

TRANSFER

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The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti



Gutierrez-Scaccetti

The Transportation Trust Fund Reauthorization Act of 2016 provided local governments with new levels of spending authority previously unseen in New Jersey. Funding for grants-in-aid programs to counties and municipalities increased from \$190 million per year to \$430 million under the new legislation. The reasoning behind the steep increase is that the bulk of New Jersey's roadway mileage—about 90 percent—is under local governments' jurisdiction and is in as much need of repair as the state roadway network.

I recently announced a new initiative, **Commitment to Communities**, that creates new programs and combines existing Departmental efforts to assist local governments spend the significantly increased level of aid that the reauthorized Trust Fund law affords them. The **Commitment to Communities** initiative provides one-stop shopping for local government managers with hands-on application process resources, increased awareness of grant cycles and proactively communicating pertinent information. I am fully committed to this effort and hope that our counties and municipalities will be well positioned to complete important local

projects without the need to impact property taxes.

Another new tool for local governments is the New Jersey Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which recently received \$22.5 million in seed money and is funded through our Local Aid Infrastructure Fund. This bank, an offshoot of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, will allow local governments to secure low cost loans that can be leveraged against the grants-in-aid to address larger scale projects, the costs of which would far exceed a typical local aid grant. The success of local governments in building local projects and spending their additional capital will mean success for all of us.

I believe we are heading into a transformative period for transportation in our state, one in which real progress will be measured by delivering on the promise of "state of good repair," inherent in the reauthorized Transportation Trust Fund.

The Governor has made clear that he wants those agencies under his leadership to be forward facing, fully transparent and customer-oriented. I could not agree more. Making sure that our accomplishments are understood and that our performance is tracked visibly will be evidence of our success. I know that we can do a better job of communicating our accomplishments to an often-skeptical public. Together, I know we will succeed.

Diane

Commissioner's Lunch Table Competition Winners Announced

Thanks to everyone who submitted article ideas for inclusion in future issues.

All NJDOT staff are encouraged to continue submitting article ideas.

Congratulations to our **Lunch with the Commissioner Raffle Winners!**

Raffle Winners

Scott Ackerman

Dale Finn

Meg Frampton

Angelina Okwego

Richard Rabinowitz



TRANSPORTER

E-News



News for and about
NJ Department of Transportation
Employees and Retirees

Governor
Phil Murphy

Lt. Governor
Sheila Oliver

Commissioner
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

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Communications Office

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Governor Murphy spotlights Route 37 Mathis Bridge reopening as advancements are made in critical transportation infrastructure

Mathis Bridge reopened early, under budget and in advance of the Summer Shore Season

Governor **Phil Murphy** joined Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** and local officials in Seaside Heights on Friday, May 25 to announce the completion and reopening of the Route 37 Mathis Bridge after a multi-year rehabilitation project.

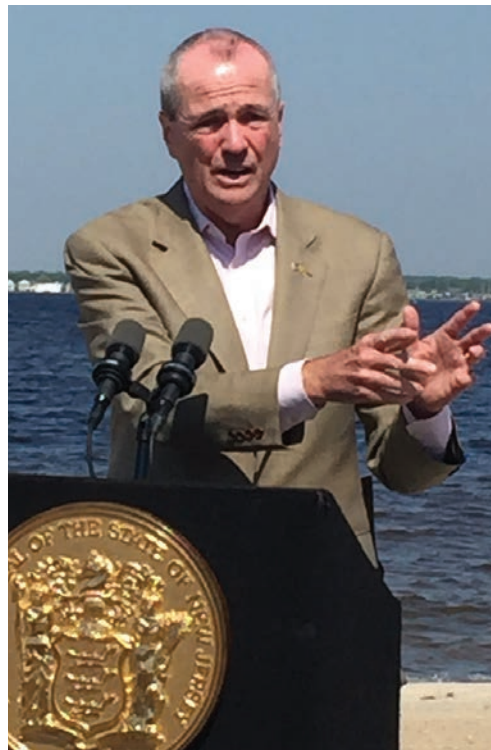
Coming in at \$14 million below the estimated budget while being substantially complete in advance of the scheduled opening date, makes this a model NJDOT project.

Governor Murphy praised the completion of the Route 37 Mathis Bridge rehabilitation project as one of many vital infrastructure investments made to roads and bridges in the shore region.

"Tourism is a \$44 billion industry in New Jersey and having new and improved transportation infrastructure is key to ensuring that residents, visitors, and businesses have the ability to travel safely and with ease to get to their destinations," said Governor Murphy. "I'm even more impressed that all three lanes of the Bridge reopened well ahead of the expected Memorial Day crowds and the start of the summer vacation season."

