



NJDOT Gratitude Edition

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The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti



Commissioner
Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Dear NJDOT Staff,

My vision and mission for NJDOT is to be a community-centric organization that enhances the public's quality of life with our work. Through the challenges that we all had to face personally and professionally in 2020, we have found a way to achieve those goals.

Awards, commendations, industry achievements, and letters of thanks from the public fill the pages of the NJDOT Gratitude Edition that precisely illustrate the name. It is a testament to our collective dedication to public service, to the hard work of moving ideas to action, and to the successful results of those endeavors.

I congratulate you on your achievements and look forward to continuing our efforts of building safe, people and environment centric infrastructure in the future.

With gratitude,

Diane

No leaf left unturned in NJDOT's Commitment to Communities

The Princeton Department of Infrastructure and Operations sent a letter of gratitude to the NJDOT Operations staff and contractors who pruned along Nassau Street in Princeton. "I can speak for the Department of Public Works, Princeton Mayor and Council, Princeton University, as well as all 30,000 residents that live in Princeton that travel by foot, car, and bicycle along Nassau Street every day that we all feel much safer," Taylor Sapudar, Princeton Municipal Arborist stated in a letter to Christopher Feintheil, Senior Director, Operations, NJDOT.

Taylor Sapudar, a NJ Licensed Tree Expert, also stated that the work was performed "diligently, safely, and professionally...Nassau Street trees have never looked better!" David Divalerio received special thanks for his project facilitation. ➡



Gratitude from Buena Mayor for increasing motoring public safety

Throughout the state, communities are experiencing the benefits of NJDOT's Commitment to Communities initiative. Buena's Mayor David Zappariello wrote a letter of gratitude to NJDOT for its drainage remediation project on Route 40 and Central Avenue. The work alleviated many of the decades long flooding problems that put motorists' safety at risk.

Flooding often made those roads impassable,

"leaving motorists stranded, and in some cases, requiring emergency personnel to perform rescue operations..." wrote Mayor Zappariello. NJDOT took numerous steps to resolve the problem including inspecting and cleaning the drainage system, and replacing a deteriorated pipe. NJDOT's actions clearly enhanced the quality of life and increased motorist safety for Buena residents, and the traveling public. ➡

NJDOT projects and staff receive national and regional awards for exceptional work and dedicated public service

While 2020 has been a challenging year in many ways, there is at least one bright spot. NJDOT staff, consultants, and contractors have received several national and regional awards from transportation industry associations recognizing exceptional projects, innovative solutions, and dedication to public service.

In the past two years, NJDOT has received 30 awards for 19 projects, and two project managers have been recognized as well. Among the awards in 2020, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) honored three projects; the American Society of Civil Engineers New Jersey Section (ASCE) recognized a project and **Assistant Commissioner Andrew Tunnard**; two NJDOT projects received NJ Asphalt Paving

Association (NJAPA) awards; and the Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey (ITSNJ) honored **Padmanabha (Pete) Amin**.

"We are extremely proud of the award recognition highlighting the outstanding efforts of the men and women of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and our contractors to deliver projects that create safer roadways and enrich our communities," **NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** said. "These projects demonstrate how New Jersey is leading the way in delivering transportation projects that improve our infrastructure and enhance the quality of life in our state."

Here are brief descriptions of the award winning projects and staff.

AASHTO Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation Marine Navigation Retroreflective Markers System

The most notable award this year was the AASHTO *Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation* presented in recognition of the Marine Navigation Retroreflective Marker System designed by Transportation Operations Systems and Support Project Engineer **Gerald Oliveto**. The idea also received NJDOT's 2019 *Build a Better Mousetrap* award (see [December 2019 Transporter](#)).



Retroreflective panel on Route 47 over Grassy Sound provides delineation of navigable channel in all weather conditions



Gerald Oliveto receives the 2019 Build a Better Mousetrap Award presented at AASHTO. L-R: Assistant Commissioner Michael Russo, Bureau of Research Manager Amanda Gendek, Oliveto, Assistant Commissioner Andrew Tunnard

Bridges have navigation lights on them to help safely guide boats at night. When a light burns out, it requires an emergency replacement – which could be dangerous if it is being done at night, and costly because of overtime.

Gerald's idea was to use retroreflective panels like those used on highway signs to better identify bridge piers and serve as a backup system for navigation lighting. This simple solution enhances

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safety by increasing the visibility of the bridge fender systems and by identifying the channel margins should navigation lights fail.

