



Travel Training Transit 101

NJTIP @ Rutgers

*Expanding Mobility
for People with Disabilities and Seniors*

A Program of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC)



**RUTGERS—NEW BRUNSWICK
Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy**

NJTIP @ Rutgers

NJTIP Mission:

NJTIP @ Rutgers increases the independence and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, older adults and others by empowering them to use the public transit system safely and independently.

Over 16,000 people have been directly trained by NJTIP, so far! - January 2026

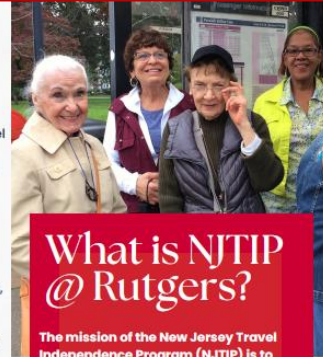
What is Travel Instruction?

Travel Instruction teaches people how to travel safely and independently using public transportation such as buses, trains, light rail, community transportation, and ride-share systems. NJTIP training is available online on many platforms and offered onboard many modes of transportation.

NJTIP customers learn how to read bus and train schedules, plan their trips, pay their fares, and take safety precautions when traveling.

After completing their training, our customers can travel on their own to reach work or school, shopping malls, and medical appointments, to visit friends and family, or go to other places they enjoy.

NJTIP Travel Instructors are seasoned professionals with experience in teaching, special education, and assisting individuals with a broad range of disabilities.



What is NJTIP @ Rutgers?

The mission of the New Jersey Travel Independence Program (NJTIP) is to increase the independence and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, older adults and others by empowering them to use the public transit system safely and independently.

In 2013 NJTIP merged with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), a national leader in transportation research and education at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Since 2005, NJTIP has worked with government agencies, community agencies, schools, and other organizations to teach travel skills to more than 15,000 individuals.

© 1/2023 NJTIP @ Rutgers



NJTIP @ RUTGERS

**TRAVEL INSTRUCTION FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AND OLDER ADULTS**

New Jersey Travel Independence Program at
the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



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Introductions

- First name
- Ways you have traveled using public transit



What is Travel Training?



Individual and Group

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Individual Travel Training

NJTIP @ Rutgers provides training to individuals with disabilities, who need to learn how to get to a job, go to school, and many other locations using public transit.



