



The Way To Work

A newsletter for Middlesex and Monmouth County Commuters

D e a r C o m m u t e r ,

Inside



Plan a Bike Tour

Pg. 2



Commuter Story Winner

Pg. 2



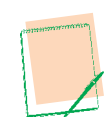
Route 18 Improvements

Pg. 3



Exit 8A Shuttle Debuts

Pg. 3



Ozone Action Partnership Form

Pg. 4

... and more!

Get Involved With the Ozone Action Partnership!

Now that the warm weather is here, it's a great time to join KMM's **FREE** Ozone Action Partnership. This program is comprised of individuals, corporations, government agencies, and local municipalities that work together to reduce the hazardous effects of global warming.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere is essential to protect us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. Ground level ozone, however, is contaminated with toxins from engine exhaust and other pollutants in the air. During summer months, heat and pollutants combine and raise ground level ozone to a dangerous scale. On high ozone alert days, many people suffer from asthma, shortness of breath, coughing, lung tissue damage, headaches, and nausea. Ground level ozone also harms trees and vegetation.

What can you do to help? Join KMM's Ozone Action Partnership. Together, we can reduce unhealthy ozone levels in the air. As a member of the Partnership, you will receive a fax alert the day before a bad ozone day is predicted. On these days, following these

simple steps can help assure cleaner air for all of us:

- Rideshare! Take mass transit, carpool or vanpool to work to reduce air pollution
- Don't top off your gas tank, and refuel after dark if possible
- Postpone using gas powered yard equipment
- Barbecue without starter fluid
- Instead of driving around on your lunch break, "brown bag" it

To become an Ozone Action Partnership member or learn more, fill out the sign-up box on the back page and send it to KMM.



Ozone Action Partnership members are eligible for NJ TRANSIT's Ozone Pass program! The Ozone Pass, provided in bulk to employers for their commuters, is a reduced-fare transit ticket that can be used instead of a regular ticket on unhealthy ozone days. The ticket is a universal pass to "try transit," whether on bus, train, or light rail. To find out more about Ozone Pass, call KMM at (732) 745-4368.



KEEP MIDDLESEX MOVING, INC.

Middlesex County's Transportation Management Association

Associated with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority.

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Plan a Bike Adventure This Summer!

It's time to leave your car in the garage and explore the great outdoors. Get on your bicycle! KMM has a series of bicycle maps to help you plan an outing of fun in the sun. To plot a biking trip around Middlesex County, order one of KMM's popular **Middlesex County Cycling Guides!** These handy maps show all the official bike paths around the county, as well as suggested routes and safety guidelines for biking on main roads.

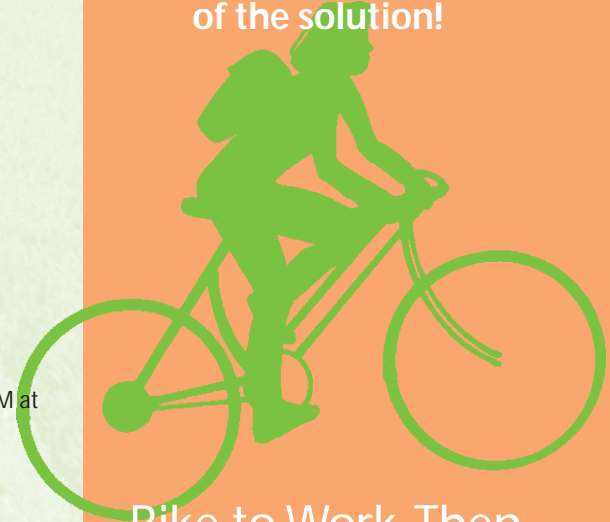
If you're looking for a specific biking route for one of those sunny weekend afternoons, choose a colorful **Bicycle Tour Guide** from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. There are nine maps available for bike routes that traverse the New Jersey countryside. Choose from these themed tours:

- Allamuchy Allegory Ride* - Warren & Sussex Counties
- Battle of Monmouth Ride* - Monmouth County
- D & R Canal Towpath Ride* - Mercer County
- Great Swamp Ride* - Morris & Somerset Counties
- Last Covered Bridge Ride* - Mercer & Hunterdon Counties
- Old Mine Road Ride* - Warren & Sussex Counties
- Pine Barrens River Ramble* - Burlington & Atlantic Counties
- Round Valley Roundabout* - Hunterdon County
- Three Easy Scenic River Rides* - Somerset & Burlington Counties

To order a Middlesex County Cycling Guide or one or more Bicycle Tour Guides, call KMM at (732) 745-4368 or email eprevite@kmm.org.