Asim Zaman played a key role with Gerald in getting US Coast Guard approval that allowed implementation of the low cost, low maintenance solution. Other transportation agencies in New Jersey, as well as several other states, are now implementing the program. NJDOT will receive a \$10,000 prize to fund a graduate fellowship at a state university. Gerald, the team, and his innovation were featured in a video that was shown during the AASHTO Virtual Annual Meeting on November 9. The NJDOT Team responsible for overseeing the installation of the reflective marker system includes:

John Longworth
Mazhar Paroya
Gerald Oliveto

Georgio Mavrakis
Asim Zaman



Retroreflective panel on bridge pier costs approximately \$15 and eliminates U.S. Coast Guard penalty of more than \$29,000 for a malfunctioning light

AASHTO America's Best Transportation Awards Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project Contract 4 *Quality of Life/Community Development* regional award winner



Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridge

In September, AASHTO named two NJDOT projects regional winners in the 2020 [America's Transportation Awards](#) competition. The **Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project Contract 4** won best *Quality of Life/Community Development*; and the **Route 280, Route 21 Interchange Improvements Project** won best *Operations Excellence*.

The Route 72 project also was one of 12 chosen as a finalist for the national Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award. It was selected as a finalist based on the score it received in the regional competition. Although it didn't win the top prizes, gaining national

recognition for NJDOT projects shows the rest of the country the quality of the work we are doing.

The Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project Contract 4 is part of the \$312 million federally-funded Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project that is improving a 3-mile stretch of Route 72 from Marsha Drive in Stafford to Long Beach Boulevard in Ship Bottom.

For the \$91 million Contract 4, George Harms Construction Co. used an innovative approach to reconstruct the Old Causeway Bridge that saved time and money, and resulted in reopening the bridge a year early. This contract began in the fall of 2016 and completed in June 2019.

In 2019, Contract 5, the Cedar Bonnet Island Habitat Restoration and Management Plan, received the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Environmental Excellence Award.

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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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Route 280, Route 21 Interchange Improvements Project *AASHTO Operations Excellence* regional award winner

The \$95 million federally-funded Route 280, Route 21 Interchange Improvements project was a complex interchange reconstruction project in Newark that improved safety, alleviated congestion, and promoted economic growth. The project, completed in early 2019, repaired deteriorating ramp and mainline structures and built new ramps to provide a fully integrated interchange between I-280 and Route 21.

The project built four new bridges, rehabilitated two additional bridges within the interchange, and upgraded existing infrastructure, such as highway lighting, traffic signals, signing, and landscaping. In order to improve traffic flow, the project also eliminated two direct ramps onto I-280, and constructed shoulders to widen the lanes.



Route 280/Route 21 Interchange Improvements Project, Newark NJ. *AASHTO Operations Excellence* regional award winner

I-287/I-78, Route 202/206 interchange, Somerset County *ASCE New Jersey Project of the Year*

The I-287/I-78, Route 202/206 interchange project in Somerset County eliminated the existing ramp from I-78 eastbound in which traffic merged into the left lane of I-287 northbound and replaced it with a new flyover ramp that has traffic enter on the right side of I-287. This eliminated the need for traffic entering I-287, including numerous trucks, to weave across as many as four lanes to exit at the Route 202/206 ramp.

In addition, the project realigned the ramp from I-287 northbound to Routes 202/206 southbound to reduce the possibility of exiting traffic backing up



Overnight steel erection for a bridge over I-287



on I-287, and built an auxiliary lane along Routes 202/206 southbound to the Hills Drive intersection. For details on this project go to: [ASCE New Jersey 2020 Project of the Year](#)

This is the second consecutive year that an NJDOT project received the New Jersey Project of the Year. In 2019, NJDOT's Route 206 over Branch of Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement project won the award (see [December 2019 Transporter](#)).

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American Society of Civil Engineers New Jersey Section (ASCE)



Tunnard

Award season began in late April when the American Society of Civil Engineers New Jersey Section (ASCE) named the NJDOT **I-287/I-78, Route 202/206 Interchange Project** in Somerset County the *New Jersey Project of the Year* and named NJDOT Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Operations Systems and Support **Andrew Tunnard 2020 ASCE New Jersey Section Service to the People Award** winner.

