

Nation's largest transportation technology association honors NJDOT

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) recently honored NJDOT and the Turnpike Authority for implementing new technology that will improve traffic safety while helping New Jersey drivers avoid congestion and find more convenient travel routes.

Recognizing the NJDOT as a national leader in transportation innovation, ITS America President and CEO Scott Belcher presented NJDOT Commissioner **Jim Simpson** with the Smart Solution Spotlight award for the agency's use of innovative technology to provide New Jersey commuters with more accurate and timely information about traffic conditions, weather situations, and safety advisories.

Drivers on New Jersey's most heavily traveled highways can download a free smart phone application called Trumpit to receive audio-based traffic, weather and public safety alerts customized to their commute.

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James Hogan (left) and Commissioner Simpson (center) accept an ITS America award from Scott Belcher, President and Chief Executive, Office of ITS America.

Shore projects meet milestones for summer traffic

The Route 37 over Barnegat Bay resurfacing project, in Toms River Township and the boroughs of Seaside Heights and Seaside Park in Ocean County, was completed in mid May and all lanes were opened for Memorial Day weekend. The \$3.3 million project included bridge deck patching and new asphalt overlay for two miles on the Route 37

bridges over the Barnegat Bay from just east of Douglas Street in Toms River to Route 35 in Seaside.

A \$17 million bridge gate replacement project on Route 88 over Point Pleasant Canal in Point Pleasant Borough, Ocean County and Route 71/Main Street Bridge over Shark River in Belmar Borough and Avon-By-The-Sea, Monmouth

County was also recently completed. The projects included replaced barrier gates, warning gates, traffic signals and mechanical and electrical repairs.

Construction crews have advanced work on both sides of the Route 52 Causeway, reopening two critical portions of local roadways that will provide increased travel capacity between Somers Point and Ocean City for the summer season. The reopenings will benefit residents, business owners and visitors as work on the \$400 million causeway replacement project continues through the summer and into next year.

In Ocean City, a second lane on 9th Street northbound has reopened between West Avenue and Bay Avenue and 9th Street will soon have two travel lanes in each direction with an additional center left-turn lane shared by traffic in both directions.

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Workers prime all open areas prior to pouring polymer concrete for repairs on Route 37 over Barnegat Bay. Others prepare mixture for polymer concrete.

New Jersey ranked #5 as a Bike Friendly State

New Jersey moved up to fifth place this year as a bicycle-friendly state in the rankings announced in May by the American League of Bicyclists.

New Jersey was ranked #8 among all states last year. The new rankings were announced in May to coincide with the National Bike to Work Week. New Jersey retains its Bronze Award with the new ranking.

In 2008, the American League of Bicyclists launched the Bicycle Friendly State Program which ties together the League's advocacy work at the federal and community levels and recognizes states that actively support bicycling.

This ranking demonstrates the Department's commitment to safely accommodate cyclists on our roadway system. Our recently ranked #1 Complete Streets Policy reinforces that



(Left to right) NJDOT bicyclists Elise Bremer-Nei, Sheree Davis, Debbie Kingsland and former Director Brent Barnes take a break near the Route 36 Highlands Bridge.

safe and accessible provisions for all users are included in existing

and future roadway improvements.

Article written by Debbie Kingsland

Shore routes Continued from front page

In Somers Point, NJDOT reopened Shore Road to traffic. Shore Road had been closed at the MacArthur Boulevard (Route 52) intersection since late-March for the demolition of the Shore Road Trolley Bridge. The trolley bridge has been replaced with an at-grade roadway. In addition, two travel lanes are now available on Route 52

in either direction from the drawbridge through the intersection with Shore Road and Mays Landing Road.

These improvements, along with the two travel lanes being provided in each direction over the causeway and the bridges at each end, will improve traffic flow during the busy summer season.



Employees shown appreciation

The Employee Memorial Committee's Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic took place on June 16, 2011 with food and refreshments for all.

Transporter

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Chris Christie

Lt. Governor
Kim Guadagno

Commissioner
James S. Simpson

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"This application provides real-time traffic information to drivers on all roadways in New Jersey without having to take their eyes off the road," said NJDOT Commissioner Jim Simpson. "It discourages distracted driving and allows motorists to make better travel choices."

"Real-time traffic information is making life easier for commuters as a way to 'know before you go,' so drivers can make informed decisions and choose the most convenient and efficient route," said ITS America's Scott Belcher. "The NJDOT and Turnpike Authority are demonstrating how public agencies can deploy cost-effective technology solutions to reduce traffic congestion, improve public safety, and ease frustration for area residents and commuters."

