

# ON THE GO

FALL  
2010

Serving Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties

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## Ocean City Police Mount Effort to Educate Pedestrians, Cyclists

Police officers from the Ocean City Police Department were visible in the downtown section of Ocean City between Aug. 17 and 19 as part of new efforts to protect and educate pedestrians.



Ocean City Lt. Steven Ang said the department received funding through the Casey Feldman Memorial Foundation and used part of the funding to conduct the three-day pedestrian education program. "It's dangerous down there," Ang said, of Asbury Avenue and other congested areas of downtown Ocean City. "We're trying to have visibility and get a little education down there."

The foundation was started last year in memory of Feldman, a senior at New York

University who died July 17, 2009, after she was struck by a van while on her way to work in Ocean City. Feldman was walking to her summer waitressing job when she was struck by a van. She was rushed to Atlantic-Care Regional Medical Center, City Campus, in Atlantic City, and died five hours later.

Four officers were assigned recently to patrol the bustling shopping hub near Asbury Avenue to help enforce pedestrian safety by alerting all pedestrians to traffic safety laws and any violations they may have made. And no pedestrian was safe from the arm of the law.

Officer Craig Wilson, who helped coordinate the program, said officers issued 1,000 pamphlets and warnings during the program. Wilson, who is part of the department's traffic safety unit, said 500 were issued to pedestrians and bicyclists and 500 were issued to motorists.

He said pedestrians often were seen crossing without using the crosswalk or without a crossing signal, and cyclists did not adhere to motor laws, but instead acted like pedestrians.

Council members said they are researching ways to alleviate and reduce safety concerns associated with the busy Asbury Avenue section of town.

Ang said this was the first summer police officials have focused on pedestrian safety, and he hopes to continue reaching out to the community in the future.

Wilson said he thought the program went well and said it was important to educate local pedestrians and motorists instead of hitting them with a fine. "The main goal right now is education," Wilson said.

(Excerpted from: [The Press of Atlantic City](#))

## SJTPO Local Projects Total Over \$25 Million

The SJTPO received over \$25.0 million to fund local projects. Thanks to the work of the county and municipal engineers, county and municipal planners, Local Aid, and the SJTPO staff, the SJTPO has successfully authorized every dollar that was programmed.

FY 2010 was a very good year for local lead projects in the SJTPO region. The SJTPO received over \$9 million in stimulus funding for several local lead projects, all of which have federal authorization.

Atlantic County received roughly \$5 million for the construction of the Airport Circle project, which was initiated in 1995. Atlantic County also received an additional \$162,000 to fund their \$1 million Tilton

Road safety project, as well as securing \$900,000 for the Leipzig Avenue project.

Salem County, with the help of Local Aid and SJTPO staff, managed to get an additional \$750,000 local project through the TIP amendment process by taking advantage of a lower bid of another project.

Cumberland County was able to fully fund the Sherman Avenue project in FY 2010 and pick up an additional \$600,000 in FY 2011 due to a lower final cost estimate for Sherman Avenue.

FY 2010 funding was shifted to the Leipzig and Sherman Avenue projects from the Cape May Sea Isle Boulevard project. The Cape May project was shifted to FY 2011.

## SJTPO-Funded Local Road Safety Audits in Atlantic, Cape May County Moving Forward

Funding was secured in the FY 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to conduct Local Road Safety Audits in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. These Local RSAs are now underway. These Local Audits differ slightly from the SJTPO's widely-successful Road Safety Audit (RSA) Program, in that they involve fewer participants, however are able to reveal major opportunities for safety improvement at a lower cost than the tradition RSAs. These local RSA efforts earned SJTPO an FHWA National Roadway Safety Award in 2005.

### Atlantic County

Atlantic County will conduct in-house Road Safety Audits in six Western Atlantic County locations. This will include three roadways in Hammonton, including Central Ave (CR 542), Moss Mill Rd (CR 561)/Egg Harbor Rd (CR 602), and Chew Road (CR 559), as well as three roadways in Egg Harbor City, including Philadelphia Ave (CR 563), Moss Mill Rd (CR Alt 561), and Duerer St (CR 561). These roads are experiencing increased traffic volume due to development in western Atlantic County. The stud-

ies will involve Atlantic County's Planning and Engineering staff and staff from Police Departments of Egg Harbor City, NJDOT, SJTPO, and Federal Highway.

