

TRANSFER

Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project underway



Route 72 Bay Bridges

Work is underway on the first of five contracts that comprise the \$315 million Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project, a decades-in-the-making endeavor that will modernize and improve the 3-mile long causeway which links Stafford with Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island. The existing causeway, which serves as the only connection between the island and the mainland, is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete after 53 years in existence.

The initial \$90 million contract, helmed by Resident Engineer **Charles Bassano** and Field Manager **Bob Holland**, will construct a new bridge parallel to the existing one over Manahawkin Bay, providing the safety of a redundant route on or off the

island in the event that one of the bridges needs to be closed.

Furthering the important community partnership effort that Project Manager **Pankesh Patel** has led since taking over control of the project in **2006**, the Department held a public information center at the Stafford municipal building on May 23 to provide residents and business owners with the opportunity to review exhibits of the project, ask questions and discuss issues with NJDOT representatives. The PIC paid instant dividends for some local business owners as Mr. Patel, flanked by project team members **Sharad Rana** of DPM, **Tina Shutz** and **Scott Ackerman** of Capital Program Support and Community Relations liaison **Denise Peck**, was able to formulate a change of plan to the initial construction staging which better maintains access to business properties on the center island of the causeway.

Construction of the new bridge, which will be 2,400 feet long with a vertical clearance of 55 feet over Manahawkin Bay, is progressing to the south of the existing structure with virtually no impact to Route 72 - particularly in the summer months. Ultimately, it will function as the bridge for eastbound traffic once the project



A collar for the pile is being lifted off a barge and into place on the temporary trestle bridge. The collar will facilitate the connection between the pile and the support beams for the temporary trestle bridge.

is completed. When construction of the new span is completed in 2016, the existing Bay Bridge, which is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, will be closed to traffic for rehabilitation. Upon completion of the rehabilitation work, it will serve as the bridge for westbound traffic, according to Program Manager **Tom Saylor**.

Current Director of DPM **Dave Lambert** and Project Manager **Bruce Hawkinson** are credited with key contributions during the design stages of the project, which is scheduled for completion in 2020.

NJDOT assists Lenape Regional High School in Safe Driving competition

This past May, members of NJDOT's Transportation Systems Management (TSM) unit assisted Lenape Regional High School with their Safe Driving Awareness Campaign by displaying the following message on New Jersey's overhead Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and on the 511NJ.org public website:

**Heads Up
Eyes Forward
Drive Safely**



In cooperation with Lenape and NJDOT, this message was also posted on DMS operated by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey Transportation Authority so that motorists driving our highway system on Monday, May 13th would witness a consistent message statewide aimed to educate them about the dangers of distracted driving.

In addition to displaying this safety message, representatives from TSM - **Dennis Motiani**, Assistant Commissioner and SSP Operator **Bruce Holmes**, along with Lieutenant Michael Abline from NJSP's Incident Management Program offered remarks and shared statistics and advice to Lenape's Driver Education classes to emphasize the dangers of distracted driving.

This was all part of Lenape Regional's safety campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving, not only

among their peers but among drivers of all ages.

Dennis offered his appreciation to Matt McGrorty, a senior at Lenape Regional who initially reached out to NJDOT to request help with their campaign, and other Lenape students for getting involved and for taking an active role in making drivers aware that they need to pay attention to what they are doing or they could lose their lives.

"By getting involved, it shows that you care enough about your fellow students and the citizens of New Jersey to want to keep them safe on New Jersey's highway system" said Motiani. "We need more high schools like Lenape to carry out these programs so that we can do our job better. Together, we can continue to make New Jersey roadways the safest roadways in the nation."

For their efforts, Lenape Regional took home first place honors in the "U Got Brains" Champion Schools Program, which is a contest run by the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey that challenges New Jersey High School Students and Teachers to develop fun and interactive campaigns with a goal of educating drivers about the importance of safe driving. First place honors for Lenape Regional included \$10,000 and a driving simulator for use by the school.

TSM intends to work with the



Left to right: Bruce Holmes, SSP Operator, Cherry Hill SSP; Lieutenant Michael Abline, NJSP's Incident Management Program; Dennis Motiani, Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Systems Management; Matthew McGrorty, Senior, Lenape Regional High School; Carol Birnbohm, Superintendent of Schools, Lenape Regional High School District Chief; Richard Meder, Medford Police Department and Kevin Kelly, Lenape Regional High School Assistant Principal.

