

# The Record

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## The Record: Letters, Thursday, May 7

MAY 7, 2015 LAST UPDATED: THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015, 1:21 AM  
THE RECORD

### **Pedestrian safety a must**

Regarding "N.J. pedestrian deaths rise; police look for reasons" (Page L-1, April 21):

We applaud the police for making an effort to research crash and fatality data for answers. However, a broader approach needs to be taken at the state, county and municipal level as this is not only a concern for Bergen County but for the entire state. Reporting of fatalities resulting from traffic crashes across all agencies must be standardized.

We applaud the police for making an effort to research crash and fatality data for answers. However, a broader approach needs to be taken at the state, county and municipal level as this is not only a concern for Bergen County but for the entire state. Reporting of fatalities resulting from traffic crashes across all agencies must be standardized.

Reports must be required to include not only date, time and location but specific details of the condition of the roadway, including lighting, road surface, pedestrian infrastructure, driver and pedestrian behavior and witnesses when possible.

Arming decision makers with as much detail as possible will help with identifying causation in order to appropriately target safety improvements. Other efforts include adopting and implementing Complete Streets policies and passing a state "safe-passing" law that would establish proper procedure for when a motorist is approaching and passing a vulnerable user of the road.

Most importantly, we must identify new, long-term, sustainable revenue sources to replenish the state's Transportation Trust Fund. This will ensure that the state, county and municipalities have access to funding for projects that improve pedestrian safety. It will take a combination of engineering, education and enforcement to see real change.

**Janna Chernetz**

*New York, N.Y., May 5*

The writer is senior New Jersey policy analyst for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. This letter was also signed by Cyndi Steiner, executive director of the New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition.