

TRANSPORTER

NJDOT and Cherry Hill partner on Clean Up NJ

Wildflowers being planted along Route 70 highway median

New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner **Jim Simpson** recently announced a cooperative effort with the Township of Cherry Hill to beautify sections of the Route 70 median in Cherry Hill with wildflower plantings.



An NJDOT Worker makes way for wildflowers in the median of Route 70, Cherry Hill.

The initiative advances the Christie Administration's Clean Up NJ campaign to improve the appearance of New Jersey highways to benefit residents and attract and retain businesses to the Garden State.

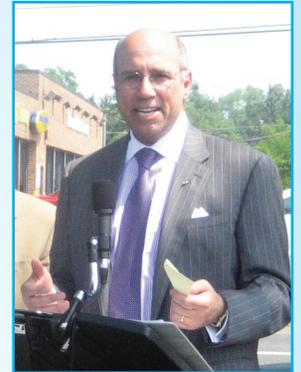


"Neat and attractive roadways send a strong message to visitors and prospective business owners that New Jersey is a great place to live, work and create jobs," Simpson said. "We are delighted to team up with Cherry Hill to spruce up the important commercial corridor in a way that adds beauty, reduces demands on mowing crews and benefits the environment."

Ten sections of the median were planted with wildflower seeds, covering a total area of three acres. Nine of the median sections planted are in Cherry Hill, with the easternmost section at the border of Cherry Hill and Evesham. The westernmost wildflower location is near the intersection of Route 70 and Route 30.

The collaborative effort includes mowing by NJDOT crews and seeding the soil by the South Jersey Transportation Authority, which has planted 30 acres along the Atlantic City Expressway with wildflowers this year.

In other Clean Up NJ news, NJDOT has bulked



Simpson

Continued on page 2

NJDOT's new Director of Operations Support "Drives the Ship"



Tunnard

Andrew Tunnard was recently named Director of the Division of Operations Support, and is responsible for NJDOT's Bureaus of Equipment Engineering

and Operations, Maintenance Engineering and Operations and Maintenance Support and Operations.

Andrew intends to utilize his extensive experience in both the

private sector and Armed Forces to lead the Division that serves many. As a Commander in the US Navy Reserve, he sees a lot of similarities of how Operations Support is similar to the operations of a ship in executing its mission of providing support and logistical readiness.

In addition to serving in military campaigns such as Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom, he most recently participated in coordinating the immediate relief efforts in Haiti when it was ravaged by an earthquake in 2010. He expects to achieve optimal operational

readiness in NJDOT's Operations Support Division. Andrew believes in the following three tenets of leadership to attain that readiness: Expect, Inspect, Recognize.

Andrew message to staff, "Expect actions and results. I believe in inspecting and analyzing those actions and results and recognizing when improvement is achieved. Doing this will ensure the greatest in readiness and response, not only in support of our NJDOT colleagues, but to the citizens who we serve."

Written by Nancy Ciaruffoli

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Commissioner Simpson announce \$14.65 million for Transportation Infrastructure and Safety project funding

Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno and NJDOT Commissioner Simpson recently announced the award of 95 grants totaling \$14.65 million to municipalities, counties and general aviation airports for infrastructure improvement and safety projects.

"These grants represent an investment in New Jersey's vast and varied transportation network which plays an important role in providing mobility for residents and sustaining economic activity," said Commissioner Simpson.

The grants are being awarded through three programs, including 29 grants totaling \$10 million through the Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) program, 11 grants totaling \$2.65 million through the Airport Improvement program and 55 grants totaling \$2 million through the Safe Corridor program.

The LAIF and Safe Corridor grants are benefiting 78 different

municipalities statewide. In

addition, a total of 10 airports are receiving airport safety grants.

Local Aid Infrastructure Fund grants (LAIF),



is part of the state Transportation Trust Fund-supported Local Aid program.

The Safe Corridor grants program, established in 2003, designates 14 ten-mile sections of state highways where enforcement and safety initiatives such as pavement markings and signal timing modification are carried out to reduce crashes.