### Cape May County

Cape May County will utilize available traffic safety / crash data to identify potential roadway candidates for an in-depth Road Safety Audit. Eligible roadways will include County Roads, as well as municipal streets that are eligible for federal aid. Once selected, the roadway segment will undergo a rigorous assessment that will involve the Cape May County Planning Department, the Office of Public Works, and staff from the Police Departments of affected municipalities. Assistance will also be sought from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, and the Federal Highway Administration. This task will contribute to the enhancement of roadway safety in the Cape May County area, furthering the SJTPO's planning priority of integrating safety considerations into regional planning.

## A Few More Things We're Working On...

### Travel Demand Model (SJTDM)

The SJTPO is about to embark on one its biggest technical contracts in its history. The FY 2011-2012 SJTPO Model Improvement Initiative is a major project to migrate the South Jersey Travel Demand Model (SJTDM) to a new model platform, (CUBE Base and CUBE Voyager), and enhance its constituent modules in the hopes of improving the model as a tool for regional transportation planning and performing "what-if" scenario analysis. SJTPO has retained a team of highly qualified consultants, led by URS, to lead this ambitious project, expected to span over the next two fiscal years.

### SJTPO Website

As a follow-up to the successful release of our new website, the SJTPO staff have several additional improvements planned for the coming months:

- Additional maps and GIS shapefiles
- Improvements to the Interface
- More opportunities to provide input
- Improved methods to get information to the public
- Special topics pages, such as the Model and others as appropriate.

### 2040 Demographic Forecasts

The SJTPO Project Selection Committee selected the Center for Regional and Business Research (CRBR) at the Atlantic Cape Community College for this project, and pending Board approval, will begin work in mid November.

## SJTPO Working with Local Jurisdictions to Roll Out Asset Management Systems

The SJTPO continues to implement its vision for a comprehensive Asset Management System (AMS). This SJTPO effort provides a vital tool to Engineering and Public Works departments of member jurisdictions. This tool (AMS) maximizes the positive impact of transportation expenditures.

The City of Vineland initiated the use of the AMS in June 2010. An SJTPO-funded project developed an AMS for all 259 miles of its municipal roads. In the year prior, SJTPO partnered with Atlantic County to cover its 377 county roads with a similar system. That brings the regional total of roadway miles covered by AMS to 636.

The most important function of the AMS provides systematic, quantifiable support

for the project prioritization process. For example, the system will recommend certain road improvements by factoring a road's quantified condition, its priority ranking, and the funds available. In addition to road information, the SJTPO AMS incorporates road signs, sign posts, and guardrails.

Other AMS functions include asset inventory, analysis, reporting, budgeting, and condition forecasting. The SJTPO AMS greatly enhances visualization by linking detailed asset (roads, etc.), information with GIS mapping, and video.

The SJTPO will continue AMS roll-out in FY 2011.

## SJTSA Announces 2010 Traffic Safety Awards and Luncheon

### WORKSHOP AND LUNCHEON:

The South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance (SJTSA) will be holding the **2010 Traffic Safety Workshops and Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 27th at the Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove**. For more information and details on how to register to be a part of this event, go to [www.sjtsa.org](http://www.sjtsa.org).

At this annual event, the SJTSA recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to traffic safety in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties. The following are just two such people who will be awarded for their contribution to traffic safety, for information on all recipients, [click here](#).

### ENGINEERING AWARD:

#### Patrolman Kevin Devlin

Patrolman Devlin initiated a research project yielding empirical data that led to the speed reduction from 55 mph to 50 mph along the Black Horse Pike between English Creek Avenue and Uibel Avenue in Egg Harbor Township.

### PLANNING AWARD:

#### Caroline Trueman

Ms. Trueman has gone above and beyond her job duties by leading investigations to better use Highway Safety Improvement Program and High Risk Rural Road Program Funding for safety improvements on local highways; assisting local agencies in Road Safety Audits and project implementation; being a strong advocate for planning and concept development for local highway safety improvements and a valuable resource for local safety planners and engineers.

## SPOTLIGHT on Daniel Beyel (Policy Board)

A lifelong resident of Upper Township, Daniel Beyel was elected freeholder in 1987. He is a former mayor and township committeeman of Upper Township. Beyel is a graduate of Ocean City High School and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and an MBA from Drexel University.