This award is presented to a government official who has contributed substantially to further public understanding and recognition of the civil engineering profession by meritorious public service. Last year, **Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti** was recognized with this award (see [December 2019 Transporter](#)). Having Assistant Commissioner Tunnard named as this year's winner demonstrates the Department's ongoing commitment toward public service.

Intelligent Transportation Society of NJ Public Official Award



Amin

In October, **Padmanabha (Pete) Amin**, Supervising Engineer, Division of Mobility Engineering, was honored with the *2020 New Jersey Public Official award* by the Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey (ITSNJ). This award honors public officials who have significantly contributed to advancement and use of technology in achieving excellent transportation solutions.

Transportation Mobility Senior Director **Sal Cowen** received this honor in 2019 highlighting NJDOT's consistent commitment to collaborative research, implementation, and use of intelligent transportation systems to enhance economic development, quality of life, and environmental sustainability through improved mobility and safety (see [February 2020 Transporter](#)).


NJ Asphalt Paving Association (NJAPA) Paving Projects of the Year

Two NJDOT projects were honored by the NJ Asphalt Association this year. The **Route 22 EB, Route 78 to Route 23 (CR614 Easton Turnpike)** pavement project was awarded the *2020 Paving Project of the Year* in the New Construction or Major Rehabilitation of a State Highway or Toll Road with a Minimum of 10,000 Tons of Asphalt pavement category.

Della Pello Paving, Inc. was the contractor for this limited scope paving project that resurfaced and rehabilitated 12.4 miles of pavement on Route 22 eastbound in Clinton, Lebanon, and Readington in Hunterdon County and in Branchburg and Bridgewater in Somerset County.

The **Route 287, CR S91 (W. Oakland Avenue) to CR 84 (Franklin Avenue)** pavement preservation project was awarded the *2020 Paving Project of the Year* award in the new Construction or Major Rehabilitation of a State Highway or Toll Road with a Minimum of 5,000 Tons of Asphalt pavement category.

Della Pello Paving, Inc. was the contractor on this pavement preservation project that resurfaced the mainline and shoulders on I-287 in both directions between Oakland and Franklin Lakes in Bergen County. The roadway received a slurry seal aggregate to fill cracks and open longitudinal joints and a one-inch thick layer of High Performance Thin Overlay.

As industry professionals, we are well aware that projects and careers are not defined or created in one year. Projects go through a process of planning, design, and construction, which takes time. The same is true for professional development and careers. While 2020 was an award winning year, we know that it has taken a significant effort, dedication, and service to achieve this public recognition. Congratulations to everyone involved in these award winning efforts. 



Della Pello Paving, Inc. was contracted to resurface and rehabilitate 12.4 miles of pavement on Route 22 eastbound in Hunterdon County and Somerset County.

NJDOT 2020 Public Employee Recognition Awards Program

On September 28, 2020, NJDOT Senior Leadership dedicated the morning to recognizing and honoring staff at the 2020 Public Employee Recognition Awards program. The event paid tribute to staff whose work efforts and outcomes were extraordinary on behalf of the Department and public.

There were more than 100 nominees, both individuals and teams, who were eligible for consideration in the eight award categories. The categories exemplify various aspects of the Commissioner's Commitment to Communities Core Values including: Innovation and Efficiency; Heroism; Leadership/Professional Achievement; Community Service; Governor's Team of Excellence; Employee Choice Award; Rising Star; and Commissioner's Award.

After careful evaluation of the award submissions, the winners were announced and honored at the event. Congratulations to all of the winners and nominees for their outstanding efforts and achievements.

AWARD CATEGORIES and DESCRIPTIONS

Innovation and Efficiency

Recognizes employees who have demonstrated a willingness to identify and implement business processes that make services more accessible to our customers; link budget decisions and program priorities more closely with program performance to achieve cost savings; generate revenue enhancements; and/or implement more efficient methods of service delivery.

Winning Team: **Maintenance Bridge Fender Replacement Program:**

Jack Longworth, Georgio Mavrakis, John Miller, Gerald Oliveto.



The Maintenance Bridge Fender Replacement Program team received the **Innovation and Efficiency Award**. (L-R) Asim Zaman, who recently joined the team, and award winners: Georgio Mavrakis, Jack Longworth, John Miller, and Gerald Oliveto.

Heroism

Recognizes employees who went above and beyond the call of duty to selflessly and successfully save someone who was in a life-threatening situation.

Winning Team: **Geraldo Castillo, Paul Ilge**



Geraldo Castillo (l) and Paul Ilge (r) received the **employee Heroism Award** from Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti.

