

TRANSITION

Life Saving TIM Training for when the *Unimaginable* Happens

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The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti



**Commissioner
Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

Dear NJDOT family,

As we enter the Holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your service to the Department and to the community we serve.

Commitment to Communities is our mission, but those words only become meaningful when action supports them. Safety is a pillar of NJDOT's mission and this month's *Transporter* edition displays how leadership and our staff work each day to act to keep the public and staff safe on our roads.

Traffic Incident Management training provides hands-on experience to the emergency agencies that face the unimaginable each day. It brings diverse agencies together, builds relationships, shares best practices and techniques, and makes responding to the public during emergencies more manageable.

The NJDOT Road-E-O serves the same purpose

of strengthening skills, building relationships, and providing hands-on training. The event combines learning with friendly competition and is always a fun and memorable experience.

The Safety Service Patrol has been living the Commitment to Communities mission for 25 years, even before those words were written. The public benefits from their work daily, across the state, and it was an honor to celebrate them for their momentous anniversary.

Infrastructure emergencies, such as the one encountered by NJDOT staff with the Route 206 over the Branch of the Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement project, required fast, experienced, and advanced thinking and engineering. We appreciate their success in keeping the driving public safe on our roads.

We learn from the past, hone skills each day, and plan for the future, as best we can. NJDOT staff put meaning to the Commitment to Communities message through hard work and dedication. NJDOT is more than words – NJDOT is action.

Thank you for embodying the mission!

Diane



NJDOT Annual Coat Drive

NJDOT held its annual Coat Drive to share the gift of warmth for those who are in need. The Department generously donated more than 200 coats and gloves in support of the cause. The garments were delivered to [HomeFront](#), a non-profit organization in Lawrenceville that is committed to ending homelessness in Central Jersey and [Twin Oaks](#) in Mt. Holly. Congratulations on being a part of the NJDOT Commitment to Communities mission. 



There's still time to donate to the
New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign
before December 31st.

PLEDGE NOW!



NJDOT and regional transportation agencies hosted a Traffic Incident Management training for first responders

More than 17,000 emergency personnel in New Jersey trained to date



Experts across the response discipline train and work together in preparation to quickly and safely resolve emergency situations. Team members pictured L-R: NJSP IMU SFC Chris Fowler; NJSP IMU SFC Guy Hendrickson; PennDOT Traffic Control Specialist Matt Elliott; NJDOT IMU Sr. Trans Analyst Dennis Caltagirone; Penn Turnpike Traffic IMU Coordinator Todd Leiss; Incident Management and TMC Operations Specialist Drive Engineering Dave Wolf; NJDOT Senior Director of Transportation Mobility Sal Cowan; NJDOT Incident Management Response Team Kelly McVeigh; NJIT IMU Coordinator Bob Pomykala (Retired NJSP IMU); NJSP IMU SFC Frank Soos.

NJDOT officials hosted a multi-disciplinary first responder training exercise in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) on September 25 at the Camden County College Fire Academy.

TIM Responder Training brings police, firefighters, NJDOT, towing, medical personnel, and other incident responders together to engage in interactive, hands-on incident resolution exercises. The New Jersey State Police, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Gloucester Township Fire Department, and Haine's



Kelly McVeigh, NJDOT Incident Management Response Team member, trains first responders on the importance of advanced notification to motorists for traffic control and safety, a key concept in Traffic Incident Management.

Towing and Reihl's Towing companies partnered to provide and participate in the comprehensive training. Follow this [link](#) to view a video about TIM Training, its goals and teaching methods.

To date, NJDOT and its partner agencies have trained more than 17,000 emergency and incident response personnel in New Jersey, and PENNDOT has trained more than 14,000 emergency and incident response personnel in Pennsylvania.



Sal Cowan, NJDOT Senior Director of Transportation Mobility, briefs media and participants on the importance of Traffic Incident Management training for all state and local first responders across all disciplines.

This life-saving training is part of a national effort to improve the safety of first responders and others that work at highway crash sites. NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety Director Eric Heitmann, and NJ State Police Superintendent Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, promoted the training in a Public Service Announcement [video](#) that encourages all first responders in all disciplines to get trained in Traffic Incident Management.

The course is intended to provide students with local, state, and national best practices so that they can conduct safe and quick clearances of roadway incidents.

The September training was a full-day course of educational material, including classroom training and

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A New Jersey State Police helicopter flew to a temporary landing site to simulate a medivac emergency response operation.