Trumpit, developed by HNTB, allows drivers to receive real-time traffic alerts and other important public safety messages without having to take their eyes off the road. By downloading the free Trumpit app for their iPhones, Droids or BlackBerrys, motorists can receive audio alerts about delays on the Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, I-80, I-78, I-287, I-295, the Atlantic City Expressway and the I-76/NJ 42 freeway. Motorists can tailor the alerts to their commutes by selecting the section of

highway and time of day they travel. The arrival of a new alert causes a tone to sound on the motorist's smart phone. By pressing a single button, the motorist can hear the full alert. Customers who want to use Trumpit must sign up for My511NJ Personalized Alerts at www.511nj.org.

"New Jersey has a very complex network of highways and toll roads that intersect each other throughout the entire state," said **Dennis Motiani**, Executive Director, Statewide Traffic Operations, NJDOT. "What makes this application unique is that customers can get useful, real time traffic information for New Jersey's entire state, interstate and toll roads network from a single source delivered in such a way that it minimizes driver distraction."

To learn more about Trumpit, please contact **Jim Hadden** at NJDOT (609) 530-4690. Additional information about Trumpit is available on the FAQs tab at 511nj.org. To see more testimonials from users, please visit <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/trumpit-virtual-variable-message-sign/27/a26/a6b>.



Motiani



NJDOT's Unity Day 2011

On Thursday, June 9th, NJDOT celebrated Unity Day to celebrate the various cultural heritages and generational differences of NJDOT employees. It was a busy day with a variety of educational and entertainment events held outside the E&O Building and in the Multipurpose Room.

Civil Rights and Affirmative Action Director, **Melanie Armstrong** provided the welcome and opening remarks, proceeded by employees **Jeffrey DeGroff**, **Caroline Carmody** and **David Martin** marching into the Multi-purpose room with Jeff on the bagpipes, piping for the Haggis.



David Martin holds a tray of Haggis, followed by **Caroline Carmody** while **Jeff DeGroff** plays the bagpipes.

The Arab American group hosted speaker Sami Elmansoury, from the Immigrant Rights Task Force, Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, who spoke about Arab-American contributions to this country.

Speaker Alfred Nicolosi discussed the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead and its impact on New Jersey.

Stephanie Wilson, Executive Director, N.J. Amistad Commission, spoke about African-American Civil Rights struggles with respect to public transportation.

Panel discussions centered around generations in the workplace and "everything you wanted to



(Left) **Bhoomi Davé**, daughter of **Hardev** and **Urvi Davé** performs an Indian Punjabi dance. (Right) An ecumenical praise dance by **Charlene Green-Brooks** and her daughter.



know but were afraid to ask" concerning multicultural issues.

Entertainment included an Indian Punjabi dance performed by 11 year old **Bhoomi Davé**, daughter of employees **Hardev** and **Urvi Davé** as well as an ecumenical praise dance performed by **Charlene Green Brooks** and **Sierra Brooks**, sister and niece of **Michelle Jordan**. Outside, employees were able to enjoy a



NJDOT employees perform a Garba dance.

cool snow cone, get a henna tattoo or receive a handwriting sample in various languages while listening to the energetic sounds of Latin music performed by the Proyecto Clemente group.

Additional entertainment included an Asian-Indian folk dance performed by daughters and friends of various NJDOT

employees and a yoga demonstration with **Genevieve Boehm-Clifton**.

The cafeteria was bustling with activity as many enjoyed the "Taste of Diversity" lunch, hosted by employee **David Alvin**. The menu included: Rice Poolav, Kala Jamoon, Samosas, Pulled BBQ Pork, BBQ Chicken, Cheese Grits, Cakes, Papa a la Huancaína, Chilean Black Eyed Peas & Winter Squash, Garbanzos al Horno, Fry Bread, Pelmeni, Borscht, Scottish Eggs, Kaalikääryleet, Cranachen and Stuffed Grape Leaves.

The event culminated with



Melanie Armstrong presents **Meg Frampton** the 2011 **David Lee Unity** award.

Commissioner **James Simpson** presenting a token of remembrance to the family of former Security Guard **David Lee**, which was followed by **Melanie Armstrong**, presenting the **David Lee Unity Award** to employee **Meg Frampton** of Traffic Operations. Also, Security Guard **Levi Doggett**, a popular and beloved fellow worker at NJDOT received a token of appreciation for his work in unifying the workplace.

The Division of Civil Rights & Affirmative Action, in conjunction with the Heritage Committees would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way with this year's Unity Day.

Article written by Cheryl Taliaferro

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Al Brenner asks a panel of NJDOTers how their age has affected them when dealing with co-workers of different ages.



Latino music by Proyecto Clemente Group.



Jeevanjot Singh and Irene Razzano



Chinese handwriting by Hannah Cheng as Jane Liou looks on.



David Lee's mother holds her clock, a gift from NJDOT on behalf of her son's passing.



Keisha Vaughan-Glasper and Sylvia Leven-Stout



A "Taste of Diversity" lunch is served.



Levi Doggett receives his certificate of appreciation.