

Happy Earth Day!



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April 22, 2016, marks the 46th anniversary of Earth Day — a day to raise awareness for the environment. Here are some Earth Day facts to inspire your commute:

26 minutes. Estimated average time workers age 16 and older across the country spent getting to work in 2014, up from 25.8 minutes in 2013 and 25.7 minutes in 2012. Source: [2014 American Community Survey](#)

32.3 and 32.6 minutes. Estimated average time workers age 16 and older in Maryland and New York spent getting to work in 2014, the longest commute time in the nation. Source: [2014 American Community Survey](#)

16.7. Estimated average time workers age 16 and older in South Dakota spent getting to work in 2014, the shortest one-way commute time in the nation. Source: [2014 American Community Survey](#)

904,463. Estimated number of people who rode a bicycle to work in 2014. This comes out to about 0.6 percent of the American workforce. Source: [2014 American Community Survey](#)



4,011,094. Estimated number of people who walked to work in 2014. This comes out to about 2.7 percent of the American workforce. Source: [2014 American Community Survey](#)
Source: Transportation TDM Digest



Bike to Work Week Registration is Open



May is Bike Month, and May 16-20 is Bike to Work Week. Registration for the event is open on GMTMA's website, www.gmtma.org. The first 150 registrants will receive a free Bike to Work t-shirt. After the week is up, all registrants who log their miles on GMTMA's website will automatically be entered into a drawing to win one of the terrific prizes provided by Bike to Work Week's long time sponsors: **Hart's Cyclery, Knapps Cyclery, McCaffrey's Supermarket, Whole Earth Center, Kopp's Cycle, St. Lawrence Rehab Center, Sourland Cycles, Halters Cycles, and REI Princeton.**

"Bike Month and Bike to Work Week is a great time to acknowledge and show support for the growing number of people who have already discovered that biking is a practical and fun way to travel, and to encourage others to give it a try," said Cheryl Kastrenakes, GMTMA's Executive Director. "Most people love to bike recreationally but don't necessarily think of their bike for transportation—and we'd love to see that change."

Other GMTMA promotions during Bike to Work Week are the [Employer Bike Challenge](#) for groups of fellow employees who want to compete with other teams, the [Visions of Bicycling](#) photo contest, and [Swap a Ride](#) for people who can't bike to work, but replace as many car trips as possible with bike trips. Participants in these promotions are also entered into the prize drawing.

First "Step into Spring" Winners

Congratulations to the first "Step into Spring" contest winners. This Hopewell group of parents used the NJ Walking School Bus App to organize walks to/from school with their children. Greater Mercer TMA would like to thank Heidi Willenius, Jed and Sarah Kornbluh for being the parents who organized groups and David Friedrich, Hopewell Elementary principal for his support.

GMTMA Safe Routes to School Coordinators were there to congratulate them and bring reflective umbrellas and pedometers for the winners.



There are more prizes to win during the "Step into Spring. Ready, Set, Win!" contest which will end June 4, 2016. The drawing for the big prize will take place June 6, 2016. Participating in the contest is easy, just download the NJ Walking School Bus and create or join a walk. Every time parents and their children walk to/from school they get entered to win great prizes.

Details at <http://www.gmtma.org/pg-schools-walking-school-bus-app.php>

Former Amtrak Official Appointed NJ Transit Executive Director

Former Amtrak chief of operations, William Crosbie, was named NJ Transit Executive Director said nj.com. Crosbie's previous experience includes various positions at the Toronto Transit Commission, was a vice-president at Parsons, and recently was CEO of Systra USA. For the last few months, NJ Transit had an interim director, Dennis Martin, who was appointed last year after Veronique Hakim left NJ Transit.

New Point Pleasant Bike Tool Station



On April 6, 2016, officials from Greater Mercer TMA, NJ Transit, and Mayor Stephen Reid unveiled a bike tool station at the Point Pleasant Beach Rail Station.

Conveniently located on the east side of the station, next to the ticket machine and bike racks, the tool station enables cyclists to easily fill their tires and make quick fixes to their bikes, such as changing a flat tire or adjusting the brakes.

"Bicycling is part of the culture in NJ shore communities, important to both visitors and residents alike," said Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director of Greater Mercer TMA. "We wanted to show our support for the biking community and encourage more people to choose biking as a way to access the station."

Kastrenakes added that the presence of bicycling infrastructure makes it easier for people to choose biking as a way to get around.

"We are delighted that Greater Mercer TMA was able to use its resources for the tool station and are looking forward to working together to make Point Pleasant Beach a better biking community," said Mayor Stephen Reid.

The device was paid for by Greater TMA and installed by NJ Transit.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April 8-13, 2016 law enforcement began crack down on motorists who text while driving. In New Jersey, police departments will ticket anyone using a mobile phone improperly. Fines range from \$200 for a first offense to \$800, motor vehicle points and possible license suspension for a third offense. More information available at state.nj.us and distraction.gov. Drive safe, be safe!

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