

# TRANSFER

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Route 29, Lambertville

Photo credit: Alex Torpey



# The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti



**Commissioner  
Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

Dear Staff,

As I reflect upon the happenings from the past few months highlighted in this Transporter issue, I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude, recognizing your accomplishments and the impact that NJDOT has had and continues to have on the residents of New Jersey. I see our Commitment to Communities mission actualized in every aspect of our work and by each division

of the department.

Staff has completed projects, some monumental and others modest in scope, yet each having significant and lasting impact on the public with life enhancing benefits. The awards and accolades received for these projects - Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges habitat restoration project, and the Route 29 road diet implemented in Lambertville - demonstrate that we are not working in a vacuum

- what we do each day makes a difference in people's lives. We are living our Commitment to Communities mission with each day's work.

Here at NJDOT, we are working to influence lives today, but are also planning for and envisioning the role of transportation in the future. We are working on 'getting it right tomorrow,' and keeping our organization ahead of the curve with learning programs like the Connected Autonomous Vehicle seminar that was held at headquarters.

We are also keeping an eye on the future with our groundbreaking Professional Engineering Design Experience (PEDE) program. PEDE provides our engineers the opportunity to gain the design experience required to sit for the Professional Engineering (PE) licensing exam, ensuring that we have trained, licensed, and skilled staff to complete our mission in the future.

These are just a few of our accomplishments – there are so many more. I want to share my gratitude with you all for your commitment and dedication to transportation, to the organization, to the state and to the people that we serve and keep safe every day.

*Diane*

## NJDOT Annual Back-to-School Supply Drive




**Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti delivers supplies to the Every Child Valued organization.**

NJDOT staff displayed their generosity once again by donating to the Annual Back-to-School Supply Drive. More than 4,400 donated items were delivered to organizations that benefit schoolchildren across the state.

Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program was the North Region supply recipient. CASA empowers volunteer advocates to champion the best interests of children in the foster care system. CASA provides various opportunities to support the children in their program throughout the year. Visit their website for more details.

Every Child Valued (ECV) was the organization that received the supplies in the Central Region. ECV is a nonprofit organization located in Lawrence. They provide educational enrichment programs in cooperation with Lawrence Township Public Schools and other organizations in order to establish high expectations and achieve excellent academic performance by participating students.

Cooper's Poynt Public Elementary School in Camden, through the United Way of South Jersey, is the recipient of the South Region's school supply collection.

Special thanks to the Drive coordinators: Deb Christensen and Yudelka Hume - North Region; Sharon Bird – South Region; Lisa Adams, Ashley Matthews, Jackie Hall-Livingston and Leah Hannawacker – Ewing Headquarters/Central Region 



# NJDOT received a Pedestrian Advocacy Award from the City of Lambertville

On September 24, Jaimie Oplinger and Syed Kazmi, NJDOT Division of Highway and Traffic Design, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, presented Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti with the Pedestrian Advocacy Award they received from the City of Lambertville, Hunterdon County, in gratitude for their work on remediating a 20-year long safety concern in Lambertville along Route 29.

NJDOT implemented a road diet, a proven traffic calming design method that reduced a portion of Route 29, between Swan Road and the south end of Lambertville, from two lanes to one to improve safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.


NJDOT officials, along with State Senator Shirley Turner and Lambertville Mayor Julia Fahl, heralded the project completion at a press conference held on September 10.

"The New Jersey Department of Transportation's Commitment to Communities is all about working with local officials to improve the quality of life for our residents and those who travel through our state," Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "This safety improvement project on a portion of Route 29 is a perfect example of how NJDOT gets things done. The project has been a priority for Lambertville for nearly 20 years. In just a few months working together, NJDOT, Mayor Julia Fahl and Sen. Shirley Turner, found a cost effective way to complete the improvements before the start of the school year to make the roadway safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians."



