

# NEWSLETTER

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Hello Readers,

The third week of July (July 14-18, 2025) is designated as Rural Road Safety Awareness Week (RRSAW). This focus this year is on post-crash care. Transportation practitioners at every level of the industry are called on to get the message out through a variety of social media, customizable news releases and proclamations to drive the effort to their locality.

What's so important about post-crash care? Post-crash care significantly impacts survival rates and reduces long-term disabilities after road traffic crashes. It involves providing timely emergency response and high-quality trauma care, creates a safer environment for responders, and prevents secondary crashes. In rural areas, additional challenges exist due to longer response times and limited emergency medical services resources needed to make timely medical intervention.

The 2025 RRSAW has a catchy baseball theme designed to promote big league safety. Day 1 is "Hit a Grand Slam: Post-Crash Care on Rural Roads", Day 2 is "Assemble Your Dream Team: The Post-Crash Lineup", Day 3 is "Be a Pinch Hitter: Stop the Bleed, Save Lives", Day 4 is "Change the Game: Extra Innings with Whole Blood", and Day 5 is "Come in Clutch: Relief Pitching for First Responders". Has this caught your attention? If so, please visit the [RRSAW website](#) to find out more! Please consider carrying the message to your community through the communication resources provided.



## New Resources Available on the Center for Local Aid Support

Center for Local Aid Support provides information, training and technical assistance to local governments, tribes and Federal land management agencies that will enhance roadway networks and create economic opportunity.

CLAS has developed a series of [online training modules](#) for transportation professionals. The online training courses are for professional development and to provide solutions for transportation related issues. You can take these courses anywhere, at anytime.

You can also [sign up](#) for announcements on grand opportunities, training, webinars, and more. This will allow you to get notified as soon as these resources become available.



CENTER FOR  
**LOCAL AID  
SUPPORT**

## Backover Prevention

Every year, [backover incidents](#) lead to serious injuries and fatalities in construction zones and workplaces. These incidents often happen when drivers lose sight of people, objects, or vehicles behind them. That's why OSHA launched the #MirrorCheck initiative to raise awareness and provide resources to help educate workers and employers in the construction industry about safety practices that can prevent backovers and save lives. Thank you for all you do to ensure the safety and health of our nation's workforce!!



## Municipal Aid Applications Being Accepted for FY26 Grants

The Murphy Administration announced the grant solicitation period for NJDOT's Fiscal Year 2026 State Aid programs is now open. Starting today, April 25, applications will be accepted for Municipal Aid, Transit Village, Bikeway, and Safe Streets to Transit programs through July 1, 2025. NJDOT's grant cycles allow municipalities to incorporate awarded projects into upcoming municipal budgets to ensure that important infrastructure projects get to construction sooner. Grant awards are expected to be announced in November. [Read here for more information](#) on how to apply!





## NJDOT's Next-Gen Approach to Mobility and Operations: Q&A Interview with CIA Team Lead

Vandana Mathur, the Supervisor of Transportation Mobility & Research at NJDOT, [recently discussed](#) the agency's ongoing innovative mobility and operations initiatives. The unit's efforts encompass alleviating traffic congestion, improving safety, and providing real-time travel information to motorists. The discussion navigated advancements such as enhanced IMR truck equipment for safer incident response, real-time weather monitoring through the Weather Savvy program, and smart truck parking technology to address parking space shortages. These efforts reflect NJDOT's commitment to using data-driven, next-generation solutions to improve roadway safety and efficiency across the state. Check out the [full interview](#) to learn about the latest innovations going on across the state, and future developments in the pipeline.

## NJDOT Tech Talk! Webinar – Research Showcase

On May 14, 2025, the NJDOT Bureau of Research, Innovation, and Information Transfer hosted a Lunchtime Tech Talk! webinar, "Research Showcase: Lunchtime Edition 2025", featuring four presentations on salient research studies. As these studies were not shared at the 26th Annual Research Showcase held in October 2024, the webinar provided an additional opportunity for the over 80 attendees from the New Jersey transportation community to explore the wide range of academic research initiatives underway across the state. You can find [all four studies](#) that were presented here.

## NJDOT Issues New Bicycle and Pedestrian Micromobility Guide

The NJDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (NJDOT BPRC) has issued a Micromobility Guide for the Garden State, to help the public enjoy a safer and more accessible walking and cycling environment. The Guide summarizes state laws and best practices for safely riding, charging, and storing micromobility devices in New Jersey.

The Guide explains the regulations, characteristics, and transit agency rules for 11 types of micromobility devices, including traditional bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters, Segways, roller skates, and more. The Guide also clarifies how different classes of e-bikes are regulated under New Jersey laws. Key device features and regulatory differences are highlighted in easy-to-understand, one-page "cheat sheets" for each type of device. You can view the full guide [here](#).

# Jacob's Junction

## Question #1

What points should I address when requesting a change order to help its chances of approval?

*Assuming you have valid reason for a change order, there are four issues you should try to address when requesting a change from the oversight agency:*

1. Why is the change necessary?
2. What will the impact be on the original scope of work?
3. Who is responsible for costs or delays?
4. Who should pay for the changes?

*Keeping these things in mind at a minimum will be beneficial for any request.*

**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

Is there anything I need to keep on hand to "prove" Buy America requirements are being met?

*Any source documentation such as receipts and purchase orders should always be kept in your records. Contractors must also provide a signed certification statement regarding the manufacture of the iron and steel products to meet Buy America requirements.*

## 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 Courses

### **NJLTAP - Traffic Incident Management (In-Person)**

**June 27, 8:00am – 1:00pm**

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.

### **NJLTAP - Engineering Ethics (Webinar)**

**July 9, 9:30am – 12:30pm**

Obeying the law is what we have to do. Behaving ethically is what we ought to do, but not necessarily have to. Register for this presentation to learn how to apply your knowledge and experiences of ethical choices that professional engineers must make on a daily basis.

### **Federal-aid Responsible Charge Training**

**July 15-16, 9:30am – 12:00pm**

Are you or your agency in charge of a federal-aid project? Recipients of federal funds are responsible for managing, overseeing construction, supervising and inspecting project activities to ensure conformance with contract plans and specifications. This Federal-aid Responsible Charge Training 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.

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