

# TRANSPORTER

## Decades in the making, a Direction Connection begins

The massive, \$900 million Direct Connection project – which will provide a seamless route for I-295 motorists traveling through the interchange of I-295, Route 42 and I-76 – is finally moving off the drawing boards and into construction after more than a decade of planning, design, engineering and community involvement.

The need for significant improvements to this interchange was recognized in 1985 during the Department's design of widening improvements for Route 42. In 1999, NJDOT in conjunction with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission recommended that a project providing for a full, grade-separated interchange be advanced.

The current configuration, one of the true head scratchers of patchwork design confusion in New Jersey, requires I-295 motorists to exit the interstate and weave across other congested highway lanes to return to I-295. The Direct Connection project will eliminate dangerous merge conditions by building a viaduct that carries I-295 traffic over Route 42 and I-76.



**I-295, Route 42 and I-76 aerial at 'Aljo' curve.**

As explained by Project Manager **John McCleerey** "A total of 26 alternatives were considered during the design and planning process that included extensive community involvement. Five of the 26 alternatives were selected for further consideration, with the Department ultimately settling on the preferred alternative – the project as we see it now."

According to **Amy Kennard**, Assistant Project Manager CPM, the planning process included the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement

in accordance with federal regulations. A Record of Decision approving the EIS was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on March 20, 2009. Environmental concerns that influenced the design included wetlands, noise and air quality, possible hazardous materials in adjacent land or water, archaeology, historic buildings or structures and socioeconomic considerations.

The project includes a total of 10 new bridges, one bridge widening, one bridge rehabilitation and two temporary bridge structures. A total of 22 retaining walls, more than 40 new sign structures and a total of more than 15,000 feet of new or reconstructed noise walls will be built as a part of the project. The project has been divided into four separate construction contracts, with completion of the fourth and final contract in the fall of 2021. Field Manager **Vince Baglivo** and Resident Engineer **Bill Gaus** have taken the reins for the \$160 million Contract 1 and preliminary work has already begun.

Harnessing a public improvement project of this magnitude depends on the steadfast commitment of dozens of NJDOT personnel, design consultants and myriad other stakeholder partners. It would be impossible to recognize everyone at DOT that contributed to the cause over the years but special mention goes to former Project Managers Bruce Riegel (CPM), Jody Barankin (DPD) and **Mike Russo** (current Director of Local Aid), former Program Manager **Dave Lambert** (current Director of Project Management CPM), current Program Manager **Thomas Saylor**, Environmental Specialist 4 **JoAnn Asadpour**, Right-of-Way engineers Robert Cunningham, **Tom Crawford** and **Albert Adolf**, Community Relations Liaison **Kim Nance** and DAG **Nonee Wagner**.



**Commissioner James S. Simpson along with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno break ground for the Direct Connection project.**



# Fernwood roofs get much needed repair

Super Storm Sandy had its way with the corrugated metal roofs on the buildings in the NJDOT Fernwood Complex. A total of 9 buildings sustained wind damage as entire sections of the metal panels blew off. Because the damage occurred right before winter, the roof replacement projects had to be fast-tracked with Treasury under the direction of Debby Hatzisavvas and Mike DeAngelo of Support Services. The 9 buildings were divided into 3 contracts. The deteriorated wood decking has been replaced and 153,000 square feet of asphalt shingles were installed in about 3 months time. The buildings were constructed in 1932 and were originally used for the fabrication and assembly of aircraft for World War II.



# NJDOT explains its role to students

On February 25 NJDOT participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair at the Pennsbury High School-East, in Fairless Hills, PA. The career fair was a district wide, school to career event with emphasis on career exploration for all students, grades K-12. Around 1200 students, parents, teachers and community members visited at least 75 exhibitors representing business, industry, government, health care and nonprofit professionals.

NJDOT employees **Xiaouha Hannah Cheng**, Principle Engineer, **Kiranben Patel**, Assistant

Engineer and **Humayun Kabir**, Assistant Engineer, all from Division of Bridge Engineering and Infrastructure Management, represented the Department at this event. They shared information with students, parents and teachers on subjects such as our role in public service, NJDOT organization, engineering insight, and on specific roadway and bridge projects. We also explained educational requirements, professional insight, different fields of civil engineering, and helped students to answer quiz questions. Through one-on-one conversations,

students gained valuable insight about civil engineering not necessarily acquired in a school classroom setting.

Sincere thanks go to **Dave Lambert**, State Transportation Engineer and **Lisa Barbiero**, Bureau of Traffic Engineering for their kind support in helping coordinate this event.