(L-R) State Senator Shirley Turner, Lambertville Mayor Julia Fahl, and NJDOT Chief of Staff Jay Jimenez celebrate the Route 29 safety improvements at a press conference held on location.

incredible example of state and local government working together on practical and effective solutions that will directly improve the quality of life for residents of Lambertville," Lambertville Mayor Julia Fahl said. "Having safe streets impacts our whole community - especially residents whose front doors face right onto this four-lane speedway which runs through the heart of our city. Our community has been talking about improving pedestrian safety and slowing traffic on Route 29 for almost 20 years. Moving from talk to action has been one of my priorities and I am proud to have found willing partners in Governor Murphy and Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti."

"I am extremely grateful for NJDOT's willingness to work with us on modifying this dangerous stretch of roadway," said Senator Turner (D-Hunterdon/Mercer). "The plan is cost effective and was completed quickly, but most importantly, it addresses the safety concerns that have long been an issue for the Lambertville community. With these changes, parents can feel confident allowing their children to walk or bike to school, and the changes to the roadway are more in keeping with walkable community concept that Lambertville is known for." 



The safety improvements included restriping the road to one lane from two, two new stop signs, restricting U-turns to two locations, and the creation

of dedicated U-turn lanes at those locations to help prevent queuing.

The project also created approximately 50 designated parking spots on both sides of Route 29. The parking spaces will particularly benefit residents on the northbound side of Route 29 allowing room to park safely.

"The Route 29 Improvement Project is an



# NJDOT's 19th Employee Memorial Tribute & 18th Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Sunny skies shone brightly over the 19th Annual Employee Memorial Tribute and 18th Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in the pristine Memorial Garden at NJDOT headquarters on Wednesday, September 11.

The solemn space allowed nature to envelope its occupants; the calming sound of water flowing from the reflection pool encouraged whispered words and embraces among family and friends united in the sorrow of loss and recollection of joy from days past.

A processional of NJDOT staff who have served our country in the armed forces marched to their seats in the garden, solemn looks on their faces, to the sound of bagpipes resonating the air.

The New Jersey State Police Color Guard presented the flags of our country and state and placed them to join flags representing Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and POWs.

After a welcome and introduction by Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent, New Jersey State Police, reflected on the events of September 11, 2001. He noted that after 18 years, the children of those

people who perished or were traumatized by the terror attacks are now parents themselves - sending their own children off to school – into a world that has drastically changed since that day. The American people have added words to their vocabulary such as homeland security and joint terrorism task force – and entered a new way of life.

Colonel Callahan acknowledged the courage of those passengers on Flight 93 and Flight 77 whose brave actions prevented further peril and changed the outcome of that day.

The Manhattan 911 Freedom Tower at Ground Zero, the largest crime scene that ever existed in this country, is a somber and powerful place. The building designer created visual voids that should be filled with peace, hope and understanding, remarked Colonel Callahan, and that together, as a country, we can overcome this tragedy. In addition, that we need to keep the responders that went into Ground Zero to resurrect our freedom, in our thoughts.

The powerfully emotional ceremony continued with the reciting of the thirty-six names of the

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NJDOT staff who served in the military begin the event proceedings as they enter the Memorial Garden.



## Remembrance Ceremony Continued from page 4

NJDOT staff who lost their lives in the line of duty to the department. The memorial project will always represent the fallen coworkers and our commitment to transportation and the danger associated with fulfilling that commitment.

The Trenton Detachment 207, Marine Corps League Firing Detail, honored the fallen with a 21-gun salute and the bugle playing of TAPS.

A message of peace, hope, unity and freedom, resonated in the air of the ceremony.

Special thanks to Meg Frampton and the Employee Memorial Committee for organizing this beautiful tribute; Joe Dee, Master of Ceremonies; Trevor Halloran, Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Thomas

Johnson, invocation; Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Welcome Remarks; SFC John Bystrycki (retired), US Army, Tribute to NJDOT 's Military; Stephanie Green-Keniebrew, vocal performance; Sal Cowen, Tribute to Law Enforcement; Commander Andrew Tunnard (retired), US Navy Reserve, Tribute to NJDOT 36 fallen colleagues; Jay Jimenez, Tribute to NJDOT Employees; Jeevanjot Singh, closing prayer; SFC Brian Ruane, bagpiper; Glenn Catana, photographer.

We also appreciate so many NJDOT employees attending to pay tribute to their colleagues and others at this special Remembrance Ceremony.

We will never forget...