Leadership/Professional Achievement

Recognizes employees who have established a higher standard of work performance by example; demonstrated leadership qualities when presented with challenging assignments; voluntarily used their knowledge and skills to promote work-related development of other employees; contributed to building employee morale; improved work processes and/or procedures; encouraged initiative and forward thinking; and/or who successfully established new and outstanding methods, practices, plans, or designs resulting in cost savings, revenue generation, and/or workplace efficiencies.

Winner: **Suzanne Tomlinson**



Suzanne Tomlinson (c) received the **Leadership/Professional Achievement Award** flanked by Assistant Commissioner Lewis Daidone and Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti.

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Community Service

Recognizes employees who have made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live or to the State through organizational activities outside the workplace.

Winning Team: **Collection for a Colleague in Need:**

Gaetano Bizzoco, Richard Callaghan, Debra Christensen, Richard Christensen, Alfred Crawford, Harry Greenhalgh, Peter Hando, Christopher Murphy, Joseph Lepore, Luis Rivera, Robert Rogers, Stephen Sahai, Calvin Scott.



Debra Christensen, joined by Christopher Feintheil and Christopher Tomlinson, receive the **Community Service Award** on behalf of the Collection for a Colleague in Need team.

Governor's Team of Excellence

Recognizes employees who have demonstrated a commitment to public service through leading by example and helping the Governor meet his mission to make New Jersey a stronger and fairer place to live and work.

Winning Team: **NJDOT HR Recruitment & Appointments Team: Larell Bryant, Dana**



NJDOT HR Recruitment & Appointments Team were awarded with the **Governor's Team of Excellence Award**. L-R: Chief of Staff Jay Jimenez, with team members: Dana Davies, Lisa Zook (Supervisor), Kelly Hutchinson (Manager), Noelia Rodriguez (Supervisor), Jocelyn Juralewicz, Harriet McGee, Adam Grimanis, Michele Shapiro (Director).

Davies, Rosanne Fairbanks, Adam Grimanis, Kelly Hutchinson, Jocelyn Juralewicz, Harriet McGee, Alexandra Pollard, Noelia Rodriguez, Richard Taylor, Lisa Zook.

Employee Choice Award

Recognizes employees who have been nominated by their peers for demonstrating a commitment to their colleagues and/or to the mission of the Department. Nominations in this category include descriptions such as: "Hardest Worker;" "Always Willing to Help;" "Pleasant to Work With;" "Gets the Job Done;" etc.

Winner: **Christopher Feintheil**



Christopher Feintheil received the **Employee Choice Award**.

Rising Star Award

Recognizes employees who exceeded their job expectations with exceptional customer service to the public and to the employees of the Department. These individuals are a great example to their peers and help to further the Department to successfully meet its mission.

Winner: **Sarah Ray**



Sarah Ray, Rising Star Award winner pictured with Jack Longworth.

Commissioner's Award

Recognizes employees who exceeded their job expectations with exceptional customer service to the public and to the employees of the Department. These individuals are a great example to their peers and help to further the Department to successfully meet its mission.

Winner: **Syed Kazmi**



Syed Kazmi received the **Commissioner's Award** from Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti.

Congratulations to all 2020 NJ Public Employee Recognition Award recipients! 🎉

20th Annual Employee Memorial and Remembrance Ceremony



**Commissioner
Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

On September 11, NJDOT commemorated the employees who lost their lives in the line of duty at the 20th Annual Employee Memorial and Remembrance event. Joseph Bertoni, Deputy Commissioner, opened the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of our National Anthem and

an Invocation offered by Reverend Tom Johnson, NJDOT retiree and Pastor of the Fisk Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Fair Haven.

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti provided opening remarks followed by Roger Bodman, former NJDOT Commissioner. He delivered a special tribute to Louis Gambaccini, former NJDOT Commissioner and NJ Transit founder, who passed away in 2018. A memorial plaque dedicated in his honor was unveiled at the event, surrounded by his family.

Joe Dee, Deputy Director, CPM Program Advancement and Communication, served as Master of Ceremonies. Former NJDOT Commissioner Jim Weinstein, who authorized the building of the Employee Memorial during his tenure at NJDOT, shared how the Memorial came about. Staff and retirees wanted to memorialize the passing of Louis Caruso, who perished in the line-of-duty in June 1999. Employees supported its development through fundraising, construction, landscaping, and the Memorial was dedicated in September 2000. Fundraising events such as the Silent Auction and Pretzel Sales continue to support NJDOT's employee activities (i.e. Annual Picnic, Heritage Month events, Holiday Celebrations and more).