Left to right: Humayun Kabir, Kiranben Patel and Xiaouha Hannah Cheng

## TRANSPORTER

**E-News**



News for and about  
NJ Department of Transportation  
Employees and Retirees

Governor  
**Chris Christie**

Lt. Governor  
**Kim Guadagno**

Commissioner  
**James S. Simpson**

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# Route 52 Causeway receives ASHE Award

Two projects from opposite ends of the pay scale have each been recognized by the NJ sections of the American Society of Highway Engineers this month. The \$400 million Route 52 Causeway replacement project connecting Ocean City and Somers Point was awarded the 2013 Project of the Year for the 'Over \$5 million' category. This project was helmed by current Director of Capital Project Management **Dave Lambert**, Project Manager **Frank Inverso**, Field Manager **Tony Guerrieri** and Resident Engineer Dan Lord (Parsons-Brinckerhoff). In the 'Under \$5 million' category, the \$700,000 Route 33 emergency bridge repair over Rocky Brook in Hightstown took home the glory. Program Manager **Mark Rollo**, Project Manager **Bill Birch**, Field Manager **Bob Holland** and Resident Engineer **Don Olla** kept this project on track. **Denise Peck** and **Kim Nance** in the Office of Community Relations handled resident and business concerns for each project as well. Congratulations to all involved.



Route 52 Causeway

## Multiple Award Winning Pavement Research Project Team



Mehta

NJDOT's Bureau of Research, managed by **Camille Crichton-Summers**, contracts with Universities to find workable solutions to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of maintaining New Jersey's transportation infrastructure.

**Eileen Sheehy**, the Manager of the NJDOT Bureau of Materials, submitted problem statements

to research appropriate quality control procedures to ensure the mechanical properties of bituminous asphalt mixtures are maintained when reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAC) or polymer modified binders are added.

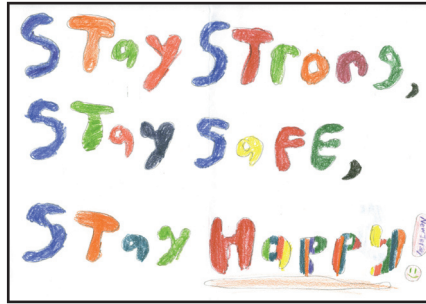
NJDOT Research Project Manager (RPM) **Edward Stephen Kondrath** managed the state-of-the-

art pavement research project entitled Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) in Hot Mix Asphalt. This research project was led by Principal Investigator (PI) Yusuf Mehta, from Rowan University, who has won several AASHTO and ITE awards over the last year, as well as the 2012 NJDOT Research Implementation Award, awarded at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Showcase.

Recently, Dr. Mehta's undergraduate research team members, from the Correlation between Multiple Stress Creep Recovery (MSCR) Results and Polymer Modification of Binder research project, were awarded the 2013 Undergraduate Student Paper Award by the Philadelphia Engineering Foundation and the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. This research project is managed by NJDOT RPM **Stefanie Potapa**, with **Eileen Sheehy** as the customer.

## Bay Head elementary school offers heartfelt words

In the weeks following Superstorm Sandy, NJDOT crews worked around the clock to clear sand and debris and then reconstruct Route 35 in Bay Head and Mantoloking. The unprecedented effort required dozens of NJDOT's finest to devote themselves entirely to the cause, staying away from their homes and families at the job site for days at a time. Offering a glimmer of hope through the haze and devastation, displaced students from the Bay Head elementary school created and provided dozens of inspirational posters - such as this one - to our crews. The small but heartfelt gesture drove home



the importance of the work and Operations crew supervisors such as **Anthony Ennas** and **Ken Lane** ensured that the posters were hung up in DOT and contractor equipment and field offices as inspiration to get the job done. This was about more than just restoring a roadway, this was helping restore people's lives.

Director of Operations Support, **Andrew Tunnard**, proudly reports that all twelve miles of Route 35 between Bay Head and Island Beach State Park were cleared, fixed and ready for normal operation by December 21, 2012 - a mere 53 days after Sandy hit land.

## A job well done

Crew Supervisor **John Mateyka** (Sand Hill yard) was commended by Commissioner **James S. Simpson** at a recent Operations Management meeting for his courageous efforts in stopping illegal refuse dumping along Route 1 in South Brunswick. On March 20, Mr. Mateyka personally observed a commercial tandem truck parked in a vacant lot along the highway. This location has been the site of illegal dumping before, so John pulled over along the highway to see what was going on. He soon witnessed the body of the truck rise and asphalt and cement pieces were dumped on state property. John immediately pulled into the lot and blocked the exit with his truck and called local police, resulting in charges against the driver and trucking company. Job well done to John.



## Obituaries

**Artemio Chavez** of Phillipsburg, passed away on September 12, 2012. He was employed by NJDOT as a Regional Assistant Supervisor. He is survived by his wife Colleen March Chavez; daughters Nieves Chavez of Silver Spring, MD and Stephanie Chavez of Hollywood, FL; and a son, Artemio AJ Chavez, Jr.