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Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent, New Jersey State Police, reflected on the events of September 11, 2001.



Trenton Detachment 207, Marine Corps League Firing Detail, honored the fallen with a 21-gun salute and the bugle playing of TAPS.



A moment of reflection.



Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti honors the staff who have served in the military and in emergency response.



## Remembrance Ceremony Continued from page 5



NJDOT staff that served in the military are recognized and honored.



NJDOT staff that are first responders are recognized and honored.



Louis Vazquez, retired Highway Operations Crew 265 member, Patterson Yard, painted the September 11, 2001 commemorative snowplow over a five-year period. The more than 50-year old retired plow displays New Jersey and New York views of the World Trade Center towers. After its 2015 debut, it returns each year for the Remembrance Ceremony.



Family members of NJDOT staff that have lost their lives in the line of duty are honored.







## Connectivity Seminar features new era of autonomous vehicles and the communication technology required to exist on our roads

The Transportation Operations Systems and Support Unit, Mobility & Systems Engineering division, held a daylong seminar to discuss the basics of connected autonomous vehicle (CAV) technology in preparation for it becoming a reality on our roadways. Topic significance was apparent by the number of attendees at the sold out event.


The discussion within the connected autonomous vehicle (CAV) framework included infrastructure communication tools, technologies, methods, policies, security, and legalities. Specifics on dedicated short-range 2G communication to 5G emerging cellular technologies were presented by Peter Jin, Rutgers University; Todd Navarre, T-Mobile; and Tim Marsh, Verizon. Each shared how these technologies are now being used and how they will be deployed in the future.

NJDOT Connectivity Standards, the NJ CAV strategic plan, bandwidth threats, and the importance of connected intersections in the development of smart cities were discussed in presentations made by Tony Bartello, HNTB; Drew Horgan and Bill George, Jacobs Engineering; TJ Costello, Cisco.

Presentations made by Bob James, First Transit;

Malcolm Dougherty, Michael Baker; and Joseph Jesson, TCNJ, focused on connectivity standards and utilization strategies relating to legal, policy, and security issues in preparation for 5G deployment.

NJDOT is actively discussing, researching and preparing for the next wave of CAV technology. NJDOT's Mobility Engineering (ME) group has collaborated with the consulting firm HNTB to develop Roadside Unit (RSU) Specs and On Board Unit (OBU) Specs. With the same consultant, we have prepared a statewide connectivity Concept of Operations (ConOps) that describes user needs, agency responsibilities, and prioritizes a list of preferred connected vehicle applications. This initiative engages multiple partner transportation agencies statewide.

Further, NJDOT's Mobility & Systems Engineering group is one of the key members in developing the "Connected Vehicle Strategic Plan" for the state. The New Jersey Transportation Agencies Partnership (NJTAP) group includes NJ Turnpike, NJ Transit, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA), and Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC). 





# EVERYDAY ★ Hero ★



**NJDOT Regional Operations South, Crew 456 Mays Landing, and IMRT (L-R) Davis McNeil, SFC Guy Hendrickson, Kenny Whisler, Crew Supervisor Eric Madara, Area Supervisor Dave Middleton, IMRT Dennis Caltagirone, Mike Ritchie, IMRT Jose Garcia, Josh Day, Pete Thomas, Brian Saccomanno, Brian Vasquez, Kenny Hunter, Wilson Rodriguez**

## NJDOT crews receive recognition for their excellent work from Egg Harbor Township Police

New Jersey State Police, NJDOT Regional Operations, and the NJDOT Incident Management Response Team were commended by the Egg Harbor Township Police Captain for their assistance to local responders in mitigating two extremely impactful incidents.

In a letter, Michael T. Hughes, Jr., Captain of Police, Egg Harbor Township Police Department, praised the efforts of the NJ State Police (NJSP), NJDOT Regional Operations (HOC), South Region Crew 456, and Incident Management Response Team (IMRT), for their support of the local police

department, fire department and local officials in response to multiple, extremely challenging, incidents.

