WTS Greater New York 2010
Annual Cocktail Reception

WTS-GNY
30 YEARS
1980-2010
WTS Greater New York Board of Directors

Congratulates

Pippa Woods
Policy Advisor, New Jersey Governor’s Office

2010 Woman of the Year
Welcome to the WTS Greater New York Chapter 2010 Annual Cocktail Reception

October 21, 2010

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks Marcia Shapiro, President WTS GNY Chapter

2010 Scholarship Recipients LeAnn Waletzko, Chair GNY Scholarship Committee

2010 Woman of the Year Pippa Woods, Policy Advisor New Jersey Governor’s Office

Introduced by James Weinstein, Executive Director NJ TRANSIT

30th Anniversary Honorees Diana Jones Ritter, Managing Director The Metropolitan Transportation Authority

James Simpson, Commissioner The New Jersey Department of Transportation

James Weinstein, Executive Director NJ TRANSIT

Chris Ward, Executive Director The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Introduced by Maxine Finkelstein Interactive Elements Incorporated

Silent Auction Auction Winners Announced

With gratitude to those who contributed so generously to the WTS Silent Auction:*

AECOM Helen Hartmann NJ Transit Corporation
Ammann & Whitne HDR Engineering, Inc. New York Transit Museum
Ardys International Jenny Kepelyan The Park Restaurant
The Capital Grille The Metropolitan Opera Parsons Transportation Group
Damien Gurganious Michael Baker Engineering, Inc. Sandra L. Persaud
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Marcia Earle Michael H. Schaer, Marcia Shapiro
Ronald A. Ericsson Executive Speaker Coach Stantec
Felicie Farber MTBates Art Gallery Steamers Landing Restaurant
Friends of the High Line MTA Metro-North Railroad Harry Tom
Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Nakanishi Research and WTS-GNY
Hatch Mott MacDonald Consulting, LLC

Friends of WTS-GNY—Our sincere thanks to the following organizations that provided in-kind services for the 2010 Annual Cocktail Reception:

Cambridge Systematics Parsons Brinckerhoff
CH2M Hill Peckar & Abramson, P.C.
Michael Baker Engineering, Inc.

Graphic support: 30th anniversary logo by Sue Labouvie, Studio L’Image; journal layout by Parsons Brinckerhoff
Message from WTS-GNY President Marcia Shapiro

Welcome to the WTS Greater New York Chapter’s Annual Gala! This event is the culmination of a yearlong celebration of our 30th Anniversary. Looking back gives us the opportunity to appreciate the changes in the workplace over the past 30 years including increased diversity and better representation of women in leadership positions. Yet there is so much more to do!

On September 28, 2010, an article appeared in the New York Times entitled, “Slow Climb for Women Managers.” According to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office, women have made little progress in climbing into management positions in this country even in the boom years before the financial crisis. In all but three of the 13 industries covered by the report, women had a smaller share of management positions than they did of that industry’s overall workforce. Interestingly, the sectors where women were more heavily represented in management were construction, public administration and transportation and utilities. WTS has contributed to these gains by providing members with access to key leaders in the industry, professional development, scholarship, and mentoring programs.

A woman who has played a major role in the history of our chapter and of WTS International is our 2010 Woman of the Year, Pippa Woods. Pippa was chapter president in 2004-2005 and after completing her term, became involved in the WTS Scholarship Fund at the international level. She is now President of its successor, the WTS Foundation. Through the generosity of thousands of WTS members and supporters, the organization has provided over $1,000,000 in scholarships to deserving women throughout the transportation industry. The best way you can honor Pippa is to bid on one of the Silent Auction items, since all of the proceeds will go towards scholarships.

Finally, the accomplishments of our chapter would not be possible without the generosity and vision of our 2010 Corporate Partners. Thanks to those of you who have renewed your participation for the 2011 program, and a warm welcome to our new Corporate Partners. Have a great evening! ■

WTS International President Terry Gruver

Greetings! I am delighted to congratulate you on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary. I know that this event will be a wonderful celebration of the individuals and organizations that comprise and contribute to the vibrant Greater New York chapter.

Advancing Women in Transportation – a fairly simple tagline, but representing so much good work that promotes the belief that identifying, encouraging, equipping, and developing women in transportation taps into underutilized resources of our workforce, makes our industry better, and makes our society better. As professionals committed to the transportation industry, we all know the role that continuous learning plays in supporting our careers as we prepare to address some of the most complex problems facing the 21st century workforce. What might not be so obvious is the importance of membership in a professional association whose mission serves those same needs not only in education, but with a myriad of associated benefits.

