


DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES
Township of Union Public Schools
M - E - M - O - R - A - N - D - U - M

TO: Pat Ditri
FROM: Joseph Seugling 
RE: Board Agenda
DATE: 3/27/2013

The committee recommends and I so move that the board approve NJ TIP In-School Travel Training Services through Rutgers University for Union High School students as part of transition and Community Based Instruction. These three sessions will take place during the school year September 2013-June 2014 at no cost to the district.

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NJ TIP In-School Travel Training Services

NJ TIP works cooperatively with high schools to teach students to ride public transportation safely and independently. *NJ TIP* will:

- Develop travel instruction curriculum
- Provide classroom instruction
- Plan and lead field trips on NJ TRANSIT vehicles
- Evaluate student progress

Develop Travel Instruction Curriculum: *NJ TIP* staff consult with school staff to develop travel training curricula that fit the needs of selected students. We help define realistic goals for the travel training program. Sample curriculum topics are:

- Safe Street Crossing Skills
- Paying the Fare
- Appropriate Behavior on the Bus
- Landmark Recognition
- Safety Considerations

Provide Classroom Instruction: *NJ TIP* can provide regular classroom instruction at the school. We design classroom materials geared to students with varying learning styles and consult with teachers to insure that we are addressing the learning needs of each student. Techniques that are used include:

- Pictures, photographs and visual displays
- Mnemonic devices and songs
- Role playing and classroom practice

Plan and Lead Field Trips on NJ TRANSIT Vehicles: *NJ TIP* can conduct field trips to provide real world experiences in which students can practice the travel skills that were taught in the classroom. School staff are part of each field trip and assist students in practicing travel skills.

Evaluate Student Progress: *NJ TIP* has identified 27 travel skills that an individual must master in order to travel safely and independently on public transit. In our one-on-one instruction model, we rate our customers on these skills after each travel instruction session. We work with schools to customize this evaluation tool for their students as a method to track individual progress and incremental development of travel skills.

ONE-ON-ONE TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

SMALL GROUP TRAVEL TRAINING

HIGH SCHOOL TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

CONNECT-TO-TRANSIT SEMINARS

**HUDSON, PASSAIC & UNION
COUNTY PROGRAMS**

NJ TIP Inc. • 6-S Regent Street, Suite 528 • Livingston, NJ 07039
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Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

NJTIP at Rutgers
Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

policy.rutgers.edu/VTC

PH: (848) 932-2840 direct dial
FAX: (732) 932-3714

March 11, 2013

Ms. McCulloh
Union High School
2350 North Third Street
Union, NJ 07083

Dear Ms. McCulloh,

Our travel instructor Louis Hoffman appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you on 3/11/13 how NJTIP at Rutgers University travel training services could be incorporated into the curriculum for your transition students. We believe that collaboration between Union High School and NJTIP at Rutgers would provide an excellent opportunity to teach your students how to safely travel on public transportation.

In that regard, we are pleased to submit this proposal for your consideration that details NJTIP services. The proposal is organized into the following four sections:

- NJTIP Understanding of the Situation
- Proposed Services
- NJTIP Qualifications
- Time and Charges

NJTIP Understanding of the Situation

Union High School has a beneficial transition program for students with special needs that helps to prepare these young adults for the real world challenges they will face when they complete high school. The focus of the transition program is to teach life skills that will enhance an individual's potential for independence and self-sufficiency.

One valuable life skill that may not be part of your current curriculum is learning how to safely and independently use public transportation. Taking public transportation offers individuals the opportunity to travel economically and independently to employment and job training sites, social and recreational destinations, to visit family and friends and to conduct other daily living activities.

Based on our discussion, you are interested in adding short term group travel training to the curriculum during Fall, 2013 for transition students via a program that includes: classroom instruction, vehicle instruction, and training for select students on traveling from school to home or worksite. We agree your students would benefit by learning travel skills in incremental steps, with opportunities for repetitive practice.