"U Got Brains" Annual Contest Organizers in future years to promote safety and to educate students and other motorists about the dangers of distracted driving.

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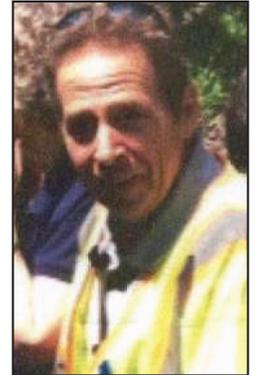
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Safety Service Patrol driver saves the day for Ezra Academy students

On June 2 a school group from Woodbridge, Connecticut found themselves in a precarious position along Interstate 78 westbound. Thirteen seventh grade students and their chaperones had been on their way to historic Gettysburg, PA when their bus engine overheated somewhere near milepost 46 in Summit. Responding to the scene, Safety Service Patrol Operator

Frank Farmer quickly took control of the situation, blocking the bus with his truck and calming everyone down. Frank provided the bus driver with directions on where to get off the highway safely and where to stop for lunch, while awaiting a new bus. Beyond the expedient and professional response provided, Frank also took time to interact with the nervous students and even gave them a

nature lesson on the cicadas they witnessed along the highway. The grateful chaperones mailed a letter of appreciation to Frank and the Department – well done, Frank.



Farmer

Obituaries

Gary P. Bodine, of Chatsworth, passed away Tuesday, February 12, 2013. He was a member of the Woodland Twp. Fire Co. and EMS Stations 292 & 298 and served as Lieutenant in the EMS and also a Storekeeper 1 for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Son of the late Claude and Jacqueline Bodine, he is survived by a sister; Karen Tupper (Bob), a brother; Thomas Bodine, an uncle; Paul Bodine, and several nieces and nephews.

Celia Ann (Twitchell) Horner passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2013. She was 95 years of age. Born January 4, 1918 in Quebec, Canada to the late Regina & Claudius Twitchell. Celia lived in Oak Tree and Plainfield, NJ before living in Mine Hill from 1955 to 2008. Mrs. Horner proudly served the state for over 30 years as an administrative assistant for the State Department of Transportation, retiring in 1984. Survived by her loving family: two devoted daughters, Jacqueline Carducci of Mine Hill, Suzanne Marro and her husband Anthony of Allamuchy and her cherished grandchildren.

Dorothy C. (Heaton) Dengler, of Whiting, passed away on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. She was a retired clerk for the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation in Trenton, where she worked for 18 years. She is survived by her daughters; Donna Abrams, Theresa Giambone and Jeanne Wasnesky; her sons, Daniel 'Dapper' Dengler and Joseph Dengler, 11 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Gabriel Palmieri of Hamilton passed away March 21, 2013. He was employed by NJDOT as a supervisor of Graphics Arts. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Palmieri, a son; Frank Palmieri, one brother and two sisters-in-law; Frank and Agnes Palmieri, and Helen Palmieri, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

William Paul passed away April 26, 2013. He was employed by NJDOT as an Equipment Operator in Crew 321, Hamilton. Billy Paul is survived by his wife, Joanne Paul, his son; William Paul, his parents-in-law; Maryann and William Goodrich, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; Maryann and Will Wall, Clare and Tim

Wadsworth, Diane Brucks, Sally Brucks, John and Sherri Brucks, Michelle and Mike Hennessy, Bill and Violet Goodrich, Bob and Claudia Goodrich, and Bruce and Linda Goodrich; as well as several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Rangarao Sudhakara of East Windsor passed away May 15, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Komala; son Chetan; daughter-in-law, Seema; grandchildren, Pushkar and Pratyay, and numerous family and friends. A valued member of the state government, he worked for the New Jersey Department of Transportation until his retirement in 2009.