"The investments in New Jersey's roads, bridges, and

State channels are vital to creating a vibrant economy at the Shore, but more importantly, these projects mean heading to your



Governor Murphy stresses the importance of transportation infrastructure to media and public at the May 25 press conference announcing the substantial completion of Mathis Bridge in Seaside Heights.

favorite vacation destinations will be safer and easier for years to come," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "Projects like the Route 37 Mathis Bridge rehabilitation, which was completed

on time over three winter seasons to avoid impacting summer vacationers, are examples of designing projects in a way that improves our infrastructure while minimizing the inconvenience to residents and businesses."

NJDOT limited bridgework to November 1 to April 30 each year, for three seasons of full closures. All three lanes on each bridge remained open to traffic during the peak summer travel periods. New warning gates and lights, new bridge approaches, and the cast-in-place anchor spans were completed during the final construction season.

The Mathis Bridge and the adjacent Tunney Bridge connect Route 37 over Barnegat Bay between Toms River and Seaside Heights. Mathis Bridge carries eastbound traffic and the Tunney Bridge carries westbound traffic. The \$56.4 million federally funded project replaced the deck on the Mathis Bridge, made safety improvements to the barrier and railings, and repaired and replaced mechanical and electrical components that operate the moveable lift span. The Mathis Bridge, initially built in 1950, is one mile-long, with a double leaf bascule moveable span.



NJDOT Take Our Children to Work Day was a memorable experience for children of every age

Teaching moment - Event modeled how teamwork creates success for children

The NJDOT staff made science and engineering fun at its **18th Take Our Children to Work Day** event held on April 26, 2018. More than 250 children attended the Ewing Headquarters event and the North and South Regions welcomed nearly 40 children at each location.

Diverse Skills

The activities at this year's event were as diverse as the work that the NJDOT staff perform and the people that perform them. Activities highlighted skill sets such as math, critical thinking, hand-eye coordination, problem solving, and physical endurance.

The event modeled how people from diverse backgrounds, with different talents, can work together to create great things - including the day's events. The NJDOT **Take Our Children to Work Day** was an example of organizational teamwork at its highest level.

Staff from many different

divisions used their creativity, devoted time and effort into designing, organizing and executing unique, fun and educational activities. These included building truss bridges with toothpicks and gumdrops and testing their strength; changing tires with hydraulic tools; and taking drawbridge controls into their own hands. There was a fossil exhibit; NJDOT Escape Room; Sign Shop tour; State Police K-9 Unit demonstration, environmental display, and the biggest, boldest and loudest display of trucks and equipment in the state, and so much more. None of which would have been possible if not for the hard work from the staff. Kudos and gratitude to all involved.

The first iteration of the program began in 1994 and was exclusively for girls entitled **Take Our Daughters to Work Day**. The program was launched one year after the National

organization by the same name was created. In 2000, NJDOT changed the program to Take Our Children to Work Day and invited girls and boys to participate in the educational and fun activities.

Short list of staff acknowledgements:

Sharon Simmons and all the Human Resource staff

Bridge Building: Veronica Murphy, Ashley Davis and Stephanie Kostoplis

Bridge Design: Aimee Hurst, Project Management; **Gaelle Figaro**, Construction Service & Materials; **Kirsten Gadus**, Capital Program Support; **Sneha Desai**, Construction Service & Materials (all are Women in Transportation group members).

Draw Bridge Control: Louis Press, Drawbridge Engineering Drawbridge Demonstration: **Thomas Szeder**

NJDOT Take Our Children to Work Continued from page 4



Escaping DOT Game: Scott Ackerman, Robert Signora and Robert Siley

Fossil Table: Ryan Rathbun, Steve McIntyre, Bureau of Materials

GIS Map Demonstration: Timothy Stewart and Leonard Chetti

Greenhouse: Meghan Yovankin and Kinan Tadmori

K-9 and State Police Vehicle:

Chris Fowler, State Trooper
Operations trucks and activities: David Miller, Scott Ainsley, Luis Rodriguez, Carl Maffei, Andy Calderone, Matthew Raimondi, Michael McCowan

Pulaski Skyway

Demonstration: Veronica Murphy, Capital Program Support

Portable Variable Message Sign: Programmed by Michael Juliano, Traffic Operations - North

Remote Control Snow Plow

Equipment Display: Randy Anderson (Bosch Rexroth)

Safety Service Patrol

Employee and Vehicle: Michael Metcalf, Bruce Holmes, Dante Scoleri, Warren Dick and Michael Juliano

Tin-foil boat building: Shivani Patel, Civil Rights

Tire Challenge: Matthew Raimondi, Andre Sahai, Central Operations

Tire Change: Frank Rockino, Mower Shop

Tour of the Arterial

Management Center: Shazia Khizir and Katelin Barone

TRAC & RIDES Activities:

Chrystal Section, Kwincy Brown, Shivani Patel and Tyronn Walker

Traffic Signal Display: Daniel Brun, Electrical Operations



Asian Heritage Month Celebrations



The youngest and first Senator of Asian-Indian descent in NJ history, **Vin Gopal**, praised Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** and the entire NJDOT for their dedication and hard work supporting the public infrastructure.