The first incident for which Crew 456 Mays Landing and IMRT received commendation for their participation was the containment of a large fire, in the cold of winter, on January 22, 2019. Clearing the incident required "more than 30 pieces of fire apparatus from multiple towns... to battle the blaze for hours," said Hughes. "The water froze on the roadway, not to mention the large back up in

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## EVERYDAY ★ Hero ★

### NJDOT Crews Continued from page 8

traffic...an area where four major roadway arteries meet, [with the incident occurring] in the middle of the day." NJDOT Crew 456, led by Supervisor Eric Madara, and IMRT, led by Dennis Caltagirone, assisted with closing and deicing of the road.

The second incident occurred on September 2, 2019, when Crew 456 Mays Landing and IMRT member Jose Garcia, arrived in Egg Harbor in response to a major crash that required the closure of all the eastbound lanes on Black Horse Pike. The crew's expeditious and expert efforts provided local police and volunteer firefighters with the workforce to manage the investigation, clear the scene, and keep the road safe for motorists.

The assistance provided to the local police by HOC and IMRT staff were all tasks encompassed in a typical day's work, but when a typical workday positively affects so many people, likely saving lives during the process, the gratitude received is gratitude earned from other public servants and the public.

NJDOT Regional Operations maintenance staff are tasked with keeping New Jersey roads safe for motorists – 24/7, 365 days a year, with a demanding responsibility list. It is likely that a HOC member would refer to their efforts as simply, "Just doing my job." While the job responsibilities are clear, the level at which the staff perform these tasks is dependent upon the efforts of the individuals and collective work of the team.

The commendation received by Crew 456 is another example of how NJDOT staff work each day to fulfill our **Commitment to Communities** mission. NJDOT leadership is grateful for the hard work and dedication shown by all of our HOC road warriors, emergency response teams, and the staff that support them. They are **our everyday heroes** and we thank them.

#### CREW 456 Mays Landing Yard Members

Eric Madara, Supervisor, Josh Day, Ken Hunter, Davis McNeil, Wilson Rodriguez, Brian Saccomanno, Peter Thomas, Brian Vasquez, Ken Whistler.

**IMRT** Responders to the noted incidents include: Jose Garcia, Supervisor, IMRT/NJDOT; SFC Guy Hendrickson, Regional Incident Management Coordinator/NJ State Police Trooper assigned to NJDOT; Dennis Caltagirone, IMRT/NJDOT SFC; Sam Cappuccio, Regional Incident Management Coordinator/NJ State Police Trooper assigned to NJDOT.


### ABOUT REGION OPERATIONS

Regional Operations is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all roadway and bridge assets; the maintenance and repair of traffic signals and electrical applications; the service and repair of regional fleet and heavy equipment; the repair of facilities and storage buildings; as well as personnel functions.

### ABOUT INCIDENT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TEAM (IMRT)

The NJSP and NJDOT have a long established Incident Management Response Team (IMRT) that can be called to an emergency scene so that mobility and safety are restored to the traveling public as quickly as possible. The IMRT's goal is to keep the traffic moving by setting up diversionary routes and working quickly to reopen travel lanes. The IMRT coordinates the state resources needed with the Incident Commander and ensures necessary notifications are made to other units within the Department in a timely manner.

### ABOUT TIM/NJTIM

TIM consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. 



## Jayant Khetani 9<sup>th</sup> Annual David Lee Unity Award Winner



Jayant Khetani accepts the David Lee Unity Award

Jayant Khetani was honored as the recipient of the 2019 David Lee Unity Award at a ceremony held on August 14 in the multipurpose room. The David Lee Unity Award is the reflection of the Department's emphasis on promoting an inclusive work environment, supporting diversity and unity, where all employees are valued and respected.

Employee peers submit nominations for the yearly recognition, which are then reviewed by a selection committee. This year's honoree was Jayant Khetani from the Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions.

Jayant has served in several units throughout NJDOT for over 34 years. He has supervised people of different ethnic backgrounds for over 20 years. He motivates everyone by recognizing their talents, capabilities, and embracing their culture. His group is a mosaic of different nationalities, yet the work environment is harmonious and their team is productive. Jayant is one of the pioneers of the Asian American Heritage Committee and celebrations at NJDOT. The program is a reflection of the NJDOT spirit of unity and diversity. Almost 17 countries

participate in this celebration, led by Jayant for the past 17 years. He participates regularly in the blood drive and was a past member of the EEO advisory committee. Jayant's desire to serve people of various ethnicities is not bound to DOT. He strives to better the community whenever the opportunity arises.