Traffic Incident Management Continued from page 3

hands-on outdoor activities. Participants practice rescues and techniques using actual vehicles and traffic safety and response equipment including up righting an overturned bus and rescuing its occupants.

Training also included a New Jersey State Police helicopter landing at a temporary landing zone set up by first responders to simulate a medivac operation.

The NJDOT TIM website www.njtim.org functions as a central clearinghouse for first responders across the State, including materials and future training opportunities. 

First responders save lives but it can cost them their own!

TIM training focuses on protecting motorists *and* responders while minimizing traffic impact.

The average number of responders struck and killed nationally while working in or near moving traffic each year are:

Fire/Rescue and EMS: 6-8 per year

Law Enforcement: 10-12 per year

Tow/Recovery: 50 per year

DOTs, Public Works, and Safety Service Patrols:
100 per year + 20,000 injured



Dennis Caltagirone, NJDOT IMU Sr. Transportation Analyst sharing strategies for safe incident clearing in a multi-disciplinary emergency response simulation for training participants.



Safety Service Patrol celebrated for turning bad days into moments of gratitude for 25 years

Thousands of NJ motorists hail SSP staff as heroes

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials declared October 28-31 a week of celebration in honor of the Safety Service Patrol's (SSP) 25th Anniversary of turning thousands of motorists' bad days into moments of gratitude.

The SSP was created in 1994 to assist motorists whose vehicles have become disabled due to a crash, mechanical failure or other cause, and provide safety for emergency responders. They patrol 225 linear miles of Interstate and State highways throughout New Jersey, extending to more than 394 miles during the winter season.

"Being stranded on the road after a motor vehicle crash or car trouble is a nightmare scenario for many motorists," said Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti. "When motorists see an SSP truck pull up behind them they can breathe a sigh of relief because they know that they are in good hands, and that our drivers are there to help. Their hard work helps troubled motorists, prevents accidents involving stranded cars, and reduce rubbernecking."

Since its inception, this highly visible and successful program has responded to more than 1.5 million incidents on NJ's highly traveled roads. Assistance includes changing a flat tire, pushing a disabled vehicle off to the shoulder, pulling a vehicle trapped in mud or snow back onto the road, providing a small amount of gasoline and making minor repairs.

"For twenty-five years the men and women of New Jersey DOT's Safety Service Patrol have been helping countless motorists on our highways. Each and every one of them are brave, highly capable and friendly. I am very proud to salute their selfless service and congratulate them on this wonderful anniversary," said Andrew J. Tunnard, Assistant Commissioner of Transportation Operations Systems and Support.

"The men and women of NJDOT's Safety Service Patrol are often called "angels" by the people they stop to help. They're incredibly dedicated public servants who truly believe that the work they do makes a difference to the drivers of the state," said Sal Cowan, Senior Director of Transportation Mobility.

The service is provided free of charge to the people they help and SSP drivers cannot accept tips. In addition to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding, State Farm® has sponsored NJDOT's Safety Service Patrol Program since 2012 as part of a public-private partnership. This sponsorship is one of the first of its kind in New Jersey.

For more information about the Safety Service Patrol, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/motoristassistance/ssp.shtm> 

Just a few of the thousands of motorist comments about NJDOT Safety Service Patrol drivers

Allie said: "I was pulled over with my hazards flashing. Within 5 minutes, an NJDOT Patrol car pulled over and asked if I needed help. He provided all of his information and identification at my request. He then changed my flat tire and had me back on the road in about 10 minutes!"

Andy said: "I have a more favorable opinion of the DOT after receiving assistance."

Lisa said: "Deb P was our patrol driver and helped us while we were stranded with a flat tire on the shoulder of Route 287 south... my husband and I were driving down the Jersey shore with our 2 children... our roadside assistance told us it would be up to 2 hours. Suddenly, Deb pulled up in her truck and was able to change our tire. She truly was our savior today! My family and I were so grateful!"

Tammi said: "I had a flat tire on the highway, right at the start of rush hour, and Frank came to my rescue to help replace the tire on a large vehicle. He was efficient and quick, and made the scary situation go away in 10 minutes. Thank you Frank!"

NJ Turnpike and SJTA join NJDOT's Annual Winter Road-E-O for the first time

Rookie from South Region Wins 2019 Driving Course Award



For the first time, crews from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) and South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) joined NJDOT Highway Operations Crews at the Department's 2019 Annual Winter Road-E-O held at Island Beach State Park.