NJDOT Asian-American Heritage Committee celebrated the rich heritage of Asian cultures at two distinct multi-cultural celebrations.

First, Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** welcomed the standing room only audience and media at the "The Color of Celebration" event on May 10, 2018.

She imparted thoughts on diversity saying that events such as these allow us to experience the uniqueness of many cultures but it also allows us "to celebrate our likenesses – we are so much more alike than we are different... [Let's] demonstrate our humanness."

"Acceptance is the key in our workplace, homes and communities...do not be afraid to let people know who you are on the inside," she continued. Alongside special guest Senator **Vin Gopal**, the Commissioner declared, "to share our cultures with each other is truly a gift."

Music, dance and a colorful fashion show thrilled the audience. NJDOT models strutted across the runway, twirling and bowing featuring traditional clothing from China, India, Korea, Pakistan, Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines and Japan.

The NJDOT Asian-American Heritage Committee sponsored and served a full buffet of Asian delectables to nearly two hundred staffers.



Traditional clothing from countries across Asia, dance and music kept the celebration spirited.

Taking on a different tone was the second event, "The Color of Service," that focused on volunteerism in the community and held on May 18, 2018. Deputy Commissioner **Joseph Bertoni** provided opening remarks stating Asian Americans comprise nearly 15 percent of the NJDOT workforce; that diversity further deepens with the fact



Staff sung traditional celebratory music.

that the group is comprised of people from 12 different countries, reinforcing that in order to fulfill the DOT mission, we must "all work together."

Five Asian-Americans, who dedicate their time and expertise to volunteering in service of the Asian community and beyond, presented their organization's mission, goals and accomplishments. The presenters were:

- **Satjeet Kaur**, Sikh Coalition
- **Ajita Chaoji**, Snehalya Americas, Inc.
- **Amman Seehra**, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- **Dr. Cynthia Fong**, Chinese Autism Resource Center (CARE)
- **Hardayal Singh**, UNITED SIKHS



Chief of Staff Jay Jimenez is draped in a Punjabi traditional Phulkari (Phul – flower, Kari – embroidery). The Phulkari is traditionally embroidered by women in the northern state of Punjab (India) for events such as their wedding.



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NJ MOVE OVER LAW?

What is the NJ Move Over Law?

When approaching stationary emergency vehicles with lights flashing on the side of the road, drivers in NJ are required to move over one lane as safely as possible.

Do I move over for all emergency vehicles?

Pretty much. The law requires that drivers move over for stationary emergency vehicles, tow trucks and other highway safety vehicles displaying red, blue and/or amber flashing lights. This includes sanitation trucks.

What if moving over is not possible?

If moving over is not possible, the driver should slow down below the posted speed limit when passing emergency stationary vehicles.

New Jersey Statute 39:4-92.2



"Make the Move for your colleagues!!"

The manager of the NJDOT Incident Management Unit, Mike Moran, says, "Many of your very own NJDOT colleagues respond to traffic incidents every day and spend a significant amount of time on the side of a road. This includes our Safety Service Patrol (SSP), Maintenance Workers, and our Incident Management Response Team members among others." As a NJDOT employee, set a good example and make the move! This may trigger drivers behind you to do the same.

Remembering

Unfortunately, many of our own workers have tragically lost their life after being struck. One of them, **Joseph Kealey** of SSP was struck on January 11, 2010, while helping a stranded motorist. Joe was only 45 years old and he left behind a wife and two daughters. In remembrance of Joe, and to protect others, move over!



What's NJDOT Doing?

Through our Traffic Incident Management Program (NJTIM) NJDOT is spreading the word about first responder safety and promoting the Move Over Law. We have trained over 11,000 first responders as of May 2018.

TID DOTS!

Tid Dots is a collection of employee awards, retirements, service anniversaries and other sharable and NJDOT pride-producing news.



New Arrival

NJDOT Acting Inspector General Amalia McShane gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on May 14 at 12:30 p.m. Hazel McShane weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Congratulations to Amalia and her family.

