

2026 New Jersey  
Complete Streets  
Summit



*“Every Journey Safer”*



**April 21, 2026**



College Ave Student Center,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick,  
New Jersey



**Register for free at**  
[go.rutgers.edu/completestreets2026](https://go.rutgers.edu/completestreets2026)

# Rethinking our Roads with Youth Leadership



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Principal Planner and State Safe Routes to School Coordinator, NJDOT



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Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University



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Educator and Dunellen Youth Advisory Board Supervisor



**Autumn**

Dunellen Youth Advisory Board Member



**Sangeeta Badlani**

Nikhil Badlani Foundation



**Angie**

Dunellen Youth Advisory Board Member



About the  
New Jersey Safe  
Routes to School  
Program

# NEW JERSEY Safe Routes to School



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



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

# About Safe Routes to School

- Where it's safe, get youth including those with disabilities walking, bicycling, & rolling
- Where it's not safe, make it safe
- Encourage students to walk, bike, & roll to school fostering a healthy, active lifestyle at an early age
- Expand the program to **high school** students



*"Where it's not safe, make it safe"*

# Three Pillars of the NJ SRTS Program



## The Three Pillars of New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program



NJ Department of Transportation



NJ Safe Routes Resource Center  
Rutgers University



8 Transportation Management Associations in NJ

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



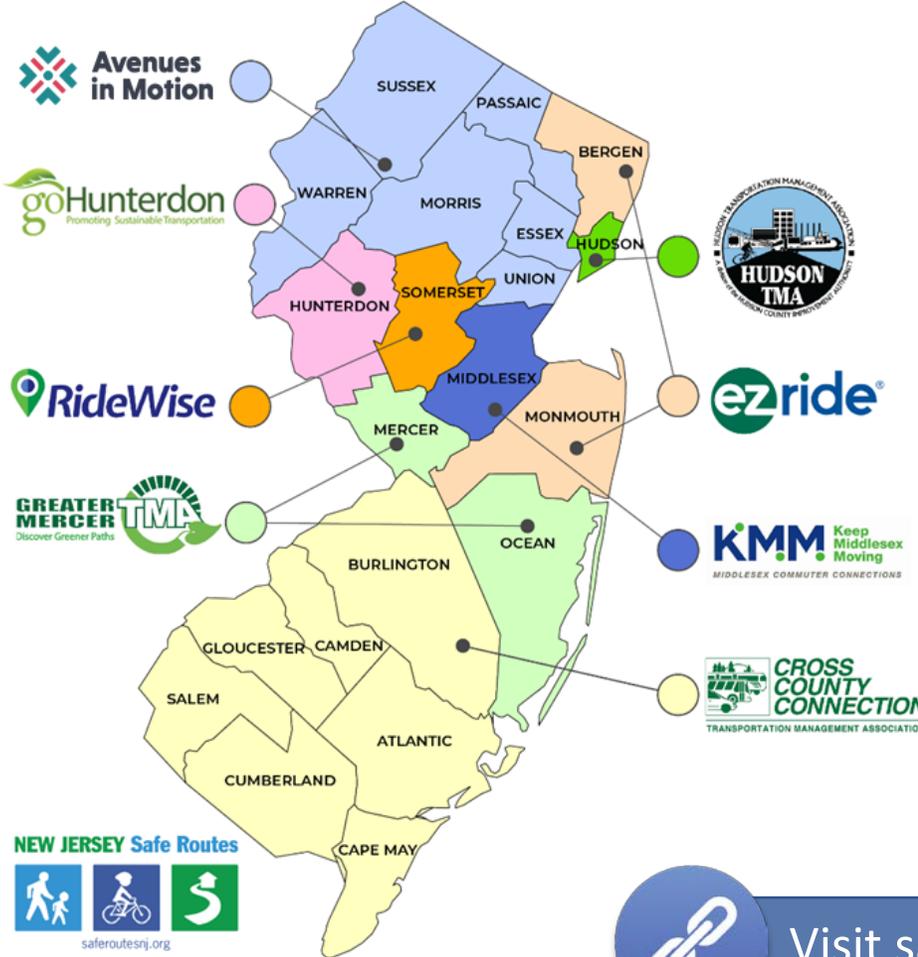
# TMA Regional SRTS Coordinators

- Walk and Bike to School Events
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education
- Walk and Bike Assessments
- School Travel Plans
- Student Contests
- NJ SRTS Recognition Program
- Supportive Policies for Schools and Complete Streets
- Sustainable Jersey