**Michael F. Swem** of Hamilton, passed away on October 22, 2012 at Capital Health System - Hopewell. Michael worked for the State of New Jersey for 32 years. He began with the Department of Motor Vehicles and later worked in the NJDOT, where he was a governmental relations specialist in the correspondence unit for the commissioner. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Rose Scozzari

Swem; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Theresa and John Scordo of Allentown and Patricia Swem of Trenton; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Robert and Judith Swem of Yardville and John Swem of Trenton.

**Rhasshan Dixon** of Paterson, passed away December 15, 2012. He was employed by NJDOT as a Maintenance Worker. Rhasshan is survived by his wife Elvira Gonzalez Dixon; daughter Kennedy Dixon; son Mekhi Jones; step children Karel Brown and Precise Smith; brothers Michael M. Dixon and Lateef Scott, and sisters Sharonda Glenn and Uvonda Lyde.

**Walter A. McGrosky** of Southampton, Pa. Passed away Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012. Walt spent his entire career with the

NJDOT, most recently as the director for the Division of Project Management. Walter was the beloved husband of Ellen and the devoted father of Amanda and Caitlyn. He will be sadly missed by his brother David; his sisters Lisa McGrosky-Kleja and Laurie Espe; and his nieces and nephews.

**Robert Wagner** passed away on October 11, 2012. Robert started his career with the Department of Transportation in December 2007 and was a Maintenance Worker 1. He is survived by his father George; his brother, NJDOT employee **William Wagner**; his sisters Linda, Janet, Nancy and Beth; his cousin Ed; his Aunt Jean; and numerous nieces and nephews.



# NJDOT celebrates Black History Month



**Stephanie Nock**



**Suphrana Sargeant**



**Paul Thomas**



**Simon Nwachukwu**



**Keisha Vaughan-Glasper**

NJDOT celebrated Black History Month with reenactments of past and current individuals who had a significant impact on our lives today. Keynote speaker Kevin Davis, brother of NJDOT employee **Anthony Davis**, spoke to a packed room. Davis, a gifted poet and communicator, uses his talents to reach out to adolescents and has presented in many local churches, high schools and colleges. His volunteer work has been recognized by the NJ Assembly and Senate and his series on STD/HIV Prevention Education is one-of-a-kind.

The program continued with an all NJDOT cast reenactment. **Stephanie Nock**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Mary Seacole; **Ellis Williams**, Geographic Information Systems Specialist 3, as Thurgood Marshall; **Suphrana Sargeant**, Realty Specialist 2, as Harriet Tubman; **Nona Davis**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Billie Holiday; **Paul Thomas**, Project Engineer, as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; **Anika James**, Secretarial Assistant 2, as Mae Carol Jemison; **Simon Nwachukwu**, Principal Engineer, as Nelson Mandela; **Chrystal Section**, Administrative Analyst, as Oprah Winfrey; **Keisha Vaughan-Glasper**, Secretarial Assistant 1, as Michelle Obama; and **Warren Howard**, Supervising Engineer 2, as President Barack Hussein Obama.