NJDOT employee retirement flyers can now be placed on the DOTRA website beginning Friday, June 15th. Email flyers to Ann at: Annlaurie@annlauriellc.com

Retirees

Paul Allen, CPM - Office of the Asst. Commissioner, 34 years; **Richard Ardin**, Support Services, 6 years; **Joanne Asadpour**, Capital Program Support, 33 years; **Chris Barretts**, Highway and Traffic Design, 30 years; **Frank Basek**, Regional Operations North, 38 years; **Joseph Beltser**, Regional Operations South, 14 years; **David Bizuga**, Highway and Traffic Design, 40 years; **Alfred Buchanan**, Highway and Traffic Design, 44 years; **Victor Chalow**, Regional Operations South, 34 years; **Richard Domboski**, Support Services, 42 years; **Richard Dube**, Right of Way and Access Management, 42 years; **Mark Glogau**, Regional Operations South, 34 years; **Gary Gorish**, Auditing and Accounting, 42 years; **Ernest Henderson**, Regional Operations Central, 13 years; **Dulce Hill**, Accounting and Auditing, 18 years; **Rochell Hinton**, Regional Operations North, 18 years; **Michael Hubbard**, Operations Drawbridges, 35 years; **Yong Chol Kim**, Capital Program Support, 42 years; **Charles "Bill" Kingsland**, Traffic Operations, 32 years; **Richard Kraemer**, Operations Training, 37 years; **Eli Lambert**, Capital Program Management, 35 years; **Michelle Laureti**, Statewide Planning, 41 years; **Kimvan Le**, Highway and Traffic Design, 31 years; **Scott McCutcheon**, Equipment Operations, 28 years; **Carol Muscente**, Information Technology, 32 years; **Douglas Olsen**, Regional Operations Central, 33 years; **Narendra R. Patel**, Construction Services and Materials, 32 years; **Frank Pinto**, Capital Program Support, 38 years; **Pravin Shah**, Highway and Traffic Design, 32 years; **Parimal Sheth**, Construction Services and Materials, 10 years; **Richard A. Snyder**, Construction Services and Materials, 31 years; **Thomas Sohn**, Project Management, 31 years; **John Zim**, Project Management, 34 years



Transportation Systems Management staff visited the Joint Traffic Management Center in Long Island City, NY to share best practices on Traffic Operations Center and Signals monitoring and controls. Both staffs discussed future operations plans and new technologies/software to be deployed. It was a productive learning experience for those involved.

NJDOT Staff Shared their Expertise at the 2018 New Jersey Annual TransAction Conference

New Jersey's annual TransAction Conference and Expo, held on April 17 – 19 at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, brought more than 900 transportation professionals together for three days of panel sessions and presentations by elected officials and subject matter experts from the public and private sector and academia.

Commissioner **Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** was the keynote speaker. She highlighted her ability to bring groups together to team build and problem solve in support of local governments as they begin to deliver markedly increased grants-in-aid programs. That message was emphasized when she and **Dave Lambert**, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Program Management, were panelists on the *Anticipated Contracting Opportunities* for architecture, engineering, construction and environmental disciplines over the next two fiscal years discussion.

Bill Kingsland, Asst. Commissioner, NJDOT Transportation Systems Management, moderated a panel discussion on the *Application of Transportation Systems Management & Operations Techniques in NJ* with NJDOT expert panelists: **Wasif Mirza**, Director, Mobility and Systems Engineering, **Sal Cowan**, Director, Traffic Operations and **Susan Catlett**, Project Manager, Engineering, Operations & Planning Support.

Wasif Mirza moderated a panel discussion on *Signal Analysis and the Latest Trends in NJ* with NJDOT expert panelists: **Rich Casmer**, Supervising Highway Engineer, **Noel Toner**,



Sal Cowan, Director, Traffic Operations, leads a panel discussion on *Application of Transportation Systems Management & Operations Techniques in NJ*.

Principal Engineer and **Shazia Khizir**, Asst. Engineer.

Elise Bremer-Nei, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, NJDOT was a panelist on the *Living and Learning along a Highway: Burlington City Students Take Action to Improve Safety and Green and Complete Streets* discussions.

Robert Signora, Project Manager, NJDOT Capital Program Support, moderated a panel discussion on *Digital Project Management - Emerging*

Technology with NJDOT expert panelists: **Paul Schneider**, Director, Capital Program Support, **Sheryl Grant**, Administrative Analyst, Capital Program Support, **Scott Ackerman**, Environmental Specialist 3, Capital Program Support, and **Veronica Murphy**, Principal Planner, Capital Program Support.

Bill Kingsland was a panelist on the *How Autonomous Vehicles Will Change Our Roads & Our Communities* and **Sal Cowan** moderated the *Multi-Disciplinary Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program in New Jersey* panel discussion. **Tina Shutz**, Environmental Specialist, Office of Environmental Solutions was a panelist on the Emergency Rehab & Replacement of the Historic Route 206 Bridges over Stony Brook in the Princeton Battlefield Historic District, Princeton, NJ panel. **Glenn Stott**, UAS Coordinator, NJDOT Multimodal, moderated the Benefits and Challenges of UAS Technology for State Agencies.