*Free Assistance from NJ TMAs*

# TMA Regional SRTS Coordinators



The counties below are serviced by multiple Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) based on the municipality:

<b>Passaic County</b>	
<b>EZ Ride</b>	Clifton, Haledon, Hawthorne, North Haledon, Passaic, Paterson, Prospect Park
<b>Avenues in Motion</b>	Bloomington, Little Falls, Pompton Lakes, Ringwood, Totowa, Wanaque, Wayne, West Milford, Woodland Park
<b>Essex County</b>	
<b>EZ Ride</b>	Belleville, Bloomfield, Caldwell, Cedar Grove, East Orange, Essex Fells, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, Montclair, Newark, North Caldwell, Nutley, Orange, South Orange, Verona, West Orange
<b>Avenues in Motion</b>	Fairfield, Livingston, Millburn, Roseland, Short Hills, West Caldwell
<b>Union County</b>	
<b>EZ Ride</b>	Clark, Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Garwood, Kenilworth, Linden, Mountainside, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Union, Westfield, Winfield
<b>Avenues in Motion</b>	Berkeley Heights, Murray Hill, New Providence, Summit
<b>Somerset County</b>	
<b>Greater Mercer</b>	Montgomery
<b>RideWise</b>	All other municipalities in Somerset County

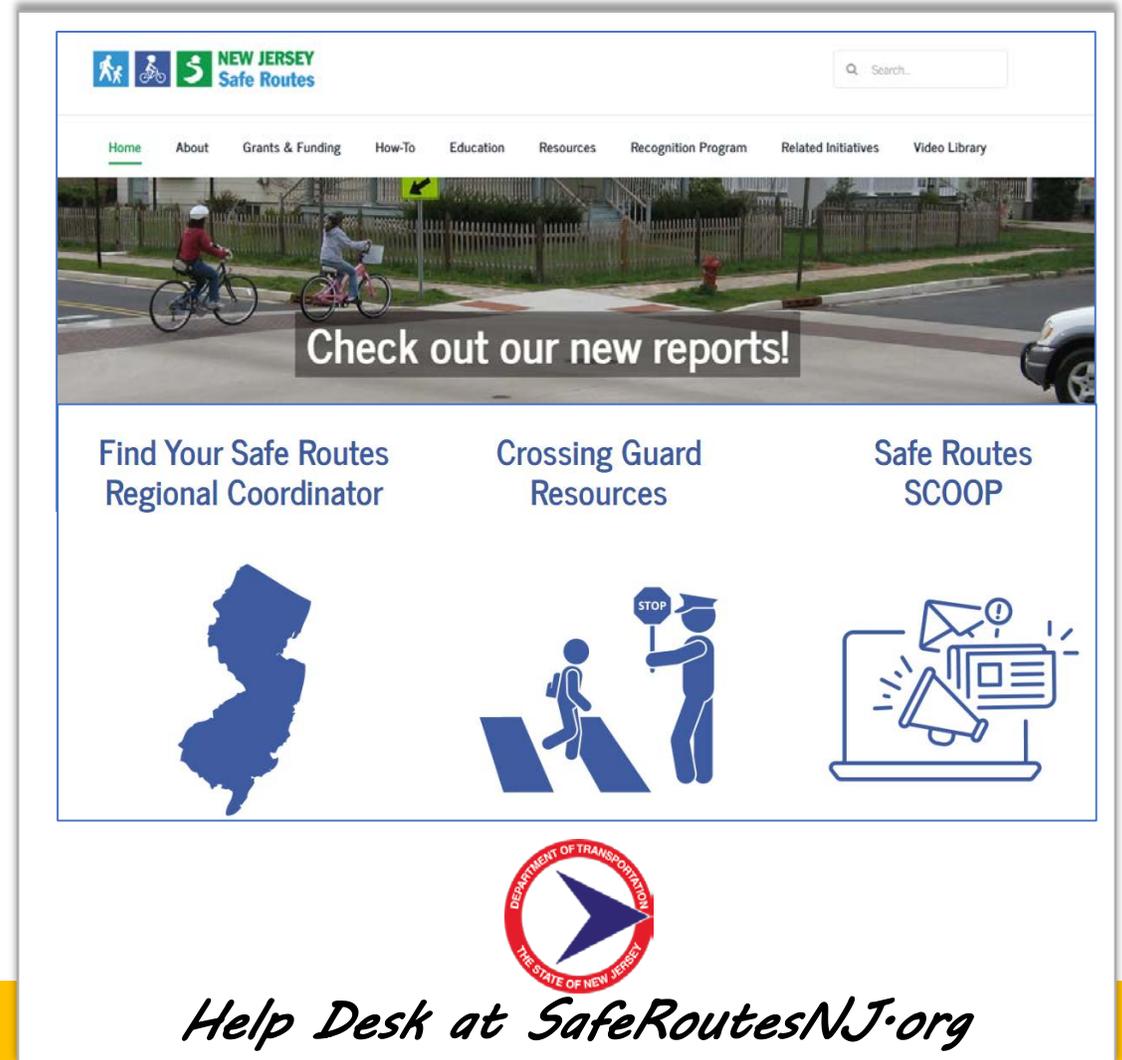