Since September 2001, the Remembrance Ceremony solemnly began including the nearly 3,000 Americans who were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks perpetrated on American soil. Command Sergeant Major Thomas Falletta, US Army Reserve and a NJ State Police Lieutenant overseeing the NJDOT/NJSP Incident Management Program Unit, paid tribute to the men and women of the Military who sacrificed their lives to save others, as well as those who continue to serve in the Armed Forces today, including NJDOT employees. Falletta retired from state service in October and will retire from military service at the end of 2020.

Sal Cowan, Senior Director, Transportation Mobility, prepared words of honor and praise for Law Enforcement, Emergency Responders, Search and Rescue workers, and his Transportation Mobility staff who work around the clock to keep the public safe. Sal spoke of their inner strength, their willingness to get the job done no matter the hour or day, and for being strong everyday for the people of this great state.

Andrew Tunnard, Assistant Commissioner and Commander, US Navy Reserve (retired), read the names of the 36 employees who lost their lives in service to NJDOT and the public. The Commissioner and family members of Eduardo Jimenez, Joe Kealey and Terry Kresge laid flowers at the Memorial to honor their loved ones who died while performing their jobs for the Department. A moment of silence followed.

Michele Shapiro, Director, Division of Human Resources, paid tribute to NJDOT employees who passed away since the 2019 ceremony. Stephanie Green-Keniebrew led the singing of God Bless America and Chuck Bitner, retired Master Gunnery Sergeant from the Trenton Detachment #207 Marine Corps League Firing Detail, played TAPs. Veronica Murphy, Administrative Analyst 3, Division of Local Aid, closed the ceremony with the reading of a poem by civil rights activist, poet and award-winning author, Dr. Maya Angelou.

The COVID-19 pandemic required that the ceremony invitee list be kept to a minimum to maintain social distancing, yet livestreaming technology expanded the audience reach.

Special thanks to the Employee Memorial Committee for organizing this beautiful tribute, and to employees in Information Technology, Support Services, Commissioner's Office, Capital Program Management, and the Office of Communications for their essential contributions in producing this important event. ➡



Gambaccini family



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

GRATITUDE FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE!

Bill Akerstrom, (Support Services, Regional Facilities Management, Knowlton Tourist Welcome Center), provided a superior level of customer service to New Jersey travelers. His effort prompted this letter of gratitude! Thank you for a job exceptionally well-done Bill!

I am writing this to acknowledge the outstanding service my wife and I received from Mr. Bill Akerstrom at the Knowlton Tourist Welcome Center over this past Labor Day weekend.

My wife and I have been residents of NJ over the past 28 years... We pulled into the Knowlton Tourist Welcome Center with the idea of eating a bag lunch... We were in the process of sitting down at a picnic table in front of the building in the bright sun when Mr. Akerstrom came out of the building and invited us to try a picnic table around the other side of the building in the shade that was not visible from the parking area. What a wonderful spot! Quiet, peaceful, great views and cool shade. My wife and I enjoyed this oasis and we owe it all to Mr. Akerstrom, who made us aware of this little "hideaway." He truly embodied what customer service is all about and as a resident of New Jersey, I was proud that he represented the NJDOT in such a manner. He even told us that the upper picnic area was even better, and as we left, we drove by and we agree.

Mr. Akerstrom provided my wife and I with a level of service not usually encountered and we both believe that he truly put the word welcome in the Knowlton Tourist Welcome Center! In the future, my wife and I might make this spot a destination for an afternoon picnic and not just a rest stop.

(this letter was edited for brevity) ➡

Mark Z.

While the summer season may be a distant memory, the service of NJDOT staff to the public during and after Tropical Storm Isaias remains



forefront in our minds. In early August, Tropical Storm Isaias brought with it high winds that downed trees and power lines resulting in extensive statewide power outages.

NJDOT Electrical Maintenance forces stepped in when others were hunkering down at home. **Anthony Ennas** and **Amy Marino** coordinated the effort and Regional Electrical Supervisors **Ken Meyers** (North), **Terry Quinn** (Central) and **Mark Bayous** (South) lead the teams who installed 112 generators at key intersections around the state and repowered downed traffic signals in order to keep motorists safe.