Sue Catlett, Project Manager, TSM shares her insights on the *Application of Transportation Systems Management & Operations Techniques in NJ* along with panelists l-r: **Sal Cowan**, **Wasif Mirza**, **Bill Kingsland**.

Employee Spotlight

The Man behind the Smile and Ambassador of Goodness and Unity at NJDOT

Levi Doggett is a beloved security guard who has been working at the NJDOT since 1994. While many of us have experienced his pleasant welcome and positive demeanor, we may not know much else about the man behind the broad smile. The first person we are featuring in the new Employee Spotlight column is Levi, and we will provide some background and insight about the man who welcomes everyone who enters the MOB.



First off, Levi is not technically a NJDOT employee. The NJ State Police employs him and the other guards, which was the result of a policy change that occurred in 2006. Prior to that, various private contractors provided the security staffing at NJDOT, for whom Levi worked, since 1994. Once NJ State Police took on the responsibility, Levi was the first guard hired and designated as the lead person for the guard staff due to his reliability and administrative abilities.

Levi did not just come upon those organizational skills, keen memory and ability to manage his wide-ranging responsibilities - he honed them over many years. You see, this is Levi's retirement job. He was an IBM employee for 30 years, beginning in 1966, as an administrative assistant. Just months after joining

IBM, Levi received the call to serve his country during the Viet Nam War. He traveled to Germany with the Army and was honorably discharged in September 1968. He returned to IBM where he climbed the ranks from branch manager assistant, handling budgets, finance and analysis, to his first management position as an administrative operations manager in Philadelphia. He was promoted a year later to Equal Opportunity Manager in Valley Forge, PA., where he remained until receiving full retirement status in 1992.

Levi tried retirement for a few months but he missed the mental activity and interpersonal stimulation that a job provides.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at the NJDOT he said, "The management staff are very professional and the employees are very friendly and nice." Apparently, the staff feels the same about Levi, as the Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action awarded him with a Certificate of Appreciation, in short, for "being an Ambassador of goodness and unity at NJDOT."

Levi has been married for 52 years to his wife Wyomie, and they have three children. He has no plans to retire again in the near future.

Largest non-emergency mobilization of utility workers ever in New Jersey

If you drove through the Route 3/Route 46 merge in Passaic County on Sunday, April 8, you witnessed one of the largest non-emergency mobilizations of utility workers ever in New Jersey.

NJDOT and the New Jersey State Police collaborated with PSEG on a crucial job to relocate 26,000-volt utility lines as part of a \$220 Million project to reconfigure the high-volume interchange in Little Falls, Woodland Park, and Clifton.

Due to safety concerns, the work needed to be performed in daylight, so it was scheduled to begin on a Sunday morning, when traffic is lightest. To minimize motorist inconvenience, the goal was to relocate overhead utility lines in a single day. In addition to NJDOT and State Police forces, it took 78 PSEG employees, including 66 linemen, to get the job done.

PSEG deployed an armada of 32-bucket trucks and 10 other trucks to the job site to take maximum advantage of several 20-minute closures of Route

46 westbound and Route 3 westbound during the day, as well as one full closure of all lanes.

In an effort to minimize traffic delays, NJDOT's Transportation Systems Management Division alerted motorists prior to and during the operation through Dynamic Message Signs and by posting information on www.511nj.org. Traffic delays for Route 3 westbound motorists approaching the work zone peaked at about 20 minutes between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



NJDOT Service Awards

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa Adams, Commissioner's Office
Victor Akpu, Capital Program Support
Padmanabha Amin, Statewide Traffic Operations
Chris Barretts, Capital Program Support
Dianne Barretts, Human Resources
Linda Barry, Operations
Joseph Bertoni, Commissioner's Office
Sharon Bird, Operations
Amon Boucher, Transportation Data and Safety
Lisa Cavanagh, Operations
Delicia Chambus, Capital Program Support
Richard Christensen, Operations
Willie Colquitt, Capital Program Support
Vijesh Darji, Local Aid and Economic Development
James Darrar, Capital Program Support
Scott Deeck, Capital Program Support
Marc Dorsch, Information Technology
Nicoline Einthoven, Capital Program Support
Silvia Eskander, Operations
Darnell Fagg, Statewide Traffic Operations
William Falato, Operations
Pamela Garrett, Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration
Robert Giordanelli, Operations
Cheryl Goldman, Local Aid and Economic Development
Denise Jones, Capital Program Support
Michelle Jordan, Communications
Arun Kumar, Local Aid and Economic Development
Charles Maciejunes, Operations
Vincent Masciandaro, Local Aid and Economic Development
John Miksits, Capital Program Support
Donald Montgomery, Operations
Eid Mortagy, Capital Program Support
May Oakman, Operations
Kathryn O'Donnell, Operations
Margaret Palmer, Capital Program Support
Jayesh Pandya, Capital Program Support
Mahesh Patel, Capital Program Support
Nalinkumar Patel, Capital Program Support
Rashmin Patel, Capital Program Support
Michele Pender, Operations
William Piedra, Support Services
Edward Rogacki, Operations
Michael Serediuk, Capital Program Support

