

NEWSLETTER

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Director's Message

While it may still be summer, please do not forget to make sure you fulfill your PDH and CPWM credit needs to retain your licenses. The calendar for the remainder of 2025 is filling up- please be sure to check [our current offerings](#), and make sure you and your colleagues are registered for whatever you may need. There are still some more workshops to be added, including the annual New Jersey Association of County Engineers Fall Forum (October 17) at Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation. Registration will open soon.

This fall will also bring the [27th Annual New Jersey Department of Transportation Research Showcase](#). The theme for this year is "Preparing the Workforce for the Future" and we have an exciting agenda in the works. As in recent years, there will be a livestream option for those who are unable to attend in person on October 29.

If you are planning to be at the November New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference, we will have two CPWM approved afternoon workshops on Wednesday, November 19 - one session on signing and pavement markings and one session on work zone safety. Details for those events will be available on the [NJSLOM.org](#) website and on their printed program.



Careers in Gear: Summer Webinar Series

This summer, the FHWA Every Day Counts (EDC)-7 Strategic Workforce Development (SWD) team invites you to the Careers in Gear Summer Series, highlighting innovative workforce initiatives and success stories from across the country. Supporting and advancing workforce development is what the EDC-7 SWD program does all year long and the EDC-7 Team is excited to share some of the standout programs, collaborative efforts with stakeholders, and people making an impact across the country. You'll hear from the people who help keep the construction industry moving, from skilled trades professionals to program leaders. Each session offers real stories, practical strategies, and fresh ideas to help strengthen the American construction workforce and support the infrastructure of tomorrow.

You can register or watch the recordings [at the following link](#).

Office of Infrastructure | Construction Team



Photo Credit: Getty Images

Making Safety Everyone's Business

Currently, the country faces a crisis on its roadways. In 2023, an estimated 40,990 people across the Nation—113 people per day—lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. As a result, a key priority at the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration is making the Nation's transportation system safe for all users. While FHWA and its Federal, State, local, and Tribal partner agencies have advanced the expertise of highway safety through HSIP, the funding available through it alone will not entirely achieve the goal of zero fatalities on the Nation's roadways—an ambitious, long-term goal.

In 2022, USDOT released the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS), a comprehensive roadmap to significantly reduce severe injuries and deaths on highways, roads, and streets. The roadmap was an important step in working toward the elimination of roadway fatalities. As part of NRSS, USDOT adopted the Safe System Approach as the guiding paradigm to address roadway safety.

[Continue reading on FHWA.gov \(on page 18\)](#)



APPROACH

Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.



FY 2026 COUNTY AID



\$150 Million in County Aid Available

The Murphy Administration announced the release of \$150 million in Fiscal Year 2026 County Aid to fund infrastructure improvements on the local level. The program is funded through the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

"Keeping our transportation infrastructure safe and reliable is among my Administration's top priorities," said Governor Phil Murphy. "These improvements will further our effort to make New Jersey's roads safer for every resident, in every community."

The State's 21 counties will share a total of \$150 million through the County Aid program that helps maintain roads and bridges under county jurisdiction in a state of good repair for the thousands of motorists that count on them each day.

For a list of each county's allotment, [click here](#).

Vision Zero Resources Online

Recently FHWA announced the launch of the FHWA Vision Zero Community of Practice (CoP) web page. The Vision Zero CoP offers a one-stop shop for technical resources and information that local communities can use to develop and implement safety efforts to reach their goal of zero roadway fatalities. FHWA supports the vision of zero deaths, including Vision Zero. The [Vision Zero CoP](#) is a component of FHWA technical assistance efforts to bring the latest resources to practitioners who have adopted or are considering adopting Vision Zero, applying the Safe System Approach, and growing a safety culture in their communities.

Work Zone Safety Clearinghouse

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse is the world's largest online library of free information on work zone safety topics. It has grown significantly since 1995 when Congress directed its creation.

Originally conceived as an online library with a comprehensive listing of information and materials related to work zone safety, the Clearinghouse annually provides over 200,000 contractors and agency professionals with answers to work zone safety questions, from the most basic to the most advanced.

Much of the Clearinghouse's information stems from its original concept—a robust online database of several thousand papers, publications, books, brochures, videos, and interviews.

Check out the [newest additions to the clearinghouse 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

What are the penalties for failing to comply with the DBE Contract Specifications?

DBE contract specifications are legally binding and must be enforced in the same fashion as any other contract requirement. Failure to carry out contract provisions may result in loss of Federal funds. The success of these programs is achieved by thoroughly implementing the monitoring and reporting procedures as the project progresses.

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 - Presenting 101: The Art of Effective Face-to-Face and Virtual Presentations

September 15, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Creating and delivering presentations is a necessary skill for many in public works, whether presenting to elected officials, residents, or colleagues. Register for this impactful session to learn about general best practices.

NJLTAP - Grant Writing (Webinar)

September 23, 10:30am – 12:00pm

During this webinar, learn the basics of how to tackle and complete a grant or funding application, and strengthening your application by better understanding requirements and improving readability.

Federal-aid Responsible Charge Training

October 1-2, 9:00am – 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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