In addition to serving as the Chairman of the SJTPO Policy Board, Beyel is a former chairman and commissioner of the New Jersey Expressway Authority, member of Chambers of Commerce in Cape May County and Upper Township, past president and current member of Cape May County League of Municipalities, member of Cape May County Union League, New Jersey Association of Counties, the South Jersey Freeholders' Association (SJFA), and a life member of the Cape May County Fireman's Association. Beyel received the 2006 Southern Star Award from SJFA for his distinguished service to the residents of

Cape May County and for fostering a cooperative spirit among Counties. Beyel received NACO's 2007 County Court House Award for excellence in governance.

Co-owner of Boulevard Super Liquors in Marmora, Beyel is married to wife Cheryl and they have three children, Matthew, Lauren, and Sarah.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the SJTPO Policy Board and the SJTSA are open to the public. Upcoming meetings are as follows, and can also be found at [www.sjtpo.org](http://www.sjtpo.org)

### SJTPO Policy Board

Monday, Oct. 25, 2010 – 11:00 am

Monday, Nov. 22, 2010 – 11:00 am

Monday, Jan. 24, 2010—11:00 am

SJTPO Policy Board meetings are held in the Caucus Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Vineland City Hall, at 7<sup>th</sup> and Wood Streets.

## Real Signs of Progress in Ocean City on the New Route 52 Bridge



NJDOT images of construction progress.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) began in Summer 2006 the first part of its \$400 million project to replace the Route 52 Causeway bridges and the roadway section between Somers Point and Ocean City, including the elimination of the Somers Point Circle. The work is expected to last until 2012. This is one of NJDOT's largest projects and is critical because it is the emergency evacuation route for Ocean City.

Two fixed and two moveable bridges will be replaced by two bridges that will have two high fixed spans over Ship Channel and Beach Thorofare (Intracoastal Waterway) and a touchdown on Rainbow Island. The new roadway section will have two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot minimum outside shoulders in each direction separated by a concrete median barrier.

Continued coordination with officials and members of Ocean City and Somers Point as well as Atlantic and Cape May counties will be ongoing for the duration of the project which will also include community enhancements.

To date, the support pillars/piers have been constructed and many of the concrete beams were lifted into place, as a result the overall structure of the bridge is taking shape.



Artist Rendering of the Final Project.

## SJTSA Interviews Maher Family, Vineland H.S. Students for Update to "I'm That Guy"

A follow-up project to last years "I'm That Guy" anti drunk-driving presentations is underway by the SJTSA. While awaiting sentencing, 25 year old Matthew Maher, a professional soccer player from Cape May County traveled to numerous high schools and colleges in Southern New Jersey to share his tragic story about his involvement in a fatal crash on the Atlantic City Expressway, a result of his intoxication.

Maher spoke to nearly 8,000 students in southern New Jersey, making 34 appearances in high schools and colleges. The SJTSA is attempting to keep the safety message going, and is producing a documentary short subject film updating events since Maher was sent to the Mid-State Correctional Facility, to serve his 5 and a half year sentence.

Teresa Thomas, the SJTSA Program Manager said "When I learned that Matt's website was getting between 200 and 300 hits a day, I knew that his story was still relevant and that we needed to change up the video so we could take it back into the schools this year."

John and Andrea Maher, Matt's parents, along with his older brother Anthony, were all interviewed as part of the project. The Alliance also traveled to the Mid-State Correctional Facility to interview Matt in jail.

Thomas said "The shock value of this project will come from Matt from jail and his comments about jail. They are very sobering and hopefully they will be a real deterrent for the teens."

In addition, Vineland High School students Felicia Mainiero (16) and Jeremy Moscat (17) were each interviewed as part of the project. Both students saw Matt speak at their school last fall and believed that his story was effective and relevant.

Felicia said "I was really taken by the courage it took for him to stand up in front of all my classmates and talk about going to jail. I really believed he was genuine and sorry and didn't want any of us to do what he did."

Jeremy told a story about how only 2 months after Matt's presentation he and his family were hit by a drunk driver and it really hit home that it could happen to him because it did. He said "I am now so very aware of the vehicles around me and trying to anticipate their actions and being ready to avoid a crash."

The updated video is slated to be ready for the upcoming school year.

To view the current video or read about Matt's experiences in jail, please go to [www.themattmaherstory.com](http://www.themattmaherstory.com)