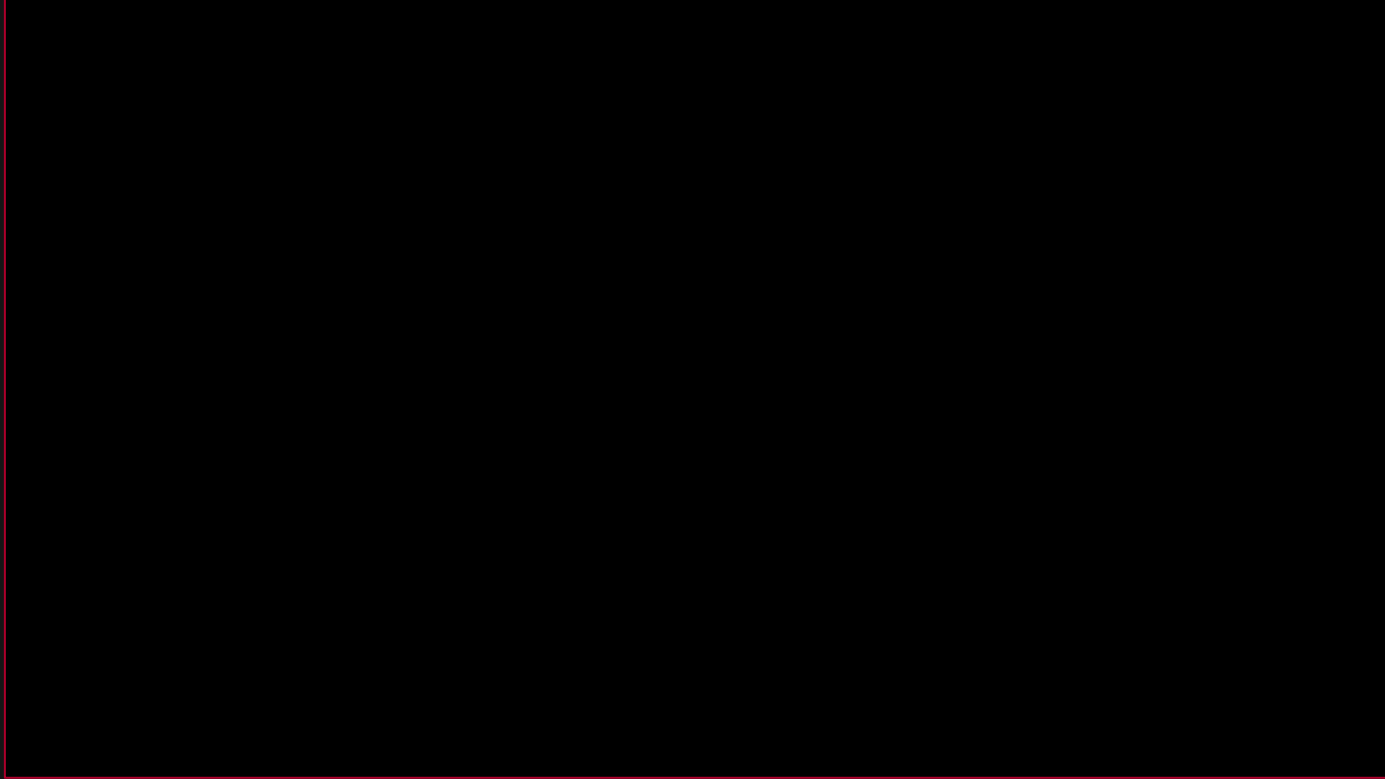
Group Travel Training

NJTIP @ Rutgers also provides training to small groups of students who are in school or are part of a life skills/job-training program.



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Arthur Traveling Home



Lessons from Arthur's video:

- Arthur learned how to ride two buses to his job!
- Arthur used his phone to check when his bus was coming and to pay his bus fare.
- Arthur is now independent! He travels to work by himself!

Could you learn how to independently use the bus???

YES!!

What is Transit?



Public and Private options in New Jersey

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Transit Options In New Jersey

- Local Bus
- Interstate Bus
- Train
- Light Rail
- Subway (PATH)
- Shuttles
- Paratransit
- Ferries
- Taxis
- UBER/LYFT/Ryde4Life



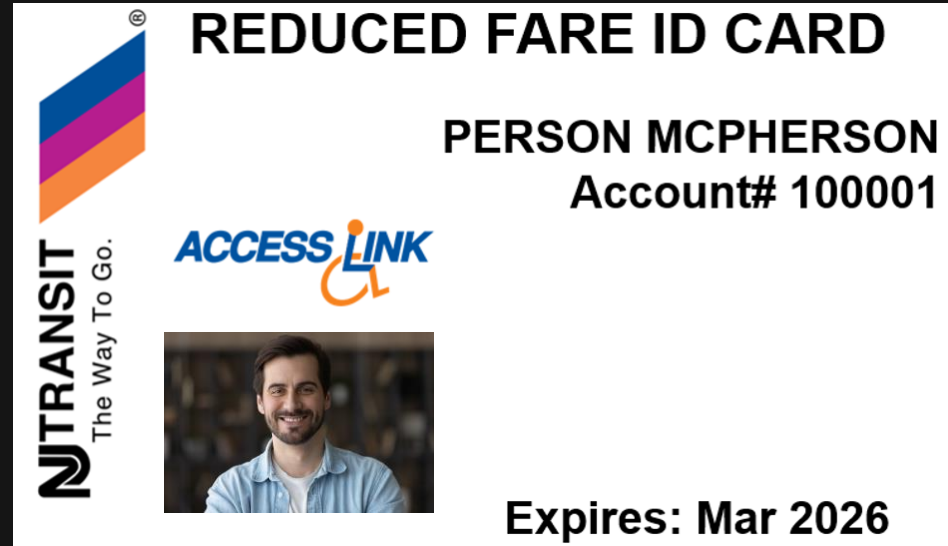
Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

NJ TRANSIT – Reduced Fare Program

- 50% off - save you money!
- People with Disabilities
- Seniors over Age 62
- Travel any time
- Reduced Fare ID or
- Medicare card or
- Proof of age (for seniors)

For information on the Reduced Fare Program call:

- (973) 491-7112, Mon.- Fri., 8:45am to 4:15pm



Photos courtesy of NJ TRANSIT.
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NJ TRANSIT Buses



The What, Where, and How of Using NJ TRANSIT
Buses

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What is NJ TRANSIT Bus?

- Local Bus



- Interstate Bus



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

Where can I find an NJ TRANSIT bus?



At a bus stop!

Is there a bus stop close to your school or home?

Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

How do I ride NJ TRANSIT bus?

- Plan your trip
 - Bus route
 - Bus stop location
 - When the bus comes
- Have bus fare ready
- Get on and ride the bus
- Request your stop
- Get off the bus



Bus Accessibility Features – Kneeling feature & Lift

- 100% of NJ TRANSIT buses are accessible
- You MUST ASK for the lift to be deployed and for the bus to kneel.



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.



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Bus Schedules

Bus Point-to-Point

PARK & RIDES / TERMINALS / TRANSIT CENTERS

TOWNS

Origin

Park & Rides / Terminals / Transit Centers

Depart At

Destination

Park & Rides / Terminals / Transit Centers

02/14/2024

6:07 PM

GET MY ITINERARY

☐ Accessible

Download PDF Schedules

To view bus timetables in PDF format, select the bus route number below.

TIP: To quickly jump to your bus route, click the selector box below and type the route number.