The generators at all locations and in all regions required monitoring and refueling to sustain roadway safety until the power was restored. This was a very big "resiliency" lesson learned from Superstorm Sandy and was implemented within 24 hours of Tropical Storm Isaias, helping to relieve law enforcement and improve public safety.

Bravo to the leaders and team members who kept motorists safe on NJDOT roads! ➡



Employee Appreciation Picnic



Retiring Employee Interview Questions



NAME: Lucille Kruger

TITLE AT RETIREMENT: Section Chief, Facilities Manager

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT: 41 years, start date of service, June 1979

LIST POSITIONS HELD AT THE NJDOT: Clerk Stenographer, Senior Clerk Stenographer, Principal Clerk Stenographer, Secretarial Assistant 3 & 2, Administrative Assistant 2, Executive Assistant 3 & 2; Supervisor, General & Support Services and Section Chief, Facilities Management


DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? My first mentor and friend at DOT was Anne Marchetti. Anne was the secretary for John Gutberlet in Transit Planning, where I first started. Janis Stia, who was the Executive Assistant for then Support Services Director, Don Chiacchio became another mentor and friend later in my career after I moved to Support Services. I also have to mention Joe Acerra, who was the Manager of Facilities Management. I worked for him for approximately 16 years, and Joe allowed me to grow and learn all areas of the Bureau regardless of my title.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I started in Facilities Management when the Bureau was first created in Support Services back in the mid-80s, and I really enjoyed dealing with employees throughout the Department and every day bringing a different challenge.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU WERE MOST PROUD AND WHY? I would have to say the opening of the E&O Building. We worked together as a team to ensure that each and every station was ready for occupation before moving staff into the building.

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? I would say that I am a perfect example of being able to start in an entry level position and rising to a higher level supervisory position. I think you just need to be open to doing new things even if they are not in your job scope. A lot of people are not willing to work above their title without compensation, and as a result they limit themselves as far as experience and what they can put on their resume.

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO OFFER ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO EXPRESS. I was truly blessed in my career at NJDOT. I walked in at 16 and grew with the Department. I met and worked alongside a lot of wonderful people. I hope that everyone gets to enjoy the success and satisfaction that I have.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS? My husband and I will be moving to our house in Carolina Shores, NC to relax and enjoy life. 

NJDOT Service Awards

Summer 2020

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Keith Daniels
Joseph Devita
Charles Filipowicz
Carl Fillman
Kim Janiszewski
Brian McQuaid
Michael Moran
Lorraine Rezner
Antonio Rizzo
Deborah Stevenson
Felix Ulloa
Marco Vallejo

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Matthew Abbott
Kiranbhai Amin
Alexander Borovskis
Harikrishna Desai
Sowatta Eap
Henry Ekundayo
Jeffrey Evanylo
Prakash Ghandi
Cindy Katz
James Lezzano
Luis Limo
Barbara May
Robert May
Lynn Middleton
Martin Miller
Thomas Ohara
Debra Orzol
Jayendra Patel
Pankajkuma Patel
Taren Patel
John Ruffino
Paul Sanders
Keisha Vaughan-Glasper
Todd Wolfram
George Worth

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Michael Carr
Judy Johnson
Leslie Megyesy
Michael Pitts
Donna Solderich
Sherry Waladkewics

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Aiken
Marvin Anderson
Joseph Antonowicz
Angelo Armano
Jose Arroyo
Thomas Blair
Raymond Blickle
Ron Brandt
Michael Byer
Marie Clifton
Richard Cox
Carl Davis
Zina Ellis
Jerome Florence
James Gleason
Allen Goble
Todd Greener
Ralph Hernandez
Anthony Holland
Mohammed Hossain
Thomas Jones
Eugene Keefe
James Lance
Jean Loreti
Ronald Lugo
Marvin Mack
Sam Marcos
Frank Merlino
Derek Milik
Daniel Mislowsky
Sean Mooney
Christian Morris

Jorge Perrony
Paul Peterson
Robert Phillips
Amy Polachak
Joseph Post
Renzo Raineri
Briton Ramsey
Irene Razzano
Edward Reyes
Douglas Ridgway
Ronald Roberts
Luis Rodriquez
William Rollack
Ronald Russo
Glenn Sarmiento
Marc Sims
Michael Slusarski
Dextine Stanley
Angelo Sucameli
Miriam Torres
John Tronco
Robert Valentino
Patrick Walker
Edward Washington
Steven Werensly
Cliff Wilson
Michael Yapple
Robert Zydorski

Retirees



June

Richard Casmer, 34 years; Robert Foss, 16 years; Kevin Isler, 35 years; Paul Jackson, 17 years; Clare Mansfield, 15 years; Vinu C. Patel, 36 years; Antoinette Sapp, 16 years; Samir Shah, 32 years; Cynthia Soffel, 34 years; Lisa Voorhees, 32 years.

