live, work, and travel in New Jersey. Throughout the process, there will be numerous opportunities, in-person and online, for the public to share their transportation experiences, needs, and thoughts on the plan's recommendations.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and NJ TRANSIT want to hear from you! Share your thoughts by completing the [survey link here](#).

Online FHWA Safety Database

The Green Acres Program is pleased to announce its 2025 funding round. Applications for land acquisition, park development, stewardship, Jake's Law (Completely Inclusive Playgrounds), and Urban Parks projects will be accepted. The deadline is February 5, 2025. Supplemental funding requests for active projects are also due on February 5, 2025. Application packages and forms [can be found on their website here](#). You can also find a list of upcoming webinars to help you complete your application. Visit today!



New Internally Cured Concrete Resources available

Internal curing increases concrete's resistance to early cracking, allowing the production of higher-performance concretes that may last more than 75 years. FHWA has highlighted this innovation as part of their Every Day Counts program, which aims to promote new technological and procedural innovations around the country. Visit the [EDC website](#) for the latest updates about this new technology and how it can help your organization.



Reporting Wildlife Sightings

Even in a densely populated state like New Jersey, people encounter rare wildlife species. Sometimes it will happen while you are driving, other times while you are taking a hike through the woods. If you encounter wildlife on or off the road, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wants to know! The agency just launched a new mobile-friendly website, the NJ Wildlife Tracker, to encourage residents to report sightings. Sightings of both common and rare species reported by residents will be used to enhance Fish & Wildlife's critical habitat mapping. This data will ultimately assist in the recovery of endangered and threatened species across the state.

It doesn't matter where you see them, or if the species you encounter are alive or dead. The data you provide will help New Jersey make it safer for wildlife and humans to live. [Learn how you can help report on their website.](#)

Guide for Intersection Control Evaluation

Intersection crashes result in just over one-quarter of all traffic fatalities and about half of all traffic injuries. Each intersection project is an incremental opportunity to enhance safety and take one more step toward zero deaths and serious injuries on our Nation's roads. Using a performance-based approach, [Intersection Control Evaluation \(ICE\)](#) is used to screen alternatives and identify optimal geometric and control solutions for an intersection. The goal of ICE is to help agencies make data-driven decisions when it comes to identifying and selecting strategies for intersection-related projects.



Recently, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine posted Report 1087, [Guide for Intersection Control Evaluation \(ICE\)](#) through the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). This guide incorporates processes, objective performance metrics, and tools to help agencies provide consistent and objective ICE. In addition to the guide, the project produced nine implementation tools to facilitate States' use of the guide, including the ICE Process Tool. Learn more about this tool on the [FHWA ICE Website.](#)

Jacob's Junction

Question #1

Regulations stipulate that all steel or iron on a project has to be domestically sourced. But what if I do not use federal funds to purchase that product? Can it be used in the construction of a project?

As per federal requirements, the Buy America policies stipulate that even if a product is not purchased with federal funds, no foreign based iron or steel can be permanently installed on a project. The key word here of course, is permanently. Things like sheet pilings and drill shaft linings are not subject to Buy America requirements if they are not permanently installed on the project.

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 steps can I take to ensure my change orders are approved and I can avoid liquidated damages for going over the specified contract time? What records should I keep?

Anything and everything you can. The best documentation to have is keeping accurate records that show the time, labor, equipment, and materials used. Evaluations of the construction schedule modifications needed, and the cost estimates prepared by the agency that can be compared to the costs in the proposed change order.

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!

On-Demand Online Courses

[Grant Applications 101 for Local Agencies and Tribes](#)

This course is intended for transportation professionals who apply for, or are involved with, grant applications. This includes those who research eligibility, write proposals, complete applications, and/or submit applications.

[Bridge Maintenance for Local Agencies and Tribes](#)

This course explains the importance of timely and cost-effective preventive bridge maintenance activities and strategies, as well as what can happen to bridges that are not properly maintained.

A road safety audit (RSA) is a proactive, formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection. It qualitatively estimates and reports on potential road safety issues and identifies improvements. The Road Safety Audit course has been broken up into Executive and Technical Tracks.

The **Executive Track** of this course provides a comprehensive understanding of RSAs, their purpose, and their distinction from traditional safety reviews.

The **Technical Track** of this course provides a comprehensive understanding of RSAs, their purpose, and their distinction from traditional safety reviews.

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