Bus Routes

Select Bus Route

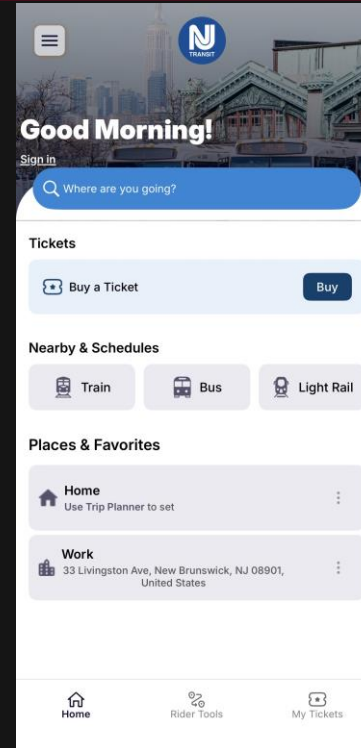


Image Credit: *a bit More Fun*
from Jeff on ebay

What do you do?

- When standing at a bus stop and your bus is approaching?



Hailing the Bus

- You must wave, or **hail**, the bus when it is approaching
- This lets the bus operator know you want the bus to stop



Ways to pay your fare

MOBILE APP



Download the free NJ TRANSIT App to purchase tickets and receive real-time service updates.

TAP & RIDE



Simply tap your payment card or phone on the payment scanner and let the driver know how many zones you plan to travel. Video tutorial coming soon!

TICKET VENDING MACHINE (TVM)



TVMs are available at most bus terminals and some rail and light rail stations which connect with bus routes. Cash, credit cards, and debit cards from all major service providers are accepted.

TICKET OFFICE



Ticket offices can be found at most major bus terminals and rail stations. Click [HERE](#) to check ticket office hours and availability.

COMMISSIONED TICKET AGENT (CTA)



Some private retail businesses sell our bus tickets and passes on our agency's behalf. To locate a CTA near you, please click [HERE](#).



Cash

- Exact change
(on local bus)
- Bills and coins



Tickets

- Single ride ticket

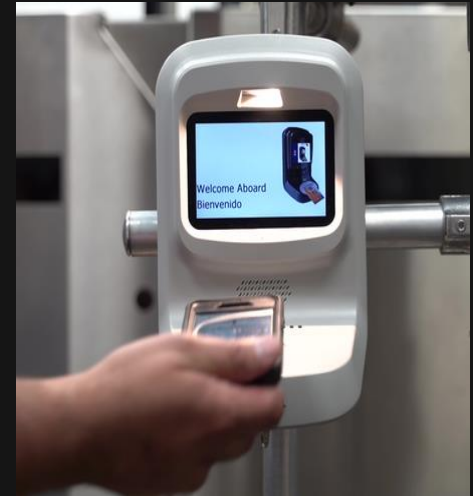
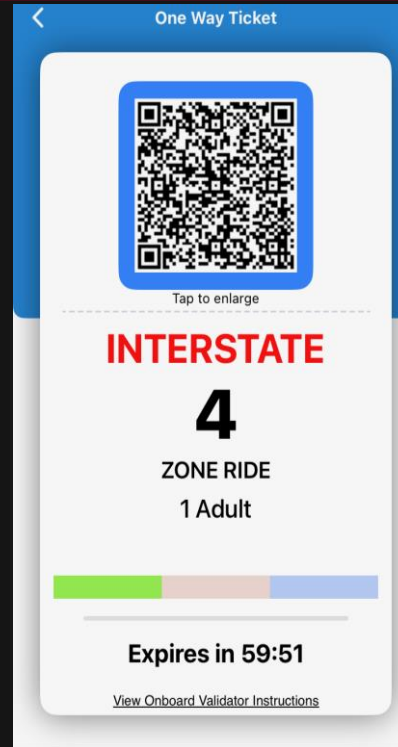
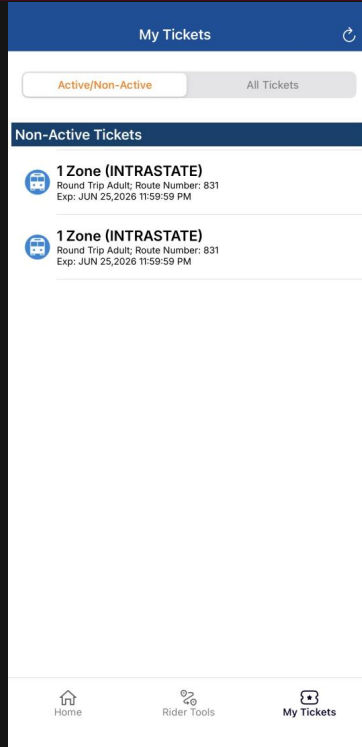
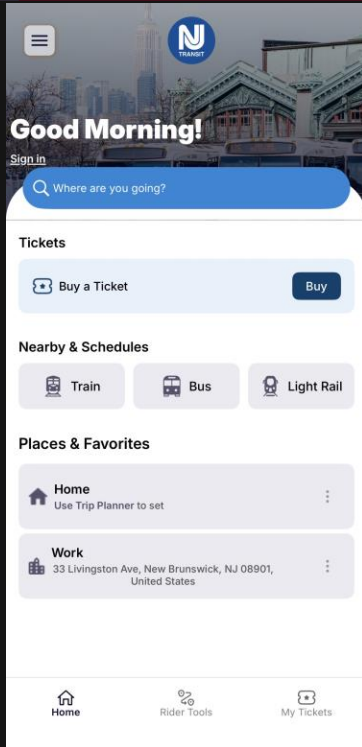


- Monthly pass



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

NJ TRANSIT App



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

NJ TRANSIT- Tap, Scan, Ride



**Tap
Scan
Ride**

The fastest way to a faster trip.