Visit [saferoutesnj.org/find-your-srts-regional-coordinator](http://saferoutesnj.org/find-your-srts-regional-coordinator)



# NJDOT Safe Routes to School Resource Center

- Find your TMA SRTS Coordinator
- Grant Information
- Safety Lesson Plans
- How-To & Case Study Videos
- Crossing Guard Resources
- Design Guides
- Policy Documents
- Research Studies
- Help Desk



NEW JERSEY Safe Routes

Home About Grants & Funding How-To Education Resources Recognition Program Related Initiatives Video Library

Check out our new reports!

Find Your Safe Routes Regional Coordinator

Crossing Guard Resources

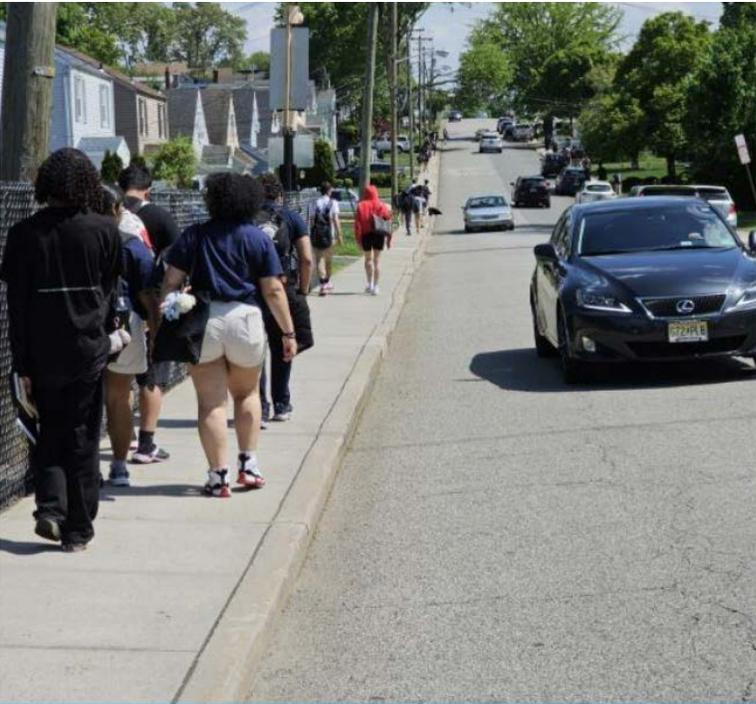
Safe Routes SCOOP

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

*Help Desk at SafeRoutesNJ.org*

# NJDOT Safe Routes to School Resource Center

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with 'Resources' selected, and a dropdown menu listing 'Guides', 'Research Reports', 'Case Studies', 'Planning & Evaluation', 'School Travel Plans', and 'Policies'. The 'Research Reports' section features two report thumbnails: 'High School Safe Routes to School & School Travel Plan Guide' and 'Expansion of the Safe Routes to School Program to High Schools in New Jersey: A Study of High School Level Programs in the United States'.