July 2020

Phillip Boone, 37 years; Christopher Cooper, 37 years; Danielle Graves, 32 years; Lucille Kruger, 41 years; Edwin Lewandowski, 20 years; James Lezzano, 35 years; Robert McGill, 33 years; Mamta Patel, 21 years; Kimberly Stuhltrager, 36 years.

August 2020

Donald Albanese, 34 years; Frederick Lassiter, 30 years; Timothy Lertch, 38 years; Francis Martinez, 25 years; John Post, 15 years; Teresa Rogan, 17 years; Ivette Santiago-Green, 9 years; Patrick Walker, 20 years; Robert Wilson, 11 years.

September 2020

Richard Arnold, 37 years; Jay Jeyamohan, 31 years; Barry Kotsak, 34 years; Charles Metz, 20 years; Michael Pierandozzi, 32 years; Suzann Sczepakowski, 35 years; Charles Wills, 35 years.

October 2020

Nicholas Alfano, 34 years; Anita Lawson, 36 years; Robert Nemo, 31 years; Jayant R. Patel, 20

years; Millard Paulus, 34 years; Lisa Sindelar, 28 years; Joseph Sullivan, 34 years.

November 2020

Steven Beherns, 39 years; Cynthia Bloom-Cronin, 33 years; Cynthia Dey, 40 years; Carmen Iantorno, 36 years; Pamela Robertori, 22 years; Keisha Vaugh-Glasper, 35 years; John D. Walter, 2 years.

December 2020

Frank Brigandi, 36 years; Charles Filipowicz, 40 years; Anupkumar Gandhi, 32 years; John Hulley, 19 years; John Martin, 18 years; Michael J. Nowicki, 35 years; Edward Rogacki, 32 years.

Obituary

I am deeply saddened to announce that **Rochelle Washington** passed away on June 18, 2020 at the age of 39.

Rochelle joined the Department in September 2016 as an Analyst Trainee for the OPRA/Records Management/Tort Litigation Support unit in the Office of Inspector General. At the time of her passing, Rochelle was an Administrative Analyst II, a position she was promoted to in December 2019. Prior to joining the NJDOT, Rochelle worked for the Department of Consumer Affairs and graduated from Rutgers University.

Rochelle handled many of the OPRA Unit's most challenging public records requests and had a thorough understanding of OPRA law, as well as the complex workings of the entire Department. Throughout a period of staffing changes throughout her Unit, Rochelle's knowledge, experience and patient guidance were critical to maintaining Unit-wide consistency in high-quality, timely work output. Rochelle often proposed creative and practical solutions to make the Unit run more efficiently. She brought positive and calming energy to the office. Even when facing a litany of deadline-driven, contentious and frustrating assignments, Rochelle managed to keep a grounded and positive outlook that was often contagious and had a lasting impact on coworkers' morale.

Rochelle's colleagues describe her as kind, smart, funny, and a loyal friend and Aunt, sporadically sharing stories regarding the time she spent with her nieces and nephews. Rochelle was a big fan of Snoopy and Honey Mustard Pringles. Rochelle was a truthful person who said what she meant. In her work, she was very diplomatic and able to get her message across kindly and clearly to anyone. In her home life, she was loved and adored by friends and family alike. She was always available to help family and friends and was often the organizer or chief participant in family celebrations and events. Rochelle was always there to provide support for anyone who came to her for feedback on a challenge they faced or a success that they wanted to build on. Rochelle was devoted to nurturing her four Godchildren and enjoyed her loving family and friends.

Predeceased by her father, Ronnie Fletcher, she is survived by her mother, Martha Washington; her sister, Lyesha Fletcher; her brothers; Rashon Fletcher and Ronnie Townsend; her best friend, Kima Byrd; her Goddaughters, Taahira and Kamyah; Godson, Elijah; Godniece, Saniya; boyfriend, James Griffin; and numerous friends and family members.

Please keep Rochelle's family, friends and colleagues in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.