Photographer: Dan Burden

May is National Bike Month! Bicycling is a great way to get healthy, fight traffic congestion, and reduce air pollution. So get on your bike and be part of the solution!



Bike to Work, Then Lock it Up!

In an effort to provide better amenities for bike riders around New Jersey, Keep Middlesex Moving acts as an agent for NJ TRANSIT by managing their bike locker program and renting lockers to bicycle riders at many local train stations. The bicycle lockers are designed to safely secure one bicycle from would-be thieves while protecting it from damage caused by inclement weather. By renting a bicycle locker, commuters are able to leave their cars parked at home and ride their bikes to the train station.

Bicycle lockers are rented to commuters according to six-month agreements. At \$7.50 per month, it costs a lot less to rent a bike locker than it does to rent a parking space. Lockers are currently available at the Matawan, Red Bank, Metropark, Belmar, Long Branch, Middletown, South Amboy, and Matawan train stations. There are also lockers available at the Park and Ride lots in Howell and Old Bridge. To inquire about renting a bike locker, contact Sean Meehan at (732) 745-5903 or smeehan@kmm.org.

Commuter Goes to Dinner and the Movies!

KMM is pleased to announce that Jim Ruggieri is our latest Commuter Story contest winner! Jim's witty essay on his years of commuting won him a date for two at Chili's restaurant and Loew's movie theaters.

Jim is a seasoned New Jersey commuter who, throughout 15 years of getting to work, has tried it all, including walking, biking, taking the train or bus, carpooling, and driving alone. "However," as Jim says, "like too many commuters, the vast majority of my commuting experience has been driving alone in my car."

When Jim did participate in ridesharing, biking, or mass transit, his experiences were positive:

Biking Benefits – "Renting an apartment near where I worked (then) for Mercer County in Trenton afforded me the chance to get exercise by biking to work, and save gas and wear-and-tear on my car."

Carpooling Camaraderie – "When I commuted between East Windsor and downtown Trenton, I enjoyed the social benefits of carpooling." The arrangement helped Jim "get my mind off the stresses of work by having a conversation with another human being."

A Relaxing Train of Thought – "Compared with fighting traffic on Route One, nothing beats the train – there are no traffic lights, one can relax on the way to work and back, and it is really convenient..."

Currently, Jim drives from Hamilton to Freehold and is looking for a carpool match. If you're interested in commuting with Jim, call KMM at (732) 745-4368 or email eprevite@kmm.org. Happy commuting!



Get commuter rewards!

If you carpool, vanpool, or take mass transit to work, register for KMM's free **Emergency Ride Home** program! Get up to 3 free rides home per year as a backup for emergencies or unexpected overtime. To qualify, call KMM at (732) 745-4368 or email eprevite@kmm.org.



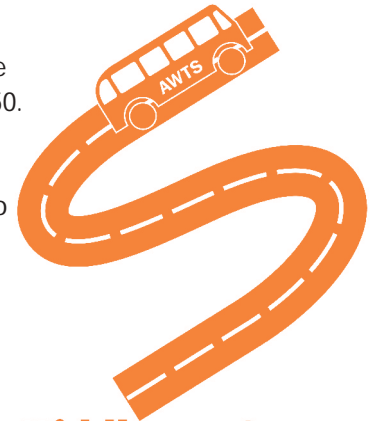
TRANSIT SPOTLIGHT Exit 8A Shuttle Debuts

Middlesex County's Area Wide Transportation System (AWTS) has launched a new shuttle route between New Brunswick and the Exit 8A industrial area spanning South Brunswick and Cranbury. The shuttle provides a rush hour link for workers from New Brunswick or North Brunswick to jobs in the vicinity of Exit 8A.

The shuttle will provide peak period morning and evening service Monday through Friday, except on holidays. A one-way fare is \$1.50. The route begins at 7AM at the New Brunswick Train Station, making several stops in New Brunswick and North Brunswick, and arriving in the Exit 8A industrial area a few minutes before 8AM, to accommodate a roughly 8AM - 5PM work shift. The return trip arrives at the New Brunswick Train Station at approximately 6PM.

Funding for the shuttle was provided by NJ TRANSIT in cooperation with the Federal Transportation Authority, through a Job Access Reserve Commute (JARC) Grant.

For more information on the Exit 8A Shuttle or to receive a schedule, please call AWTS at (800) 221-3520.