The day-long training and skills competition brings together the best crews from NJDOT's North, Central, and South Regions, and this year from the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and SJTA to test New Jersey's transportation agencies readiness for winter.

There were 110 total participants, with 100 from NJDOT, five from NJTA, and five from SJTA. This was the first year we invited SJTA & NJTA to compete in the Road-E-O and we look forward to their participation again next year on a bigger scale. Representatives from the NJ State Police and NJDOT's Safety Service Patrol (SSP) also attended this year. Members of NJDOT's Bureau of Aeronautics Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) staff were on hand flying drones – which gave those licensed and certified NJDOT drone operators the opportunity to get some training while capturing some amazing video of the day's events.

Participants competed in several skills categories including attaching a plow to a truck, changing a plow blade, traffic signal repair, and truck inspection to name a few. The highlight of the competition was the driving course where plow operators were timed going through a course with nine obstacles, such as plowing near simulated parked cars, backing up into a tapered dock, and negotiating a cul-de-sac, all without hitting the cones.

NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti presented the Road-E-O trophy to this year's Driving Course winner, Brian Saccomanno from NJDOT's

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Winner of the statewide Snow Plow Road-E-O is Brian Saccomanno.

TRANSPORTER

E-News



News for and about
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Employees and Retirees

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Commissioner
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Published by the NJDOT
Communications Office

For news and story ideas, contact:
Editor and writer
judith.drucker@dot.nj.gov



Winter Road-E-O Continued from page 6

South Region. Brian also took home the Rookie of the Year honors. It isn't often a new staff member comes out and shows everyone else how it's done! Here is a list of this year's winners:

Governor's award to the best overall agency: NJDOT (top driver in the state)
Driving Course: Brian Saccomanno (South Region)
Rookie of the Year: Brian Saccomanno (South Region)
Training: Adrian Gonzalez & Kevin Zullin (Central Region)
Mechanics: Zach Carter (North Region)
Electrical: Douglas Ribot & Robert Capizzi (North Region) 



Driving Toward Zero Deaths – NJDOT hosted a Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit

Public and private partners collaborate to increase roadway safety

On November 15, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials hosted the first of three Safety Summits to develop the New Jersey 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2020 SHSP) at The College of New Jersey.

Every five years, the SHSP plan is reevaluated, as mandated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with the [prior plan](#) completed in 2015. The mission of the plan is to increase safety and reduce roadway deaths over the next five years. **Driving Toward Zero Deaths** is the established goal for the plan that will be implemented statewide by the end of 2020.



Robert Nulman, MADD NJ Chapter victim advocate and former Mayor of Clinton, put a face on the safety message by sharing his personal tragedy and loss of his 22-year-old son Daniel in a crash with a drunk driver in 1987.

The development of the 2020 SHSP is a collaborative effort between state and local transportation agencies, law enforcement, emergency response, academia, healthcare, and other public and private sector transportation stakeholders, with members included in the 2020 SHSP Working Group. The Summit broadened the outreach to additional allied partners to garner support, inspire ideas, and build a strong coalition.

The Working Group, Steering Committee and Executive Committee will meet numerous times to establish emphasis areas, and develop a comprehensive plan. The plan will include educational strategies to build public awareness of enhanced safety practices and offer ideas for potential infrastructure improvements. A final report will be published by the end of summer 2020.



NJ Department of Education Commissioner Dr. Lamont O. Repollet acknowledged the importance of education in achieving the Driving Toward Zero Deaths mission.

“Safety is our top priority,” NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. “In order to continue the goal ‘toward zero deaths’ on all of New Jersey’s roads, we need a blueprint for strategic action. The three Summits provide the opportunity to create partnerships and collaborative efforts toward improving safety and reducing injuries and fatalities on our highways.”

The first Summit brought together the leaders of state agencies and other transportation professionals with nearly 250 attendees. The Summit began with an introduction to the program and its goals by Michael Russo, NJDOT Assistant Commissioner, Planning, Multimodal and Grant Administration. Robert Nulman, MADD NJ Chapter victim advocate and former Mayor of Clinton, then put a face on the messaging by sharing his personal tragedy and loss of his 22-year-old son Daniel in a crash with a drunk driver in 1987.

Keynote speakers included NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti; NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety Director Eric Heitmann; NJ Department of Health Acting Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli; NJ Department of Education Commissioner Dr. Lamont O. Repollet; and NJ Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator B. Sue Fulton. Members of the public were also invited to share their insight.