The NJDOT Diversity Award was renamed the David Lee Unity Award in 2011 to honor David Lee, an employee who embodied all that the award represents.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR NOMINEES!

The nominees have already won the gratitude and recognition of their colleagues for their outstanding ability to build a cohesive, effective, and unifying work environment. Their peers chose this select group of people because they display exemplary attributes and are deserving of departmental recognition for their contributions to the organization.

#### Nominees

##### John R. Miller - Operations Support

John has been with NJDOT for 25 years and is the Supervising Engineer of Bridges and Drainage in Operations Support. The people under his tutelage have been a mosaic of different nationalities. John fosters a work environment that is very harmonious and produces at a high level. He is very open-minded and provides

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## TRANSPORTER

E-News



News for and about  
NJ Department of Transportation  
Employees and Retirees

Governor  
**Phil Murphy**

Lt. Governor  
**Sheila Oliver**

Commissioner  
**Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

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all possible opportunities for his team members to progress.

**Danielle Graves - Bureau of Statewide Strategies, Division of Statewide Planning**

Danielle has demonstrated her ability to work with diverse individuals throughout NJDOT,



from other state agencies, and with consultants, municipalities and counties. She has an ability to lead, guide and give others recognition for a job well done. She has spearheaded an important implementation, "The Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP)". She demonstrated her ability to work with diverse groups and individuals, bring people together, teach leadership skills, help people understand the task and what is needed, no matter what their capabilities. Danielle has a gift of unifying individuals and groups. When you are in her presence, you are important no matter what your job, race or culture.

**Glenn Catana - Office of Communications**

Glenn Catana is a valued and respected employee who has served NJDOT and the public for decades. His talents and expertise are exceptional. He has been instrumental in helping us "bring to life" so many of the Department's annual ceremonies and events such as NJDOT's Heritage Programs, September Remembrance



Ceremony, Work Zone Safety Week, Commissioner's Service Anniversary Awards Ceremony, Public Employee Recognition Ceremony and Annual Holiday Celebration. Glenn puts together the artwork, photographs and layout for NJDOT's *Transporter* Newsletter. One of Glenn's most famous works of art was for the 2009 NJDOT Diversity Day. He created a logo using six different colored hard hats symbolizing our unity, our diversity and our oneness. Most recently, He created our mission driven Commitment to Communities logo. Glenn unites all of us through his artistry.




**Keith Schuchardt - Operations Region Central**

Keith is very helpful and a cheerful person. He is always willing to assist others and do what is necessary to get the job done. He fairly distributes overtime work among the different crews he oversees. Keith is effective in using resources effectively to get the job done. He is also a valuable advisor to others, willing to give of his time and knowledge regarding work issues or policy matters.



**Stevenson Ganthier - Bituminous, Bureau of Materials**

Stevenson is incredibly knowledgeable and performs his work with warmth and professionalism. He is quick to help others, and is influential in having Bureau staff work cooperatively, regardless of their diverse backgrounds, styles, perspectives, values, beliefs, and differences. Stevenson is deservedly well respected by his colleagues within the bureau, those he supervises and those he interacts with from other units. He is a shop steward with the union and is always there to assist anyone with issues they may have. He is friendly, brilliant and an asset to our Bureau and the Department. Stevenson is exceedingly deserving of receiving this award. 



# TID DOTS!

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




Members of the NJDOT Incident Management Response Team (IMRT) staffed a booth at the Firemen's Convention, held in Wildwood between September 12 -14, promoting the no-cost NJTIM.org training program offered to multi-disciplinary first responders across the state. (l-r) Dennis Caltagirone, Transportation Mobility; Eugene Eng, Transportation Mobility; Jose Garcia, Transportation Mobility, SFC Sam Cappuccio, NJDOT/NJSP Incident Management Team; Mike Moran, Transportation Mobility; Rich Pierson, Operations (Region Central).



