

# Monmouth County Transportation Council Quarterly Newsletter



*Issue Sixteen - Spring 2021*

## Small Changes Add Up

Micro-mobility and active transportation – from walking to e-bikes – can have macro effects on the transportation network. [Planetizen gives a rundown of several studies](#) that discuss the effects, which include emissions reductions, increases in transit ridership, and over 74 billion dollars in annual benefits. [Read the full article with links to the studies at Planetizen.](#)



## Gateway Commissioners "extremely optimistic"

The newly formed Gateway Development Commission is optimistic about the potential for receiving funding for design and construction of a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River. They cite the FTA rescinding a letter declaring federal loans as ineligible for use as the project's local funding share, making the \$3.35 billion in state funds from New York and New Jersey more achievable, as well as active engagement with the USDOT as encouraging signs of building momentum. [Read the details at northjersey.com.](#)

## Upcoming Events

- [MCTC Meeting April 13, 7 p.m.](#) to be held online. Meeting info is sent out via the Council's Meeting Notices & Agendas email list. You can sign up at [VisitMonmouth.com's Newsletter signup page.](#)

## Did you know?

In 2009, there were 245 new electric vehicle (EV) charging outlets installed nationwide, but by 2019 that number had risen to more than 20,000 new installations. From 2017 to 2019, about 5,000 new charging outlets were installed each year. [More data and supporting information is available from the Department of Energy.](#)

## Transportation Research Board Podcast

---

## Traffic Down but Crash Fatalities Up During the Pandemic

Vehicle traffic during the first nine months of 2020 was curtailed by the pandemic lockdowns, but traffic fatalities rose 4.6% according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Bad behavior is to blame, with drivers speeding up on open roads, and then maintaining those speeds as the traffic volumes recovered. [Read more in the Washington Post](#) and [from NHTSA](#).

---

## \$1.8 Million in Safe Streets to Transit Program

[\\$1.8 million dollars has been awarded for seven municipal Safe Streets to Transit Program projects](#), two of which are in Monmouth County. Freehold Borough was awarded \$400,000 for improving walkways to its bus station, and Long Branch was awarded \$300,000 for improvements on Morris Avenue. The program focus is to provide safe and convenient pathways to access transit services. Other recipients include Atlantic City, Ventnor, Newark, Hamilton, and Passaic.

---

## Cost of Maintaining Safe Highways Rose as NJ was Battered by Winter Storms

[The State DOT spent more than \\$120 million dollars this winter](#) to make highways safe to drive on, almost three times more than the previous winter. There were 34 "winter events," over 200,000 tons of salt, almost 350,000 gallons of liquid calcium, and over 100,000 gallons of brine went into treating the state roads.



---

## PANYNJ Moves Ahead with Bus Terminal Redevelopment



The Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, provides transportation research and advice on a wide array of subjects.

[In January, they launched a podcast called "TRB's Transportation Explorers"](#) that promises to "explore the latest and most critical research and innovations in transportation."

Audio is available on the TRB website, or you can subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

---

## Monmouth County Bridge and Road Projects

Monmouth County is working hard to maintain and update key roadway and bridge infrastructure throughout the County. Learn what projects are under construction, review, or consideration as well as how to get involved on the [Monmouth County Webpage](#).

---

## Get Involved With the Monmouth Within Reach Study

Whether you live here year-round or visit for the world-class beaches and entertainment, Monmouth County is the place you want to be. "Monmouth Within Reach" is a federally funded study to develop strategies and best practices to reduce congestion related to tourism and events by using the resources we have to more effectively manage the demands on our transportation network.

A study like this needs your input, so please help us help you by

The redevelopment of the Port Authority Bus Terminal will result in a new terminal with more efficient station operations and reduced traffic on the Lincoln Tunnel ramps. It will also provide a vastly improved experience for riders in the terminal, with more open spaces, natural light, and improved signage. The project has already received some public comment, but there are still opportunities to share your opinion [by signing up for updates](#).



## NJ TRANSIT introduces FlexPass

NJ TRANSIT has introduced a pilot program called FLEXPASS, consisting of 20 one-way tickets between one origin and destination sold at 20% of the regular one-way fare. Inspired by new and evolving commuting patterns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, these purchases give more flexibility than the traditional monthly passes. Tickets expire after 30 calendar days, are only currently available for train fares, and require the latest version of the NJ TRANSIT mobile app. [More details are provided in their press release](#).

---

**Have a question, comment, or hot tip? Send us an email:**  
**[transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us)**

---

### About This Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Monmouth County citizens about transportation topics and related events in their community. This newsletter is produced by the Monmouth County Division of Planning for the Monmouth County Transportation Council. The County of Monmouth and the Board of County Commissioners do not necessarily share the viewpoints of the material mentioned in this newsletter.

#### [Transportation Council Membership](#)

Anthony Garaguso - Chairperson  
Jeffrey Vernick - Vice Chairperson  
Betsy Barrett - Ben Lucarelli  
Eric Nelson - Nick Ponzio - Peter Van Nortwick

Contact: [Transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:Transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us)

visiting

[MonmouthWithinReach.com](http://MonmouthWithinReach.com), taking our survey, and signing up for study and online event updates. We want to hear about your experience travelling in the County on heavy travel days.

---

## Participate with the Council

If you have an interest in transportation, we invite you to contact the staff advisors to the Monmouth County Transportation Council at [transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us) and find out about ways you can participate or volunteer with us.

---

Stay Connected with Monmouth County, NJ:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)

---

This email was sent to Email Address using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Monmouth County, NJ · One East Main Street · Freehold, NJ 07728

**GOVDELIVERY** 