

## SJTPO Wins National Road Safety Award

The South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization recently received a prestigious National Roadway Safety Award (see [www.roadwaysafetyawards.org](http://www.roadwaysafetyawards.org)) for its Local Road Safety Audit (RSA) Program. The RSA Program began in 2004 with a pilot project sponsored by Cape May County. Roads with a significant crash history or potential are evaluated to identify low-cost, quick turnaround safety improvements. These measures, such as lighting, signage, signal upgrades, and striping, are eligible

for federal safety funds as a result of being identified in the RSA's. The RSA Program is now in its third year. A notable feature of the Program is the interdisciplinary nature of the audit teams, which include county representatives, municipal police, engineering and public works staff, the state DOT, the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Cape May County Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel, who also *continued on page 2*



*Pictured (left to right): Freeholder Ralph E. Bakley, Sr., Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel, County Engineer Dale Foster, SJTPO Executive Director Tim Chelius, Freeholder Gerald Thornton, and Freeholder Vice-Director Ralph E. Sheets, Jr.*

## Public Meetings

Regular meetings of the SJTPO Policy Board and the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance are open to the public. The schedule for 2006 is as follows:

### **SJTPO Policy Board**

- Monday, March 27, 2006** - 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 22, 2006** - 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 24, 2006** - 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, September 25, 2006** - 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 27, 2006** - 11:00 a.m.

*SJTPO Policy Board meetings are held in the Caucus Room, 1st Floor, Vineland City Hall, 7th & Wood Streets.*

### **S.J. Traffic Safety Alliance**

- \*Meeting locations to be determined
- Tuesday, May 16** – 10:00 a.m.  
\*(Salem County)
- Tuesday, August 22** – 10:00 a.m.  
\*(Atlantic County)
- Tuesday, November 21** – 10:00 a.m.  
\*(Cape May County)

*Please feel free to call us to confirm a scheduled meeting or to add your name to our mailing list for upcoming meetings.*

## SJTPO Reorganization



*Daniel Beyel*



*Joseph F. Silipena*



*Charles R. Sullivan*

At its January 23rd Reorganization Meeting, the SJTPO Policy Board elected its 2006 officers. Cape May County Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel was named SJTPO Chairman for the eighth straight year. The Board also re-elected Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman Joseph F. Silipena as Vice-Chair, and Salem County Freeholder Charles R. Sullivan as Secretary/Treasurer. Both Silipena and Sullivan occupied the same posts in 2004 and 2005.

In addition, the following two members have been appointed to the Policy Board: Dr. Jerome M. Lutin, NJ Transit, and Robert W. Levy, Mayor, Atlantic City. Chairman Beyel thanked the Board for its support and looked forward to a challenging and exciting year.

# Somers Point-Mays Landing Road Re-Construction Underway



Reconstruction is now underway on Somers Point – Mays Landing Road (CR559) in Somers Point, Atlantic County, between the Somers Point Circle and Route 9. This \$1.985 Million project will rebuild a seriously deteriorated section of CR 559, an important evacuation route from Ocean City and Somers Point. The road is frequently flooded, and the reconstruction

will raise it above the 100-year flood elevation. Sidewalks and bike – compatible shoulders will also be provided.

This project is another graduate of SJTPO's Scoping and Design programs, where federal funds are used to

advance complicated or environmentally sensitive projects for construction. The consultant firm of French & Parrello, Associates, of Holmdel, NJ, recently completed the extremely complex design, which involved coordination with a host of regulatory agencies. Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman Joseph Silipena, who also serves as SJTPO's Vice-Chairman, said "This

project certainly reflects our transportation priorities - especially safety, emergency evacuation, and keeping our roads in good shape. It's a real plus for our region". The current construction schedule calls for completion by Memorial Day.

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## Award *continued from page 1*

chairs the SJTPO Policy Board, said, "We're extremely pleased with our audit program and the important role that Cape May County played in the process and we're grateful to the Federal Highway Administration for its support and recognition. We are committed to take the necessary steps to make our roads safer."

The SJTPO Road Safety Audit Program is one of the first local programs of its kind in the country, using federal planning funds to systematically identify local road segments of concern, conduct the audits, and secure funding for the recommended improvements. Audits have now been completed in all four counties, and SJTPO is working on getting safety improvements funded for the current federal fiscal year.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Roadway Safety Foundation present the bi-annual Roadway Safety Awards to programs and projects across the nation exhibiting excellence in roadway design, operations and planning. The Roadway Safety Foundation is a nonprofit charitable and educational organization dedicated to reducing the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes by improving the safety of America's roadways.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Spotlight on Policy Board: JEFFREY T. RIDGWAY, SR.