This evening, as you celebrate those who have contributed so successfully to our industry, I’m sure you will see the strong relationship between exceptional service to transportation and involvement with WTS. Your Woman of the Year, Pippa Woods, is a perfect example. Pippa’s advancement in the transportation industry is a testament to her hard work and dedication. She has brought these same qualities, and more, to her many roles in WTS over the years – and to her current role as the President of the WTS Foundation.

It is in large part due to our corporate and public sector partners that WTS is able to play this role in the lives of transportation professionals, so I’d like to extend a special thank you to those sponsors – at the international, local, and program levels – for their support of WTS and its chapters and programs.

Again, congratulations to WTS-GNY on reaching this anniversary milestone and a sincere thank you to tonight’s honorees! ■
Pippa Woods has over 29 years of experience in the transportation industry in Canada and the United States in strategic and business planning, and innovative program development at the state and federal levels. Currently, she serves as Policy Advisor for Transportation in the Office of the Governor of New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie. Prior to this appointment, Pippa served in NJ Transit’s Capital Planning Department, focusing on Intermodal and Interagency coordination. In this post, she represented the Executive Director on the three Metropolitan Planning Organizations in New Jersey, as well as coordinated transit interests within New Jersey state government. Pippa also served as the Business and Project Development Director for the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) in the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers. There she managed a wide range of research projects on all modes of transportation, including a policy and planning advisory role to the NJ Turnpike Office of Transportation Policy and Planning; State ferry policy and federally funded ferry emission reduction projects; facilitating and implementing special public policy series on aging and mobility issues.

Pippa joined WTS in the 1990s. In 1996, she assisted the Program Committee to prepare for the Annual Conference in New York. In 2001, Dedi Gonga, who was the WTS-GNY President at the time, asked Pippa if she would be interested in serving on the Board, which she did. It was under Dedi’s leadership that the chapter held its first Gala, as it was called back then, at Bridgewaters in South Street Seaport. Pippa co-chaired the committee, which underwent an intense year working with the WTS-GNY Advisory Board. The chapter achieved some notable firsts with that Gala and it coincided with its 20th Anniversary.

Pippa was on the WTS-GNY Board from 2002 to 2005, serving as President in 2004 and 2005. She was also asked by Mary Jane O’Meara to be a Committee Chair during her National Presidency. Pippa served as Co-Chair on the Chapter Development Committee, which at that time was charged with helping new chapters take the necessary steps to become a full fledged chapter. WTS welcomed its first International chapter during this period, the Strait of Georgia Chapter in Vancouver, Canada. That Committee worked with over a dozen locations interested in becoming chapters.

After completing her presidency of the WTS-GNY, Pippa was asked to join the WTS Scholarship Board. During her time on the board, the chapter launched the WTS Foundation, as a successor to the WTS Scholarship, with an expanded mission to enhance the scholarship offerings to include high school and professional development, and to undertake research to establish a baseline understanding of the policies and programs in the transportation industry, all sectors that help to advance women in transportation.

Currently, Pippa is President of the WTS Foundation.

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New Jersey Governor’s Office

Introduction by James Weinstein

James Weinstein is the Executive Director of NJ TRANSIT, the third largest transit agency in the nation and the largest statewide. Mr. Weinstein is responsible for the agency’s bus, light rail, and commuter rail network, which carried more than 270 million passenger trips in Fiscal Year 2009. Mr. Weinstein oversees the agency’s 10,500-plus employees, and capital and operating budgets totaling more than $3 billion annually.

Prior to being appointed Executive Director, Mr. Weinstein served as a senior vice president of a global transportation consulting and engineering firm, since 2002. In that capacity, he was responsible for the firm’s highway and bridge projects throughout the United States. Before joining the firm, he was senior vice president of Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor, the busiest passenger rail line in the nation.

Mr. Weinstein previously served as New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation and Chairman of the NJ TRANSIT Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002. During his tenure, NJ TRANSIT advanced work on system expansion projects including the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, River Line, and the Newark Light Rail extension to Broad Street Station, as well as new stations such as Frank R. Lautenberg Station at Secaucus Junction, Union Station and Montclair State University Station at Little Falls. The agency also introduced new modern light rail vehicles on the Newark Light Rail system, completed the restoration of historic Hoboken Terminal’s main waiting room and advanced the Montclair Connection, which enabled Midtown Direct service to begin on the Montclair-Boonton Line.

Mr. Weinstein formerly served as a Vice Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of the Transportation Builders Association and is on the advisory board of Rutgers University’s Voorhees Transportation Center. He has also served on the boards of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Delaware River Port Authority and New Jersey’s toll agencies.