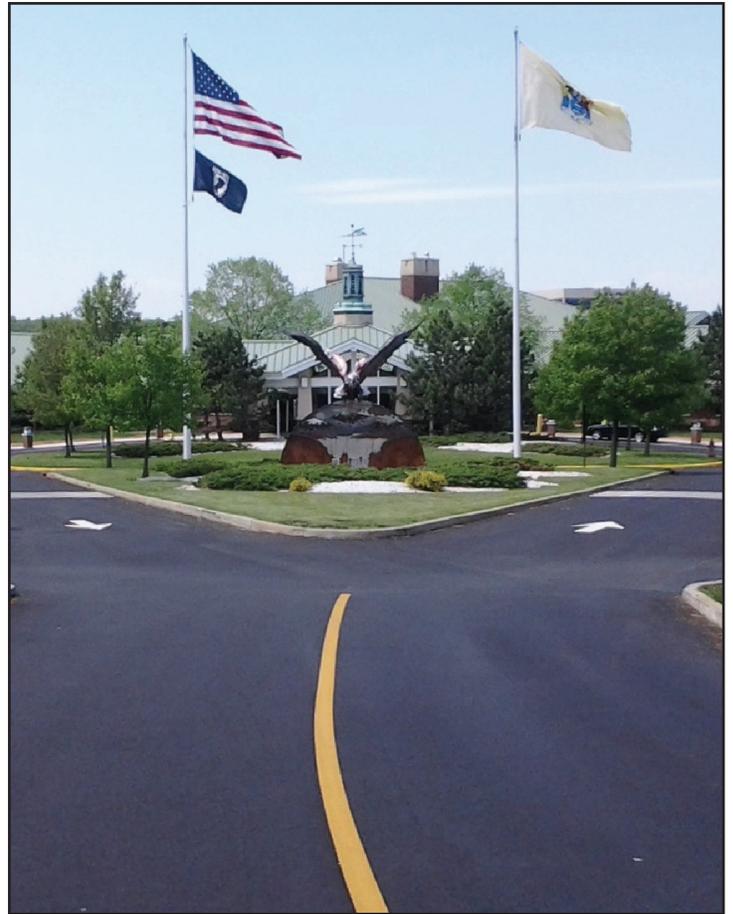
Maria Cunningham, of Hamilton passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2013. At the time of her passing, Maria was working as a Communications Operator in the Central Dispatch Unit (CDU), Transportation Systems Management (TSM) in Hamilton. Maria is survived by her husband, Jerry Cunningham, her two sons, Christopher and Daniel Zahn, a daughter Amber Zahn, a brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Ella Duma, along with many other family members.

Menlo Park Veterans home gets new pavement

The DOT team of Engineering Technician 1 **Ken Lane**, Construction & Maintenance Technician 3 **Paul Craddock** and Truck Driver, Single Axle **Brad Mileski** recently oversaw a paving project at the Menlo Park Veterans Home, off of Route 1 in Edison, a New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) facility.

Schifano Construction was used for the paving of the entire complex, using over 4,000 tons of asphalt pavement, and also redid the handicap parking areas which have been a tripping and ice issue in the past. Custom Concrete did the sidewalk and curb and laid the foundation for the placement of the decorative eagle seen below, which was created by the students of Middlesex County Vocational Technical School.

Kerry W. Keane, the Director of Engineering for DMAVA, offered this praise of the NJDOT employees involved in the project, "Efficiency accompanied by courtesy is a rare combination in today's work world. Kenny, Paul and Brad provided detailed explanations and personal assistance when needed. They did what they said they would do when they said it would be done. Such concern is refreshing and should become more widespread. On behalf of the 312 veterans, 450 employees and countless visitors to our facility please let (them) know how much we appreciate their help and for a job well done."



The entrance to the Menlo Park Veterans Home.

NJDOT Co-Hosts the TRB Summer Workshop

This past July NJDOT, along with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, co-hosted the Transportation Research Board's Summer Workshop "Transportation: Driving a Sustainable Urban Environment." This was the first time the prestigious event has been held in New Jersey for over 16 years, with more than 200 attendees gathering in New Brunswick. The purpose of this workshop was to "blend local and nationally recognized speakers on such topics as climate change adaptation strategies, watershed approaches to stormwater, data and visual analytics for environmental assessment and planning, and MPO planning challenges." The workshop showcased New Jersey's transportation accomplishments and focused on the statewide response to Super Storm Sandy and the resilient rebuilding that ensued. The award winning Route 18 New Brunswick reconstruction project that wrapped up in 2010 was highlighted in showing how the "ultimate design addressed community needs and the environment to become a community jewel and model for environmental stewardship."