*Deputy Mayor Ridgway represents the Township of Pittsgrove in the County of Salem on the Policy Board.*

*Jeff was elected to the position of Committeeman in 1999, served one year as Mayor, and has*



Jeffrey T. Ridgway

*served the last four years as Deputy Mayor. He currently serves on the Roads, Recreation and Emergency Management Committees and has served on the Township Planning Board.*

*Jeff is employed by the County of Salem as Superintendent of Facilities and Asset Management. Jeff currently holds the position of ADA Compliance Officer for the County and serves on the Voters Accessibility Committee.*

*Jeff has resided in Pittsgrove Township for the past 20 years with his wife Terry and 2 children J.T. and Jesse.*

## Policy Board Awards \$8.6 Million in Local Projects

On January 23, the SJTPO Policy Board approved funding for 14 South Jersey projects totaling over \$8.6 Million. These projects will be funded by SJTPO's allocation of federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and include road resurfacing projects, highway design, and planning.

STP funds are typically used to improve federal-aid highways, or to conduct the studies needed to qualify more complex improvements for federal funding. The projects, known as "Local Leads", are managed by SJTPO's county and municipal members in cooperation with the NJ Department of Transportation.

According to SJTPO Chairman Daniel Beyel, "These projects are a vital part of our work in keeping our highway system safe and in good shape. I'd like to thank the members of the Policy Board for their cooperation in selecting next year's projects."

The Local Lead projects will be a key component of the 2007-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). After a full draft TIP is prepared in the next few months, the Local Lead Projects and the full TIP, will be released for public comment.

## FY 2007 STP-SJ PROJECTS

### Atlantic County

Shore Road/Main Street, Pleasantville  
(Construction)

\$850,000

Tilton Road, Hamilton &  
Galloway Townships

(Construction)

\$815,000

Tilton Road, Egg Harbor &  
Galloway Townships

(Construction)

\$1,015,000

### Cape May County

Tuckahoe Road, Upper Township  
(Final Design)

\$1,250,000

Ocean View Operational Improvements,  
Dennis Township

(Concept Development)

\$500,000

Wildwood Traffic Signal Upgrade  
Program, City of Wildwood

(Construction)

\$400,000

### Cumberland County

Irving Avenue,

Upper Deerfield Township

(Construction)

\$800,000

Main Road, City of Vineland

(Construction)

\$550,000

### City of Vineland

Maple Avenue,  
City of Vineland

(Construction)

\$580,000

Elmer Road, City of Vineland

(Construction)

\$460,000

### Salem County

Commissioners Pike,  
Alloway Township

(Design)

\$325,000

Commissioners Pike, Pilesgrove and  
Upper Pittsgrove Townships

(Concept Development)

\$175,000

Pennsville-Auburn Road from

Penns Grove-Auburn Road to

Perkintown Road,

Oldmans Townships

(Construction)

\$500,000

Roadway Striping Program,  
various municipalities

(Construction)

\$171,000

## We've Moved!

As of August, 2005, the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization and South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance have been operating from our new office at:  
782 S. Brewster Road  
Unit B6  
Vineland, NJ 08361



The new office space includes a much larger conference room, which allows monthly Technical Advisory Committee meetings, South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance Board meetings, and other special meetings and public hearings.

**South Jersey  
Transportation  
Planning  
Organization**

782 S. Brewster Road  
Unit B-6  
Vineland, NJ 08361

(856) 794-1941  
(856) 794-2549 fax  
www.sjtpo.org



**SJTPO Policy Board**

Daniel H. Beyel, Chairman  
*Freeholder Director, Cape May County*

Joseph F. Silipena, Vice-Chairman  
*Freeholder Chairman, Atlantic County*

Charles R. Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer  
*Freeholder, Salem County*

Bruce T. Peterson  
*Freeholder Deputy Director, Cumberland County*

Robert W. Levy  
*Mayor, Atlantic City*

Perry D. Barse  
*Mayor, City of Vineland*

Leonard C. Desiderio  
*Mayor, Sea Isle City*

Jeffrey T. Ridgway, Sr.  
*Committeeman, Pittsgrove Township*

James B. Lewis  
*NJDOT*

Jerome M. Lutin  
*NJ Transit*

James Iannone  
*SJTA*

Timothy G. Chelius, Executive Director, SJTPO

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## WHAT CAUSES CRASHES?

Over the four year period of 2001-2004, nearly 149,000 vehicles were involved in crashes in the SJTPO region. Of all the vehicle crashes with an identified contributing circumstance (speeding, failure to yield, changing lanes, etc.), almost all can be classified as driver error or aggressive driving.

These driver-related issues are addressed by the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance (SJ TSA), especially in such programs as the Defensive Driving course. SJ TSA will continue to target these issues in its efforts to reduce crashes in our region.

### SJTPO Region 2001-2004 Identified Circumstances for Vehicle Crashes

