




Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> New Jersey

# INAUGURAL EVENT

Thursday, November 18, 2021  
Heldrich Hotel  
New Brunswick, NJ



**WTS NJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CONGRATULATES**

**Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

*New Jersey Department of Transportation, Commissioner*

**2021  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**



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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Look what we did it! **We become so others will become.** On November 18, 2020, the Women's Transportation Seminar of New Jersey (WTS NJ) became officially ratified as the 63rd professional chapter and joined the team of over 8,500 WTS International members. We have the privilege of counting ourselves among a membership focused on promoting the advancement of women in the transportation industry – all careers, all levels. Tonight, we commemorate partnership, mentorship, promotion, networking, skill development, scholarship and leadership.

As a part of the celebration, we honor the woman with vision for the chapter's inception and the woman leading the public side of the transportation industry for the State, Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, with the first "WTS NJ Woman of the Year" award. Discussions of the possibility of the formation of a NJ chapter began over two years ago. Discussions began with what resources could contribute to the advancement of women in the industry in terms of professional development, mentorship, networking, sponsorship, and partnership through civic engagement.

With the additional efforts of others, the vision grew from discussions with a few to the reality of an official chapter membership that has matured to over 100 strong today. Growth continues with the support of our Corporate Partners. Twenty-four organizations have committed to partnering with WTS NJ on the advancement of women in the industry. Tonight, we also spotlight our Founding Partners as well as our emerging leaders, our scholarship recipients.

Beyond the obvious, this certainly has been a year to remember. As the year closes, we will remember to celebrate what we have become and what is yet to come. We thank you all for contributing to an organization for women to learn from someone who looks like them and is where they could possibly be in the future, as we continue our commitment to helping WTS reach our mission of Advancing Women and Advancing Transportation.

Thank you for joining us for this journey there is more to come!

**ZENOBIA L. FIELDS**



# YOU ARE ..



## Inaugural Event Efforts Led by Programs Committee:

**Asrah Khadr  
Olya Arakhouskaya  
Ope Adediji**

## Inaugural Event Team:

**Falecia Rowe  
Kristen Ahlfeld  
Kyrre Mosley  
Lynn LaMunyon  
Polina Knaster  
Raishea Haines  
Tam Sillick  
Zenobia Fields**

## Special Thank You

**Jacqueline Rooke**  
Program Design and Assembly

**Kerri Tyerman**  
Program Printing

**Stokes Creative Group**  
Event Photography



# APPRECIATED!





## EVENING PROGRAM

Gather Together	Eat, Drink, and Be Merry
Welcome and Leadership Introduction	Zenobia L. Fields <i>WTS NJ President</i>
Networking	Making Lifetime Memories & Connections
Woman of the Year Award	Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti <i>NJDOT, Commissioner</i>
Keynote Speaker	Meera Joshi <i>Deputy Administrator-Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration–USDOT</i>
Scholarship Awards	Chelsea Ramos <i>WTS NJ College Outreach Vice Chair</i>  <u>WTS NJ Student Scholarship Recipients:</u> Emma Argenal, TCNJ Christina Serrano, NJIT
Corporate Partner Recognition	Kristen Ahlfeld <i>WTS NJ Corporate Partner Committee Chair</i>
Executive Remarks	Robert J. Clark <i>FHWA Division Administrator NJ</i>  Kevin S. Corbett <i>President &amp; CEO– NJ TRANSIT</i>  Clarelle DeGraffe <i>Director and General Manager of PATH-PANYNJ</i>  John M. Keller, PE <i>Executive Director – NJTA</i>
Closing Remarks	Zenobia L. Fields <i>WTS NJ President</i>

# Woman of the Year

## Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Commissioner

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti was confirmed as the 19th Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation on June 7, 2018. She was nominated on December 19, 2017 and began serving as Acting Commissioner on January 16, 2018.



A native New Jerseyan, Ms. Gutierrez-Scaccetti is a transportation professional with more than 31 years in the industry, and 37 years in government service. She possesses extensive executive, operational, and planning knowledge.

