



EConnections - A Greener Way To *Communicate*

Greater Mercer TMA's First Coordinated Stakeholder Meeting A Success

The Mercer County Coalition for Coordinated Transportation held a stakeholder meeting on Thursday October 6th, 2011, that was attended by nearly one hundred community members, each with an interest in the county's developing mobility system.

Human service organizations, advocacy groups, transit leaders, and transportation system users gathered at Project Freedom in Hamilton to hear about the county's coordination accomplishments and also to help craft an action plan moving forward. Because of the event's success, the coalition will have a number of new key participants moving forward, as well as a degree of critical momentum to push its agenda forward.



Kicking off the proceedings was **County Executive Brian Hughes**, who was recognized for his consistent support of the coalition's efforts. Hughes delivered a sobering reminder of the difficulties faced in lieu of current economic conditions but kept a truly encouraged tone in his discussion of the way innovative collaboration and resource utilization can create successful synergies and effective outcome-driven programs.

Another highlight of the meeting was keynote speaker **James McLary, United We Ride Ambassador to Region II**. McLary, aided by years of experience explained the history of mobility management before mentioning several nationwide projects garnering attention as successful coordination stories. Following his address, participants joined small groups to outline their experiences with the transportation system and underscore its shortcomings. The groups then worked to offer solutions on how those shortcomings might best be addressed. Needless to say, the coalition will have some great insight moving forward.

The coalition has numerous initiatives on the horizon, including the continued effort to glean information about the transportation system and its users, the development of a series of targeted mobility projects, and the commencement of a more concerted outreach operation throughout the Mercer County community. Without adequate information, stakeholders and consumers will never quite be able to utilize the transportation system or benefit from the coalition's endeavors to the optimal extent. However, with events like the Stakeholder's meeting and the tremendous showing of support from the various communities involved, it is assured that the county's commitment to improving mobility for each and every one of its residents will not waver any time soon. [Click here](#) and let us know what you think.

Lace Up Those Walking Shoes

October is National Walking Month, which means you are encouraged to leave your vehicle behind and walk instead. Why have a designated month to put one foot in front of the other? On average, experts say, we take a fraction of the recommended 10,000 steps a day. A designated month serves to increase awareness of the benefits of walking and to kick start a new habit.

The benefits of walking are many:

- **Health:** It's one of the easiest activities for burning calories and tuning up the cardiovascular system. If you want a challenge, take on hills or pick up the pace,

- **Fresh air:** Get out and enjoy the fall colors while you can, winter will be here soon enough.
- **Savings:** Walking is free.
- **Ambience:** There are too many cars on the road. Why add to the road masses?
- **Happiness:** Do not discount the stress-relieving power of a stroll. Walk with a friend when you can, as socializing nurtures mental health too.

Ride NJTRANSIT To The Game

Jets and Giants fans can get to the game the easy way by taking the Meadowlands Rail Line to MetLife Stadium. NJ TRANSIT's convenient train service lets football fans avoid the hassle and expense of driving, traffic and parking.

The Meadowlands Rail Line connects to the Meadowlands Sports Complex from 11 of 12 NJ TRANSIT rail lines, with service from New York and New Jersey via connections at Hoboken Terminal and Frank R. Lautenberg Station at Secaucus Junction. The Meadowlands Rail Station is located near the MetLife Gate between the stadium and lot B.

Meadowlands Rail Line service for football games begins three and a half hours before game time, running every 10-20 minutes, then hourly during the game, and every 10 minutes after the game.

For specific trip times, train connections and return trips, visit njtransit.com/meadowlands and use the online Trip Planner.

NJ TRANSIT Rail Changes - November 6th, 2011

Online Polls

Making Public Transportation Mandatory

Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel is ordering city employees to take public transportation to meetings and assignments during the work day or explain why they cannot, under a strict new mileage and travel reimbursement policy projected to save \$1 million, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

The use of personal vehicles will be discouraged. Detailed reimbursement forms will include beginning and ending odometer readings listing all locations visited, along with a map that shows miles traveled. The city will also establish daily minimums and maximums, along with a maximum monthly reimbursement.

What do you think of making public transportation mandatory for employees; let us know what you think in our online poll by [clicking here](#).



Last month, we asked: "At what point does turning off your car save you more money than idling it?" The poll results are in:

- 18% - 10 seconds
- 20% - 30 seconds
- 30% - 1 minute
- 32% - 3 minutes

The answer is 10 seconds!

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