NJDOT’s Emergency Service Patrol
The Best Little Service you didn’t know you had!

How many of us can say that we never had a problem with a vehicle we were driving, or were a passenger in, as we traveled along a major highway? And, if you were one of the millions of stranded drivers who have suffered some type of vehicle breakdown, wouldn’t it be nice to imagine a service that would come find you and get you on your way! Well, whether you know it or not, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) does offer such a service. It’s free, it’s fast, and it’s staffed by a group of talented and dedicated people that want nothing more than to get you back up and running as soon as possible to speed you on your journey.

What Does ESP Do?

According to Crew Supervisor Charles Patton, the primary purpose of NJDOT’s Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) is to remove impediments to traffic flow on State highways as quickly as possible. These impediments can mean anything from stalled vehicles and accidents, to materials on the roadway and activities resulting in rubbernecking. As a result, ESP personnel go through a month of intensive training, including basic first aid, CPR, fire and safety, light duty towing, defensive driving, and providing specific levels of assistance, including:

- Pushing vehicles off the roadway surface to safety
- Changing a flat tire
- Jump-starting a vehicle
- Unlocking a vehicle
- Providing a minimal supply of gas for vehicles needing fuel
- Calling a tow truck or emergency service
- Providing use of a phone to call AAA, loved ones or the office in case of extended delay
- Making small emergency repairs

NJDOT and ESP personnel serve as the eyes and ears of the region.

- Protecting a stranded vehicle and its occupants until help arrives
- Assisting NJ State Police by quickly clearing disabled vehicles from the road

The ESP service uses a dispatch system to report and/or respond to emergency calls. The dispatcher, located at NJDOT’s Southern District Traffic Operations Center in Cherry Hill, can also contact, or be contacted by, the NJ State Police, should their presence be needed. ESP personnel will not leave someone stranded with their car and, if they cannot fix the problem, will summon assistance and wait until that assistance has arrived. They may also transport the individual to a public location where they can stay safe and warm while their vehicle is being serviced.

Members Making A Difference
Thank you for your support!

Recent member renewals include:

- Burlington County
- Burlington County College
- Camden County
- L-3 Communications
- Township of Lumberton
- Township of Mount Laurel
- Rapid Rover
- Verizon

Where You’ll Find Us!

SCHOOLS
November 8, 2004  Zane-North School, Collingswood
November 19, 2004  Boudinot School, Burlington
November 23, 2004  Samuel Smith School, Burlington
December 14, 2004  Thomas Paine School, Cherry Hill
January 7, 2005  Hamilton School, Voorhees
January 13, 2005  Mark Newbie School, Collingswood
January 21, 2005  Hamilton School, Voorhees
January 25, 2005  Clara Barton School, Cherry Hill
January 27, 2005  Clara Barton School, Cherry Hill

Call (856)596-8228 for a copy of the Discovery Series newsletter, which gives an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at NJDOT’s Emergency Service Patrol.
Cross County Connection Was There

On September 23, the Southern New Jersey Chamber of Commerce welcomed 3,500 business people to their annual Business Expo, held at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill. Cross County Connection was there, providing information about our services to employers and commuters.

Cross County Connection organized the annual Commuter Expo for L-3 Communication East in Camden. Hundreds of employees visited the 16 participating vendors who dispensed information on the many forms of commute alternatives available. L-3 Communication actively encourages employees to make use of commute alternatives by staging this Expo annually, providing incentives to those reducing their commute mileage, and supplying transit and car/van pooling information in a central location.

Welcome Our Newest Member
Segway of Philadelphia

On September 15th, at the CCCTMA Members’ Appreciation Breakfast, Cross County Connection welcomed our newest member, Segway of Philadelphia (see photos on page 5), the exclusive Delaware Valley dealer of the Segway® Human Transporter (HT). The Segway® HT gives travelers the ability to move faster and carry more, so they can commute, shop, and run errands more efficiently while adding a little fun to the day.