Airport improvement grants provide funding for projects that enhance safety, promote state-of-good repair or advance studies for potential improvements.



NJDOT and Cherry Hill Continued from front page

up its Clean Up NJ campaign with 100 inmates from the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Ten details of ten inmates each started picking up litter along state highways in late-May, adding muscle to the Clean Up NJ campaign that is dedicated to keeping New Jersey highways and the green space along them clean and presentable.

Each DOC detail consists of ten supervised inmates. They are supplementing 420 NJDOT maintenance personnel, divided into 62 crews statewide, who mow grass, pick up litter, cut tree limbs, paint over graffiti, fill potholes and perform other duties to keep New Jersey highways clean.

The DOC details are focusing on litter and possibly other maintenance needs over a ten-week period through August.

Under Clean Up NJ, NJDOT maintenance crews are concentrated every few months to tackle jobs that are too big for a single crew to complete in a short period of time. These concentrated efforts allow crews to make a noticeable impact along a corridor by addressing every maintenance need at one time.

In Spring and early Summer, the campaign has targeted I-295 at the interchange with Route 42 and I-76, I-676 and portions of Routes 42 and 55 in southern New Jersey; stretches of I-78, I-287, Route 1 and Route 18 in central New Jersey; and sections of I-78, I-80, I-287 and Routes 10, 21, 23, 46, 57 and 206 in northern New Jersey.

TRANSPORTER

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Chris Christie

Lt. Governor
Kim Guadagno

Commissioner
James S. Simpson

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NJDOT's Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) renamed Safety Service Patrol (SSP)

On July 1, 2011, NJDOT's Emergency Service Patrol was renamed the Safety Service Patrol (SSP). At the direction of Commissioner Jim Simpson, the program was realigned and renamed to bring new focus to SSP's core mission of fighting roadway congestion and enhancing safety for the motoring public.

"By realigning the patrols, NJDOT will achieve cost savings of \$6 million and provide motorists with weekend service for the first time along some of the state's highest traffic-volume corridors," said Simpson.

The SSP's primary goal is to provide safety on highly congested highways and to assist the New Jersey State Police with the clearing of incidents and control of traffic around incident scenes. SSP will continue to perform other functions such as clearing debris off of the roadway and providing assistance to disabled motorists.

The new program patrols 225 miles of New Jersey's core commuter and high traffic-volume roadways and where statistics have demonstrated the greatest need for coverage. SSP Operators are dispatched from Harding in the North and Cherry Hill in the South and will work 16 hour days from Monday through Friday as well as weekend coverage year round from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The statewide SSP Coverage area includes I-78, I-80, I-280, I-287 and Route 440 (in Bergen, Essex,



Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties), and I-295, I-95, I-195, I-676, I-76 and Routes 29, 42 and 55 (in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer Counties).

Maged "Gabe" Gabriel, Regional SSP North Supervisor said, "The new SSP Program is all about safety. The benefits include the increase in coverage on weekends in the North and SSP's ability to help Maintenance Crews with safety set-ups during incidents and emergencies which, in turn, ensures the safety of the motorists and the responders at the incident scene."

In addition, patrol units are being staged more

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New Jersey a National Leader in Complete Streets

The National Complete Streets Coalition recently ranked New Jersey as having the number one ranked Complete Streets policy in the nation. This recognition demonstrates the Department's

commitment towards creating roadways that are viable for all modes of transportation. Providing safe and accessible accommodations for users of all ages and abilities is what a Complete Streets policy is all about. The



Route 52 bridge rendering

policy was written internally by **Debbie Kingsland**, Project Engineer Planning and Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, **Sheree Davis**. NJDOT was one of the first ten states to adopt a Complete Streets policy.

NJDOT Commissioner Simpson was recently quoted in strong support of the policy. "Features that complete a street help promote vibrant, healthy communities where walking, jogging and bicycling

are safely woven into the fabric of daily life. Our Complete Streets policy recognizes the safety needs of all who share our roads and helps save money by integrating Complete Street elements into the planning and design stages of a project," said Simpson.

