



## e-Connections



September 2015

# New Bus Service to Mercer County Community College



Photo credit: mccc.edu

Starting this Fall, students attending the Mercer County Community College in West Windsor have a new transportation option to get to campus. The new MCCC bus makes connections between the college and NJ Transit bus routes at Quaker Bridge Mall. The new MCCC bus operates Monday – Friday and it is free. At this time only students attending MCCC can ride the bus. Details available at mccc.edu

[http://www.mccc.edu/student\\_services\\_shuttle.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/student_services_shuttle.shtml)

The work for this new bus service started a year ago when Greater Mercer TMA developed a plan that recommended using Quaker Bridge Mall as a connection point and prepared information on connections to and from the MCCC bus and NJ TRANSIT buses. It was noted that the new bus could also benefit the residents of a number of apartment complexes in the immediate area.

Greater Mercer TMA staff had the opportunity to meet with students on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and received positive feedback on the new service. "It is extremely rewarding to know we were able to assist the students by proposing the connection

## Updates

**The NJ Walking School Bus App is Available for Download**

[Demo Video available here](#)

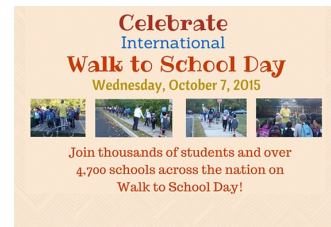
It's Back to School and the New Jersey Walking School Bus App is officially launched! Parents have a new tool to help them easily organize walking groups.



Available in for Mercer County and at select Ocean County schools.

**International Walk to School Day**

at Quaker Bridge Mall. Access to education is vitally important," said Cheryl Kastrenakes GMTMA Executive Director. Kastrenakes also encouraged students to call the TMA for route planning assistance, "we have the resources to help students plan their bus trips. They can call our customer service office or send an email to [tma@gmtma.org](mailto:tma@gmtma.org) with their schedule and home address for us to prepare a personalized transportation itinerary for them."



International Walk to School Day is a global event scheduled for October 7, 2015. In the U.S. more than 4700 schools participated last year, from all 50 states.

GMTMA, as the Safe Routes to School coordinator, can assist schools interested in participating in this event.

For details go to [gmtma.org](http://gmtma.org)



[To RSVP, click here](#)

## The Positive Impact of Bike Lockers



The bike locker program is one of the ways that NJ TRANSIT supports a multi-modal approach to accessing transit. As the manager of the bike locker program at Princeton Junction, Hamilton and Point Pleasant, we at GMTMA wanted to learn more about the importance of the lockers to our renters and measure the impact of the lockers on the environment and on choosing to bike. A survey was sent to all of our renters. Below are some of the results.

### Bicyclist Information

More than half of respondents (55.56%) have rented their lockers for three or more years

with over 35% renting five or more years.

58% of the renters drove alone or were dropped off by car prior to renting a bike locker.

The survey also asked for the respondents to choose the main factors that influence their decision to bike to the rail station. They were asked to choose up to three reasons. The three main reasons reported for riding were:

1. For exercise, 60%

2. Availability of bike locker, 44.44%
3. Environmentally friendly option, 35.6%.

Over 73% of all respondents used the bike lockers for the majority of the work week. 33% still rode three or more days per week in the winter. The average distance that the riders biked to the station was 2.5 miles.

### Environmental Impact

When we calculated the impact of the 88 lockers rented, we found that each week **1320** vehicle miles were saved, or **68,640** miles each year. According to the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, these vehicle miles saved translate into a reduction of **30,967** pounds of coal burned, 4 home's electricity for one year, annual CO2 emissions from 67 barrels of oil, or the carbon sequestered by 23.6 acres of forest in the United States per year.

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## NJ Transit Bus and Rail Service Adjustments

### Changes to the 600 Bus Routes Starting This Month

NJ TRANSIT announced earlier this month minor adjustments to its bus and rail operations.

Perhaps the change that has the most impact in our area is the elimination of the 655 bus route that provided service between Princeton and Plainsboro. NJ TRANSIT has incorporated some of 655 routing in the Plainsboro to the existing 600 bus route. The 655 bus route major trip generator was the hospital for Princeton residents. Tiger Transit's Forrestal/PPPL line has been rerouted to provide service from the Palmer Square kiosk to allow residents to easily access service to the hospital. Tiger Transit is a free service that is open to the public to ride.

Also changing:



- **NEC Train service** – Upcoming holiday service added to the timetable and few train adjustments
- **603/613** – one change in Sunday departure at Mercer Mall
- **608** – one change in weekday departure time from Trenton Transit Center
- **609/619** – two minor changes to weekday departure times

New schedules available here: [NEC train schedule](#), [600](#), [603/613](#), [608](#), [609/619](#).

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## What's Happening This Month?

1. [Surgeon General's Call to Action](#) - #StepItUp is a new campaign designed to promote walking and improve walking conditions in communities across U.S.
2. [September 22, Car Free Day](#) – people around the world go without the car for one day.
3. [Parking Day](#) – on the third Friday in September, parking spaces are temporarily turned into public spaces.

4. [Healthy Aging Month](#) – focusing on the positive aspects of getting older and the steps to take to improve quality of life.
  5. [National Childhood Obesity Month](#) – raising awareness about the high rates of obesity and chronic disease among young children and adolescents in U.S.
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