Ramesh Patel, Principal Engineer, Permits Unit, Division of Administrative Support, Transportation Operations Systems and Support, completed his second half marathon on September 15 at Liberty State Park. Ramesh bested his first half marathon time by 26 minutes! He is determined to continue running and to improve his time even further. Ramesh completed the event in 3 hours: 1 minute: 46 seconds. Ramesh shared that, for him, running has been positive physically, mentally and spiritually. Congratulations Ramesh!



NJDOT's internal Commitment to Communities mission includes building employee skills that will help them better serve a variety of stakeholders. Recently, trainees in the Division of Right of Way & Access Management participated in daily instructional sessions to sharpen the skills they will use to promote the timely delivery of NJDOT projects, and to serve the needs of the public, including homeowners, business owners, and developers. Senior staff members provided training on land acquisition, closing of title, major access and ROW engineering, outdoor advertising, and property management. 



# PEDE program kick-off meeting matches mentors with mentees

## Staff engineers have opportunity to earn PE license

The inaugural Professional Engineering Design Experience (PEDE) program held its mentor/mentee matching event on August 1 in a capacity-filled, multi-purpose room that was brimming with excitement.

The newly created PEDE program provides staff that have achieved undergraduate degrees in engineering and have their Engineer-in-Training Certification, the opportunity to gain the design experience required to sit for the Professional Engineering (PE) licensing exam. In addition, the program creates leadership opportunities for NJDOT licensed Professional Engineers as they guide the individuals in the assigned group through their professional journey. For both classes of participants in the first of its kind program at NJDOT, this initiative is both professionally and personally valuable and rewarding. PEDE is a shining highlight of the department's internal Commitment to Communities engagement.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti was pleased to see so many people engaged in the program and availing themselves of its potential positive impact. She addressed the attendees and asked for a show of hands from the audience in response to her question, "how many of you have an engineering degree?" She continued, "Was it easy?" With a resounding audible, "no" response from the audience she continued, "you deserve to have a PE after your name after achieving an engineering degree. This program is good for NJDOT and it is good for you. This is something that you can take with you. This will benefit you and your family. If you stay here or if you leave, you will always have the PE after your name."

Andrew Tunnard, Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Operations Systems & Support also welcomed the 22 mentors, 40 mentees, and 2 supervising mentors participating in the PEDE program. He urged them to act as though they are staff in a NJDOT design company.

The PEDE program is a challenging, advanced educational opportunity. Participants are all full-time employees and are required to fulfill their daily work responsibilities completely and fully. The design work that they are assigned must be completed outside of their normal activities and daily obligations to the department. The assigned projects are active, department projects that are of real-time importance to the organization and the state and must be completed on schedule, within budget, with adherence to all engineering design standards.

As motivation to the group, Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti reminded the mentees that while this will be a difficult and challenging program, they were selected because they were designated as having the skills and ability to achieve the goals. "Don't be a quitter. If you get stressed, come see us. Put your head down and work hard. We have resources all over the place to help you," she said. Then she addressed the work of the mentors. She stated, "You are going to change someone's life! I am grateful to you."