**Middlesex County
Community Shuttle**
Serving the Exit 8A Area

Route 18 Improvement Projects – Keep Informed with KMM!

Two major construction projects are in the works for the heavily congested sections of Route 18 in New Brunswick and Piscataway. Here is a brief overview:

Route 18 – New Brunswick

Plans are well underway to widen Route 18 between the Route US 1 Interchange and the NJ 27 exit for downtown New Brunswick. This New Jersey Department of Transportation project, with an approximate cost of \$140 million, has moved into the final design stage and will be awarded to contractors by the end of 2004. Construction begins its first phase in 2005 and will be completed by 2008.

The improvement will provide acceleration & deceleration lanes and shoulders. A noise barrier (aesthetic wall) will be included along the project corridor. An overpass will be constructed at Commercial Avenue, allowing both northbound and southbound access onto Route 18. In addition, an overlook and pedestrian pathway will

enable pedestrians to descend from an elevated structure to Boyd Park.

Eventually, the project will enable safer and faster movement through the busy Route 18 New Brunswick corridor, with safer amenities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Route 18 – Piscataway

The first phase of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Route 18 Extension project, a \$60 million federally funded plan,

started in the summer of 2002 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2004. The project will encompass the area between the John Lynch Bridge in New Brunswick and Hoes Lane in Piscataway.

The project's primary purpose is to improve the Route 18 corridor along Metlars Lane by eliminating the existing bottleneck condition. The result will be a 4-lane limited-access roadway with a grade-separated intersection.

Part of the new roadway will be open to traffic by June 2004, and the majority of remaining work will be completed by the end of 2004. This extension is one of two major segments that will connect Route 18 to Interstate highway 287, fulfilling a much needed link for commuters.

The second segment, which will extend Hoes Lane to Route 287, has been scheduled for 2006. This will provide better mobility through the area, and access to employment centers in Piscataway Township, at Rutgers University, and along Interstate 287. In addition, the traffic congestion on River Road (County Route 622) and Easton Avenue (County Route 527) would be significantly reduced due to a traffic shift by commuters who are now accessing 287 using River Road and Easton Avenue.



KMM is Your Information Link

KMM is a member of the Route 18 Communication Task Force network during these long-term construction projects. KMM's website, www.kmm.org, will feature construction updates and traffic reports. If you are interested in receiving frequent updates via email, please join KMM's free ROUTE 18 Emergency Traffic Network by contacting Sean Meehan at (732) 745-5903 or smeehan@kmm.org.



The Way to Work
 c/o Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.
 100 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Join the Ozone Action Partnership!

We can work together to reduce the harmful effects of ground level ozone pollution. Sign up for the free Ozone Action Partnership and receive advance notice about bad ozone days by fax alert. Stay informed about air quality and enjoy a healthier season. To register, fill out the form below and fax it to KMM at (732) 745-7482.

OZONE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Company Name: _____
 Company Address: _____

 Fax: _____

Schedule a "Commute Options" Fair for your Worksite!

One of the many services KMM provides is an onsite Commute Options Fair at work sites throughout Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. These informative lunchtime fairs, hosted by KMM staff, feature an information booth in or near an employee lunchroom or another central area. Those who stop by the booth can find mass transit schedules, carpool and vanpool information, and an overview of KMM's services. In addition, commuters may register in person for KMM's rideshare network and receive a free carpool or vanpool match.

To request more information or schedule a Commute Options Fair, have your employer contact Elyse Previte at (732) 745-4368 or eprevite@kmm.org. We look forward to assisting you!

Rideshare Application Form

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Rideshare commuter network, please fill out the attached form and either fax or mail it back to us. If you are a current member and would like to update your information, please do so on the attached form.

KMM, 100 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Fax: 732-745-7482

Please check one:

This is new information This is an updated application

Name:
 Home Phone: ()
 Primary Email:
 Home Address:
 Apt. No.:
 City:
 State:
 Zip:
 County:

Mailing Address (if different):

Employer:

Work Phone: ()

Street Address:

City:
 State:
 Zip:
 County:

I usually arrive at work: ____ AM ____ PM
 I usually leave work: ____ AM ____ PM
 My work hours are: ____ Flex ____ Not flex
 Work days: ____ Mon. – Fri. ____ Other
 I would be willing to:
 ____ carpool ____ as a passenger ____ driver
 ____ vanpool ____ as a passenger ____ driver
 Auto available? ____ yes ____ no