Two more Summits will be held in 2020 with dates to be determined. Visit the 2020 SHSP website for more information: www.saferoadsforallnj.com 

21st Annual NJDOT Research Showcase

The 21st Annual NJDOT Research Showcase provided New Jersey's transportation community an opportunity to explore a broad scope of academic research being conducted by institutions of higher education and their associates across the state. Professionals explored innovative ideas, acquired and shared knowledge and reaffirmed the importance of research and information sharing to solve transportation problems.



Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti gave introductory remarks

Michael Russo, Assistant Commissioner, Planning, Multimodal and Grant Administration, welcomed attendees and introduced Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti. The Commissioner's introductory remarks underscored the difference between the transportation industry today from years past, noting that at earlier conferences materials experts would have filled the room – today, research and technology experts are driving the industry forward.

The rate of transportation industry change is



L-R: Assistant Commissioner Michael Russo, Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti and Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration Valeriya Remezova, Ph.D. Remezova presented the Commissioner with a photograph of her receiving the 2019 State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Excellence Award on behalf of NJDOT research staff at the AASHTO annual conference held on October 5-9, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

remarkable, she continued, and its success and progress is contingent upon research, learning, and sharing. She proudly stated that New Jersey is an industry leader in its technological expertise and noted NJDOT's receipt of the **2019 State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Excellence Award** given by the **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) & Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** in a national competition between state departments of transportation.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti stated that while it is important for companies to keep research and innovation proprietary, we must also open source information to solve problems and effect



David C. Woessner, Executive VP, LM Industries + Local Motors gave Keynote Address

positive change for the public. "An idea can be small, like a seed – but like a tomato, it all begins with a seed." She continued, "We have programs that are small but make a big difference in people's lives... Transportation is used by people every day. It can't be replaced. I applaud all of you. Listen and learn. We will collaborate on projects in the next year."

Valeriya Remezova, Ph.D., Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division Office (FHWA NJ), congratulated the Commissioner on the work being performed at NJDOT stating that it is "leading the way in transportation" excellence.

The STIC Excellence Award selection criteria includes the Council making a difference in its state by bringing various stakeholders together to promote innovation statewide, creating a strong culture of innovation through best practices, and examples of the achieved results through those efforts.

David C. Woessner, Executive Vice President, Corporate Development and Regulatory Affairs, Local Motors (LM) was the keynote speaker. He discussed the transportation innovation LM is executing in the area of "first-mile/last-mile" transportation systems using the world's first digital manufacturing of electric vehicles that they have named OLLI. OLLI is a low

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Accepting the Better Mousetrap Award, Gerald Oliveto, Operations Support and Engineering with Assistant Commissioners Michael Russo (L), Andrew Tunnard, and Bureau of Research Manager, Amanda Gendek

speed, autonomous vehicle that is built by digital printing manufacturing. <https://localmotors.com/meet-olli/>

Woessner said that innovation today is incremental and that while automobiles have not changed for 100 years, now we are reinventing the future of transportation. He stated that transportation should be considering crowdsourcing for effective use of transportation; giving people back “time” by using autonomous vehicles, and providing transportation for underserved populations.

NJDOT also received the **AASHTO 2019 Research Advisory Committee (RAC) “Sweet 16” High Value Research Award** for the **New Protocol for Evaluating the Durability of Coatings used for Reducing Corrosion of Steel Structures** research, Principal Investigator, Dr. P.N. Balaguru of Rutgers University and **Research Project Manager**, Dr. Giri Venkateela, NJDOT Bureau of Research.

Each year, the AASHTO RAC asks states to identify and document recently completed “high-value research” (HVR) projects, which are then compiled and published. The resulting document provides substantial value to states as a quick reference resource for DOTs to become aware of HVR projects, and eliminate or reduce duplication of research.

Gerald Oliveto, NJDOT Operations Support and Engineering, received the **2019 NJDOT Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM) Award** for his innovative **Bridge Fender Navigation Lighting Reflective Backup System**. Retro reflective panels were installed on NJDOT bridges in navigable waters to better identify bridge piers and serve

as a backup system for navigation lighting. The backup system avoids the burden of potential fines for malfunctioning navigation lighting and additional costs for emergency work orders and overtime repairs to the bridge fender navigation lighting system. The panels provide an enhanced safety feature to the maritime community by allowing for increased visibility of the bridge fender systems and can safely identify the channel margins should navigation lighting malfunction. The low cost application can be transferred to any other agency with bridges spanning navigable waterways such as: NJ Transit, counties, port authorities/commissions, and other state DOTs.