A lifelong resident of New Jersey, Mr. Weinstein holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Seton Hall University and rides in Moorestown with his wife. ■
2010 Scholarship Recipients:
Victoria DeLouise, Heather Diaz, Diniece Peters, Elisabeth Wooten

MOLTORIS LEADERSHIP
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Victoria DeLouise
is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in International Transportation and Trade with a minor in Intermodal and Maritime Security from SUNY Maritime College in New York. She is in her sophomore year and expects to graduate in May 2013. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Masters degree in the same field from Maritime.

At Maritime College, although not required for her major, Victoria is a member of the Regiment of Cadets. The Regiment is a military style organization and is governed by a set of regulations similar to that of the federal service academies. Participation entails abiding by high standards for conduct, leadership, teamwork and personal appearance. She is also a member of the Italian Club and the women’s Division III Lacrosse team at Maritime. This past summer, Victoria interned at a ship brokerage firm where she was able to have hands on experience in the business side of shipping.

PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Heather Diaz
is pursuing a Master’s in Urban Planning with a specialization in Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation at New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She received her B.A. in Sociology, a B.A. in Environmental Analysis & Design, and a minor in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Irvine.

Heather is a Student Member of the American Planning Association and the current President of the Urban Planning Student Association (UPSA) at NYU Wagner. She has found internship experiences that have solidified her interest in transportation related fields. She previously interned for New York City Transit’s Department of Subways as a management support aide. Heather is currently an Operations Intern for the Alliance for Downtown New York and a Research Associate at the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management. In her spare time, she enjoys walking her dog and trying all the different foods this city has to offer!

SUSAN MISZKOWICZ MEMORIAL
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Diniece Peters
was born on the Caribbean Island of Trinidad and Tobago. At the age of 12, she migrated to the United States with her family in search for greater opportunities. Diniece was the valedictorian of her high school in 2007. Her passion for Engineering was fostered by her high school’s ACE Mentor Program. She chose to attend the Grove School of Engineering at the City College of New York where she is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering, specializing in Transportation and a Minor in Economics. She plans to graduate in Spring 2012.

Upon receiving her Bachelor’s Degree, Diniece plans on obtaining two Master degrees, one in Transportation Engineering and the other in Urban Sustainability in the Environment. In addition to her academics, Diniece is very involved on her campus. She participates in transportation related research regarding Urban Freight Delivery policies in New York and in various professional organizations.

LEONARD BRAUN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Elisabeth Wooton
grew up in Seattle, Washington and earned a B.S. in Conservation Biology from the University of Washington. Two years ago, she moved to New York City to attend NYU’s Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. In the spring, she will graduate with a Master of Urban Planning degree specializing in transportation, infrastructure, and the environment. Since beginning graduate school, sustainable transportation has become the focus of her professional, academic, and extracurricular pursuits. Elisabeth recently began a full-time position as a City Planner for New York City Transit after working as an intern with the organization for two years. Outside of work, she is an active member of various transportation organizations including the Wagner Transportation Alliance, Transportation Alternatives, and the WTS – Greater New York Chapter.
From left: Maria Garcia, Rosa Parks Diversity Award winner, and Linda Travis, the Member of the Year.

NYCDOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan presented the Employer of the Year Award to George Pierson, CEO of Parsons Brinckerhoff.

From left: WTS-GNY President Marcia Shapiro, MTA CEO and Chairman Jay Walder and WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Jenny Kapelyan.

Leni Schwendinger Light Projects LTD and Eng-Wong Taub & Associates were among the EXPO exhibitors. Far right: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Maria Garcia.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM
March 2010

From left: Marcia Bystryn, Executive Director, New York League of Conservation Voters; Lou Calgano, NYCDOT Assistant Deputy Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner; Jeffrey Perlman, NJTPA Principal Planner, Regional Planning; and Mary Ameen, NJTPA Director of External Affairs.

Rodney Evans, Skyline Connections, Inc., WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Rena Barta and David Grey, also of Skyline, enjoyed the sustainability program. Skyline is WTS-GNY’s newest corporate partner.

From left: Wendy Wark, Director of Employee Relations and Diversity, Metro-North Railroad; Oluseyi Adekanmbi, E.I.T. Civil Associates Baker; and Cheryl George, former WTS-GNY Diversity Committee Chair and Business Programs Manager, MTA Office of Civil Rights.
DIVERSITY CONFERENCE
March 19, 2010

From left: Alexandra DePrete Tosi, Principal Associate, Gilbert Tweed Associates; Luis Lugo, Senior Vice President, PACO Group; Veronique Hakim, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, MTA Capital Construction; Wendy Wark, Director of Employee Relations and Diversity, Metro-North Railroad; and Cheryl McKissack, President and CEO, McKissack and McKissack.