Most recently, the Commissioner served as the Executive Director and CEO at Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, a part of the Florida Department of Transportation. Under her leadership, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise managed more than 460 centerline miles and a 5-year capital program in excess of \$6 billion, supported by \$1 billion in revenues.

This capital program included the construction of SunTrax, a 2.25 mile test track and research facility for the development of transportation technology, including automated and connected vehicle applications. She was instrumental in implementing Regional Toll Interoperability of SunPass in the Southeastern United States. SunPass, Florida's statewide electronic toll collection system, was under her charge. As Executive Director and CEO, Gutierrez-Scaccetti was a member of the Executive Committee of the Florida Department of Transportation, a policy setting body that reports to the Secretary of Transportation.

Prior to the Commissioner's Florida experience, she spent 21 years at the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, working her way up from a Contract Administrator to the post of Executive Director, a position she held from 2008 to 2010. During her tenure, she managed the day-to-day administrative operations and was chief negotiator for the agency's several collective bargaining units.

Ms. Gutierrez-Scaccetti participated in several major agency initiatives, including the remediation of the E-ZPass System, the financial and operational consolidation of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and New Jersey Highway Authority, bringing the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway under a single organization. A major undertaking was the development and financing of a 10-year, \$7 billion capital program that kicked off the widening of the New Jersey Turnpike from Interchange 6 to Interchange 9. This transformational project provided significant congestion relief to a major portion of the I-95 Corridor.



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As NJDOT Commissioner, she oversaw the largest capital program in the Department's history with \$1.23 billion in construction contracts and \$359 million in consultant design/inspection agreements awarded in Fiscal Year 2021. In addition, NJDOT has supported communities during the pandemic with staff logging more than 1,000 hours driving mobile vaccination trucks and continuing her tradition of encouraging community involvement by holding employee food drives and school supply drives.

The Commissioner's accomplishments and leadership have been recognized by the Executive Women of New Jersey, WTS Central Florida Woman of the Year, and Orlando Business Journal's 2015 CEO of the Year for the Public Sector. She received the 2019 Service to the People Award presented by the American Society of Civil Engineers Central New Jersey Branch and the 2020 Women of Achievement Award presented by the New Jersey Chapter of Professional Women in Construction. She is the recipient of the 2021 American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey Distinguished Service Award and was recognized in 2021 with the President's Award from the NJ Alliance for Action.

Ms. Gutierrez-Scaccetti is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) and is currently serving as the Chair of the Committee on Transportation Communications (TransComm). She is an Executive Committee Member of the Board of Directors for the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) and is currently serving as the association's first Vice President. She is an Executive Committee Board Member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Vice Chair of The Eastern Transportation Coalition (formerly I-95 Corridor Coalition) and the Chair of the Coalition's Toll Violation Enforcement Reciprocity Task Force.

As NJDOT Commissioner, she serves as Chair of NJ TRANSIT, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, the NJ Transportation Trust Fund Authority, and Vice Chair of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti holds degrees from the University of Connecticut (BS) and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (MS).



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# Our Leadership

## **PRESIDENT**

Zenobia L. Fields, NJDOT

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Jeannie Kwon, NJ TRANSIT (Programs Liaison)

## **SECRETARY**

Tam Sillick, WSP USA (Communications Liaison)

## **TREASURER**

Leticia Caviness, Port Authority of NY&NJ (Diversity & Inclusion Liaison)

## **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Jihane Fazio, AECOM (Membership Liaison)

Raishea Haines, PATH (Student Committee/Transportation YOU Liaison)

Pallavi Lal, LTK Engineering Services (Student /College Outreach Liaison)

Lynn LaMunyon, Ocean County (Corporate Partners Liaison)

Sarah Steib, French & Parrello (Mentoring Committee Liaison)

## **NORTHEAST REGION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Polina Knaster, American Geotechnical & Environmental Services

