
Monmouth County Transportation Council Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 32 - Winter 2025

Oceanport Adopts an E-Bike Ordinance

As e-bikes rise in popularity, local officials' concerns mount. After noticing the unsafe habits of e-bike users, [Oceanport](#) Mayor Thomas Tvrdik led an effort to regulate the bikes. The Borough Council followed in Fair Haven and Sea Bright's footsteps and adopted a new ordinance regulating e-bikes at their November meeting. The ordinance "prohibits LSEVs from being ridden on sidewalks or pedestrian paths within the borough and generally bans LSEVs on borough property, including recreational areas and parks, with exceptions in specific cases." Riders must also follow standard traffic laws, and be equipped with lights, reflectors, and audible signals (such as a bell). Riders age 17 or younger are required to wear a helmet. Riders who violate the new rules will face fines and run the risk of having their e-bikes impounded.

Upcoming Events

Monmouth County Transportation Council Meeting: Jan.14 at 7 p.m. to be held in person with a virtual option. Click [here](#) to find the meeting info.

Transportation Fun Fact: Tesla's Model Y is NJ's Most Popular Car



Based on data collected by Edmunds in 2023, the top selling

In Monmouth County's Barriers to Mobility study, the development and education on electric bicycle and scooter regulations was posited as a strategy for safer travel throughout the county. To learn more about e-bike safety or to read the Barriers to Mobility study, [click here](#).

NJ TRANSIT's TRANSITional Art Project



The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has partnered with NJ TRANSIT to connect commuters with New Jersey artists. The partnership between the agencies, known as the [TRANSITional Art Project](#), selects artists to

car in New Jersey was the [Tesla Model Y](#). The Model Y was the most popular car in 7 of the 50 states and ranked 4th overall. The most popular car in New York was the Honda CR-V, and in Pennsylvania the most popular was the Toyota RAV4.

The top-selling car in the nation is the Ford F-Series, followed by the Chevrolet Silverado. See the map and 2023's rankings at [Edmunds.com](#)

N.J. Gas Tax is Increasing

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, the New Jersey [gas tax rate](#) will increase 2.6 cents per gallon, up to 34.4 cents for gasoline and 38.4 cents for diesel fuel. The increase was announced by the state Treasury Department, as part of the department's effort to fund the Transportation Trust Fund. Although the formal announcement of the increase was publicized late November 2024, the decision was made in March 2024 with the passage of an amendment to the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act. The Treasury states that "the fiscal year 2025 Highway Fuel Cap is set by the new statute at exactly \$2.032 billion, which is \$84 million, or 4.3%, higher than the previous baseline level of \$1.948 billion, and will increase each fiscal year, reaching \$2.366 billion in New Jersey's fiscal year 2029."

install visual art exhibitions at NJ TRANSIT rail stations all over the Garden State. The stated goals, found on the project's [hub site](#), are to "connect NJ TRANSIT customers and the surrounding community by bringing new, exciting and inspiring experiences to the spaces customers pass through every day, as well as, providing New Jersey artists both exhibition opportunities and a supportive environment in which to create public art." Local artists are given a stipend, and then are able to create and install their projects. The latest installment is titled 'SuperBloom' and was created by artist Fiona Clark and is available for viewing at the Summit Rail Station until December 2026. Danielle Bursk, the Director of Community Partnerships & Artist Services for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts says that the project is meant to "enhance the experience of both residents and visitors passing through the Summit Rail Station." Aptly installed in the station's waiting room, commuters waiting for their train will be able to enjoy the art as they stand by.

To learn more about the program or to admire the artwork of years past, visit NJ TRANSIT's [Transit Arts Hub](#).

EPA Grant to Help Electrify Seastreak Ferry



Seastreak, LLC is the recipient of a [\\$54.9 million](#)

Kris Kolluri to Head NJ TRANSIT



The [NJ TRANSIT](#) Board of Directors have voted unanimously to confirm Gov. Murphy's nomination for the next President and CEO of NJ TRANSIT, Kris Kolluri. This decision comes after current CEO Kevin Corbett's resignation after seven years with the agency. Kolluri recently completed his tenure as CEO of the [Gateway Development Commission](#), and previously served as President and CEO of Camden Community Partnership, Inc, as well as CEO of the Rowan University/Rutgers-Camden Board of Governors. He will begin his new role at NJ TRANSIT Jan. 15, 2025.

NJ TRANSIT Showcases New Multilevel Railcars

NJ TRANSIT revealed its new generation of [multilevel railcars](#) at the Meadows Maintenance Complex (MMC) in Kearny, NJ. The new cars, the first of their kind in North America, are Electric Multiple Units (EMUs), "meaning they are self-propelled and don't require a separate locomotive."

[grant](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Ports Project. The grant will be utilized to purchase electric ferries and install charging infrastructure. As a result, Seastreak will be able to run zero-emission high speed electric ferries to and from its Monmouth County ports. U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6) called the project a "major win" for the Highlands in a press statement. "Bringing these federal dollars back to New Jersey means cleaner air, less traffic on our busiest routes, and a long-term boost for communities like Highlands," Pallone said. "This project is about more than cutting dangerous pollution; it's about strengthening our local economy and supporting sustainable transit solutions that benefit residents and businesses alike. Projects like this put New Jersey on the cutting edge of homegrown, clean energy."

[Seastreak](#) is based in Atlantic Highlands and provides year-round ferries to and from Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, Sandy Hook Beach, New York City, and seasonally to Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and New Bedford.

NYC Congestion Pricing Update

New York City's new [congestion toll pricing](#), which was set to begin Jan. 5, 2025, is still in limbo. Late Dec. 31, 2024, [Randy Mastro](#), the attorney representing Gov. Phil Murphy, "asked U.S. Senior Judge Leo Gordon to clarify a decision he rendered earlier this week... Gordon's order did not explicitly state whether the [controversial toll could take effect as scheduled](#). But Mastro argued that Gordon's ruling effectively rescinded key federal approvals that should prevent New York from enacting the program, at least for now."

Much contention has arisen as a result of

They will replace the 40-year-old single level cars currently in use, which in turn will lead to an improvement in mechanical reliability and will increase vehicle maximum speed to 110 miles per hour. The new cars also feature new customer amenities, such as USB charging ports and onboard information displays. NJ TRANSIT hopes to have all the new multilevel railcars on the tracks by mid-2025.

Monmouth County Bridge and Road Projects

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

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 and find out about ways you can participate or volunteer with us.

proposed congestion pricing, with many N.J. State officials, including Gov. Phil Murphy, fighting against it. As a result, in June 2024 New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced an indefinite pause to the toll hike. In the months that followed, officials continued to discuss the new pricing strategy, and in early November 2024, Gov. Hochul announced that congestion pricing would move forward. A 40% reduction in the toll hike was also announced; cars entering during peak hours would be expected to pay \$9 to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street rather than the \$14 toll initially proposed. Gov. Murphy says he is committed to fight against this plan, stating on Instagram, “We stand resolutely against a tolling scheme that will unfairly burden our commuters.” Judge Gordon is set to hold a hearing on the matter on Jan. 3, 2024.

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Have a question, comment, or hot tip? Send us an email: transportation@co.monmouth.nj.us

About This Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Monmouth County residents about transportation topics and related events in their community. This newsletter is prepared by Monmouth County Division of Planning staff 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 included in this newsletter.

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