

# Montclair Township Public Survey Results January 2026

## Local Shuttle Transportation



The township's **Local Shuttle Transportation** committee (part of the Montclair Public Transportation Working Group) began meeting in January 2025. During the Summer and Fall, we created and made available a SurveyMonkey **questionnaire** to Montclair residents via the township's communication channels. Flyers were posted at community hubs, with announcements via press release, emails, and social media.

Over **2,000** residents completed the survey. This pamphlet summarizes and highlights [the results](#).

This survey is an early step in a **timeline** to evaluate opportunities for relaunching a shuttle bus service in Montclair, roughly:

- 2025** – Explore options and evaluate community interest.
- 2026** – Define routes and all operations, identify funding sources and partners, obtain approvals.
- 2027** – Implement and launch local shuttle services.
- 2028** – Measure performance, adjust and refine operations.

Across this timeline, the Township and its Local Transportation Committee will continue to seek input, ideas, and feedback from the Montclair **community**, and all potential stakeholders.



# Transport Issues

Community members' survey responses confirmed that Montclair residents feel our local transportation issues widely and painfully.

## Costs & struggles

- Cost and hassle of car ownership.
- High cost of Uber/Lyft, taxis, microtransit.
- Parking scarcity and hassle.
- Infrequent [weekend train service](#) to NYC.
- [Loss](#) of commuter bus services.

## Safety & environment

- Environmental impact of cars.
- Traffic and speeding.
- Pedestrian safety and [Complete Streets/Vision Zero](#).
- Scarcity of bike lanes and safety infrastructure.
- Slow adoption of green transport – [EVs](#), ebikes, scooters.

## Access & community participation

- Accessibility for seniors, people with disabilities, and others.
- School transportation and kids' mobility.
- Difficulty grocery shopping from [food desert areas in town](#).
- Long walk to downtown businesses deters train visitors.
- Community disconnection along the full length of Montclair.
- Difficulty for residents to visit MSU cultural/educational events.
- Disconnection of MSU's 23,000 students from Montclair activities.
- Lack of information about transport options.



# Key Findings

This report (and the Local Shuttle Transport Committee) focuses on **shuttle bus/jitney** options to benefit the town residents and businesses. (Other committees and boards are focusing on *related* transport issues, including [NJ Transit/NYC commuter](#) options, and [Complete Streets](#).)

**Survey respondents say they'd use** a Montclair jitney service. Of those who use existing NJ Transit buses around Montclair often (daily, weekly, or monthly), 98.7% reported that they'd use a local Montclair jitney. Even of those who use them seldom (yearly or less), 95.0% reported that they'd use a local Montclair jitney. And 89.1% of respondents reported themselves as likely (3–5 on a scale of 1–5) to use a Montclair jitney.

**The survey revealed strong support** among residents for a Montclair shuttle bus service in general, and specifically for certain needs, including:

- Getting commuters to/from the NJT train stations.
- Getting travelers to/from Bay St weekend trains and Allwood buses.
- Providing better access to local businesses and business districts, public spaces, and events for dining, nightlife, entertainment, culture, and recreation.
- Getting people who lack car transport to critical local venues, including grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, and medical services.
- Reducing car dependence, letting some residents drop usage or ownership.
- Reducing parking hassles, traffic, and pollution. Improving safety.
- Smoothing connections with other modes of transport, including walking, bikes, trains, NJT buses, and neighbor towns' shuttles.
- Ensuring that seniors and people with disabilities have adequate mobility.
- Getting students to/from high school and after-school activities.
- Connecting Montclair residents with one another across town, for socializing, friendship, and stronger sense of community.
- Better integration between the MSU community and Montclair.

**Many residents also wrote** valuable and interesting comments and suggestions. Read them at [montclairnjusa.org/shuttle2025surveyanalysis](http://montclairnjusa.org/shuttle2025surveyanalysis).

*Statistical confidence:* Montclair has an adult population of approximately 31,750 residents based on the 2020 U.S. Census. A total of 2,028 adult responses were completed through 2025-09-25 for this survey. Using standard statistical methods and a conservative assumption that 50% of the population may select a given response option, this sample size corresponds to an estimated margin of error of approximately  $\pm 2.2$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level, after applying a finite population correction. This means that, assuming the respondent pool is reasonably representative of the adult population, the survey results can be interpreted with a high degree of statistical confidence. While margins of error and confidence levels describe sampling uncertainty, they do not eliminate potential response bias. Demographic weighting or stratified analysis may be used to further improve representativeness where appropriate.

*Interpreting the survey* may have limitations: Announcements may not have reached all residents, possibly skewing response distribution. Respondents self-selected; less-interested people may have skipped. Shuttle tradeoffs and costs are not yet known and were not measured. Multiple responses were not prevented; some may have occurred. Of 2,738 responses through Oct 2025, 2,091 were completed to the end of the survey. Additional surveying may be warranted in the future. Township situation has changed since Aug-Oct 2025 (e.g., school budget cuts impact on busing); needs may shift over time.



# Next Steps

Throughout 2026, the committee will perform various planning activities, such as:

- Analyzing route options, service times, and operations design, to optimize service for our many stakeholders.
- Consulting with local residents and stakeholders.
- Analyzing costs and logistics options.
- Identifying funding and partnership opportunities. Funding sources may include fares, grants, state/county incentives, business support, municipal funds, rate structure, and cost offsets for reduced expenses elsewhere.
- Partnership opportunities may include county and state transit agencies, NJ Transit, local universities and institutions, transit service providers, business districts, and neighboring town services.
- Pulling together an overall operations plan and budget proposal for consideration by council and other stakeholders.



See a [graphical summary](https://tinyurl.com/shuttle2025surveyresults) at [tinyurl.com/shuttle2025surveyresults](https://tinyurl.com/shuttle2025surveyresults).

[Read residents' comments](#), and see analyses of the survey results, maps, and anonymized raw data, at [montclairnjsa.org/shuttle2025surveyanalysis](https://montclairnjsa.org/shuttle2025surveyanalysis).

[The Local Shuttle Transport committee](#) continues to seek input from Montclair residents. Contact us via [info@montclairnjsa.org](mailto:info@montclairnjsa.org).

# Thanks To

## Local Shuttle Transport Committee

Montclair Township Council members participating

- Susan Shin Andersen, Deputy Mayor
- Aminah Toler, 4th Ward Councilor and Councilor At Large

Township staff

- Judy Hurley, Senior Services
- Lisa Johnson, Sustainability
- Matthew Amaral, Communications
- Stephen Marks, Township Manager

Resident members

- Axel Hellman
- Jonathan A. Marshall
- Matt Silverman
- Soo Yoon Najarian
- Susan Craig
- Suzanne Aptman

**Image credits** (images may have been cropped and color-adjusted)

- [Ilya Plekhanov](#), [Ekaterina Belinskaya](#), [Northwalker](#), [Сергей Рокантен](#), [Anastasiya Badun](#), [Athena Sandrini](#), [Streamline Free](#), [Cecilia Miraldi](#).