## **PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Asrah Khadr, Opal Trail (Chair)

Ope Adediji, HNTB (Vice Chair – Programs)

Olya Arakhouskaya, NJ TRANSIT (Vice Chair – Diversity & Inclusion)

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Kyrra Mosley, Jacobs (Chair)

Aisha Khadbai, AREA Engineering (Vice Chair)

## **CORPORATE PARTNERS COMMITTEE**

Kristen Ahlfeld, FHI Studio (Chair)

## **MENTORING COMMITTEE**

Tara Bencivenga, WSP USA (Chair)

Megan Kilcoyne, Hardesty & Hanover (Vice Chair)

## **STUDENT COMMITTEE**

Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA (Chair)

Carolyn Brazier, Dewberry (Vice Chair – Transportation YOU)

Chelsea Ramos, NJ TRANSIT (Vice Chair – College Outreach)

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Falecia Rowe, Naik Group (Chair)

Jackie Garcia, JMT (Vice Chair)



### Meera Joshi

Deputy Administrator Federal  
Motor Carrier Safety  
Administration-USDOT

Meera Joshi serves as the Acting Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Most recently Joshi served as General Manager of the New York office of Sam Schwartz Transportation Consultants and visiting scholar at NYU's Rudin Center for Transportation policy. Previously, Joshi served as chief regulator of New York City's for hire vehicle industry. Under her leadership, New York City mandated the reporting of granular trip data from large app operators, which informed landmark data-driven safety reforms, enforceable pay standards for drivers and meaningful access to service for the disabled. Joshi was also an executive manager in city agencies charged with oversight of the New York City Police Department and Department of Corrections.



# Scholarship Committee



## Chelsea Ramos

**WTS College Outreach Vice Chair**  
**NJ TRANSIT**

Chelsea Ramos has worked for NJ TRANSIT for approximately 7 years and her experiences have been rewarding both personally and professionally. She is currently a Technical Specialist within the Environment, Energy, & Sustainability (EE&S) Department within NJ TRANSIT. By education, Chelsea is an Environmental Scientist, having received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Environmental Science from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). The transportation industry has taught her that to make this industry successful, it requires the collective input of individuals with various backgrounds, experiences, knowledge, and expertise.

Chelsea currently holds the position of Vice-Chair of College Outreach for the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) NJ Chapter. She has a passion for

connecting and guiding students to reach their professional and educational goals.

The WTS NJ College Outreach Committee focuses on engaging emerging students in the transportation field. The Committee aims to provide exclusive opportunities connecting aspiring transportation professionals with real-world opportunities via internships and full-time employment in the non-profit, public, and private sectors.

The WTS NJ Student Scholarship is awarded to college students pursuing studies in transportation, engineering, science, or a related field who demonstrate leadership skills, ability, and interest. The purpose of the WTS NJ Student Scholarship is to motivate and reward students who demonstrate innovation and leadership within the transportation industry. The transportation industry is ever changing, and the future will be dependent on the next generation of transportation professionals.

## **Congratulations** **2021 WTS NJ Student Scholarship** **Recipients!**

WTS NJ is extremely grateful for the donations to the scholarship fund. If you would like more information on how you can impact future young minds, please contact:

**[clramos@njtransit.com](mailto:clramos@njtransit.com)**



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# Scholarship Recipients



**Emma Argenal**

WTS NJ Student Scholarship

RECIPIENT

Emma Argenal is a Senior Civil Engineering student at The College of New Jersey. Originally from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, she made many sacrifices during her journey to get to where she is today. On campus, she is the President of the International and Domestic Student Organization and DEI Chair of Theta Tau (an engineering fraternity).

She is excited to start TCNJ's first WTS Student Chapter this semester and is incredibly appreciative of this scholarship. Emma was raised by a strong woman who taught her that she could do anything as long as she was tenacious and hardworking. She truly believes that women are capable of doing anything, no matter how difficult. There is no such thing as a career path designed only for men.