Expansion of the Safe Routes to School Program to High Schools in New Jersey: A Study of High School Level Programs in the United States



The cover features the title 'High School Safe Routes to School & School Travel Plan Guide' in white text on a blue background. Below the title is a photograph of students riding bicycles in a schoolyard. At the bottom, it says 'Created by CHPlanning LTD. June 2025' and includes the NJDOT Safe Routes logo.

 Visit [saferoutesnj.org/research-reports](http://saferoutesnj.org/research-reports)

# Contact

# Thank You!



**Sean Meehan**  
**Contact:**  
**NJDOT Safe Routes Resource Center**  
**Website:** [saferoutesnj.org](http://saferoutesnj.org)  
**Telephone:** (848) 932-7901  
**Email:** [srts@ejb.rutgers.edu](mailto:srts@ejb.rutgers.edu)

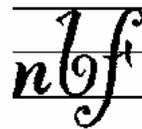
# SafeRoutes



# Academy



# Rethinking our Roads with Youth Leadership



nikhil badlani foundation

# Sangeeta Badlani

The Founder of the Nikhil Badlani  
Foundation and Families for Safe  
Streets New Jersey.



# Teresa Albertson

Educator and Dunellen YAB Supervisor



# Angie

Dunellen Youth Advisory board member



# Autumn

Dunellen Youth Advisory board member



# youth in transportation

Young people in New Jersey, 16-34 are increasing public transit usage by 40% , while reducing annual driving miles. According to the US Department of Transportation in 2024.

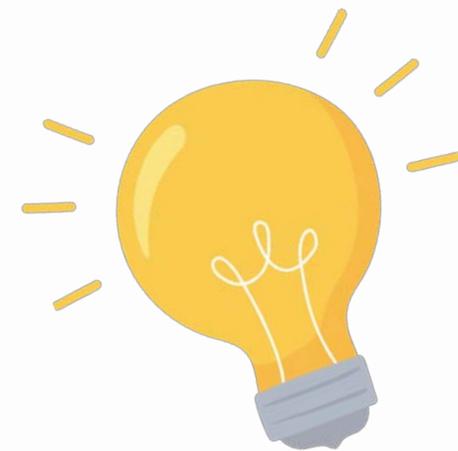


# Safety implications of excluding youth from their experiences & creating barriers

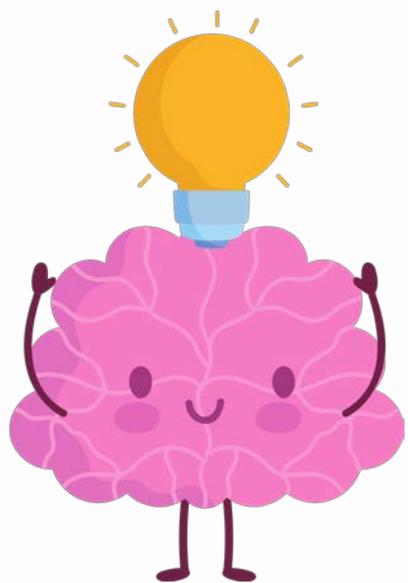


Planning without youth = incomplete systems

# why?



Youth are experts of  
their own experience



# Get personal

We guide from  
lived experience.





# Avoiding Tokenism

Token Engagement	Authentic Engagement
Surveys only	Co-working sessions
One time input	Ongoing Advisory Roles
Final Adult Decision	Shared decision making
Listening	Providing education & training

As adults, what is  
our role?



