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## **EConnections** - A Greener Way To *Comm*unicate

### **Nominations For The 2012 New Jersey Smart Workplaces(NJSW) Awards Are Now Being Accepted**

Receive recognition for your programs that provide and promote sustainable transportation options.

Join your peers at our Annual Luncheon, Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Nassau Inn when we present the 2012 New Jersey Smart Workplaces awards.



#### **What Is It?**

The New Jersey Smart Workplaces program (NJSW) recognizes employers who demonstrate leadership by providing and promoting quality commuter benefits to their employees, therefore reducing congestion and improving air quality.

#### **How Do We Get Recognized?**

Employers are recognized at one of four levels of achievement: bronze, silver, gold or platinum based upon the programs offered at the worksite. Employer benefits may include providing employees with:

- telecommute options and flextime work schedules
- providing carpool and vanpool information
- last mile shuttles; and
- facilities for bicycle commuters.

NJSW is a partnership of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Association and the state's Transportation Management Associations.

For more information on the program contact Aly Dyson at [adyson@gmtma.org](mailto:adyson@gmtma.org).

[Click here](#) for online registration.

**See our list of 2011 [Awardees](#).**

## Toyota's 100 Cars For Good - Voting Result

*To everyone who voted for Greater Mercer TMA in Toyota's "100 Cars for Good" campaign, we send out a hearty and sincere thank you – Cheryl Kastrenakes, TMA Executive Director*

A new car would have been a welcome addition to the RideProvide fleet, but we're glad that we were able to spread the word about the importance and need for senior transportation. By 2030, 20% of our population will be seniors. 19,000 people will turn 65 every day for the next 18 years. With 50% of seniors staying home on any given day due to a lack of transportation, you can easily see what a growing concern senior transportation is.

While many people can and do continue to drive well into their senior years, many give up driving when they are no longer capable or comfortable doing so, and many more should and would if they knew they had other options. Affordable transportation options are essential if we are to keep seniors safe, engaged, independent and active.

It was these pressing needs of the senior citizens in our community that sparked GMTMA to take action and develop the RideProvide program. Our car service serves seniors in all of Mercer County and Plainsboro, taking seniors anywhere they need to travel. Other options such as TRADE, the County's paratransit system, and various community shuttles are also available in the county. Contact RideProvide program manager [Carol Staats](#) or [click here](#) for more information on RideProvide and other senior transportation options.

***Again, your voting and efforts to spread the word were really appreciated!***

## Walk It Off

October is International Walk to School Month, and October 3 is National Walk to School Day. Greater Mercer TMA is working to get as many schools as possible in our region involved in these great events which give children, parents, and teachers an opportunity to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school.

There are many reasons to participate — [safer](#) and more accessible streets, [healthier habits](#), and [cleaner air](#) to name just a few. Join in! Greater Mercer TMA is the Safe Routes to School coordinator for Mercer and Ocean Counties, and we will help you get an event off the ground!

To learn more about the benefits and fun ideas for holding a Walk to School Day Event, [click here](#) or contact us at [rhersh@gmtma.org](mailto:rhersh@gmtma.org) or 609-452-1491 — **we'll get you up on your feet!**

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