**Christina Serrano**

WTS NJ Student Scholarship

RECIPIENT

Christina Serrano is a Construction Engineering Technology major in her final year of study at New Jersey Institute of Technology and will be graduating in the Spring of 2022.

When not studying, Christina is a full time Assistant Project Manager for Crisdel Group, Inc., a heavy highway/heavy civil contractor based in New Jersey.

She plans to utilize her degree to advance roadway construction and she will continue working in heavy highway after graduation.

In her free time, Christina enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors hiking, kayaking, and most recently learning to surf.

# Events Recap

- WTS Kickoff with the Commissioner
- WTS NJ Holiday Networking Event
- ACECNJ New Jersey Joint Event: Coffee with Commissioner
- Virtual Mixers
- Women's Equality Day
- Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month
- Addressing Systemic Racism in the Workplace and Industry
- Women Who Rule the Rails
- Career Conversations Series
- Holiday Virtual Mixer
- New Jersey Mentoring Open House
- TED Talk—Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace
- Keep Middlesex Moving—Women in Transportation
- March Membership Madness & October Membership Drive
- DBE Resources Series with WTS GNY
- WTS Multi-State Commissioners and Secretaries Panel
- Sangria Tasting and Scholarship Fundraiser
- Yoga at Liberty State Park
- Mentoring Program



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# So What's Next for WTS NJ ...

## Tentative Dates

2021

December 16th

2022

January 14th

February 23rd

March 23rd

April 13th

May 19th

June 8th

July 14th

August 20th

November 17th

December 15th

## Events

Holiday Party  
(Members Only)

ACECNJ & WTS NJ  
Collaborative Event

NSBE & WTS NJ Collaborative Event

Career Conversations

Leadership Style  
Assessment (AECOM)

Golf Outing  
and Scholarship Fundraiser

Gateway Panel Discussion

Summer Social

Outdoor Paint N Sip

Annual Celebration

Holiday Party (Members Only)



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**Robert J. Clark**

**FHWA Division  
Administrator New Jersey**

**Robert J. Clark** became the New Jersey Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in October 2013. In this position, he provides leadership and direction to 26 professionals in delivering the Federal-aid highway program in the State of New Jersey.

Prior to this position, Robert served for 7 years as the FHWA Resource Center's Finance Services Technical Services Team Manager. In this capacity, he was responsible for managing staff in providing technical assistance and financial training to FHWA division offices and State departments of transportation (DOT) to improve oversight and stewardship of the Federal-aid highway program.

Robert was instrumental in implementing, administering, and strengthening FHWA's Financial Integrity Review and Evaluation Program. He has also provided key leadership in establishing training and development programs for newly hired division financial management staff to meet current and future transportation finance challenges and demands.

Prior to this assignment, Robert served for 5 years as the Financial Manager in the FHWA South Carolina Division where he advanced innovative financing measures for critical transportation projects. Before joining FHWA in 2001, Robert served in various positions with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) including Federal-aid Administrator for NCDOT from 1999-2001.

Robert holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia and a Master's Degree Certification in Public Administration from North Carolina State University through NCDOT's Continuing Education Program.



**Kevin S. Corbett**

**President & CEO—NJ TRANSIT**

**Kevin S. Corbett**, NJ TRANSIT President & CEO, was appointed to lead the agency on February 14, 2018. Mr. Corbett is responsible for the nation's largest statewide public transportation system with more than 11,000 employees providing more than 944,000 weekday trips on 252 bus routes, three light rail lines, 12 commuter rail lines and the agency's Access Link paratransit service.

Mr. Corbett, a respected and accomplished professional, currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Northeast Corridor Commission, is a Founding Member of the Commuter Rail Coalition, and was appointed North American Representative to the Policy Board of UITP, the International Association of Public Transport in June 2019. Prior to

joining NJ TRANSIT, Mr. Corbett served as Vice President, Cross Services at AECOM, one of the world's premier transportation and infrastructure companies. In that role Mr. Corbett drew on the extensive resources from across AECOM's various business lines to provide optimal solutions for their clients.