Daniel Offenbacher, Rowan University, received the annual **Outstanding University Student in Transportation Research Award**.

Xiao Tan, Stevens Institute of Technology was named the **2019 Best Poster Award** recipient for his Improving Bridge Performance using Fiber Reinforced Polymer, Shape Memory Alloy, and Engineered Cementitious Composites research.

Breakout learning and sharing sessions were held throughout the afternoon including topics such as:

New Protocol for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Coatings Used to Reduce Corrosion of Steel Structures; Bridge Structural Health Monitoring Using Nonlinear Vibro-Acoustic Method; Design and Performance Evaluation of Fiber-reinforced Hot Mix Asphalt; Local Road Safety Audit Program. For a complete listing of topics visit the NJDOT [Tech Transfer](#) website. 



2019 Outstanding University Student in Transportation Research Award, Daniel Offenbacher, Rowan University

NJDOT staff celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month through personal stories, historical events, music, and food

The National Hispanic Heritage Month event, held at NJDOT on October 4, introduced the audience to various cultures under the Hispanic diaspora through personal narrative, historical reference, music and cuisine.

The use of the word “Hispanic” is a broad term that refers to people whose common denominator is the Spanish language. Hispanics, also known as Latino, or LatinX peoples, hail from around the world from places as diverse as Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South or Central America and other countries. While they share a common language, the cultures are unique and so are the personal stories that are passed down through the generations. The Hispanic American immigration narratives are also diverse. Some people arrived in the United States by force while others came to escape oppression or in search of a better life.

Ivette Santiago-Green, Director, Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, welcomed the audience and shared her family’s immigration story to the United States. “...We all have a story... We become part of our neighbors’ story, and thus, New Jersey’s story, and ultimately, our nation’s story. Latinos are not recent arrivals and failure to acknowledge our contributions and place in this society denies the sacrifices of U.S. soldiers – my father’s purple heart, my mother’s achievements and those of my children. We celebrate all whose story becomes part of the tapestry that makes America and the legacy we leave with each other and future generations.”

Continuing her story, Ivette then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. David T. Abalos, who was one of her college professors and a valued mentor. Dr. Abalos’ personal story began as one of seven children of Mexican parents. They moved to Detroit where his father worked at the Ford Motor Company until his early death. His mother worked tirelessly to raise the children alone.

Abalos and his family regularly confronted prejudice, racism, including inferior schools and



education. He vowed as a boy that he would “work harder than the other kids” to reframe his life and future. He shared that as a young boy, he helped to support the family by earning \$30 per week as a paperboy, which would be equivalent to \$300 today, through determination and hard work.

Dr. Abalos reached his personal goal, attained academic prowess, and shared his knowledge, experiences and encouraged activism by sharing historical documentation of the Latin people. Dr. Abalos’ overarching message was that as a united community, “We can make change.”

Dr. Abalos has received numerous awards for his scholarship, including New Jersey Professor of the Year in 1987-1988; National Gold Medalist award winner for top 10-university professor in the nation; and was a visiting professor at Princeton and Yale Universities. He has authored eight books and lectured extensively on multicultural and gender scholarship and on Latinos in the United States.

NJDOT staff member Angela Quevedo provided a musical interlude on guitar and her family accompanied her singing traditional folk songs. The lovely tunes livened the event.



Garcia-Diaz

Mariluz Garcia-Diaz, communications staffer, closed the event with the story of her family’s exodus from Cuba at the beginning of the revolution, more than 40 years ago. They left “everyone and everything that they loved...arriving in this great country penniless but rich with the promise of achieving the American dream,” she shared. As with all immigrants, she said, their experience was a “complex mix of diversity and opportunity.” Her experience is a duality of being both Cuban and American.

As with every great heritage event at NJDOT, it closed with a feast of Latin foods to inspire the senses and warm the spirits of all that gathered in celebration. 



NJDOT scores a Double Play at ASCE Annual Award Ceremony

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti receives Service to the People Award and NJDOT wins 2019 ASCE Project of the Year Award

The American Society of Civil Engineers Central Jersey Branch Annual Awards Dinner honored NJDOT for its excellence in leadership in serving the public and for its civil engineering achievements in maintaining New Jersey's infrastructure and keeping residents safe.