Bhavesh Shah, Capital Program Support
Kamlesh Shah, Capital Program Support
Samir Shah, Capital Program Support
Andrew Swords, Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration
Jeffrey Taylor, Capital Program Support
Richard Temmer, Accounting & Auditing
Lisa Voorhees, Human Resources
Mohammad Yousef, Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration
Dean Yunkunis, Operations

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Russell Allen, Capital Program Support
Richard Arnold, Capital Program Management
Phillip Boone, Capital Program Support
Susan Catlett, Statewide Traffic Operations
Christopher Cooper, Support Services
Albert DeChristie, Capital Program Support
Steven Falk, Capital Program Management
Michael Hubbard, Operations
Steven Menegus, Operations
James Mesinger, Capital Program Management
Alexander Murawski, Capital Program Support
Lauralee Rappleye, Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration
Gregory Renman, Capital Program Support
John Varrelmann, Capital Program Management

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Vicki Tilghman-Ansley, Civil Rights and Affirmative Action
David Bizuga, Capital Program Support
Joann Everett, Accounting & Auditing
Eddy Germain, Capital Program Support
Raleigh Murray, Support Services
Shawn Rabban, Capital Program Management
Carol Smith, Information Technology
Linda Sudler, Multimodal Services
Nancy Sullivan, Capital Program Support

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joanne Lauria, Capital Program Support
Doreen Laurita, Capital Program Support
Michael Martynenko, Capital Program Support

Obituaries



Kirksey

NJDOT was saddened to hear of the sudden passing of **Anthony Kirksey** on Tuesday, May 22, 2018. He was 53 years old.

Tony began his career at the Department in September 1985 as a Maintenance Worker 2. He spent many years working at the Summit Maintenance Facility and at the time of his passing, he was a Highway Operations Technician 2 in Crew #219 in Secaucus.

He was an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan and enjoyed smoking cigars. Tony was involved in the Masons and was the head of Bethel Lodge #10, along with his friend and fellow NJDOT employee **Darnell Fagg**.

Tony was a family man who is survived by his daughter, Leesha Tucker; two sons, Lamar Jones and NJDOT

employee **Carl King**; and three special nieces, Depesha Kirksey, Yolanda Kirksey and Nichole Kirksey.

Bryant Jackson

Crew Supervisor, Jersey City Crew 222 Highway Operations who served NJDOT for approximately 18 years passed away on April 1, 2018, age 46.

Miriam Weeks

Director, Legislative, Administrative & Regulatory Actions, passed away on May 28, 2018

Miriam received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Stockton University, a Master's degree in Biological Sciences from Drexel University and a second Master's degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University. Miriam joined the NJDOT family in January 1985 as an Environmental Specialist and worked her way up to a Senior Executive Service position in the Bureau of Administrative and Regulatory Action. During her time at the NJDOT, Miriam oversaw the Department's legislative agenda, regulatory programs and policy development. She was the

Department's Employee of the Year in 1986 and earned a Department Achievement Award in 1987. In 2003, Miriam received a NJ State Employee Recognition Award for Teamwork and Partnership for the Historic Roadway Study and in 2005, earned the NJ State Employee Recognition Award for Teamwork and Partnership for the Safe Corridor Legislation Team. Prior to joining the NJDOT, she was a supervisor at the Atlantis Casino Hotel.

She loved the ocean and spent much of her free time visiting family in Brigantine, where she was raised. Miriam loved animals and was very proud of her African violets.



Weeks

Retiring Employee Insights

NAME: Charles William Kingsland

NICKNAME: Bill

POSITION AT RETIREMENT: Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Systems Management

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT: 32 years

BEGINNING DATE OF SERVICE: June 23, 1986



LIST POSITIONS HELD AT THE NJDOT:

CET/Asst/Senior Engineer – Travel Projections, Planning
Principal Engineer – Preliminary Engineering, Design
Project Engineer – Traffic Operations
Project Engineer – Asst Commissioner's staff, Operations
Exec Asst/Manager/Regional Director – South Region Operations
Asst Comm – TSM

DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? Multiple. Kurt Aufschneider taught me the value of trying something new, and learning all that I can to support my efforts. Dennis Cox, on how to supervise through positivity. Bill Carter, on how to lead.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I was attracted to transportation from the very beginning of college.