AECOM projects Mr. Corbett served as Principal-in-Charge or in a management role included: Moynihan Station Phase 1; Amtrak's Gateway Project; Second Avenue Subway Phase 1; Penn Vision; Penn Station Critical Improvements; 1 WTC Interim Loading Dock; Post-Sandy PATH Restoration; and other related regional resiliency and restoration projects. Previously, he was responsible for the global marine and freight business for DMJM+HARRIS, a legacy AECOM company, as well as other AECOM subsidiaries.

Before joining AECOM, Mr. Corbett had been the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) and Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. Mr. Corbett oversaw all of New York State's economic development programs and projects, including the redevelopment of Times Square, Moynihan Station, and the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park.



## AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

economic development programs and projects, including the redevelopment of Times Square, Moynihan Station, and the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park. In that position he was also responsible for oversight of New York's interests in the PANYNJ. After September 11th, 2001, Mr. Corbett led the economic recovery efforts in relation to the attack on Lower Manhattan. Working closely with the Port Authority and City & Federal agencies, he directed the development of all programs to restore business services and the revitalization of economic activity to that area.

Mr. Corbett was a fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs focused on issues involving U.S. - China relations prior to his tenure at ESDC. Mr. Corbett also spent 17 years in the logistics industry with Wilh. Wilhelmsen of Norway, a leading global transportation firm. During this period, Mr. Corbett spent six years in China and seven years overseeing operations in Sub-Saharan Africa. He also served as Wilhelmsen's liaison for the U.S. Navy (MSC and OSS- OPS42) and the Maritime Administration. In the civic realm, Mr. Corbett served on the Executive Committee of the Regional Plan Association (RPA) and was Co-Chair of its Transportation Committee. He also served on the board of the Maritime Association of the PANYNJ (President), Tri-State Transportation Campaign and The New York League of Conservation Voters (Chairman).



**Clarelle DeGraffe**

**Director and General Manager  
of PATH – PANYNJ**

**Clarelle DeGraffe** is the Director and General Manager of the PATH rail transit system and is responsible to carry out PATH's critical mission of moving people across the Hudson by safely and effectively. With the help of over 1,100 employees, she oversees the daily operation of the railroad as well as the department's ambitious capital program to upgrade a legacy system including the rebuilding of tunnels severely damaged during Superstorm Sandy, and completing the remaining phases of a signal modernization project. In addition, she has spearheaded PATH's Improvement Plan which was rolled out in June 2019 and it aimed at system capacity growth, reliability, and enhanced customer experience. She has served at the Authority for over 30 years, most recently as the Deputy Director of Rail Transit since 2015, where she oversaw day-to-day operations and supported the Director in delivering a safe,



## AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

reliable and dependable trans-Hudson transportation service for the NY and NJ region. Prior to being named Deputy Director, she oversaw PATH's \$3.5B capital program and was responsible for the development, funding, and delivery of PATH's Sandy Recovery Capital Program. She has also held project management roles in World Trade Center Construction and the Priority Capital Programs Department, and was a driving force in delivering major projects including the Vehicle Security Center and several packages in the redevelopment of the WTC Transportation Hub. She is a recipient of the 2008 Harlem Black Achievers in Industry Award; 2013 Honoree at Professional Women in Construction Dinner Dance Gala and recipient of the 2016 Port Authority Network of Black Employees Executive Leadership Award and 2018 recipient of the Congressional Certificate of Merit from Southeast Queens Chamber of Commerce. She was also honored at the NRBP's Transportation Awards Breakfast in November 2020 and was named Woman of the Year in 2020 by WTS-GNY.