At NJDOT there has been a lot of great action to back up the talk. Some of the most recent examples are the Route 36 Bridge in Atlantic Highlands and the Route 52 Bridge from Somers Point to Ocean City. Making these bridges accessible to all users was integral to the projects, and these are just the latest examples of all the progress we are making.

Spurred on by strong leadership from NJDOT, local communities are beginning to catch up as well. As of June, thirteen New Jersey municipalities and one county have adopted their own Complete Streets policies. This is good news for all those who wish to walk, bicycle or even use a wheelchair to get around our State. *Written by William Riviere*

Employee Memorial Committee awards scholarships

On Thursday, June 23rd, Deputy Commissioner **Joe Mrozek** joined the Department's Employee Memorial Committee (EMC) in the Commissioner's Conference Room to award scholarships to three high school seniors whose parents work for NJDOT.

Twenty-six students of NJDOT parents submitted applications this year for the 3rd Annual Employee Memorial Scholarship Program. The two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Poonam Narotam (daughter of **Minaksi Narotam**, Accounting and Auditing) and Amanda Hauske (daughter of **Mark Hauske**, Capital Program Support).

In addition, due to the generosity of retired NJDOT Director Brian Strizki, who donated his retirement gift money to the EMC, a \$500 scholarship was awarded to Hailee Bellusci (daughter of



(Left to right) Poonam Narotam shows off her check along with Greg Vida, John Stults, and Deputy Commissioner Joe Mrozek.

Mario Bellusci, Region South Operations).

Poonam Narotam, a graduate of Northern Burlington Regional High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Dick Hobson, a former NJDOT employee and member of the EMC. She was recognized for her outstanding academic achievement and extracurricular activities and will attend George Washington University in the fall. **Greg Vida**, Director of Employee Support and member of the Scholarship Review Committee, presented Poonam with her award.

Amanda Hauske, a graduate of Audubon High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Guy LoBue, a former NJDOT employee and one of the EMC's Founding Fathers. She will attend Rowan University in the fall. In addition to her

scholastic achievements and the many awards she has received, Amanda was also very involved in clubs, sports and community service activities,



(Left to right) Amanda Hauske holds her check with help from Sandy Furness, John Stults, and Deputy Commissioner Joe Mrozek.

Hailee Bellusci, a graduate of Cumberland Regional High School, received the \$500 scholarship donated by Brian Strizki, who also was on hand to present the award. Hailee was honored for her scholastic achievement as well as for her involvement in school activities – three honor societies, several clubs, Class Treasurer, soccer player, and member of Congressman Lobiondo's Student Advisory Council.



(Left to right) John Stults assists Hailee Bellusci in holding her \$500 check along with Brian Strizki and Deputy Commissioner Joe Mrozek.

She was also recognized for her inspiring essay. Hailee will be attending Rutgers University in the fall.

Thanks to the generosity of NJDOT employees all year, the EMC is able to provide these scholarships and hopes to continue the tradition in the years to come. *Written by Janice DeJohn*

including Girl Scouts. Sandy Furness and John Stults, NJDOT retirees and members of the EMC Scholarship Review Committee, presented Amanda with her scholarship.

in school activities – three honor societies, several clubs, Class Treasurer, soccer player, and member of Congressman Lobiondo's Student Advisory Council.

Safety Service Patrol Continued from page 3

efficiently during peak commuting hours which enables SSP to assist more motorists in need and gives them the opportunity to arrive at incidents quickly thus clearing travel lanes and re-opening them to the motorists as expeditiously as possible.

In addition to a Core Group from Statewide Traffic Operations who met weekly to ensure a smooth transition, the realignment of the program would not have been possible on July 1st without the help of the following NJDOT Units: Sign Shop, Maintenance, Communications Office, Support Services, the IT Unit, Human Resources, the Bureau of Equipment, Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, and the Safety Bureau.

NJDOT commemorates the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 - May we never forget...

**Friday, September 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Employee Memorial Courtyard**

All employees are invited to attend.