

## NJ Transit to study off-peak travel patterns

By GUY T. BAEHR

NJ Transit will spend \$275,000 to study the travel patterns and needs of two groups of passengers who do not fit the stereotype of the traditional 9-to-5 New York commuter—bus riders in urban areas and off-peak train riders.

NJ Transit Executive Director Jerome C. Premo said local bus riders on urban routes make up a significant segment of NJ Transit's ridership and one which the agency wants to serve better.

Off-peak train riders, who ride partially empty trains between or after traditional rush hours, deserve study in part because attracting more of them could add significantly to NJ Transit's revenues without driving up its costs, he said.

The state transit agency received authorization to expand the year-long market research study yesterday when

### Agency seeks gain by attracting more train riders after rush hours

the North Jersey Transportation Coordinating Council approved its use of \$75,000 left over from another study.

The study, which was originally to have cost \$200,000, will be funded 80 percent by the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration and 20 percent by NJ Transit.

Most of the additional money will go to expand the survey of local bus riders to more routes, NJ Transit officials said. Overall, approximately 70 percent of the \$275,000 will be spent on the survey of bus riders.

Premo said the agency is already in the process of surveying the needs of its largest single group of passengers, those who travel to and from Manhattan during the morning and evening rush hours.

In another action yesterday, the council approved the use of a \$157,000

federal highway grant to develop traffic emergency operating plans for police and highway managers in four key commuting corridors in the region:

- The Route 280 corridor from Parsippany through Newark to Kearny.

- The Route 95 corridor from Teaneck across the George Washington Bridge to the Bronx.

- The "trans-Raritan corridor" made up of the three bridges carrying the Garden State Parkway, Route 9 and Route 35 across the Raritan River.

- The Long Island Sound corridor made up of the Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone and Triboro bridges in New York City.

The traffic contingency plans will be developed over the next year by TRANSCOM (Transportation Opera-

tions Coordinating Committee), the bi-state interagency transportation management consortium based in Jersey City.

Matthew Edelman, manager of TRANSCOM, said the grant from the Federal Highway Administration will allow the agency to work out detailed plans coordinating the activities of all responsible state and local police forces, highway and transit agencies and traffic advisory services in case of traffic problems, such as an overturned tractor-trailer or a sports event.

Edelman said the plans, developed jointly with the various agencies, cover such matters as diverting traffic, notifying drivers, dispatching personnel and equipment to clear the problem and monitoring the situation.

He said TRANSCOM has already developed contingency plans for three other corridors over the past year: the Route 3/495 approach to the Lincoln Tunnel, the four Staten Island bridges (Bayonne, Goethals, Outerbridge Crossing and Verrazano Narrows) and their approaches; and the Route 287-Tappan Zee Bridge corridor between Rockland and Westchester counties.



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### Raid in Orange nets drugs, 2

Orange police arrested an 18-year-old man and a juvenile companion and seized about \$7,500 worth of cocaine in a raid on an apartment yesterday.

The narcotics officers also confiscated \$2,500 in cash, said Police Director Charles Cobbett.

Dwayne Fraser, 18, of Washington Street, was charged with possession of cocaine, possession with intent to distribute, and intent to sell cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school. He was also charged with enlisting a juvenile to further the sale of drugs, Cobbett said.

Police said they recovered less than a pound of cocaine from the apartment, where Fraser was staying with relatives, Cobbett said.

The 16-year-old juvenile was sent to the county youth detention center.

### Group bills discussion of trash crisis in Essex

The Cornucopia Network of New Jersey is hosting a public meeting tonight at the Montclair Cooperative School on Essex County's solid waste disposal crisis.

During the forum, titled "Trash Is Taxing," a team from Cornucopia will discuss the tax, health, environmental and social impact that a proposed county incinerator would have on residents. Members, who include doctors and engineers, will also discuss some alternatives, such as composting.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the school at Chestnut and Forest streets.

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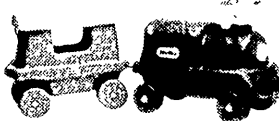
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