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NJ TRANSIT Fare-Pay Card

- Tap and go card
- Accepted on all buses and light rail lines
- Load cash value, monthly pass, or 10-trip
- Reload at TVM or select retail locations
- Register to an account



Tell Driver Your Destination

- Cross Streets
- Closest Timepoint
- Name of Landmark

Inform the driver if you would like your stop announced



Requesting your stop

- Press the yellow tape BEFORE you arrive to request your stop
 - Or pull the yellow cord



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

Other stop request buttons

- Some buses have a **red** button you can press
 - Local buses – near the back door
 - Interstate buses – on the ceiling
- Some buses also have an **orange** button



“



*Get off once the bus fully stops!
Make sure to watch your step.*



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What have we learned so far?

Is it free to ride NJ TRANSIT buses free?

No.

- » NJ TRANSIT buses cost money. The longer you travel the more money it costs.

Can anyone ride NJ TRANSIT buses, including people in wheelchairs?

Yes!

- » All NJ TRANSIT buses are accessible. Everyone can ride the bus!

Can you use your phone to pay your bus fare?

Yes! You can pay with:

- » Cash and/or coins
- » Paper ticket
- » Monthly paper pass
- » Digital pass or ticket

Questions about the bus?



NJ TRANSIT Rail



The What, Where, and How of Using NJ TRANSIT Rail

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Ten NJ TRANSIT rail lines

- All have unique colors & icons
- Morristown Line
- Gladstone Branch
- Northeast Corridor
- North Jersey Coast
- Pascack Valley Line
- Raritan Valley Line
- Bergen Line
- Main Line
- Atlantic City Line
- Montclair Boonton Line



Accessibility

- Many train stations are accessible
 - Around half so far
 - Making more accessible
- International Symbol of Access

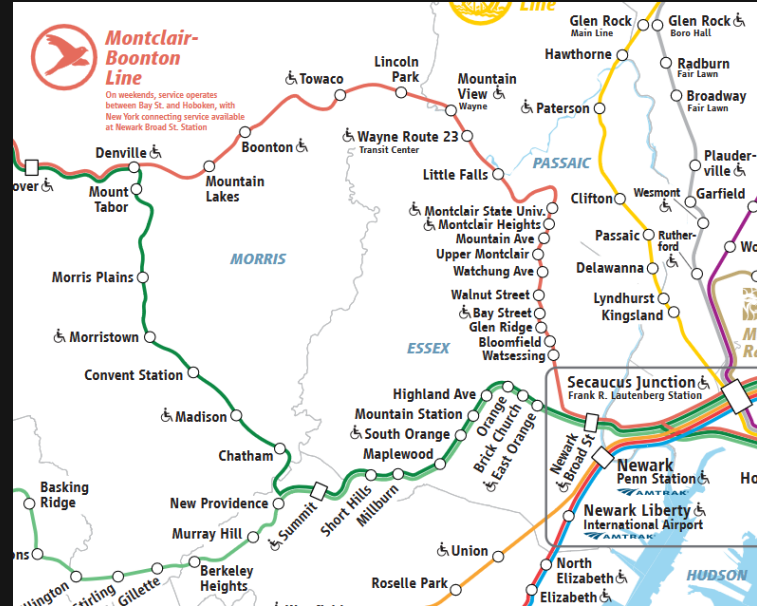


Photo courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

Rail station accessibility

- Ramps, elevators
- Mobi-Lift (some stations)
- Detectable warning edge on platform
- Bridge plate to close the gap
- Announcements (cancelled, delayed, x minutes away, arrival)



Bridge plate photo
courtesy of NJ
TRANSIT. All rights
reserved.

Rail on-board accessibility

- Priority seating near doors
- Displays
 - Exterior
 - Train number
 - Direction
 - Interior display
 - Train number
 - Next stop
- Announcements
 - Next stop



Rail fare

- Train ticket – give/show to conductor when asked
- Fare calculated based on origin and destination
- The further the distance, the more expensive the fare



Buying rail ticket

- Paper tickets
 - Ticket agent at a ticket office
 - Ticket vending machine (TVM)
- Can pay with cash or card