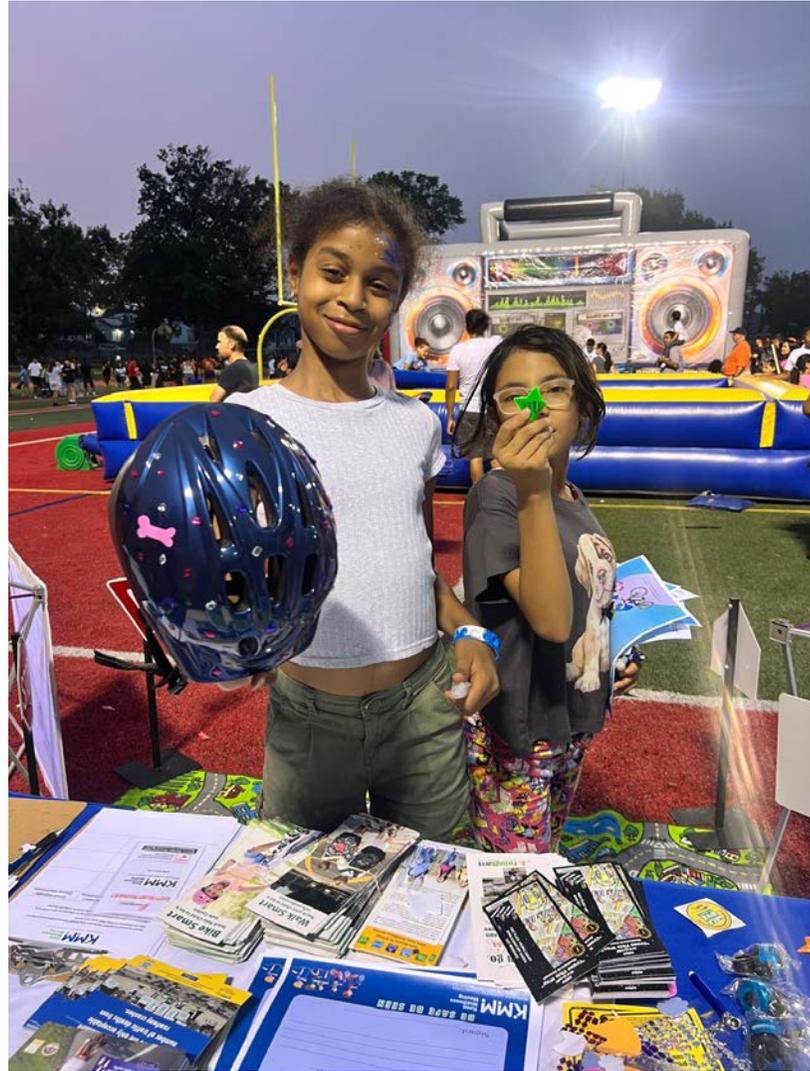


How did we  
approach  
Youth  
engagement?

# Where to begin?

## Getting to know your community



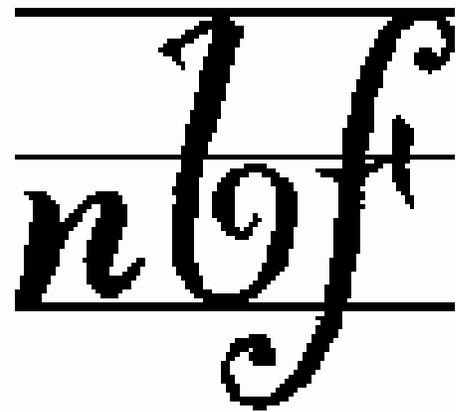








# Sangeeta Badlani



**nikhil badlani foundation**

# Our Mission

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*To make our roads safer through:*

- Traffic safety education and awareness

*To expand and enhance the lives of underserved children by providing:*

- Individualized lessons for talented musicians
- Scholarships for academically gifted



# Scale of Traffic Violence

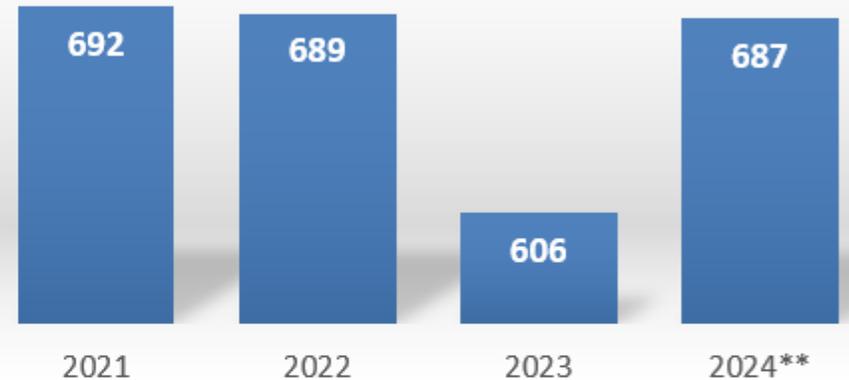
- ~600 people die on NJ roadways each year
- 30% are pedestrians and bicyclists
- NJ ranks in the top 20 for pedestrian deaths