CCCTMA will be demonstrating to interested municipalities, counties, and mass transit providers how the Segway® HT relates to bicycle and pedestrian access ways.

New Cross County Connection Publication

CCCTMA has completed the Bicycle Facilities Report that surveys, at the municipal and county level, commuter bicycle facilities in Burlington and Camden Counties. Twenty seven “Proposed Bicycle Facilities Recommended for Construction” and three “Bicycle Facility Improvement Areas” have been identified.

Bicycle facilities were mapped and ranked based on their proximity to commuter roadways, proximity to the number of nearby transit routes, proximity to business parks, estimated employment in business parks, and proximity to River LINE, PATCO and Atlantic City Rail Line Stations. Included in the Report are several “Next Steps” and “Funding Sources for Bicycle Facilities.”

The Bicycle Facilities Report will assist local governments in prioritizing their existing bicycle facilities and planning for the future. Cross County Connection will offer technical assistance to municipalities and counties that have “Proposed Facilities Recommended for Construction” and/or are located in the “Bicycle Facility Improvement Areas.” Local governments can utilize Cross County Connection’s technical resources, such as GIS analysis and grant writing assistance, to help implement the findings in this report.

The next Bicycle Facilities Report will be the municipal and county facilities in Gloucester and Atlantic Counties.

Benefits of Membership
Transportation Demand Management Reimbursement Grant Program

When our members initiate transportation demand measures in their organizations, we like to reward them. This annual program allows dues paying members to apply for reimbursement of up to 80% of their dues for TDM projects.

A sampling of projects that have received funding support from CCCTMA are: purchase of sidewalk bike racks, pedestrian amenities (upgraded signage, reflective striping at crosswalks and crosswalk barricades), transit information racks, trailblazer signs, replacement of bus shelters, bicycle racks for shuttle buses, bus stop benches, installation of new sidewalks, telecommuting equipment assistance, and more. Supporting the implementation of these projects furthers CCCTMA’s goal of improving mobility in the region.

Another Cross County Connection member advantage.

We Can Help Your Employees Get To Work

When workers are having problems commuting to work, employers in Southern New Jersey can turn to Cross County Connection to develop transportation solutions.

A Gloucester County employer relocated recently from Philadelphia, and asked Cross County Connection for assistance in getting their employees to the new worksite. Several hundred employee home addresses were mapped to help identify from what locations employees were commuting. Once those common areas were identified, we could then set up vanpools, carpools, and promote specific public transit routes for employees’ trip to work. This process can be done for any company using a list of addresses, no names are needed. Mapping can also be done with only the employee home zip code, if necessary.

Another employer in Camden County asked us to perform a similar analysis, but this time to help identify public transit for those who live close to work. We helped alert their employees to the transportation available, and implemented a reduced cost monthly transit pass purchase program.

If your company is experiencing commuting problems of any kind, call us at (856) 596-8228. We’ll be glad to meet with you and recommend solutions tailored to your particular problems.
Welcome our New Caring Commuter Merchants

Caring Commuters are entitled to discounts at local participating merchants because they regularly use modes of alternate transportation. Discount services include restaurants, dry cleaners, automotive services, recreational activities and more. For a complete list of our Caring Commuter merchants, visit our website at: www.transportationchoices.com.

Art & Soul Hair Design & Boutique
518 Howard Street
Riverton, NJ (856)303-1333
$5 off any service—all offers are for first time customers with participating stylist only.

Auntie Anne’s
Trump Taj Mahal
1000 Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ (609)344-3565
10% off total purchase.

Bennigan’s Grill and Tavern
1102 S. Route 73
Mt. Laurel, NJ (856)235-4190
10% off total bill—excludes tax, gratuity, and alcohol.

Chick-fil-A
400 Haddonfield Road
Cherry Hill, NJ (856)488-1600
Burlington Center Mall
2501 Burlington-Mt. Holly Rd.
Burlington, NJ (609)386-7849
1301 Fairview and Route 130 N
Delran, NJ (856)764-0765
Free Chick-fil-A sandwich with purchase of a large fry and large drink.