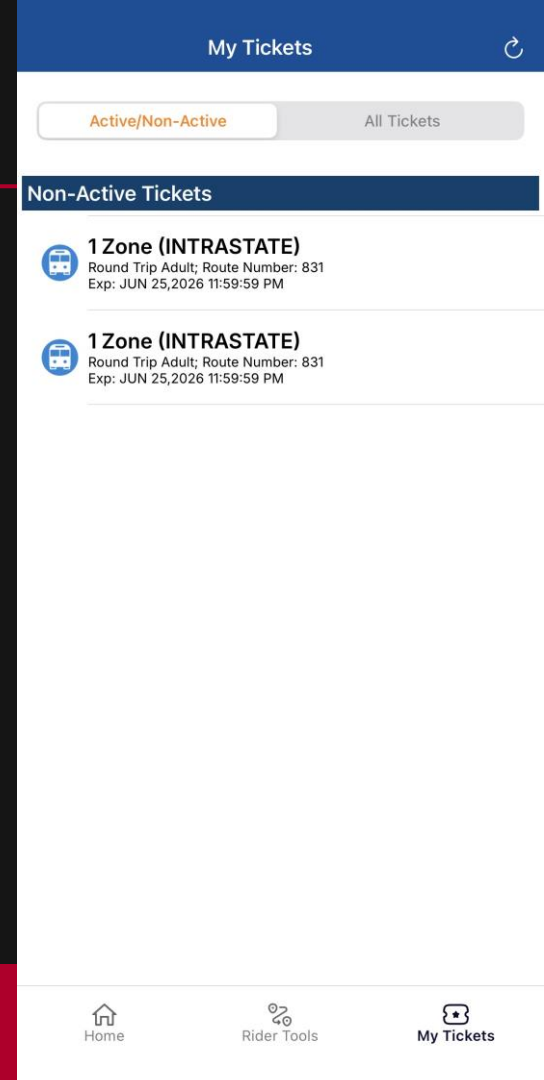
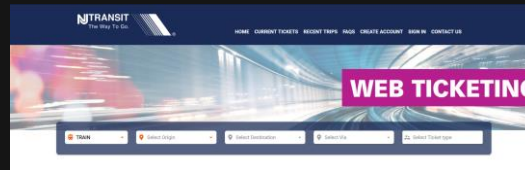
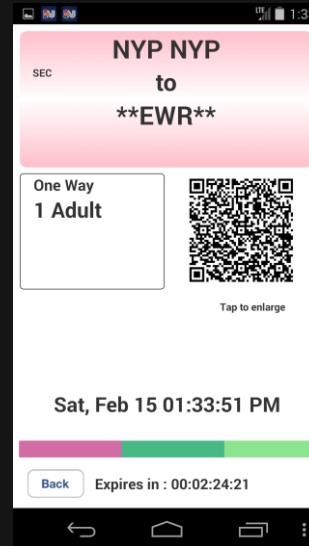


Photo courtesy of NJ TRANSIT.
All rights reserved.



Buying digital train tickets

- Digital ticket on the NJ TRANSIT App
- Web ticketing
 - Buy ticket on NJ TRANSIT site
 - Print or generate bar code



CAUTION – Have your tickets prepared before boarding!

- You can buy tickets onboard the train from a conductor, BUT:
 - There is a \$5 surcharge unless there's no agent or TVM at the station
 - Can't pay with bills more than \$20
 - *There is no surcharge with a Reduced Fare Card*

Finding out rail times

- DepartureVision
- Schedule – digital versions also on NJT website



DepartureVision

Check upcoming departures and statuses for our rail and light rail services.



Rail



Light Rail

Please select a station to view upcoming rail service departures, along with their status, capacity, and boarding information.

Rail Departures

Get Departures →

System Status

[Check All Alerts](#)

Train & Light Rail

Bus

	Raritan Valley		Alert
	Newark Light Rail		On Time
	Main-Bergen County		On Time
	Montclair-Boonton		On Time
	Morris & Essex		On Time
	North Jersey Coast		On Time
	Northeast Corridor		On Time



Questions about rail?



NJ TRANSIT Light Rail



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Light Rail

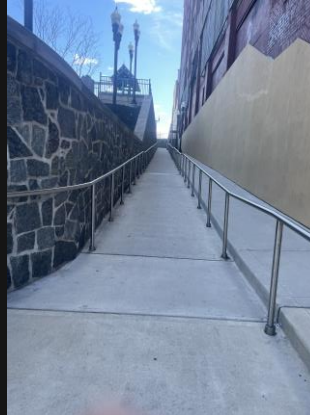
- NJ TRANSIT operates 3 Light Rail Systems
 - Hudson-Bergen Light Rail
 - Newark Light Rail
 - The River Line



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

Light rail accessibility

- Most of the light rail stations are accessible
 - Ramps, elevators
 - Detectable warning edge on platform
 - Announcements (on light rail arrival)



Light rail on-board accessibility

- Priority seating near doors
- Displays
 - Exterior
 - Direction
 - Interior display
 - Direction
 - Next stop
- Announcements
 - Direction
 - Next stop
 - Doors closing warning



Light rail fare

- Cost depends on which light rail line you are on
 - Not determined by distance (unlike bus and train fares)



Image credit: Stewart Mader

Paying the light rail fare

- Paper tickets
- Buy at ticket vending machine (TVM)
 - ▣ Pay with cash or card



Ticket image credit: Stewart Mader



Digital light rail tickets

- Digital ticket on the NJ TRANSIT app
 - Valid **3 minutes after activation**
- Tickets only valid for 60 min on Newark and Hudson-Bergen Lines
 - 75 min on River Line