DID YOU PURSUE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND ADVANCED DEGREES TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER? No

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU ARE MOST PROUD AND WHY? A restructuring of South Region Maintenance that involved closing multiple yards. We did so with the ultimate support of Management and the Unions, and did it in a manner that kept the impact to the affected employees to a minimum.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? That if you are honest and up front with everyone, not everyone will be happy (never a goal of a good leader!!), but you can keep them feeling respected and productive.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSITION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER? Two things. While there is nothing wrong with staying where you are, don't expect that to be rewarded with routine promotions. If you want to move up quicker, you have to be willing to move around. This will pay extreme dividends later, as being in higher level positions almost REQUIRES a general understanding of the Department.

Also, people are not resources, they are part of your team. Treat them that way. I believe as a leader I need to do three things for my employees. 1. Pay them promptly and appropriately for the work they do. 2. Treat them with respect. 3. Be consistent in how I deal with people. If people believe that I do these things all the time, they will respect my efforts and be as productive as they can. Please note that I did not say "Try and make them happy." That is NOT a Leader's role.

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO OFFER ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO EXPRESS. In general, the work we do at NJDOT has a long-term value that must be looked for. Private industry can always look to the bottom-line as their primary goal. State work isn't so cut and dried. With the exception of Construction (which can still take a couple of years), the benefits of much of our work can take a long time to come to fruition. It is not always obvious. But once you get that, this is one of the most satisfying careers available in Transportation!!

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS? By not being in Transportation!! Yeah, I know, that goes against Question 13, but I am done. I want to be a Travel Agent, and plan people's vacations. How much fun does that sound?!?!

Retiring Employee Insights

NAME: Eli Lambert

NICKNAME: AT NJDOT - Dave

POSITION AT RETIREMENT: Assistant Commissioner Capital Project Management & State Transportation Engineer

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT: 34 years 9 months

BEGINNING DATE OF SERVICE: September 26, 1983

LIST POSITIONS HELD AT THE NJDOT:

Assistant Commissioner of Capital Program Management and State Transportation Engineer
 Director of Project Management and State Transportation Engineer
 Director of Bridge Engineering and State transportation Engineer
 Program Manager South Jersey
 Project Manager
 Engineer, Structures plans and Specifications
 Principal Engineer
 Senior Engineer
 Assistant Engineer
 Civil Engineer Trainee



DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? No, but I had many great supervisors who allowed me to grow as an engineer and gave me many great opportunities to manage some of the largest and high profile bridge and highway projects built in New Jersey in the last 25 years. Some of those supervisors are **Bob DiBartolo, Dan Wolf, Sung Park, Harry Capers, Rich Gramlich** and **Rick Hammer**.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I would say my dad who was also a civil engineer. If it wasn't for my dad, I probably would not have gone into engineering.

DID YOU PURSUE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND ADVANCED DEGREES TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER? I took some classes down at Drexel University regarding finite element analysis, took review classes to prepare for my PE exam and have taken the CPM manager programs.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU ARE MOST PROUD AND WHY? There are so many, but I would have to say the Route 52 Causeway project stands out as the best. I started working on the project in 1997. There were so many project stakeholders including Ocean City, Somers Point, all the federal and State environmental agencies and a myriad of others. The job was finally completed in 2012. It's not just a bridge, it is a destination. A veritable ribbon in the sky. Countless thousands of tourists enjoy the multi-use walking and bike paths every year as well as the fishing piers.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? I learned that open lines of communication, out of the box thinking, especially in the area of environmental mitigation and value engineering are paramount to success on a project this large. Be patient, listen, and draw on the best ideas from the project team. On the board reviews, transparency and earned trust from the public can go a long way.

WHAT PROJECT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND WHY? I would say the Ocean City Longport Bridge located at the northern tip of Ocean City.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? Never batter a 54" diameter prestressed concrete cylinder pile. Also, when you are doing pile driving next to an old bridge, make sure you send a diver down into the water during the preliminary design to make sure that there are not any submerged obstructions that could affect the construction of the new bridge.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSTION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER? Take on as much responsibility as you can early in your career. Challenge yourself, be a sponge and learn as much as you can. Don't be afraid to fail. Work hard, try your best. Make every day count.

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO OFFER ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO EXPRESS:

I was given opportunities to manage some of the largest projects built by NJDOT in the last 25 years. Things that many people would only dream about. I was able to live those dreams and for that reason I will be forever grateful to the NJDOT for giving me that opportunity.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS? I plan to work in the private sector.