Participants from DOT management included **Richard Hammer**, Assistant Commissioner, CPM, who gave the welcoming remarks, **Andrew Tunnard**, Executive Director, Operations Support, who gave a presentation on DOT's response to Superstorm Sandy, **Genevieve Clifton**, Manager, Office of Maritime Resources who provide maritime's perspective on the response to the storm, and **David Lambert**, Director of Project Management who presented "the best of the best in New Jersey's transportation infrastructure – with an emphasis on projects that advance the sustainability and resiliency of our transportation system." Other participants, either as panelists or moderators were **David Ahdout**, **Bruce Hawkinson**, **Pam Garrett**, and **John McCleerey**. **David Earl** did significant planning/registration work and **Richard Crockett** of Engineering Documents, created posters for exhibiting at the workshop. Finally, **Steven Servillo** of IT Customer Services provided computers and projectors for the event, which was praised by TRB.

2013 Design Summit a Great Success

A joint Design Summit hosted by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), FHWA and NJDOT was held on June 21, 2013 at the Trenton Marriot Downtown hotel. Assistant Commissioner of Capital Program Management **Rick Hammer** provided opening remarks.

The purpose of the Summit was to present overview information to attendees on design-related topics. The topics chosen for the Summit were the NEPA process, ROW/Access, Risk Management & Constructability and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The information for each of the presentation topics encompassed a topic background such as the law or regulation that requires the process, the current process at NJDOT and project case studies. According to attendee feedback, the case studies were very valuable in understanding the practical application of the law/regulation and the process.

The following NJDOT employees were members of the presentation groups:

NEPA PROCESS PRESENTATION TEAM

Bruce Hawkinson, Project Manager; **Jo Ann Asadpour**, Environmental Specialist 4; **Dana Hecht**, Project Manager

ROW/ACCESS PRESENTATION TEAM

Frank Inverso, Project Manager; **Luke Seaman**, Project Engineer Surface Design; **Paul Ignarri**,

Supervising Engineer 2 Surface Design; **Meg Palmer**, Senior Executive

RISK MANAGEMENT & CONSTRUCTABILITY PRESENTATION TEAM

Tom Kondash, Project Engineer Construction; **Sean Sheehy**, Supervising Engineer Construction and Maintenance; **Kunal Kaushal**, Project Engineer Surface Design; **Demetrio Koloseus-Gagnon**, Assistant Engineer **ADA PRESENTATION TEAM**
John Miller, Project Engineer Electrical; **Chrystal Section**, Administrative Analyst 2; **Warren Howard**, Supervising Engineer 2 Surface Design; **Chris Barretts**, Manager 2.

The 2013 Design Summit Committee was comprised of the following members: **Richard Jaffe**, Senior Executive Services; **Paul Schneider**, Manager 2; **Bette DeMarco**, Administrative Analyst 1; **Bob Signora**, Project Manager; Demetrio Koloseus-Gagnon and Dana Hecht.

Based upon the survey results from the approximately 250 attendees, the summit was a great success with an input rating (Very Satisfying or Satisfying) of over 94%. In addition, attendees also were very pleased with the presentations with 85% rating them collectively as either excellent or very good. Following up on the interest and success of this event, the Design Summit committee is gearing up for a 2014 Design Summit, considering location options and reviewing the expansive list of suggestions for future topics that was provided.

Route 46 gets Maintenance Drainage Cleaning



Maintenance drainage along Route 46 in Little Falls.

The Passaic Valley Regional Flood Control Board recently paid NJDOT a compliment on a job well done that has positively impacted a number of properties along Route 46 in Little Falls.

In 2012, NJDOT teamed up with the PVRFCB to improve the flow of water in the Peckman River, an area that typically acts as a bottleneck at times of flash flooding. A project under Maintenance Drainage Cleaning Video and Repair contract 2012

with Resident Engineer **Umesh Shah** and Construction & Maintenance Technician **William Sugrue** on site, removed silt and sediment at a point along the Peckman River where frequent flooding has occurred, impacting the adjacent state highway.

