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NEW JERSEY
Safe Routes to School

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NJ Safe Routes News
February 2026

Welcome to this issue of the NJ Safe Routes News funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

To learn more about the NJ Safe Routes to School Program, please visit **saferoutesnj.org** or follow the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center on social media. Please also encourage your friends and colleagues to **subscribe to our newsletter**!

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New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit

The NJ Safe Routes Academy, sponsored by the NJ Department of Transportation, focuses on sessions that allow participants to make their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for all users of all abilities. The next Safe Routes Academy will take place in-coordination with the 2026 New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit on Saturday, March 7th, at Crowne Plaza Princeton - Conference Center. Tap the button below to learn more about the last Safe Routes Academy, held in March 2025.

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2026 Complete Streets Summit

The 2026 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit is set to take place on April 21st at the Rutgers University College Avenue Student Center in New Brunswick. This all-day event, sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, will be FREE to attend. **Registration is now open**. Tap the button below to learn more about the Summit.

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The Importance of Crossing Guards in School Zone Safety

Crossing guards play a vital role in helping children walk and bike to school safely, offering reassurance to families and serving as a steady community presence. Yet many communities struggle to recruit and retain these essential workers due to the part-time, demanding nature of the job and frequent disrespect they encounter from the public. Two new Safe Routes to School resources, "How to Retain Crossing Guards" and "Voices from the Crosswalk," highlight the experiences of New Jersey's crossing guards and provide practical strategies for municipalities, families, and schools to better support them.

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Crossing guard seriously injured by driver near N.J. elementary school, police say

A crossing guard was seriously injured last week after she was hit by a car near a Parsippany elementary school, police said. The woman, who is employed by the Parsippany School District, was hit around 3:30 p.m. near the intersection of Vail Road and Redstone Drive, according to a statement from the Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department.

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From our friends at the NJDOT Bike & Pedestrian Resource Center



Railway Crossing Safety: What You Need to Know as a Cyclist or Pedestrian

There are over 3,400 miles of railroad tracks in New Jersey, and almost 44% of schools in the state are located within a half-mile of an active freight or passenger rail. Given that nationally, 34% of railroad incidents over the past ten years have occurred at highway-rail grade crossings, it is important to improve safety at existing crossings and to raise awareness on best practices for using and designing them.

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Livingston Plans To Boost Pedestrian Safety Near School With $505K Project

The Township of Livingston has received a grant through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to construct pedestrian safety



Pallone obtains $500,000 for New Brunswick road safety improvements

"By improving signals, slowing traffic and making sidewalks and crossings safer, this funding will help reduce

improvements along West Northfield Road from State Route 10 to South Livingston Avenue and Hillside Avenue from Foxcroft Drive to West Northfield Road.

The goal of the proposed project is to improve the existing conditions and create a safe pedestrian corridor to Heritage Middle School.

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crashes and protect pedestrians, drivers and cyclists," Pallone said.

A portion of the funding, equating $500,000, will be allocated toward bettering the corner of Jersey Avenue and Van Dyke Avenue. As per the release, the intersection was the site of more than 60 car accidents between 2019 and 2023.

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NJ Bills Would Allow Speed Cameras in School Zones, Reversing Ban

Two bills introduced in the New Jersey Legislature would permit the installation of speed cameras in school zones across the state, reversing New Jersey's long-standing ban on traffic cameras that has been in place since red light cameras were discontinued in 2014.

The proposed legislation, including Senate Bill No. 3218 and Assembly Bill No. 3836, would create a limited framework allowing automated enforcement specifically in school zones and for school bus violations.

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Assemblyman Ravi Bhalla Celebrates Hoboken's Nine Years With Zero Traffic Deaths

This month marks nine years without a single traffic fatality in Hoboken. The milestone was celebrated by Assemblyman Ravi Bhalla (D-Hoboken), who spearheaded Vision Zero policies as mayor of the mile square city.

"Going this many years without a traffic fatality is all the proof you need that Vision Zero works,"
said Assemblyman Ravi Bhalla, who implemented Vision Zero policies during his two terms as Mayor of Hoboken.

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Fairfield receives federal grant to address traffic safety issues

Fairfield officials announced Thursday that the town has received a federal grant to reduce traffic safety issues in town. The town has been awarded a $300,000 **Safe Streets for All** federal grant.

The goal is to address traffic safety issues that are caused by navigation apps that divert drivers off of I-95 and onto local and state roads.

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Singleton Legislation to Reallocate Funds to Pedestrian Safety and Law Enforcement in Burlington City



Why Aren't More Girls Riding Bikes?

Aiming to fund pedestrian safety efforts better and reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities, the Senate Transportation Committee advanced legislation that would reallocate fines that are issued for violations of “Antwan’s Law” to be entirely dedicated to Burlington City for the specific and sole purposes of pedestrian safety and law enforcement.

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In a CDC-funded survey, parents cited distance to school, traffic-related risks, and weather as the biggest barriers to biking and walking. Factor in distracted drivers and kids’ increasingly busy after-school schedules, and it’s no wonder that biking is such a tough sell. Especially for girls. New research presented last year shows that girls’ participation in riding drops off noticeably in adolescence.

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An “Amazing” Experiment in School Safety

Philadelphia’s first “school street” pilot closed its dropoff and pickup street to vehicular traffic. It was as great as you might imagine.

We made some progress and got a leading pedestrian interval installed at one particularly treacherous intersection near the school. We also streamlined a bike lane a few blocks away. Honestly, I thought that was all we would be able to achieve.

But then, all of a sudden, I heard the news: Our school was going to be the site of Philadelphia’s first-ever school streets pilot! A dream far beyond what I thought possible was actually coming true.

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Safe Routes throughout New Jersey February 2026



Safe Routes to School Regional Coordinators from eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) throughout New Jersey are ready, willing, and able to offer FREE technical assistance in Safe Routes programs in communities from all 21 counties. Find your Safe Routes to School Coordinator **here**

Check out what New Jersey's TMAs have been doing so far this past month!

Read the SCOOP!



Find your local NJ Safe Routes to School Coordinator



Hampton School Winter Walk

Join us at the next NJ BPAC meeting

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (NJ BPAC) is coordinated by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

BPAC is open to everyone.
To participate, please register using the following link:
njbikeped.org/join-the-next-meeting/

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Learn More about NJ BPAC

Interested in learning more about NJ Safe Routes?

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