



New Jersey Council On Special Transportation

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Website: www.njcost.com

The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation (NJ COST), founded in 1981 is a statewide advocacy association that for over 34 years has provided information and support for community-based transit services.

NJ COST's purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of transportation knowledge and experience throughout the transportation community in New Jersey. NJ COST seeks information and advice from qualified experts to share with members as well as promotes activities to enhance the coordination of transportation services provided by local, regional, county municipal and state entities. NJ COST also provides education and training not only to our members but also provides information to those who are less familiar with New Jersey paratransit and community transportation issues including state legislators and government officials.

NJ COST is designated as a not for profit 501 C(6) organization.

Web Site: www.njcost.com

Members & Membership:

The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation membership consists of transportation representatives from New Jersey's 21 counties as well as a variety of other agencies, including municipal, state, not-for-profit social service and private business' who specialize in providing transportation services to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, veterans, the economically disadvantaged and in some cases the general public where conventional fixed route transit is not available.

- **Active Membership** may include state, county, municipal and state government transportation representatives as well as not-for-profit and for-profit organizations and any other agencies engaged in the planning and/or operation of community transportation services. Active Membership may also include organizations/agencies that do not provide direct transportation services but advocate on behalf of those requiring such services. Active Membership includes voting privileges.
- **Associate Membership** may include all other agencies, organizations, or individuals employed in the community transportation industry (including former members and/or former members who retired). Associate membership may also include staff of Corporate (Business) Member companies/agencies that are involved with the direct and daily operation of community transportation brokerage services. Associate Membership does not include voting privileges.
- **Corporate (Business) Membership** may include any for-profit corporation/business that may offer goods, services, advice, supplies, etc. to the paratransit/community transportation industry. Corporate Membership does not include voting privileges.

NJ COST Sponsored Events:

- **Monthly Meetings** - NJ COST holds monthly meetings throughout the year. Historically, these meetings are held on the third Friday of each month. Exceptions may be in April (TransAction Conference), September (NJCOST Expo) and July (summer months).

Meetings are usually held at either the Monmouth County Human Services Building or Monmouth County Agricultural Building in Freehold, NJ. One exception is the December Annual Reorganization Meeting which has been held at the Battle Ground Country Club for the last several years.

The NJ Council on Special Transportation encourages members to attend meetings and get involved – so much can be learned by just attending and meeting people on your professional level. Most meetings do have a different meeting presentation topic with invited guest speakers/presenters.

Meetings begin promptly at 10 am and conclude no later than 12:30 pm. Morning refreshments and lunch are provided compliments of NJ COST.

- **NJ COST Expo** – Each September, the NJ Council on Special Transportation sponsors a conference and expo specifically focusing on paratransit and community transportation. Usually, one or two workshop sessions are simultaneously held during the Expo; one dedicated for administrators, directors, managers, transportation planners and decision makers. The second workshop is specifically targeted each year to a different audience such as; drivers, dispatchers, maintenance coordinators or other support staff.

Exhibitors, many of whom have become Corporate Members of NJ COST display their products, services and vehicles. Display tables are set up for each exhibitor inside and outside the main ballroom. In the parking lot outside, vehicle exhibitors display many types and sizes of paratransit and community transportation vehicles.

NJ COST has purposely allowed the NJ COST Expo to remain small in size; between 170 to 200 attend each year. The smaller size allows attendees to have one on one conversations with exhibitors without many interruptions.

- **NJ Paratransit Roadeo** – The New Jersey Paratransit Roadeo is a yearly event co-sponsored by the NJ Council on Special Transportation and NJ Transit. The Roadeo event encourages paratransit drivers from around the state to compete against one another's driving skills. The Roadeo course is a maze of cones and barrels designed to represent everyday driving patterns. Drivers are scored on how successful they are in maneuvering a vehicle around each obstacle. Scores are also tallied on client sensitivity, wheelchair boarding and a written examination. Drivers compete for the title "New Jersey State Community Transportation Roadeo Champion". The first and second place winners also receive an expense paid opportunity to represent New Jersey at the Community Transportation Association of America's National Paratransit Roadeo competition.

The Roadeo competition is considered a training opportunity for drivers. It develops enthusiasm and safety consciousness among vehicle operators. It motivates and stimulates safe thinking among all operating personnel and, tests the operator's ability to expertly handle a vehicle and improves their driving skills

Besides trophies and other awards for the top four highest scorers, The Roadeo also recognizes others including; the highest scoring rookie driver, the driver with the most improved score over last year, the driver with the highest score on the Wheelchair Securement and the driver with the highest score on the Pre-Trip obstacle. Certificates are presented to all drivers as well as those scoring 100% on the written test.

- **NJ TransAction Conference** – The NJ TransAction Conference is one of the largest transportation conferences on the East Coast. NJ COST is a proud main co-sponsor of this 3-day conference. Unlike the NJ COST Expo, the TransAction is designed to attract all modes of transportation. There are well over 65 different workshop topics featuring federal, state, local and private sector experts talking about funding, planning, operations engineering, regulations and much more. TransAction not only attracts the paratransit and community transportation industry, it also includes, bus and rail, light rail, road and bridges, goods movement, pedestrian, bicycling, ridesharing, welfare to work, ferryboats, planning and engineering and many other workshop tracks.

Well over 1,000 people attend TransAction and there are over 120 exhibit booths featuring an extensive selection of cutting edge, state of the art exhibits of transportation products and services from across America and Canada.

For additional information on the NJ TransAction Conference, visit **www.njtransaction.com**

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year, NJ COST presents recognition awards at the NJ COST Expo. NJ COST members are strongly encouraged to submit nominations for:

- Driver of the Year
- Dispatcher of the Year
- Maintenance Supervisor of the Year
- Administrative Employee of the Year
- System of the Year
- **Traveling Plaques** - Each year at the December Annual Reorganization Meeting, NJ COST presents traveling recognition plaques to each Transportation System whose employee was selected for an award. The traveling plaque consists of all the names of those individuals selected over the years. The traveling plaque is returned to NJ COST each November.
- **The Reilly Award** – The Reilly Award is NJ COST’s highest recognition. Created in 1992, this special award was first presented to Frank Reilly, an individual who made significant and extraordinary contributions to the New Jersey paratransit and community transportation community. The Reilly Award is not awarded every year but periodically for exceptional achievements and support of the NJ Council on Special Transportation.

“Individually you have only one voice but when we come together as members of the New Jersey Council on Special Transportation, we have many voices and our voices are loud and we are heard” - New Jersey Council on Special Transportation