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## ***Mercer & Ocean In Motion***

**Getting You from Here to There**

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### **Shop, Work, Play, and Dine: Let the 655 Bus Take You There!**

NJ TRANSIT's 655 bus route, dubbed "The Healthline" because of its service to the new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro, provides an important east-west transit option, connecting the residents and visitors of Princeton and Plainsboro to healthcare and so much more! Check out our new [655 bus web page](#) to learn more about the service and about our business partners along the route. Where will the 655 take you?



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### **GMTMA's MPG Challenge**

Greater Mercer TMA's [RideProvide](#) program was extremely fortunate to be selected by Toyota to participate in the first round of Toyota's MPG Challenge. For the Challenge, Toyota loaned RideProvide a 2013 Toyota Plug-in Prius Hybrid to use for the month of June while competing with five other deserving charitable organizations to see which one could get the best gas mileage possible.

GMTMA used this opportunity to promote sustainable transportation while driving a state-of-the-art electric hybrid vehicle to provide rides for our RideProvide members. We were able to spare our own vehicles more than 1900 miles over the course of the month, saving the RideProvide program money while continuing to provide our ride service for seniors and visually impaired adults — a service that has seen an increase in the number of rides provided by over 25% in the past two years.

RideProvide did not win the challenge – but we didn't come in last either! Over the course of the month our drivers drove more miles than any of our competitors. The style of driving involved in a ride service – driving nonstop all day, five days a week – is not as conducive to using an electric vehicle as other types of driving are. Our Challenge competitors and many other businesses use vehicles for short round trips; like picking up paperwork, supplies or people and bringing them back to a base location. This type of driving, as well as driving a specific set route every day, make plugging in a vehicle easier to schedule and plan in advance, allowing the vehicle to always have charged batteries. Our drivers go everywhere in Mercer County, have different schedules every day, and do not come back to the central office location until they are finished using the vehicle. This made charging the vehicle during the day extremely difficult, but the drivers did a great job adjusting their driving to maximize gas mileage.

Even so, we are extremely proud that we attained an average of 59 MPGe over the course of the competition. In 2012 the non-hybrid, non-electric gasoline cars with the highest gas mileage got about 33-34 MPG<sup>1</sup>. These include small vehicles like the Nissan Versa, Hyundai Accent and Elantra, Ford Fiesta, Chevrolet Sonic, and the Honda Civic. In this year's competition, RideProvide drivers were able to get about 26 MPG higher than gas powered economy cars. This provided an amazing savings on gasoline purchases and carbon emissions released.

The winner of the first round of the MPG Challenge, Helping Hands Food Pantry, achieved a whopping 356 MPGe! In order to get that kind of mileage, they used electricity to power the Prius for almost the entire month. The Toyota Plug-in Prius Hybrid has a shorter all electric range than other electric/hybrid or just electric vehicles, making this feat pretty amazing. But it also means that if you regularly make fairly short trips you can achieve incredible money and emission savings from an electric or electric/ hybrid vehicle.

To learn more about the benefits of electric and hybrid vehicles for your business contact Aly Dyson at [adyson@gmtma.org](mailto:adyson@gmtma.org).

1: [www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/most-fuel-efficient-gas-cars-2012#slide-5](http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/most-fuel-efficient-gas-cars-2012#slide-5)

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## **Summer's Still Sizzling, but it's Almost Time to Walk Back to School!**

September is approaching fast, and you know what that means – it's time to get ready to walk and bike to school! To help schools get inspired and involved in a walk to school program, National Walk to School Day, which is on October 9, 2013, is a great way to start. This annual event, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is part of a national and international effort to celebrate the many benefits of walking and bicycling to school. Walk





to School Day event registration is free and available to individuals and organizations holding an October event in the United States. Events that register on the Walk to School website, [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org), will be displayed on an interactive U.S. map on the website, where neighboring communities, media and other organizations can identify who is walking in their area.

Registering a Walk to School Day event provides organizers access to free, downloadable materials including stickers, certificates and customizable fliers. They can also easily create and share a walking or bicycling to school route via the new Map-a-Route tool. Registrants can also receive a weekly e-newsletter for four weeks in September and October with tips and resources for organizing a Walk to School Day event.

Greater Mercer TMA is your regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) partner. We are here to work with your school and town on a wide variety of SRTS programs, including walking school buses, bike and pedestrian safety presentations, bike rodeos, frequent walker programs, walkability audits, and more. Contact Rebecca Hersh at [rhersh@gmtma.org](mailto:rhersh@gmtma.org) today to get your kids walking!

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## Is Your Air Safe to Breathe?

The Air Quality Partnership, a program of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), needs your input on the air quality alert system. With your feedback, they will be able to improve outreach and education on air quality, which is a matter of crucial importance to public health. Will you take five minutes to complete [this survey](#)?

The Air Quality Partnership is a coalition of over 350 public and private organizations from Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania that work collaboratively to educate the public about ways to improve the region's air quality. On days when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, the Partnership declares an Air Quality Action Day and asks the public to take voluntary actions to protect their health and reduce pollution levels. For more information about ozone and particle pollution, visit the [Air Quality Partnership website](#).

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Please share this with your family and friends! The survey will be open through the end of ozone season in September.

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## NJTRANSIT Rail Schedule Updates

New rail schedules took effect on Sunday, August 4 on rail lines including the Northeast Corridor and North Jersey Coast Line.

*Northeast Corridor:*

- Numerous trains have schedule changes and station stop adjustments as the next phase of the tie replacement project begins.
- Train 3713 (Metropark) and Train 3858 (Edison, Metuchen) have eliminated some stops temporarily.
- Twenty-three stops eliminated from seven different weekday trains are restored. Twelve stops which were eliminated on June 2 will be restored by the fall schedule change.
- All stops eliminated from weekend trains are restored.
- During this phase of the tie replacement, crews will replace ties on Track 1 - the inbound/New York-bound track - between Jersey Avenue and Metropark stations. As a result, inbound customers at New Brunswick, Edison and Metuchen will use platform extensions to board/detrain.

*North Jersey Coast Line:*

- Minor adjustments to certain peak period trains.
- Train 3231's schedule is adjusted and stops eliminated at Elizabeth and Linden. Customers for Elizabeth and Linden can use NEC trains. Customers traveling from Elizabeth and Linden to NJCL stations should take Train 3831 to Rahway and transfer to Train 3231.

If you have any questions, contact NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at (973) 275-5555 or check out the new schedules at [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com).

Greater Mercer TMA • 15 Roszel Rd. Princeton, NJ 08540 • (609) 452-1491 • [tma@gmtma.org](mailto:tma@gmtma.org)

web: [www.gmtma.org](http://www.gmtma.org)

blog: [gmtma.wordpress.com](http://gmtma.wordpress.com)

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15 Roszel Rd  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
US

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