NJDOT 40-Year Veteran Dave Bizuga Creates a Legacy of Increased Safety and Training Efficiency before he travels to his Next Adventure



David (Dave) Bizuga, Senior Executive Manager, Roadway Design Group 1, is retiring after 40 years of service to NJDOT. He is departing his post but leaving a legacy of increased safety and efficiency for future generations through his work. Dave's field of dreams was a Training Field that would assist NJDOT employees, contractors and in turn, motorists, for years to come. He realized his dream, and it is now named in his honor and in recognition of his service.

Dave took a dangerous situation and created an innovative solution that shook the status quo. Dave is the crash cushion technology subject matter expert for the Department. It had been standard practice to test new guiderail terminals to gain

knowledge about the installation process, assess the ease or complexity of the installation process, gain familiarity with the number of parts, create clear instructions for the writing of the installation manual, etc. Staff performed these tests in the field, on roadways, next to live traffic. Certainly a potential hazard when working with new products. It was also a time-consuming challenge finding test sites.

Dave's idea came in 2017, in response to the upcoming FHWA/AASHTO Implementation agreement that mandated the use of the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) crash tested guide rail and terminal guidelines that was to take effect on June 30, 2018.

David thought there was a better solution than the hazardous field tests. He was hoping to find a grassy, flat area at a NJDOT facility in Central Jersey where the MASH guiderail terminals and crash cushions could be constructed.

There was a conference room on his wish list where the guiderail manufacturer could do the guiderail terminal installation presentation prior to the install. The site could also be used to train inspectors, designers and contractors. Anyone would be able to access the site to check out the properly installed guiderail terminal. **Jean-Pierre Dumesle**, **Ian Erndl** and **Kristen Leland** all agreed.

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Dick Dube retires after a career spanning 42 years and leaves us with some parting words



Dick Dube has worked for 18 Commissioners and 6 Acting Commissioners.

Richard (Dick) Dube started his career at NJDOT in March 1976 as an Assistant Engineer. He moved through the ranks, holding nine positions of increasing responsibility until his current role as Executive Manager, Bureau of Major Access Permits.

Career success is never a sole endeavor, there are always mentors, role models and influencers that help to carve a path. For Dick, those people included **Ed Baker, Jack Dunn** and **Ken Afferton**. "They all

pushed me to reach greater and greater levels of responsibility while teaching me how to work with people toward team goals in solving difficult problems. They taught me to trust my instincts, keep an open mind and do the right thing," Dick said.

Throughout our careers, there are highlights and challenges. Dick is most proud of his work with the team comprised of **Miriam Weeks, Deb Firman, Rosemary Turunc, Sandra Goslin, Chris Barretts** and **Ken Spiegle**, who were tasked with rewriting the Access Code (N.J.A.C. 16:47). Dick said. We were able to make improvements to long standing regulations, overcoming the "but we have always done it this way" syndrome. What I learned is that perseverance pays off as this effort took almost three years to complete and then sat for other reasons for another five years and is only now approaching adoption."

Dick shared some insights from his experience. "Consider

all points of view not just your own when reaching a decision. Treat others as you would like to be treated (thanks Mom), be flexible and adaptable in your approach, and above all, always do what you believe to be the right thing. Don't be afraid to make a mistake but learn from them, do your homework, and look to the future. 'It is better to ask forgiveness than permission', (Thanks Commissioner **Tom Downs**). Be able to laugh at yourself and with others, don't take yourself too seriously."

Dick said in parting, "It has been an honor and great pleasure to have worked at NJDOT... [I] have worked with and befriended many fine people. I believe we have accomplished many things for the citizens of this State while treating each other and our customers with respect and dignity and maintaining a sense of humor."

We thank Dick for his dedicated service to the Department and the public, and wish him well in his upcoming travels with family and friends.

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Timing is often the key to success and Dave's was just right. **Andrew Tunnard**, Assistant Commissioner of Operations was in the process of planning an Operations Training Facility at the old NJ National Guard Armory in Bordentown. "We intend to rehab those buildings and turn them into a state of the art training facility for the Department. I think you will find plenty of places to install these guide rail terminals," Andrew said. Hence, the Guide Rail Terminal and Crash Cushion Installation and Training Field was born.

Since October, the NJDOT Guide Rail End Terminals Review team has installed three different MASH tangent guide rail terminals. The team, contractor's crew and operation's inspectors all attended the training presented by the manufacturer's representatives. Product installation and inspection training videos will be produced from the actual installation on the field.

There are additional programs planned for the future now that the field has created new opportunities. Dave has served NJDOT well and his creativity has left a lasting legacy of increased safety for staff and motorists, while increasing efficiency for the Department. Congratulations on a job well done and best of luck on your road ahead.