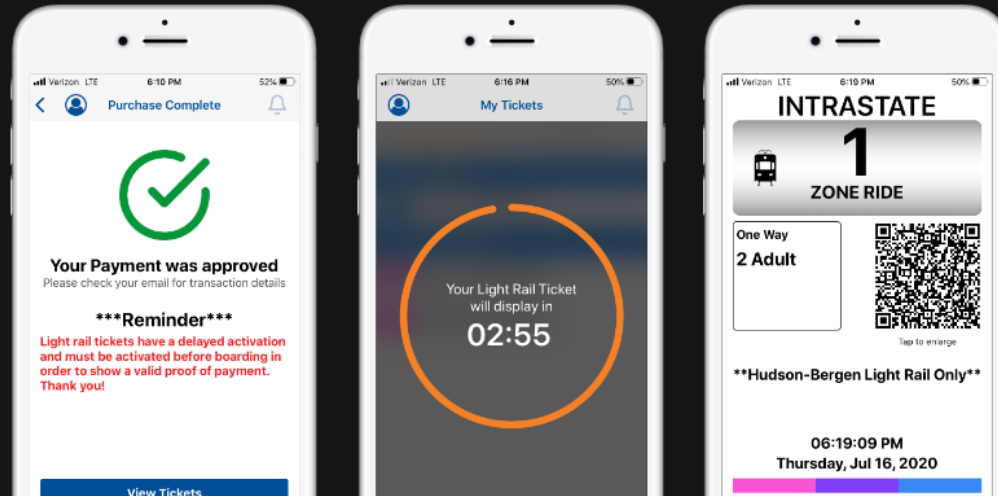


Image credit: Stewart Mader

Validate Your Paper Ticket

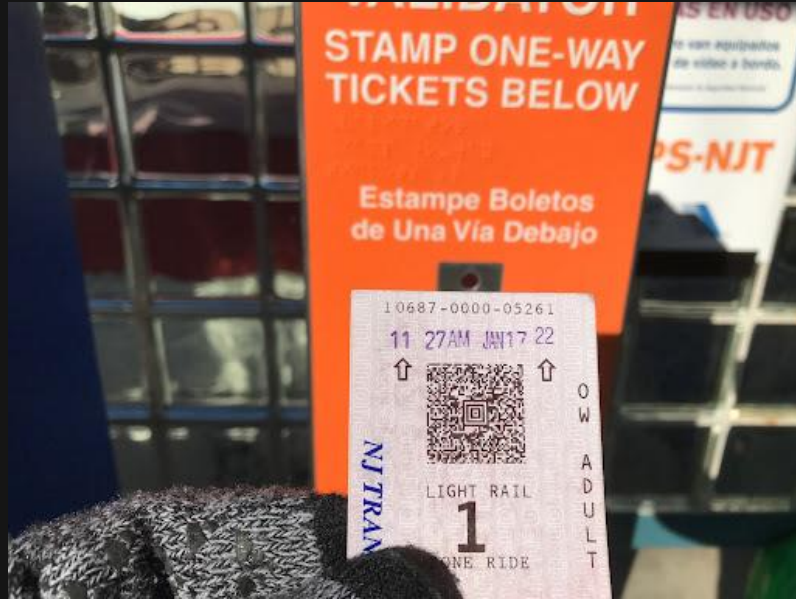


Image credit: nj.com

Hand Ticket to Fare Enforcement Officer

- Riding without a validated ticket can result in a fine up to \$100
- Fare Enforcement Officers periodically check tickets



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

Questions about the light rail?



Other transit options



Paratransit and other local options

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ADA Complementary Paratransit Requirement



- Transit agencies nationwide, like NJ TRANSIT, must provide paratransit services for people with disabilities who cannot use fixed route transit services.
- In NJ, this NJ TRANSIT service is called **Access Link**

For **Access Link** Information:
973-491-4224 or
adaservices@njtransit.com



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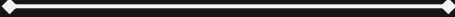
NJ TRANSIT Access Link

- Public transportation
- Mirrors local fixed bus routes (3/4 mile)
- Curb to curb
- Shared ride
- Eligibility process
- Access Link App



Photos Courtesy of NJ TRANSIT. All rights reserved.