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti received the **Service to the People Award** and Pankesh Patel, Project Manager, and project lead, accepted the **2019 Project of the Year Award** for work accomplished on the Route 206 over Branch of Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement project at a ceremony held on October 22 at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township.

The Service to the People Award is presented to an elected or appointed government official who has contributed substantially to further public understanding and recognition of the civil engineering profession by meritorious public service. Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti acknowledged in her acceptance speech, the imperative role that civil engineers serve in our communities. "Engineers solve problems and provide solutions that better our life and keep the economy growing. They are responsible for maintaining the infrastructure, the connectivity, and the overall safety of our society."

Pankesh Patel, Project Manager, accepted the 2019 Project of the Year Award from ASCE on behalf of the entire Route 206 over Branch of Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement project team. The team faced numerous obstacles that were extremely time sensitive. The subject culvert, built circa 1915, spans a branch of Stony Brook on Route 206 in Princeton, New Jersey. Route 206 is a heavily travelled route for motorists through Princeton and the neighboring communities. Upon a routine inspection of the culvert, it was found to be exhibiting severe deterioration including large spalls, cracks as much as 10" deep, and missing sections of the floor slab. NJDOT took immediate action to stabilize the structure until a full replacement could be constructed.

As of Fiscal Year 2019 NJDOT has:

- 122 Roadway Projects under construction
- 105 Bridge Projects under construction
- 1594 Lane Miles under construction
- Completed 419 lane miles of major pavement
- Completed 30 bridges



Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Pankesh Patel, Project Manager, Snehal Patel, Assistant Commissioner receive 2019 Project of the Year Award from American Society of Civil Engineers Central Jersey Branch.

Contributing factors to the design of the replacement structure included impacts to traffic, environmental sensitivities, utility crossings, and cost. Limiting disruption to motorists on Route 206

was extremely important to NJDOT and local officials since the road had recently reopened after a detour that lasted several months for a bridge replacement project just five miles from the culvert site. Environmental considerations included permitting and timing restrictions for tree clearing due to the potential presence of

state and federally listed threatened and endangered species. Overhead utility lines had to be avoided so outages were not experienced, and an existing gas main required special considerations during construction of footings. In addition, as with any project, costs are a major concern so the onus is on the designer to develop feasible and economical solutions that would satisfy the Department's goals and project need.

The culvert replacement was designed and completed in nine months. A total precast design

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NJDOT scores Continued from page 12



Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti received the Service to the People Award from ASCE

was pursued that included a precast culvert founded on precast footings, with attachments to precast wingwalls and headwalls precast elements. Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) was used to develop resilient connections between elements and gain strength at a fast rate, further reducing the construction durations. Both precast and UHPC

were used based on their ability to fit an aggressive construction timeline that centered on a five-day detour in which to demolish the existing structure and construct the new one before restoring traffic to its normal flow.

The results of the project were a win/win for all stakeholders. As promised, the detour lasted just five days – opening the roadway to traffic in time for the 2018 holiday travel season. In addition to the environmental requirements being met, the surrounding area was enhanced with the design of an eco-friendly, three-sided structure with erosion control units and a low-flow channel to allow for the passage of fish.

Finally, the final cost of the construction came in 10 percent below the engineer's estimate. This project serves as an excellent example of how collaboration between the state, the designer, contractor, and material manufacturers - throughout design development and construction – ends with total success. The project began in November 2018 and was completed in spring 2019.



L-R: Steve Esposito, PE, Senior Technical Principal, WSP; Ed Wilkes, ASCE President; Pankesh Patel; Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti are honored at the ASCE awards ceremony for their work on the Route 206 over Branch of Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement project

Route 206 over Branch of Stony Brook Emergency Culvert Replacement NJDOT project team members

Darshan Patel
(Construction - Resident Engineer)

Kim Sharp/Mohab Hussein
(Geotech Engineering)

Bob Abitz
(Design Standards & Geometric Solutions)

Tina Shutz/Robert Bird
(E-Team)

Mark Hauske
(Jurisdiction & Road User Solutions)

Bakula Patel, Sandy Blick
(Hydraulics and Hydrology)

Hoang Nguyen
(Bureau of Materials)

Lois Johann/Brenda Hammer
(Landscape)

Pranav Lathia/Ali Najem
(Structures)

Michael Pilsbury
(TSM)