Daydreams Gift Shop
1 East Scott Street
Riverside, NJ (856)461-7510
5% off selected merchandise. In stock merchandise only. Certain restrictions apply.

Elanza & Company Antiques & Treasures
223 High Street
Burlington, NJ (267)718-8084
10% off purchases over $10.

The Grayson Flower Shop
5 E. Broad Street
Palmyra, NJ (856)829-0397
10% off all products. Local orders only, not valid during holidays.

The Heirloomery
225 High Street
Burlington, NJ (609)386-9100
10% off total purchase.

Lila Custom Creations
531 Main Street
Riverton, NJ (856)786-8811
10% off entire purchase.

Mackenzie’s Family Karate
200 White Horse Road
Voorhees, NJ 856-346-1111
Free 30 day VIP introductory program. $100 discount off the regular one-time academy registration fee. 20% discount for members who decide to pay their membership in full.

The New Leaf
Gift Shop & Tea Room
606 Main Street
Riverton, NJ (856)786-0323
10% off total purchase.

Odds and Trends Gifts
738 Haddon Avenue
Collingswood, NJ (856)854-4827
10% off merchandise.

Soupy’s
114 White Horse Road
Voorhees, NJ (856)346-1221
$1 off any combo, soup or salad.

Starbucks Coffee
Trump Plaza
2225 Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ (609)441-2630
The Market Place at Tropicana
2881 Brighton Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ (609)345-1313
8005 Ventnor Avenue
Margate, NJ (609)487-8898
10% off total purchase.

Stop ‘N’ Stitch
11 Lafayette Street
Riverside, NJ (609)461-8600
5% off total purchase. Limited to store stock.

The Treehouse Coffee Shop, LLC
690 Haddon Ave.
Collingswood, NJ (856)833-0060
10% off any purchase of $5 or more.

Victorian Thymes
600 Main Street- Suite 2 & 3
Riverton, NJ (856)829-0620
15% off total purchase.

Vienna Bagel Café
112 White Horse Road
Voorhees, NJ (856)435-5995
Buy 1 dozen bagels and get ½ pound of cream cheese free.
Dear Riki,

While I was driving on Route 73, I saw a sign for a “safe corridor” and that fines were doubled in that area. Ouch! What is a safe corridor? Thanks!

A Concerned Speeder

Dear Speedy,

Ouch is right, darling. Not only are fines doubled in Safe Corridor areas, but if you are caught driving on the shoulder, an eight point penalty will be issued. While I understand the plight of the speeder (can we help it if movies like *Top Gun* have filled us with the “need for speed”?), safe corridors were designed to protect us on some of New Jersey’s most dangerous roads which, anyone who has maneuvered the Marlton Circle can tell you, qualifies Route 73 for inclusion.

The Safe Corridor for Route 73 runs from Voorhees to Maple Shade (mileposts 20 to 30) and was designated based on the accident rates, number of fatal accidents, and traffic volume. For more information on safe corridors and other roads that are affected, call our office at (856) 596-8228.

Cautiously yours,

Riki

Riki,

I live in south Jersey, and driving to New York is a killer commute. Can you recommend a better way than using the turnpike?

New York Bound

Dear Bound,

It sounds like you’ve been stuck in too much traffic on the NJ Turnpike. I have great news for you. Last March the Southern New Jersey Light Rail, the River LINE, started running to Trenton. You can catch it at any number of stops including Camden, Palmyra, and Burlington City. Once in Trenton it’s only a quick walk to the Northeast Corridor Line which runs into New York City. Call me or go to our website at www.transportationchoices.com if you want schedules. No longer does your commute have to be killer on anything but a lack of sleep.

Yours in the fight against traffic,

Riki

GETTING around

Have To Drive? Here Are Some Wet-Weather Driving Tips

The combination of rain, fog, and early darkness in winter causes thousands of car accidents every year. Here are a few common-sense driving tips to help you avoid wet-weather accidents.