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Other local transit options



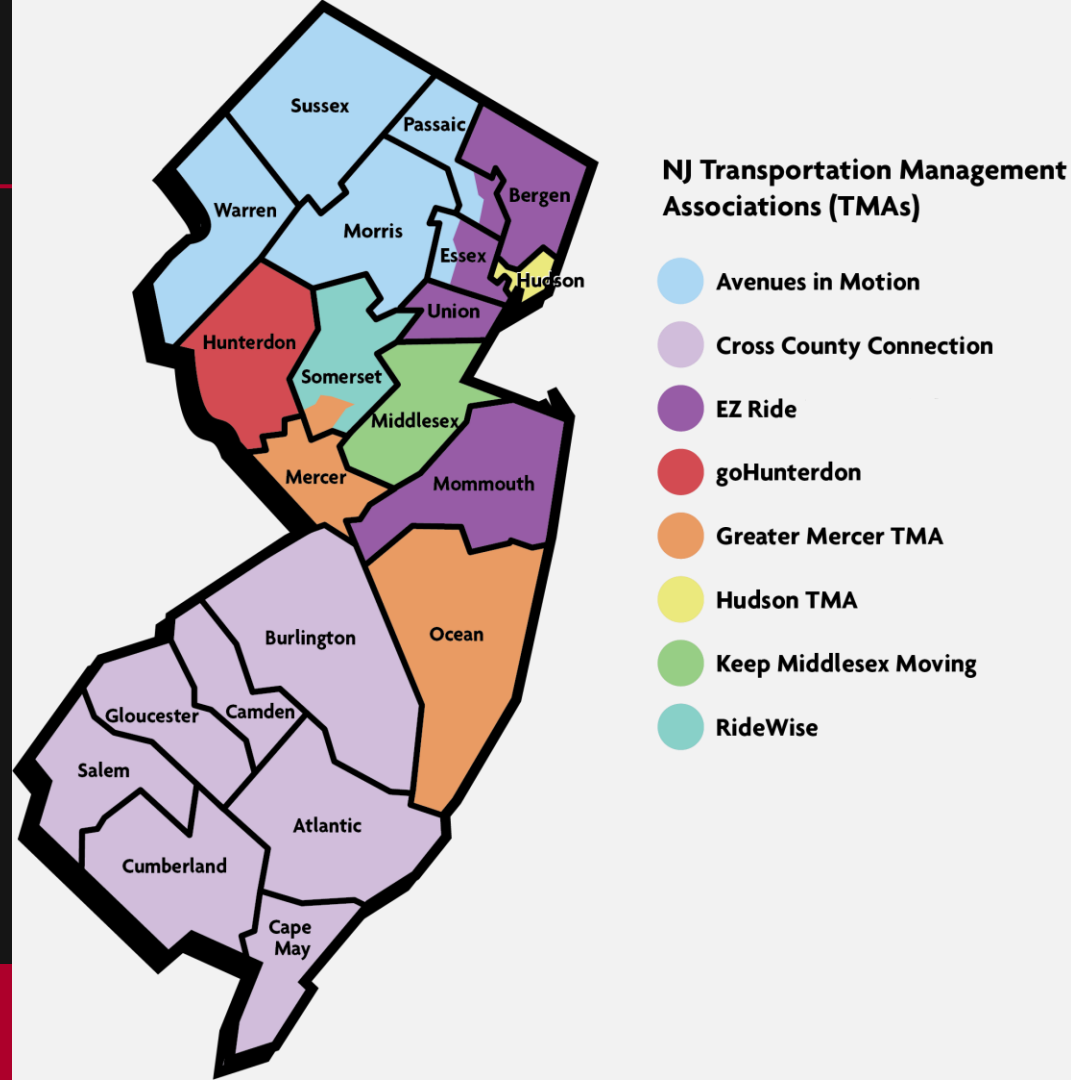
Local/County Transportation

- Depends on area
- Ex: Middlesex County has Middlesex RIDE
 - Transportation in Middlesex County
 - 3 different services



NJ TMAs

- 8 total
- Serves different counties
- Provides information about transportation
- Some offer services



Questions about other transportation options?



Technology



Tools to help you plan your trip

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Apps

- NJ TRANSIT app
 - Free
 - Buy bus, train, light rail tickets or passes
 - Check bus, train status



- Transit app
 - Free
 - Plan trip using any mode of transit
 - "GO" feature lets you know when to get off
 - Can request Uber or Lyft in app
 - Simple to use



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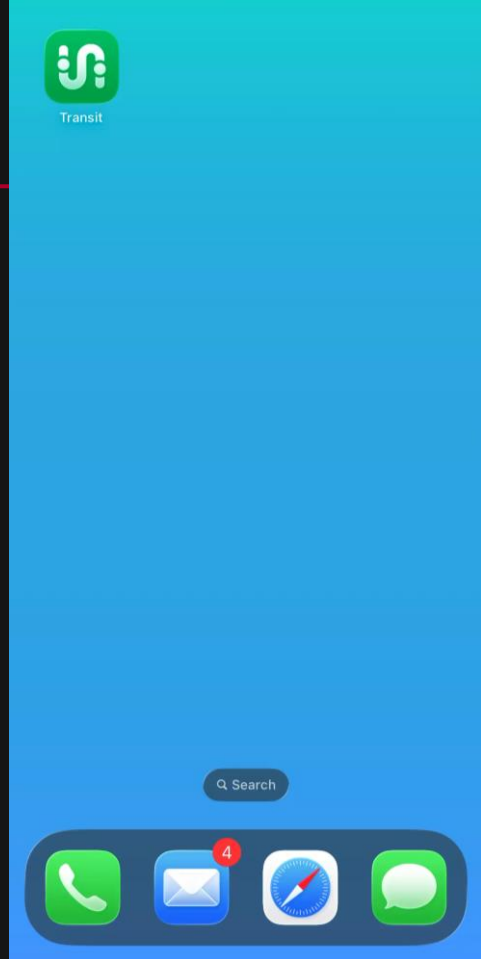
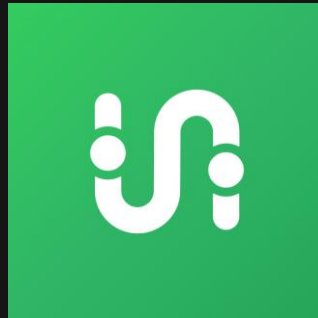


NJ TRANSIT App demonstration!