## Teen Drivers Remain a Constant Share of Fatal Crashes – Why?

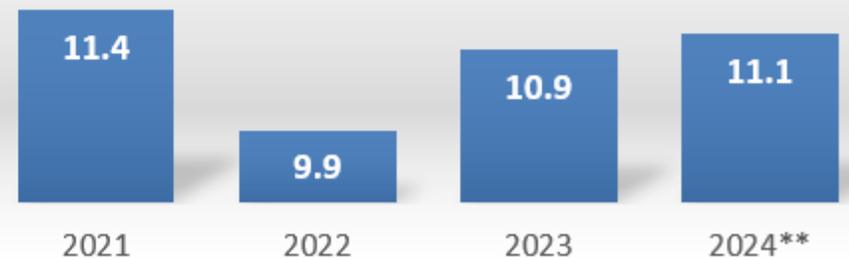
\*Fatality and Injury Reporting System

\*\* Preliminary, New Jersey State Police

### Traffic Fatalities - NJ



### % of Fatalities Involving Teen Drivers



# Traffic Safety Youth Advisory Board

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# Youth Advisory Board

- Evaluate, generate and develop traffic safety improvement plans
- Four committees:
  - Municipal
  - Education
  - Policy
  - Outreach



# Youth Advisory Board - Municipal



# Youth Advisory Board- Municipal



# Youth Advisory Board - Education



# Youth Advisory Board - Education



# Youth Advisory Board - Policy

- Legislations passed
  - Supervised 50 practice hours
  - Safe Passing Law in drivers manual and written test



# Youth Advisory Board - Policy

- Upcoming policies
  - Authorizes use of school bus monitoring systems(A3887/S1378)
  - Reallocate fines incurred for violations of "Antwan's Law" to local municipality for law enforcement purposes(A997/S1835)
  - Resolution to designate September 21<sup>st</sup> as the "Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Day"



# Youth Advisory Board – State House

*nbf*



# Youth Advisory Board - Summit



# Youth Advisory Board Accolades

- Winners of the U Got Brains Champion Schools program
- Tim Larney Memorial Traffic Safety Education Award
- GDL Champions
- SRTS Gold Award



# Youth Advisory Board – Skills Developed <sup>nbf</sup>

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- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Teamwork
- Critical Thinking
- Research
- Communication
- Networking
- Time Management
- Advocacy
- Media



# Youth Advisory Board – In the News <sup>nj</sup>

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**Young drivers would need 50 practice hours to get license under advancing bill**

BY DANA DIFILIPPO - DECEMBER 12, 2023 2:26 PM



## West Orange Teens Push Lawmakers For Driver's Permit Changes

"I personally was reluctant to put myself behind the wheel," a West Orange teen said, pushing for a proposed state law on learner's permits.

Teens tell N.J. lawmakers young drivers need more mandatory practice behind the wheel

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Teen Driver Safety Legislation Championed by West Orange's Nikhil Badlani Foundation Becomes a Law