**Drive Slowly**

Remember that the stopping ability of any vehicle is reduced on slick pavement, so whenever you’re driving on wet road surfaces, reduce your speed accordingly and allow at least 50% more following distance behind the car in front of you. Drive the speed limit or slightly less than the limit in rainy weather. Nearly 1/3 of all vehicle crash fatalities result from speeding.

**Keep Control**

Maintain a smooth, even acceleration while traveling on slick pavement. Sudden braking can cause loss of vehicle control. Taking your foot off the accelerator quickly can have the same effect as sudden braking.

**Know What To Do If Your Car Starts To Hydroplane Or Slide**

Hydroplaning occurs when standing water on a road surface is deeper than the tread depth of your tires, causing the tires to lose contact with the road. If this happens, do *not* apply the brakes. Ease back on the accelerator until contact between the tires and the road surface is restored. Hard braking can cause the loss of vehicle control. When stopping on slippery pavement, pump brakes lightly and hold the steering wheel firmly. Apply steering only when your foot is off the brake pedal.

Take Care Of Your Car

Always ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy! Carefully check your vehicle’s cooling system, brakes, belts, tires, hoses, exhaust system and fluid levels both during the rainy season and before heading on long road trips.

In wet weather, brakes get damp and lose their effectiveness. Keep them dry and ready for instant use by lightly riding the brake pedal for several seconds and at regular intervals during wet weather driving. The heat produced by riding the pedal will dry the brake lining.

Have your vehicle’s braking system inspected periodically, at least once a year. The only way to ensure safe braking is to have the entire system inspected regularly by a qualified mechanic.

**Stay Alert**

Always stay alert and drive defensively, especially since, in rainy weather, even the slightest mistake or hesitation can lead to a bad accident. When traveling long distances, allow time for frequent breaks for rest, snacks, and exercise.

Follow the rules of the road and respect other motorists. Usually, bad or rainy weather can lead a driver to be more nervous and/or emotional. Stay calm and focused on safe driving rules and techniques.
Cross County Connection held its annual breakfast at The Mansion in Voorhees. A special presentation highlighted our newest member, Segway of Philadelphia, and led to an animated Q&A discussion. Following the breakfast, guest speaker, James P. Redeker, NJ TRANSIT Assistant Executive Director for Policy, Technology and Customer Service, spoke about his experiences working in transportation.

Segway of Philadelphia provided a look into the future of personal transportation. Jim Coughlin, Segway, and Mike Foti and Scott Reagan, Segway of Philadelphia, offered test rides to the audience.

Guests gather before the program begins at The Mansion, Voorhees.
Give us a brake!
Improving worker and driver safety in highway work zones

Highway work zones and areas of road construction have become a regular part of daily driving, impacting your commutes or family vacations. However, these work zones are necessary for maintaining our roads. Work zone fatalities have increased 55% from 1997 to 2002, with motorists accounting for 4 out of 5 fatalities in a work zone. It’s your safety in jeopardy, not just the workers.

Systems are being implemented to make construction zones safer for both construction workers and motorists, but these systems work only if motorists do their part. Give us a brake—take your time, pay attention, and drive safely the next time you see orange signs on the road!

10 Tips for Safe Driving in Work Zones:

1) Expect the unexpected.
   Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.

2) Slow down.
   Observe the work zone speed limit.

3) Don’t tailgate. Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you.

4) Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the construction workers and their equipment.

5) Pay attention to the signs.
   Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you’ve left the work zone.

6) Obey road crew flaggers.
   A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.

7) Stay alert and minimize distractions.
   Avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone.

8) Keep up with the traffic flow.
   Merge as soon as possible. Don’t drive right up to the lane closure and then try to barge in.

9) Check radio, TV and websites for traffic information.
   Expect delays and leave early so that you can reach your destination on time.

10) Be patient and stay calm.
   The work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.

Give us a brake!
Improving worker and driver safety in highway work zones

The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. Leave two car lengths between you and the car in front of you.

Work zone fatalities have increased 55% between 1997 and 2002