Transit App Demonstration

- Recommended for trip planning
- Tells you when you are near your stop



NJ TRANSIT mybus

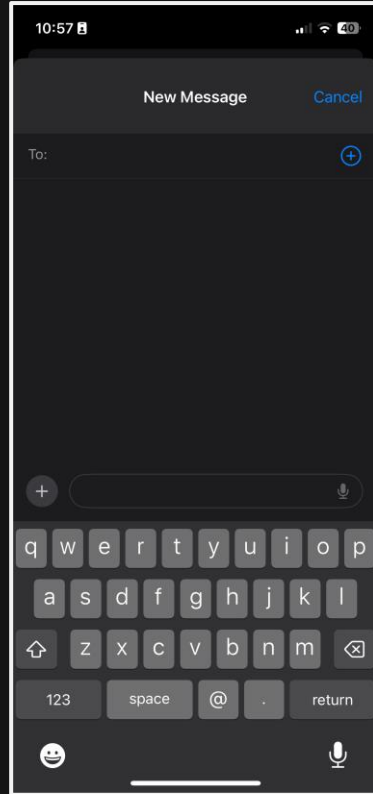
Text NJ TRANSIT

- mybus number (69287)
- Every bus stop has a 5-digit code
 - Text bus stop code to mybus
- Tracks bus arrivals in real time
- Call TIC for codes and info
- Refer to njtransit.com



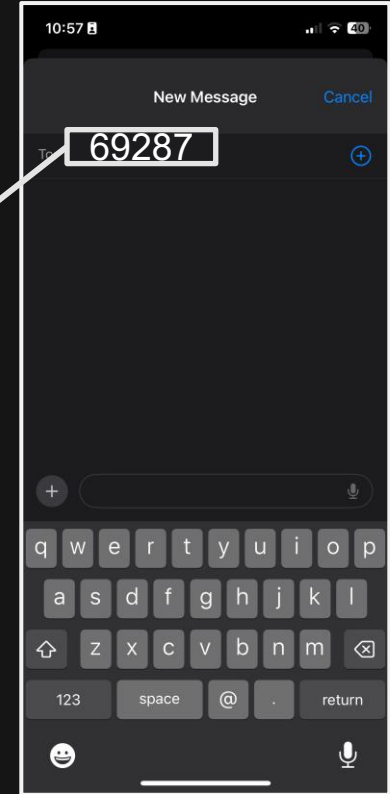
GPS Tracking on Buses: *step by step*

1. Open a new text message



2. Type in mybus phone number

69287



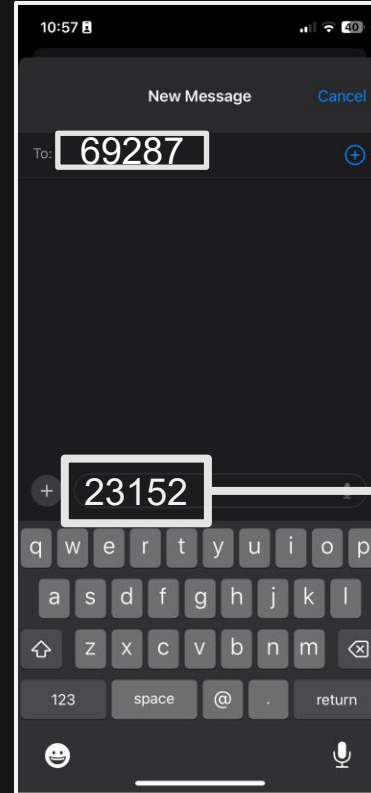
GPS Tracking on Buses: *continued*

3. Find the “mybus” stop number



Each bus stop has a unique 5-digit number

4. Text the stop number to mybus



Bus stop # 23152



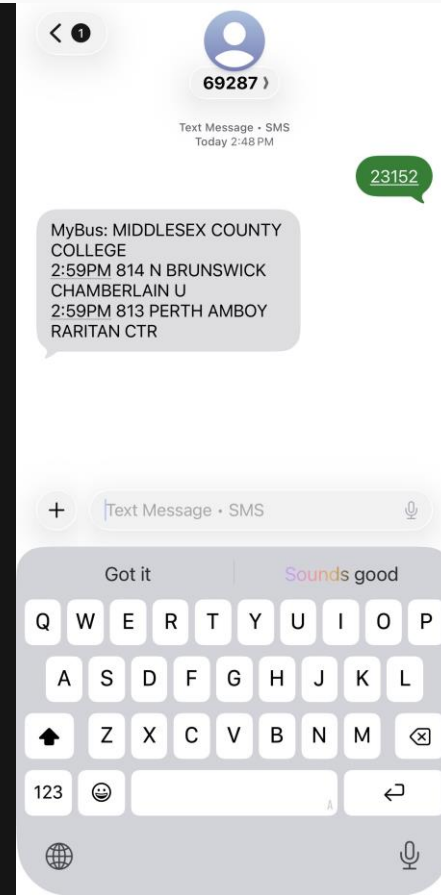
GPS Tracking on Buses: *results*

5. Results from mybus text

When is the bus coming?

Where is the bus picking up?

What direction is it heading?



Questions about apps and technology?



Final Questions and Survey



Scan to complete



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Thank you!

NJTIP @ Rutgers – Travel Training

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