NJ TRANSACTION
April 28, 2010

From left: Amy A. Greene, Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Susan Boone, Legerity Consultants, Inc.; Liza Betz, Union County — Session Moderator; Joanne M. Stokes, Stokes Advertising; and Victoria G. Malassecki, Envision Consultants, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
May 27, 2010

Professionals from different companies and various transportation disciplines enjoying an evening together.

SPEED NETWORKING EVENT
June 9, 2010


Participants perfecting their 90-second pitch.

ATLANTIC TUNNEL TOUR
May 22, 2010

The event participants assemble inside the dark abandoned tunnel.
WTS-GNY Event Photos (continued)

PORT AUTHORITY TRAFFIC PROGRAM
June 16, 2010

Speaker Michael Diculescu of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (right) accepting an ITE safety vest from Amir Rizavi, Co-Chair, ITE Professional Development Committee, Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates.

From left: Christopher Lamm of Cambridge Systematics; WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee Co-Chair Beth Zall; and Nicole Bacich of Systra.

HIGH LINE TOUR
June 24, 2010

WTS-GNY members taking a tour of the High Line.

Happy 30th Anniversary! Front row, from left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Beth DeAngelo; Immediate Past President Jenny Kapelyan; Director-At-Large Linda Travis; President Marcia Shapiro; Vice President (NY) Allison Davis; and Advisory Board Member Deborah Wathen-Finn. Back row, from left: Vice President (NJ) Kashfia Billah and Treasurer Julia Kerson.

From left: WTS-GNY Committee member Camille Gordon-Taylor and WTS-GNY Corporate Relations Chair Kimberly Wagner Patterson.

From left: Jessica Cumberland, Stefanie Beemer and Crystale Wozniak, all of Parsons Brinckerhoff.
From left: WTS-GNY Special Events Committee Co-Chair Lisa Marie Pompei, and Danielle Morgan and Stephanie Brooke, of Michael Baker Corporation.

WTS-GNY members taking a tour of the High Line.

A view of the High Line.

A view of the 30th Anniversary cake.

From left: WTS-GNY Special Events Committee Co-Chair Ella McLeod and committee members Jamielyn LoBello; Marcela Rodriguez of Parsons and Sue Kostner, David Evans & Associates, Inc.

From left: Anne Jennings, Carmen Morgan and Allison Rachleff of AECOM; WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Allison Davis; WTS-GNY Scholarship Committee LeAnn Waletzko; and Nayibe Perez of AECOM.
Reflections from Founders of WTS-GNY

Deborah Wathen Finn
President, The Wathen Group, LLC and WTS-GNY Founding Member

I remember so well hearing about the organization – over thirty years ago, it was the Women’s Transportation Seminar – an organization committed to advancing women in the transportation industry? What a concept at time, when we looked around, we found virtually all male leaders! Thanks to my boss at the time Lou Gambaccini, the Commissioner of NJ Transportation, who got a call from one of the few women leaders in the industry in the late 70’s asking Lou to send a delegation of women from the Department to the first WTS conference in Washington DC, he did just that. So with budgets tight – same old story repeated – four young women signed up and headed to the conference. It was Laurie Mahon, Susan Kirk, Cathy Sweeney and me. I remember so well the energy at the conference and the realization that yes, there were a few women leaders in the transportation industry! Our group returned to Trenton eager to support a chapter for our region. We soon attended a meeting in the Oval Room at the World Trade Center where Maxine Finkelstein and others invited us to discuss establishing a New York area chapter – all were in agreement. Fortunately for our chapter and the region there were extremely progressive and supportive men at the helm of the major regional transportation agencies in those early days such as Lou Gambaccini, Peter Goldmark, Dick Ravitch and Jerry Premo cheering the organization and us on. They were eager to support the organization and gave their time, providing their agencies’ in-kind and financial resources to actively support our chapter’s formation. That, along with the collective sweat equity and financial resources of the early founders, made it all work. Today we enjoy the fruits of that vision and support while we are able to enjoy the knowledge that collectively and individually our members have made a difference in our region and in each of our individual professional and personal lives!

