

## **Freeholder Task Force To Make In Depth Study Of Hunterdon Transportation System**

Hunterdon County Freeholder Director Suzanne Lagay has announced the formation of a County Transportation System Task Force, that she will co-chair with Freeholder Sue Soloway, the Board's liaison for the Department of Human Services, and will include Tara Shepherd, Executive Director of GoHunterdon.

Lagay explained that the task force will make a serious examination of all facets of the transportation system in Hunterdon County, including but not limited to the Link Bus program overseen by the County's Department of Human Services.

Freeholder Sue Soloway is jumping right into her new role by expressing her willingness to participate in the study, stating, "I look forward to participating in this analysis and am particularly interested in whether the current system is efficient and economical."

Lagay added, "We will be reaching out to seek other members from within the County governmental structure and from those with expertise in the community to participate with the Task Force.

And, while it is our intention to look at the Link Bus system, to determine if the localized and mass transit needs of the populations being served are being met, and to analyze the performance and cost effectiveness of the present system, other transportation alternatives will be surveyed as well."

The County expends nearly \$2 million for Link transportation with a significant portion of that cost being covered by grant funds and other revenues.

Lagay concluded, "The key questions are; is the Link being maximized for the benefit of those who need the service, are there efficiencies, including a vehicle review, that can be implemented to minimize cost to the taxpayers, and are there alternatives that may be a better fit."

Lagay initially proposed the transportation examination during remarks following her swearing in as Freeholder Board Director, at the County's January 7<sup>th</sup> Re-organization meeting.