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Proposed Services

NJTIP proposes that our staff work cooperatively with Union High School(UHS) transition staff during the 2013-2014 school year to accomplish the following:

- Develop a travel instruction curriculum
- Provide classroom instruction
- Plan and lead a field trip on NJ TRANSIT vehicles

Develop Travel Instruction Curriculum: NJTIP staff will consult with UHS staff members to develop a travel instruction curriculum that will be appropriate for the selected transition students. Examples of potential curriculum topics include:

- Bus Familiarization
- Paying the Fare
- Appropriate Behavior on the Bus and Train
- Landmark Recognition
- Safety Considerations
- Schedules and Routes
- Handling the Unexpected

Provide Classroom Instruction: NJTIP will provide classroom instruction up to one hour per week for up to three sessions for a group of no more than 18 individuals. NJTIP will design classroom materials customized to students with varying learning styles and will consult with the teachers to ensure that we are addressing the learning needs of each student. By utilizing this individualized approach, all students should be able to make progress. Techniques/learning strategies that will be used may include:

- Use of pictures, photographs, videos and visual displays
- Demonstration
- Role playing and classroom practice

Plan and Lead Field Trip(s) on NJ TRANSIT Vehicles: NJTIP will conduct field trip(s) on NJ TRANSIT vehicles to provide real world experiences in which students can practice the travel skills that were taught in the classroom. Additionally, NJTIP can help train as many as 5 selected students how to travel from school or worksite to home. UHS teachers would be part of each field trip and will assist the students in practicing travel skills.

NJTIP Qualifications

Since 2007 NJTIP has provided innovative travel instruction programs to more than 900 individuals with the goal of increasing the independence and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities, older adults, and others by empowering them to use the public transit system safely and independently. The NJTIP concept was originally developed during a two-year pilot program, which was funded by NJ TRANSIT. The pilot and subsequent travel training work conducted by NJTIP throughout New Jersey has clearly demonstrated that travel instruction is an effective way of teaching people with disabilities how to use public transit.

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NJTIP uses a standardized curriculum developed in cooperation with NJ TRANSIT. The curriculum is designed to lead to mastery of 27 travel skills that are needed for safe and independent travel. We use travel training techniques and tools that have been developed and/or endorsed by Easter Seals PROJECT ACTION and the Association of Travel Instruction. During the pilot, these techniques and tools were customized to fit the realities of riding on NJ TRANSIT bus and rail systems.

NJTIP has extensive experience in teaching high school students how to use public transportation. In addition to the 50 individuals ages 18-21 who have graduated from our one-on-one travel instruction program, NJTIP teaches a weekly class for six 14-15 year-old students at The Children's Institute program. That program also includes monthly field trips to local destinations such as shopping malls and work sites. We have also taught travel training programs to students at The Deron PLUS program, New Beginnings, Montville High School and Piscataway Public Schools SAIL Transition Program.

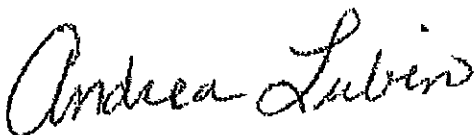
This past January, NJTIP became a part of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. VTC is a national leader in transportation research and education and is working with NJTIP to continue to expand NJTIP's successful travel instruction programs statewide. Under my direction, NJTIP staff includes five full-time instructors. Our travel instructors all have a Bachelor's Degree and experience in providing teaching, training and/or social services to persons with disabilities. Two instructors have experience as special education teachers in New Jersey public schools.

Program Time and Charges

NJTIP has received funding provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the New Freedom Program to implement a travel training program in Union County that addresses transportation challenges identified in the Union County Human Service Coordination Plan. By utilizing our FTA funding for this project, NJTIP will be able to work with your students at no cost to UHS.

We look forward to continuing our discussion and developing an exciting new educational opportunity for your students.

Sincerely,



Andrea Lubin
Acting NJTIP Program Manager