**John M. Keller, P.E.**

**Executive Director—NJTA**

**John M. Keller, P.E.**, was appointed Executive Director in April 2018 after 20 years with the NJ Turnpike Authority. He was serving as Deputy Chief Engineer, Design, immediately before his appointment. He has managed several of the Authority's largest capital programs during his career. Those include the widening of the Turnpike between Interchanges 6 and 9, the construction of Turnpike Interchange 15X in Secaucus, and the ongoing Facilities Improvement Program, under which more than 50 tolls, maintenance and State Police buildings are being constructed or rehabilitated. Mr. Keller has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Indiana Institute of Technology. He has served terms as President and Regional Director of the North/Central NJ Section of American Society of Highway Engineers.

# Thank you, Founding Partners!

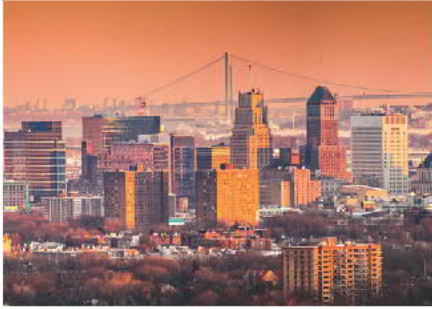


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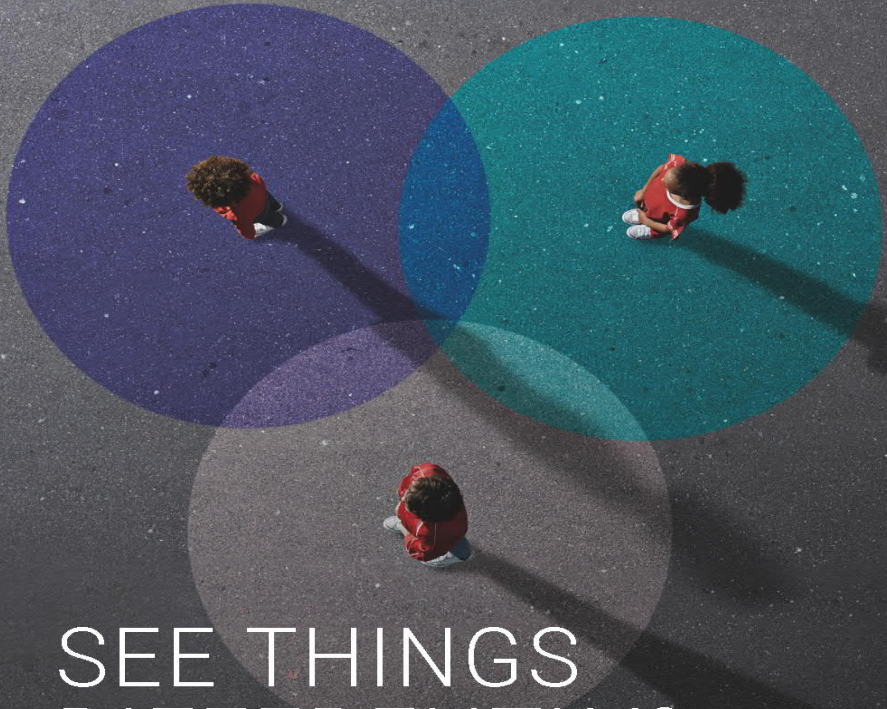
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ARORA and ASSOCIATES, P.C. is a proud Gold-level sponsor of the WTS New Jersey Chapter inaugural event.

We support the mission of WTS – *advancing the transportation industry and the women who work in it* – and celebrate the women professionals whose talents and contributions are central to our success.

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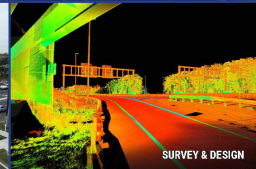
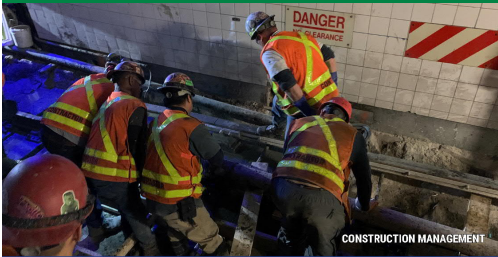
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