**Dominique Sanders sings 'Wind Beneath my Wings.'**



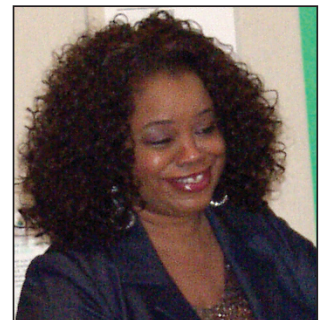
**Ellis Williams**



**Nona Davis**



**Anika James**



**Chrystal Section**



**Warren Howard**

# NJDOT's Service Anniversary Award Recipients

## Senior Leadership Team

### 30 Years of Service

Richard Hammer

### 25 Years of Service

David Kuhn

## Commissioner's Office

### 25 Years of Service

Sharon Caffey

Kelly McClure

## Administration

### 40 Years of Service

Joseph Todaro

### 35 Years of Service

John Evans

Deborah Mesday

Cynthia Moore

Jeffrey Overton

### 25 Years of Service

Joseph Cook

Michael DeAngelo

Janice DeJohn

Lisa Kaye

Martin Keynton

Michelle Lavell

Harriet McGee

Freida Sessoms

Kenneth Vita

Lisa Ann Webber

Ellis Williams

## Capital Investment Planning and Grant Administration

### 35 Years of Service

Brian Britton

Dominick Critelli

Louis DeStefano

Robert Lane

Michele Laureti

James Lewis

### 30 Years of Service

Cheryl Edwards

Robert Harris

Suzanne Rizzo

### 25 Years of Service

Antoun Abraham

Christophe Bergeman

Kevin Conover

Anthony Davis

William Day

Danielle Graves

Abbas Hirya

Penny Jones

Virginia Powell

Wendy Smith

Robert Smith

Timothy Steinbeiser

Jackie Sweat

Mark Tozzi

Paul Truban

Anthony Varone

Dawn Williams

## Chief Financial Officer

### 35 Years of Service

George Britton

Alan Cooper

Patricia Frascella

Dawn Hatch

Mary Jo Novembre

### 25 Years of Service

Bill Barber

## Government & Community Relations

### 25 Years of Service

Glenn Catana

Charles Middleton

## Inspector General

### 35 Years of Service

Ruth Pecarsky

## Transportation Systems Management

### 30 Years of Service

Charles Patton

### 25 Years of Service

Margaret Fitzgerald-Farley

Jose Garcia

Bonnie Green

Suzanne Tomlinson

## Capital Program Management

### 40 Years of Service

John Ciemnecki

Jay Kanengiser

### 35 Years of Service

John Campi

Kelei Carter

Ronald Dadamo

John Gaspari

David Hall

Mark Kianka

J. Eric Kraehenbuehl

George Kuhn

Mark Masiello

Michael Morrissey

Rosanna Piechocinski

Sharon Pullen

Ferguson Reeves

Dinkar Shah

Arthur Steiner

Clayton Tice

Robert Verner

Patrick Weber

### 30 Years of Service

Luis Antao

Victoria Battaglia

George Caruso

Thomas Garruba

Albert Garzoni

Susan Gresavage

Michael Lewis

Angelo Mendola

Manharbhai Patel

Philip Petrowski

Stephen Powell

Robert Rhoades

Stephen Roberts

Mark Rollo

Paul Schneider

Angel Torrado

### 25 Years of Service

Thomas Anzabi

Richard Attenello

Lisa Barbiero

Michael Barton

Candida Bernal

Rajesh Bhavsar

William Bialowasz

Cynthia Bloom-Cronin

Rajendra Brahmabhatt

Ralph Capaccio

Caroline Carmody

James Coyle

Thomas Crawford

Rebecca Dalton

Alfredia Darden

Murtada Darouti

James Diloreto

Nicholas Dogias

Paul Ezeuka

Miguel Faucette

Joanne Gerbino

Anthony Guerrieri

Todd Hirt



**Capital Program Management****25 Years of Service**

Doreen Holsneck  
 Louis Jolibois  
 Linda Karp  
 Jude Kianka  
 Michael Kinley  
 John Larkin  
 Patricia Larkins  
 Kimvan Le  
 John Maida  
 Joseph Maloney  
 Christopher Manz  
 Nabeel Maroof  
 William McClain  
 John McCleerey  
 Charles McGeary  
 Robert McGill  
 Thomas Miller  
 Robert Nagy  
 Ali Najem  
 Shannon Namey  
 Anthony Obidike  
 Snehal Patel  
 Mahesh Patel  
 Edward Pennell  
 Michael Pierandozzi  
 Wael Quasmieh  
 Robert Raachini  
 Abe Rezaeian  
 Dennis Rodriguez  
 Danielle Scannon

Richard Snyder  
 Thomas Sohn  
 Diane Stratton  
 Dhanjibhai Sutariya  
 Gary Taylor  
 Ronald Vecchiolla  
 Lawrence Vogel  
 Michelle Wallace  
 Mark Webber

**Operations****45 Years of Service**

Karen Hartle

**40 Years of Service**

Leo Higgins  
 Kathleen Schuld  
 Alan Tani

**35 Years of Service**

Harold Banks  
 David Bowlby  
 Dwayne Brown  
 Bruce Caro  
 Anthony DellaTerza  
 David Lortz  
 Edward Runco  
 Terry Stewart

**30 Years of Service**

David Albertson  
 Thomas DiPierro  
 Dennis Gratton  
 Paul Lechmanick  
 Eric Madara

Kevin Miller  
 Jay Raio  
 Jeannine Savage  
**25 Years of Service**

Dawn Arcamone  
 Henry Barbato  
 Chris Blauvelt  
 Gary Bodine  
 Richard Brigandi  
 Kim Burkhart  
 Leroy Carter  
 John Casella  
 Joan Cheatley  
 Debra Christensen  
 Patricia Dalton  
 Alkesh Desai  
 Connie Fisher  
 Arleigh Freeborn  
 John Gahwyler  
 David Harker  
 James Hood  
 Carl Johnson  
 Willie Martin  
 Norma Maziarz  
 Frank Merchant  
 Philip Nicodemo  
 Terry Robertson  
 Stanley Rzepski  
 Matthew Sailey  
 Mahmoud Saleh

Congratulations to all NJDOT  
 2012 Service Anniversary  
 Award Recipients