### LEAD MENTORS

**Joshua Szulczewski, Statewide Bridge**

**Kristen Bacher, South/Central Roadway Maintenance Projects**

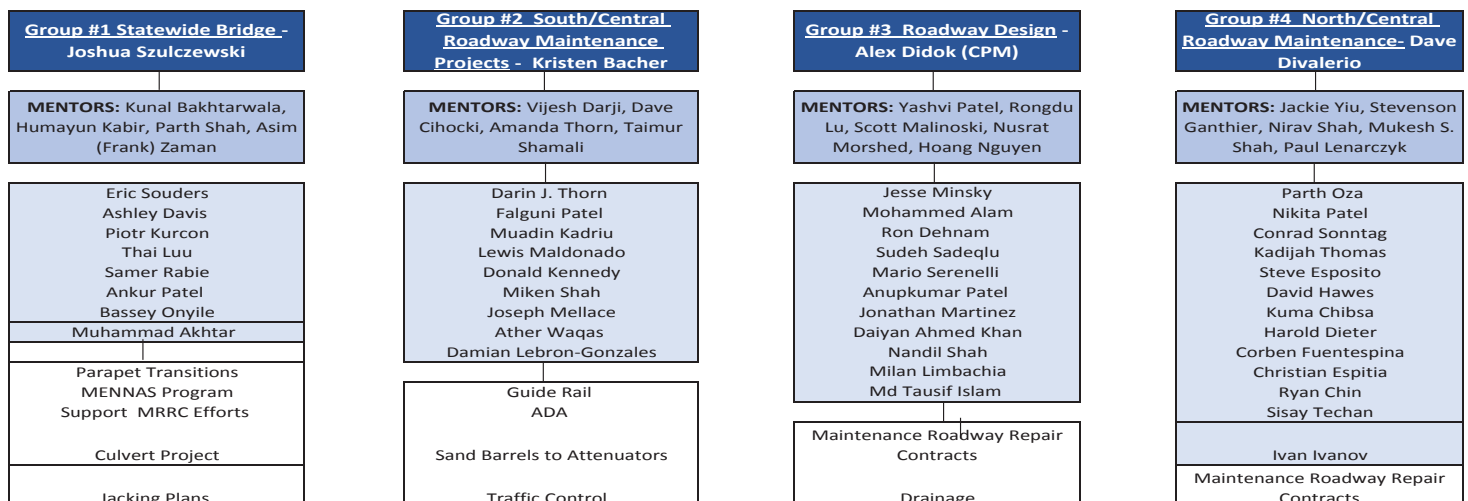
**Alex Didok, Roadway Design, Capital Program Management**

**Dave Divalerio, North Central Roadway Maintenance Projects**

### Professional Engineering Design Experience (PEDE) Program - Breakdown of "Lead" Mentors and their Mentoring Teams

Work to be performed: Maintenance Work Orders and PS&E

Date last updated: 9/17/19



MRRRC (Maintenance Roadway Repair Contracts): Consists of ADA, some guiderail transitions, bridge deck repairs, guiderail repairs, curb repairs, 1 inch to correct drainage, identify reconstruction traffic control

Gary Worek and Chris Manz to serve as "MENTORS" to the "MENTORS"





(L to R) Damaris Santiago, Team Leader, Project Mitigation Team, FHWA; Shari Schaftlein, Director, Office of Human Environment, FHWA; Tina Shutz, NJDOT, Section Chief Environmental, Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions; Tara Bencivenga, Consultant, WSP; Heather Holsinger, Office of Natural Environment, FHWA; Emily Biondi, Director, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA

## Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project receives 2019 Federal Environmental Excellence Award for the Cedar Bonnet Island Habitat Restoration and Management Plan

NJDOT received the prestigious 2019 Federal Environmental Excellence Award for its work on the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges habitat restoration project on a portion of Cedar Bonnet Island.

The NJDOT project team, along with its partners, WSP USA, Inc., the project design firm, and the New Jersey division of the Federal Highway Administration, collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide appropriate interdisciplinary solutions. The restored habitat offers public amenities including trails, gazebos, and bird watching points.

The \$312 million Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project in Ocean County included construction of a new structure over Manahawkin Bay, a portion of which is the environmentally sensitive Barnegat Bay, rehabilitation of the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge and three trestle bridges, and associated roadway, pedestrian access, and drainage improvements. As a condition of obtaining environmental permit authorizations from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), NJDOT pursued an innovative approach to satisfy the requirements to provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to affected environmental resources, specifically, wetlands, intertidal/subtidal shallows (ITSTS), and riparian zone vegetation.

NJDOT did not have sufficient right-of-way (ROW) within the Route 72 corridor to satisfy all mitigation requirements. The NJDOT entered into a cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) whereby USFWS would grant access and use of a portion of the National Wildlife Refuge System to NJDOT for the mitigation of project impacts without acquiring additional ROW. The NJDOT, in turn, would restore the site and improve the area for public access to satisfy all mitigation requirements, allowing the project to proceed expeditiously.

