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South Jersey Transportation Authority Celebrates National Pollinator Week with Ongoing Commitment to Habitat Restoration and Biodiversity

In honor of National Pollinator Week (June 16-22, 2025), the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) is proud to spotlight the vital environmental work led by its Roadway Environmental Advancement Initiative (READI) Environmental Department to support pollinators and protect regional ecosystems.

The SJTA is using its footprint to do more than move people and goods - it's helping nature thrive. Through initiatives that blend sustainability with science, the authority has become a quiet but powerful ally to bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other critical species.

"We believe infrastructure and the environment can, and should coexist," said Nick Marchese, SJTA Environmental Manager. "Our wildflower plantings, bee hotels, and bat boxes are more than symbolic gestures. They're part of a data-driven approach to make our rights-of-way part of the pollinator solution."

Highlights of the SJTA's Environmental Initiatives:

- Pollinator Meadows: A 100+ acres of native wildflowers have been planted along rights-of-way, providing critical foraging habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Bat Boxes & Osprey Platforms: By installing structures for bats and birds of prey, the authority promotes natural pest control and encourages healthy populations of native species.
- No-Mow & Reduced-Mow Zones: Vegetation management reduces fuel use, cuts emissions, and gives pollinators uninterrupted access to flowering plants.
- Wildlife Culvert Crossings & Fencing: Strategically placed crossings and fencing allow, or more importantly, don't allow wildlife to wander onto the roadway.
- Bee Hotels & Bird Boxes: Over 100 bee hotels and nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds have been installed along the Atlantic City Expressway, supporting biodiversity in both urban and rural areas.
- Community Partnerships: The authority partners with the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife (NJF&W), Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey (CHANJ), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), local conservation groups, schools, and researchers to monitor pollinator activity and educate the public.
- Stockton University Partnership – Stockton University students can apply for an internship and earn credits while assisting the authority in managing its environmental program.

"As stewards of both mobility and the environment, we're proud that the Atlantic City Expressway also serves as a vital ecological corridor," said Stephen F. Dougherty, SJTA Executive Director. "Through thoughtful landscaping and habitat preservation, we're helping support pollinators and biodiversity along our roadway, not just during Pollinator Week, but year-round."

To learn more about the SJTA's environmental efforts, visit sjta.com.

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