So thirty years ago, we only dreamed that so many of the transportation organizations would have women in significant leadership roles. Today, on the occasion of our anniversary we are witness to that dream. We have the likes of Janette Sadik-Khan as Commissioner of NYCDOT, Helena Williams as President of the LIRR, Jane Chmielinski as Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Officer of one of the largest global infrastructure firms; Pippa Woods as Senior Policy Adviser to New Jersey’s Governor, Ronnie Hakim as the Executive Director of the NJ Turnpike, Sue Baer as Director of the Port Authority’s Aviation Department and Vicki Cross-Kelly leading the Port Authority’s Tunnels and Bridges Department and many others. Today, having women in such roles is more the norm than the exception! Just as we had hoped! Now onto raising the bar for our next thirty years!!

Maxine Finkelstein
Interactive Elements Incorporated and WTS-GNY Founding Member

Over the decades, WTS has provided me opportunities to get involved in activities and learn about transportation in unique ways. I saw my first intermodal facility at a WTS conference! I planned conferences, managed programs, worked on scholarship and leadership training, was both a mentee and a mentor, and got involved in many activities that were outside my basic job description. But mostly, it is the WTS network of professional associations, contacts, colleagues, and friends that endures. Thank you to all the people (both women and men) who supported WTS and worked to expand the network from the first group of 40 women who were interested enough in the idea to attend an organizational meeting and carry it through thirty years of growth and achievement.
I was at New Jersey DOT at the time and took the train up from Trenton to an organizing meeting of a handful of people at the World Trade Center. I hadn’t known any of the people before but we immediately bonded over our shared experiences and goal of forming a chapter of this fledgling organization. I remember that it was explained that the name had the word Seminar in it because the original chapter members had trouble getting approval of their employer to pay for a women’s professional association and the word seminar placed it under the category of education. I served as first Treasurer and shortly thereafter proudly opened our account at the First Women’s Bank in Manhattan. It has been a privilege to be involved from the beginning and to watch the organization grow and become a real force throughout the many professional disciplines in transportation in the region. As promised in its title, the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) has provided education and much more to the women and men involved in transportation and I am proud to have been part of the inception of the Greater New York chapter.

Carl Selinger
Principal, Carl Selinger Services

While I’m not a “founding member,” I am proud to be the first man to join the WTS-GNY chapter.

After attending a few outstanding GNY meetings in the 1980s, I asked Maxine Finkelstein if men could join WTS. She said “Yes!,” and so I did, becoming the first man to join GNY chapter. It was great to be among an enthusiastic group of transportation professionals covering all aspects of the profession. I got very active in programs, student affairs and mentoring, and it was fitting, a dozen years later, when Maxine awarded me “1998 Member of the Year”... to my son Jeff’s continuing ribbing. Today WTS is my primary “go-to” professional activity, and the opportunity to mentor a dozen professionals since the program began has been incredibly satisfying. Congratulations to the GNY Chapter.

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In Memory of
Bob Olmsted

1924-2010

In profound appreciation for a lifetime of contributions to the transportation industry overall, and WTS-GNY in particular. Our thanks for the credibility your support provided to our organization from its foundation to date.
Each year, at the annual meeting, WTS-GNY sponsors a W/M/DBE EXPO. If you are interested in meeting potential project partners, please make sure to clear your calendar, and get to meet and see the work of our exhibitors at this winter event. If you are a W/M/DBE firm in the transportation industry, this is a great way to meet potential clients, with many agencies and project prime contractors in attendance. The date for EXPO 2011 will be announced in the fall. To make sure you are on the invitation list, please send an email attention to Wendy Wark (Wark@MNR.org) and Hollie Wells (Hollie.Wells@nyct.com).

**BLUE RIBBON PANEL**

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Anne Locke  
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Brigid Hynes-Cherin  
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Stephanie Pinson  
Gilbert Tweed

Roland Ericsson  
Hatch Matt McDonald

Marcia Earle  
HDR

Arnold Bloch  
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PB Congratulates
Pippa Woods
Policy Advisor, New Jersey Governor’s Office

2010 Woman of the Year

With Special Gratitude to
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The New Jersey Department of Transportation
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The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

In recognition of their instrumental roles in the history of the WTS Greater New York Chapter

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Pippa Woods,
Policy Advisor, NJ Governor’s Office
from HDR

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Congratulations to WTS on your 30th Anniversary and to Pippa Woods, 2010 Woman of the Year

Working across all modes of transport, Arup’s broad range of services includes sustainable transport, intermodal station design, pedestrian and cycle planning, intelligent transport and policy consulting. We provide these services for a variety of clients including the New York and New Jersey state agencies being honored here tonight.

We shape a better world.

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Congratulations
Pippa Woods, Woman of the Year
The Metropolitan Transportation Authority
The New Jersey Department of Transportation
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The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

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