The project restored the ecosystem on the Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge on Cedar Bonnet Island that had fallen into disrepair. The restoration included constructing 18 acres of upland habitat, 20 acres of created/enhanced Intertidal/Subtidal Shallows including coastal wetlands, and 7 acres of upland habitat enhancement. The project objectives included protecting and preserving existing high quality marshes, restoring lost intertidal functions, improving wildlife habitat value, providing improved public access and increasing tidal flushing to inhibit growth of phragmites.

Careful consideration was given to provide habitat and protection for waterfowl, water birds and other migratory birds and endangered species and species of special concern. As part of this work, 5,000 linear feet

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## Route 72 Continued from page 14

of tidal channels were constructed, and 1,975 trees, 11,500 shrubs, and over 473,000 plugs were planted using native species. This project helped to advance the USFWS Comprehensive Management Plan. The USFWS will be the long-term stewards for the site and this project affords them major benefits including public access for education, passive recreational use, and the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement.

In addition, an ADA compliant walking trail was constructed on the property with two designated wildlife observation areas, interpretive signage and a way-finding program to create long-term positive impacts to recreation. The combination of observation areas, trails, and interpretive signage displays provide long-term environmental education and recreational opportunities to the local community and support the local tourism industry.


The innovative approach met stakeholder and mitigation requirements. It also accelerated the project completion for the causeway bridge system to Long Beach Island. The habitat restoration project began in February 2015 and was complete in May

2018. The Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridge was reopened to the public in May 2018. The roadwork will continue until its expected completion in 2022.

**The NJDOT team members integral in the project success are:** Steve Tracy, Resident Engineer; Tina Shutz, Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions.

**Environmental team:** Bruce Hawkinson, Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions; Sharad Rana, Division of Project Management; James McAllister, Division of Project Management.

**NJDOT Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions/ Landscape Architecture current employees:** Lois Johann, John Garzio, Felicia DiPietro, Cindy Bloom-Cronin, Paul Pospiech, Brenda Hammer.

**NJDOT former employees:** George Silvestro, David Earl, George Caruso. 





## NJDOT Building 18 Laboratory deemed eligible for National Register of Historic Places and will undergo renovation


### Building 18A to be demolished



NJDOT staff who park in the F&A parking lot are familiar with the two-story red brick building that stands adjacent to the parking lot but may not know its significance. Building 18 is the retired Materials Laboratory that was constructed in 1935 during the “Golden Age” of road building in America. It served the needs of the State Highway Department’s Laboratory Division by testing materials used to construct and maintain highways. The NJ Historic Preservation Officer has deemed the art deco inspired building as eligible for listing in the NJ and National Register of Historic Places, the only building in the New Jersey Department of Transportation to meet those criteria.

The approximately 13,000 square foot building will undergo renovation while maintaining the integrity of the building’s historic significance. An interior staircase that is surrounded by terracotta wall tile will be restored and preserved along with its original marble stair treads and cast iron railings. A second floor skylight that illuminates a central exhibition space below will also be restored.

The connecting structure and Building 18A will be demolished. Additional parking spaces and a green space will utilize the open area.

Upon completion of the renovation, it will become the new office space for Region Central Operations staff. The expected completion date is spring of 2020. 



# NJDOT Service Awards

## 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

Debra Roberts

## 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

Claudette Bailey

Ira Levinton

John Patricco

## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

Valerie Brown

Larry Cotton

Bradley Dailey

Louis Forino

Robert Harris

Sharon Hartmann

Dennis Higgins

James Howarth

Brett Koester

Philip Lanno

Hermean Matthews

Daniel Mikus

Edwin Padilla

James Romer

Joseph Schocko

Robin Sterns

Frank Tallone

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

Donal Borer

Scott Hergert

Dean Jack

Frederick Lassiter

Joseph Popelka

Richard Rufe

Brian Smith

Randolph Stout

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

George Bateman

Craig Sowell

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**OCTOBER**

Lashawn Brice

Kelvin Dickens

Russell Kershaw

Joseph Matozzi

James Vari

## Retirees

### October

Sharon Hartley, 32 years; Lisa Voorhees, 31 years; Robert Parke, 40 years; Peter Hando, 15 years; Angelo Mendola, 37 years; David Burkart, 27 years; Daniel Sullivan, 38 years; Pankaj Patel, 34 years; Allen Kricheff, 39 years

## Congratulations!