Dunellen High School  
Empowering Youth



to

Educate, Motivate and  
Advocate

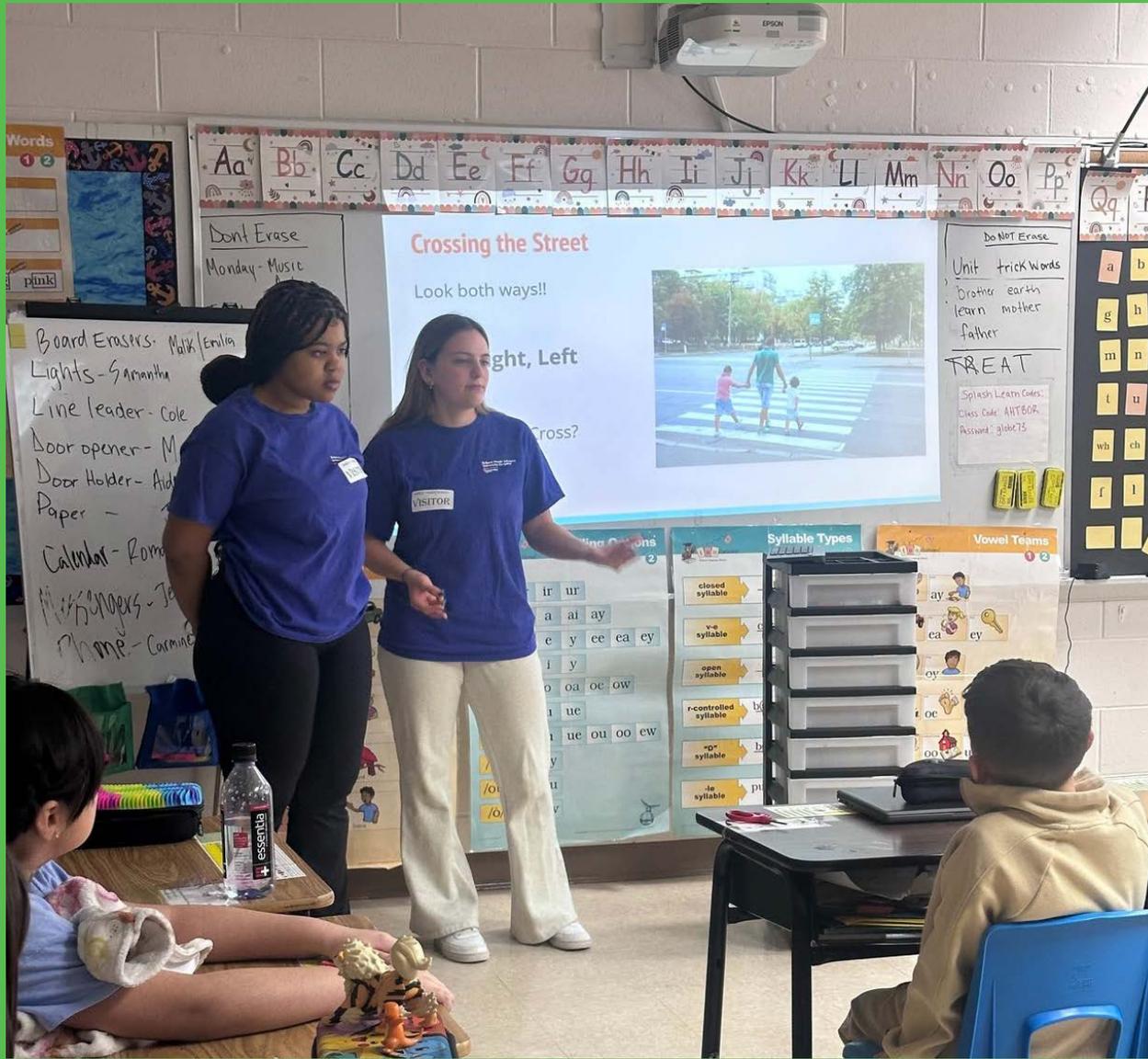
# First Youth Advisory Summit



# Brainstorming with Izzy from Keep Middlesex Moving

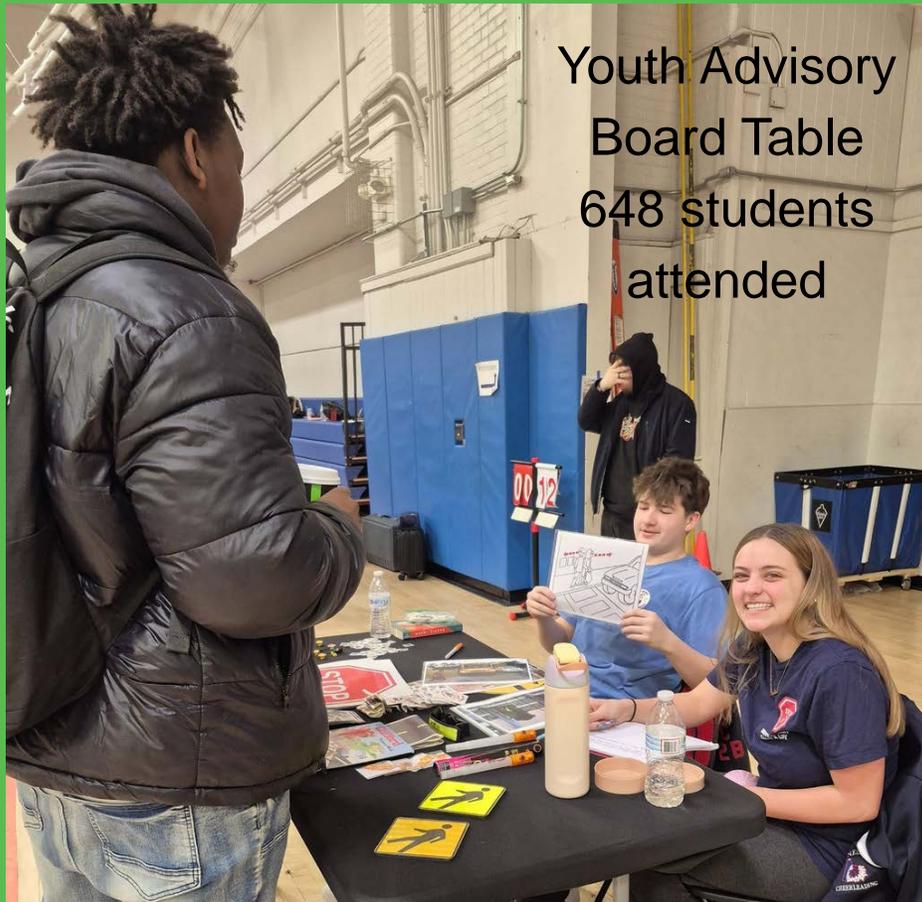
## Sharing ideas for our project on Pedestrian Safety