According to Thomas Minerva, a Board Member of PVRFCB, after a site visit, "When I surveyed the area along the Great Notch Brook and its Peckman River confluence, the culverts that had been cleaned out by NJDOT were flowing freely with water levels reaching only about half the culvert height at the Plaza 46 entrance, the Andrews Drive entrance and the Route 46 bridge over the Peckman River. The NJDOT project was very effective, and likely prevented flooding of the mall parking lot, as has happened repeatedly in recent years."

The state-funded project hauled away 946 tons of silt and sedimentation and installation of 155 tons of Rip Rap rock to stabilize the banks of the river and the brook in five locations where corners exist. Depending on the intensity of rainfall and volume of water flowing through the improved sections of the river and brook, the work should last between 10 and 15 years.

Asian American's follow Path of Peace to Prosperity

NJDOT held its 14th annual Asian American Heritage Month celebration on May 16, 2013. The event, titled, "Path of Peace to Prosperity" opened with NJDOT Civil Rights Director **Melanie Armstrong's** admiration of Asian American community's vital role in economic and technical growth of the nation. Armstrong mentioned few words from President Obama's proclamation related to the theme and emphasized "... with irrepressible determination and optimism, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have prevailed over adversity and risen to the top of their fields -- from medicine to business to transportation." The program was hosted by **Jeevanjot Singh** of Transportation Systems Management, focused on global aspects related to peace and also on Asia's socio-economical, cultural, environmental and educational contributions to the world. Assistant Commissioner of Administration **Candie Brown** shared few words on peace and non-violence. Program was followed by melodious song "America the Beautiful" by **Godfrey Tisseverasinghe**



Singh

of Materials. **Tisseverasinghe** and **Mahesh Patel** of Structural Evaluation composed and compiled beautiful heartfelt song on Peace, "Let There be Peace" which was accompanied by the Asian American Committee members along with another Peace related song "We Shall Overcome". The Chinese Huan-Huan group, introduced by **Hong Chen** of Accounting Operations,



Davé



Chinese dance by Huan-Huan Group

presented a stunning "Tea Harvest Dance". The Asian American Heritage committee members (shown in picture) designed a unique ethnic Bridal Fashion Show. It was organized by **Arpita Upadhyay** of Capital Program Support and hilariously presented by **Urvi Davé** of Operations, showcasing bridal attire from various Asian countries. Along with wedding related humors, Davé also emphasized on the importance of various wedding rituals and concluded with a serious note that a peaceful marriage results from being the right mate, not by only finding just the right mate. The keynote speaker, **Sutinder Dhanjal**, enlightened the audience by his knowledge and brilliantly connected freedom to peace. Dhanjal explained internal and external enemies of freedom and how to eliminate those to win ultimate peace. One of the pioneers and co-founders of the Asian American Heritage committee at NJDOT, **Bruce Darji**, a winner of prestigious David Lee Unity award, closed the program with memorable remark that the oneness and togetherness in teamwork of a group is greater than sum of all individuals, "Together, we shall succeed."

On May 22, 2013, a brown bag lunch seminar was held and the keynote speaker, **Ramneek Singh Pannu** from India, gave information about documenting and restoring biodiversity of the Nilgiris, India. Thanks to **Urvi Davé** for the article contribution.



Dhanjal



DOT colleagues enjoying Asian ethnic food. From left: Nusrat Jahan, Nusrat Morshed, Jane Liou, Bhavesh Shah.



Tisseverasinghe



Bridal attire from various Asian countries performed by NJDOT employees. From left: Jane Liou, Madhavi Andey, Bakula Patel, Sohpie Azam, Smita Shah, Tarlika Trivedi, Hong Chen, Godfrey Tisseverasinghe, Charu Jegan, Rahmiati Anthony, Vandna Patel, Kunal Bakhtarwala, Ahsan Ali, Aarti Gupta, Pavan Sheth, Swati Gandhi, Yashesh Patel, Kiranben Patel, Arpita Upadhyay, Sunay Pandya, Jeevanjot Singh, Urvi Dave, Krishna Tripathi, Mahesh Patel and Kiran Patel.