Jose Romero/Ramchandra Patel
(ITS)

Meg Palmer/David Kook
(ROW)

Taimur Shamali/James McAllister
(DPM)

Todd Stanek/Bob Valentino/
David DiValerio/Chris Feintheil/
Nick Colangelo
(Operations)

Vince Martorana
(Utilities)

New Jersey Complete Streets Summit promotes safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users of NJ roadways

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers held the 2019 5th biennial New Jersey Complete Streets Summit on Tuesday, September 24, at Rutgers, New Brunswick. More than 300 engineers, planners, health professionals, advocates, youth organizers, elected officials, and others attended the event that highlighted the newly released: [Complete & Green Streets for All: Model Complete Streets Policy & Guide](#), a one-stop resource for developing an effective Complete Streets Policy.

The Summit celebrated the efforts of local governments that have incorporated Complete Streets into their communities, and provided extensive information and strategies for others interested in doing so in the future. A Complete Street is a way to provide safe access for all users by designing and constructing a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options. NJDOT has established a [policy](#) to provide safe and accessible accommodations for all users of existing and future pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities.

New Jersey is a national leader for advancing Complete Streets policies, with 159 municipalities and eight counties that have passed policies that ensure roads are designed for all users, modes and ability levels, to promote safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users of New Jersey roadways.

NJDOT's Policy received the

highest ranking among the more than 210 communities and states that have adopted formal Complete Streets policies, according to a [2011 report](#) (pdf 2.5m) released by the National Complete Streets Coalition. New Jersey was one of the first ten states in the nation to make Complete Streets an official internal policy.



- NJDOT will implement its Complete Streets policy through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities within public rights of way that are federally or state funded, including projects processed or administered through the Department's Capital Program.
- Transportation facilities are long-term investments that shall anticipate likely future demand for bicycling and walking facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements.
- By providing connections to bicycling and walking trip generators.

- By providing safe and accessible accommodations for existing and future pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities.
- By ensuring improvements comply with Title VI/ Environmental Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and should complement the context of the surrounding community.
- By addressing the need for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors as well as travel among them.

The Department strongly encourages the adoption of similar policies by regional and local jurisdictions that apply for funding through [Local Aid Programs](#).

NJDOT finalized a Complete Streets [policy](#) in December 2009. The policy requires that future roadway improvement projects include safe accommodations for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and the mobility-impaired.

All new and retrofit transportation facilities within public right of way that are federally funded or state funded, including projects processed or administered through the Department's Capital Program.

This policy is implemented through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new or rehabilitated transportation facilities within public rights of way that are federally or state funded, including projects processed or administered by the Department. 

TID DOTS!

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



Danielle Calcagni, social media specialist, NJDOT, hosted a seminar in the multi-purpose room and shared tips on how staff can contribute photos and video for inclusion on the NJDOT social media platforms. She covered topics including: content creation, photography and video tips, descriptive writing, and held an engaging question and answer period. If you have suggestions or questions please contact her at: danielle.calcagni@dot.nj.gov 



Amit Jani was selected to join the Joe Biden campaign as the National Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Director. Jani has most recently served at NJDOT in the Office of Government and Community Relations as the Legislative Liaison. He also served as the Director of AAPI Outreach for Murphy's gubernatorial campaign, Bob Menendez for U.S. Senate, and the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

"It's an honor to join a candidate in Vice President Joe Biden, with whom the Asian American Pacific Islander community can trust to represent and reflect the community's values and principles," said Jani.

Jani is highly engaged in community organizations including New Jersey Leadership Program and [South Asians for America \(SAFA\)](#) among others. 

Steven Prichard, CISSP, CEH, CHFI, Administrative Analyst 4/Information Security Officer, Acting Manager of IT Security and Services, Bureau of Information Security and Services achieved his Masters of Science Degree in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance from Western Governors University in June 2019, in 11 months. The curriculum consisted of in-depth cybersecurity material that expanded his knowledge of the ever-present risks of cyber-threats and how to manage and mitigate those threats to an acceptable level. Steven also earned two additional certifications through his coursework, Certified Ethical Hack (CEH) and Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI).

Steven punctuated his graduation achievement in Austin, Texas with a personal commitment as he proposed to his girlfriend, Flayra Milani. She said "yes!" They will be married on February 1, 2020. 