# Pedestrian Safety Presentations Faber Elementary School Second Grade

# Lincoln Middle School and Dunellen High School Annual Wellness Fair February 13, 2026



# YOUTH FACILITATED PROGRAMS IN THE DUNELLEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

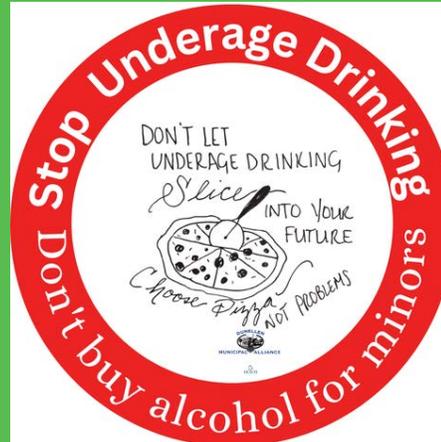
Peer Leaders are Juniors and Seniors who are trained to work monthly with Freshmen to help them adjust to High School.



Safety Ambassadors are Juniors and Seniors who work with Second Graders at Faber Elementary School. They teach Falls Prevention, Safety In and Around Cars, Pedestrian Safety, Wheels Under Your Feet Safety and Making Healthy Choices.

# YOUTH FACILITATED PROGRAMS IN THE DUNELLEN SCHOOL DISTRICT and community

SUDS (Stop Underage Drinking Students) from grades 6 - 12, who work to inform and education youth and adults about Substance Misuse Disorder and Prevention.



Nikhil Badlani Foundation Youth Advisory Board  
Freshman through Senior students who work to Promote Traffic,  
Driving and Pedestrian Safety.  
Members of this group work with the Municipal Traffic and  
Pedestrian Safety Commission.



Students working with Community Resource Officer Paul Condit.



**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**



**Lincoln Middle School Cafeteria**

**8:30am - 3:30pm**  
Breakfast and Lunch  
Provided

**Training for Peer Leaders, Safety Ambassadors & SUDS Team**

Leadership Skills | **JUNE 24 2025**  
Teambuilding | **732-668-7218**



Teambuildin



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Lets hear from our  
experts



# Remember...

- Compensate youth for their time.
  - Meet youth where they are.
- Create recurring engagement opportunities.
  - be transparent.
- Build youth transportation literacy.
  - Measure impact.



**Audience Questions**

# Contact Information

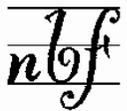
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- [Website: https://nikhilbadlanifoundation.org/](https://nikhilbadlanifoundation.org/)
- Email: [sangeeta@nikhilbadlanifoundation.org](mailto:sangeeta@nikhilbadlanifoundation.org)
- Social Media: @Stop4Nikhil



# THANK YOU!

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www.kmm.org



nikhil badlani foundation



MIDDLESEX COMMUTER CONNECTIONS



NEW JERSEY  
Safe Routes

