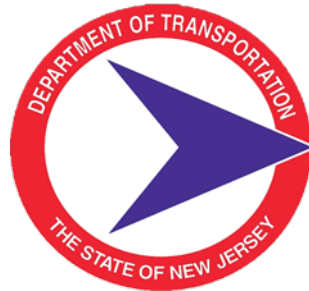


# 2024 NJ Safe Routes to School Academy

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Summary Report**



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Safe Routes to School**

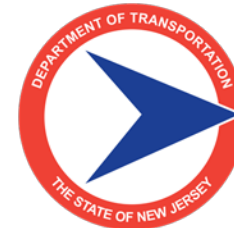


[www.saferoutesnj.org](http://www.saferoutesnj.org)

# Acknowledgements

This report is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funding from the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. New Jersey and the United States Government assume no liability for its contents or its use thereof.

New Jersey Department of Transportation's Safe Routes Academy was organized by New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center staff at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), which is housed at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy as part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.





## Safe Routes Academy - Overview

- The Safe Routes Academy for 2024 organized by the New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center at Rutgers University with support from the NJ Department of Transportation.
- This year the Academy was held in person during the NJ Bike & Walk Summit on Saturday, May 18th, at Middlesex College and College Center in Edison, NJ.
- Each session ran for 60 minutes.
- The Safe Routes Academy is designed for parents, teachers, students, municipal leaders, local volunteers, and anyone else interested in improving conditions for walking and bicycling. Participants are invited to learn about best practices and resources that they can use to increase safety and accessibility in their communities.

# 2024 NJ Safe Routes to School Academy Sessions

## Session 1

29 Attendees

Where the Sidewalk  
Ends:  
Exploring Safe Street  
Design

## Session 2

26 Attendees

Talk the Walk:  
Putting your Vision  
into a Plan

## Session 3

28 Attendees

Build Better Streets:  
How to Work with  
your Municipality

## Session 4

19 Attendees

Fund Your Project:  
Tips and Strategies  
for Successful Grant  
Applications

# Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design

**Data**

Safety Voyager & Numetric  
Bike/Ped Crashes  
2016-2020  
31,000+ crashes





**RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK**  
Edward J. Bloustein School  
of Planning and Public Policy



Journal of Safety Research  
Volume 86, September 2023, Pages 137-147



Pedestrian- and bicyclist-involved crashes:  
Associations with spatial factors, pedestrian  
infrastructure, and equity impacts

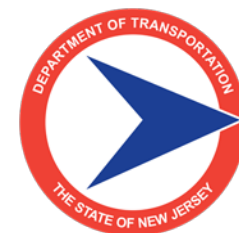
Hannah Younes ✉, Robert B. Noland ✉, Leigh Ann Von Hagen ✉, Sean Meehan ✉

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of  
New Jersey, 33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA



In this session participants explored the major components of safe street design, focusing on proven safety countermeasures, complete streets concepts, and design resources for school zones. Through interactive discussions, attendees gained an understanding of which infrastructure solutions make streets safer for people walking and bicycling.

From improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety to enhancing connectivity, this session equipped participants with the knowledge and tools needed to transform their streets into more inclusive spaces that prioritize safety and accessibility for all ages and abilities, especially children.



# Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design



**William Riviere**  
Principal Planner and State Safe  
Routes to School Coordinator, NJDOT



**Hannah Younes**  
Post Doctoral Research Associate -  
Bloustein School of Planning and  
Public Policy



**James Sinclair**  
Senior Research Specialist - Voorhees  
Transportation Center, Rutgers  
University





# Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan



In this session, participants learned how to hone their vision and translate it into a plan of action to improve walking and bicycling environments. The session provided practical guidance on prioritizing actions and developing a plan that aligns with community goals. Engaging in hands-on exercises and collaborative discussions, participants explored how to effectively document concerns and prioritize solutions. By the end of the session, participants better understood how to take meaningful steps towards implementing complete streets and safe routes to school improvements.



# Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan



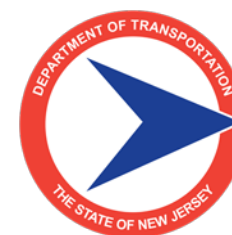
**William Riviere**  
Principal Planner and State Safe  
Routes to School Coordinator, NJDOT



**Sean Meehan**  
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center,  
Rutgers University




**Jon Dugan**  
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center,  
Rutgers University






# Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality







## How Municipalities Work and How to Work with Municipalities

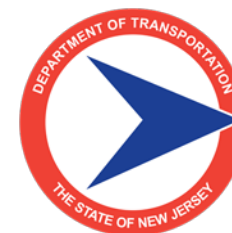
Sean Meehan  
May 18, 2024

 **RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK**  
Edward J. Bloustein School  
of Planning and Public Policy  
Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center





In this session, local advocates shared insights and lessons learned from their efforts to cultivate local support and advocate for active transportation and safe environments for walking and biking. Participants gained practical strategies for engaging with municipal and school officials, building coalitions, and effectively communicating the benefits of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, attendees learned how to mobilize community members and influence decision-makers to prioritize and invest in safer, more walkable and bikeable communities.



# Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality



**William Riviere**  
Principal Planner and State Safe  
Routes to School Coordinator, NJDOT



**Krista Weaver**  
Council President - Borough of  
Hopewell



**Sean Meehan**  
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center,  
Rutgers University



**Kathleen Ebert**  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety  
Coordinator, Greater Mercer TMA



**Candace Faust**  
Eatontown Borough Council





# Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications



In this session, participants gained insights into the various funding opportunities available to support bicycle and pedestrian improvements in New Jersey. The session focused on state and federal grants, providing tips and strategies for crafting successful grant applications. Attendees learned about finding grant opportunities, application processes, and best practices for developing a compelling proposal. By the end of the session, participants were equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to access funding, understand the level of effort for different grant applications, and match projects to appropriate grant sources.



# Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications



**William Riviere**  
Principal Planner and State Safe  
Routes to School Coordinator, NJDOT



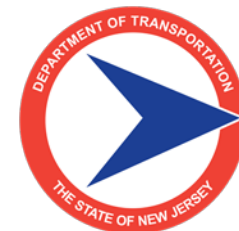
**Jon Dugan**  
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center,  
Rutgers University



**Leigh Ann Von Hagen**  
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center,  
Rutgers University



**Greg Woltman**  
Voorhees Transportation Center,  
Rutgers University





# Social Media Toolkit

A Social Media Toolkit was created with registration announcements and weekly reminders.

The content was approved by NJDOT Communications and shared via email with a list of over 80 partner organizations, asking them to share the posts to their own social media accounts.

## Engagement results (#SafeRoutesNJ #NJDOT) on X

### Total impressions:

- 585

### Engagement results on Facebook:

- Total Engagement: 13 Likes & Shares



**SafeRoutes**  
Academy



**Saturday | May 18th**

Held in conjunction with the NJ Bike & Walk Summit at Middlesex College and College Center, Edison NJ

**REGISTER NOW!**

[saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/](https://saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/)



#### SESSION TOPICS

Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design

Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan

Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality

Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications

## JOIN US



AT NJ SAFE ROUTES ACADEMY!

**Saturday | May 18th**

Held in conjunction with the NJ Bike & Walk Summit at Middlesex College and College Center, Edison NJ

Learn to make your community more walk-and bike-friendly for users of all abilities!

**REGISTER NOW!**

[saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/](https://saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/)



## JOIN US AT NJ SAFE ROUTES ACADEMY!

**SATURDAY, MAY 18TH**

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**SafeRoutes**  
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**Register now!**

[saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/](https://saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/)

# Social Media Posts

## TWITTER:

“🚲 Join @NewJerseyDOT's Safe Routes Academy at the NJ Bike & Walk Summit on May 18, 2024! Learn best practices for safer, more accessible communities. Register now: <https://njbwc.org/summit-2024/register/> #SafeRoutes #NJSummit”

## FACEBOOK:

“Interested in improving conditions for walking and bicycling in your community? Join us at New Jersey's Safe Routes Academy, sponsored by @NewJerseyDOT. 🚲 This year's event will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2024, as part of the NJ Bike & Walk Summit. Register now to learn about the best practices and resources that you can use to increase safety and accessibility in your community. Register here: <https://njbwc.org/summit-2024/register/>”



The graphic features two photographs at the top: on the left, a group of people walking and cycling on a sidewalk with a police officer; on the right, an audience seated in a room. Below the photos are the 'SafeRoutes Academy' logo and the New Jersey Department of Transportation logo. The text reads: 'Saturday | May 18th', 'Held in conjunction with the NJ Bike & Walk Summit at Middlesex College and College Center, Edison NJ', and a green 'REGISTER NOW!' button with the URL 'saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/'. A blue box on the right lists session topics: 'Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design', 'Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan', 'Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality', and 'Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications'.

**SafeRoutes Academy**

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**SESSION TOPICS**

- Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design
- Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan
- Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality
- Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications



The graphic has a blue background with a photograph of people cycling on a path. It includes the 'SafeRoutes Academy' logo and the New Jersey Department of Transportation logo. The text reads: 'JOIN US AT NJ SAFE ROUTES ACADEMY!', 'Saturday | May 18th', 'Held in conjunction with the NJ Bike & Walk Summit at Middlesex College and College Center, Edison NJ', 'Learn to make your community more walk-and bike-friendly for users of all abilities!', a green 'REGISTER NOW!' button, and the URL 'saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/'.

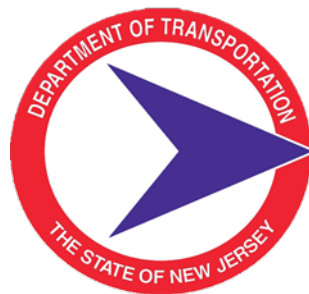
**JOIN US** **SafeRoutes Academy**

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