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Jeff Rockower (second from the right) attended the National Cooperative Highway Research Program meeting at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Jeff Rockower, AA3 Information Systems, Mobility Engineering division, recently earned his Masters of Science in Cybersecurity (accredited by the National Security Agency and the Federal Department of Homeland Security) from University of Delaware getting a solid 4.00 GPA in all classes while entering three Honor Societies. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Delta Alpha Phi Honor Society, and Gold Key International Honor Society.

Jeff represents NJDOT at the National Academy of Sciences on the Transportation Research Board Cybersecurity Sub-Committee as

the Research Needs Coordinator.

In addition, Jeff is a panel member of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. His group will choose an academic or private research institution to research the topic of Targeted Guidance and Information Support to State DOT CEOs on Cybersecurity Issues and Protection Strategies. This research will focus on how DOT agency leadership can prepare/prevent cyberattacks. It will provide DOT officials with an easy-to-use assessment guide on how to identify the greatest risks to the agency, and what types of strategies might be considered. 

NOT Retiring Employee Insights

Reflections of a 44-year Civil Servant (with no plans to retire)

Written by Anthony Genovese



My son once asked me how I managed to work for 44 years (16 years at NJDOT). The obvious answer, "one day at a time," did not seem like an appropriate response, so I reviewed my work history and realized that ten principles were consistent throughout my career. I will share them and hope that they will be beneficial to some of those who read it.

1. I must be teachable (humble) and my word is my bond (honest) because the face looking back at me in the mirror is my own.
2. Everything in life involves making choices. When I make the right choice, it empowers me. If I choose to take on extra work that solves a problem, then accepting additional responsibility is worth it. In accepting more responsibility, I grow and so does my opportunity for success.
3. I strive to be a gentlemen in every situation, speaking softly and using the appropriate tone and language. I remain calm and focus on dealing with the issue at hand. I want to resolve the problem. I simply remember that, "I can feed my ego or feed my family."
4. I never sweat the small stuff and, I do not worry about things that feed my ego. I focus on meeting the responsibilities and duties assigned to me and my position.
5. Every single contact or favor I have accumulated in the work place belongs to my current boss and the organization that employees me. I use those to create good will and opportunities for our organization to be successful.
6. The most important people in any organization are the secretaries and administrative assistants. They have very challenging jobs and, when possible, I strive to make their jobs a little easier. I work for every person in the organization.
7. I never miss an opportunity to make my boss look good; I never undercut his authority or give his bosses the opportunity to doubt my loyalty to my boss.
8. Setting boundaries for work relationships and work related social settings involving workers, peers or superiors is helpful. In some social situations, someone could be embarrassed by a comment that would generate more negative energy than good.
9. The company and workplace do not center on me - I must focus on the organization if I want a career that offers me a positive daily experience. I never want to work just for the pay check! My goal is to have meaningful a career.
10. No job in the company or organization is too small for me to do! I want to be of maximum service to others within the organization regardless of an individual's title. I look for opportunities for personal and professional growth. 

NJDOT Service Awards

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER

Frank Brigandi

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER

Erskine Barrino

Jose Claussen

Ronald Gallucci

Harry Greenhalgh

Mujahid Khan

Kenneth Myers
Leonardus Remmig

Frederick Saluka

Lewis Scott

Daniel Stevens

Louis Bruno

James Domato

Lorraine Gabriel

Charles Henry

Iris Gerald

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER

Tameka Jackson

Arthur Munson

Patricia Baldasari

Frank Buccheri

Alfred Forster

Richard Grimsley

Retirees

November

Pankaj Patel, 34 years; Dennis Rodriguez, 32 years; William McCurdy, 33 years; Russell Belmont, 40 years; Kenneth Mihalic, 35 years; Albert DeChristie, 36 years; Russell Allen, 36 years; Vittal Sitaram, 31 years; William Miranda, 20 years

Obituary

Indravadan (Indra) Patel, 69 years old, passed on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Indra began his career with the Department in July 1984 as an Assistant Engineer, Transportation in Local Aid. In 2002, he joined the Roadway Design Group as a Design Team Leader for in-house design projects. He successfully coordinated the design development of numerous in-house projects from advertisement through construction.

He enjoyed his family and was a dedicated father and husband. Over the last few years, Indra devoted much of his time to help care for his wife. He enjoyed his sweets and bakery items very much. Indra took pride in his work and always strived to do good.

Indra is survived by his wife, Bhanu; his daughter, Shital; his son, Shivang; and his grandchildren, Meera and Neel.