



> New Jersey

Advancing women  
Advancing transportation

# THE JERSEY CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2026

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How are we Doing?



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WTS New Jersey Community,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the people who make WTS New Jersey such an extraordinary chapter. This milestone year marked our **5th anniversary** - a moment to celebrate not only how far we have come, but the many hands, hearts, and voices that carried forward.

Our accomplishments this year were truly collective achievements. From a sold-out **Annual Awards Gala**, to an inspiring **Holiday Party and Suits for Success** clothing drive, or our **4th Corporate Partner & DBE/WBE/MBE/SBE Expo**, each milestone was made possible by the dedication of our members, volunteers, committees, and partners.

We proudly recognized outstanding leaders through our **2025 Award Winners**, celebrated ambitious students by awarding over **\$30,000 in scholarships**, and expanded access to opportunity through the introduction of the **Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship**. These achievements reflect the tireless efforts of our Scholarship and College Outreach committees, the generosity of the Berger Charitable Foundation, and the shared commitment of our community to supporting the next generation of transportation professionals.

Our **Mentorship Program** once again demonstrated the power of collaboration and growth, culminating in the graduation of nine mentor-mentee pairs who invested meaningfully in one another's development. Throughout the year, our committees delivered a full slate of technical programs, outreach initiatives, and professional development opportunities—each thoughtfully shaped by volunteers working diligently behind the scenes.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

WTS New Jersey is excited to launch the new **WTS NJ Agency Affiliate Program** in early spring. This dynamic partnership formally recognizes public agencies that support and champion our mission, expands access to WTS NJ, and reinforces our commitment to inclusion across both the public and private sectors. Participating agencies will benefit from opportunities for membership, technical and networking events, affiliate spotlights, advertising and highlights, job postings, and participation through committee and Advisory Council appointments. Through this program, we are proud to deepen collaboration with our public agency affiliates while continuing to advance women in transportation throughout New Jersey.

This year, we also welcomed **67 new members**, strengthening our network and expanding our collective reach across the transportation industry. With the support of our **39 Corporate Partners**, we continued to deliver programming that advances women, fosters equity, and amplifies our shared impact.

Congratulations to these **inspiring women in leadership roles**, shaping the future of the transportation industry. Their vision, expertise, and commitment to public service continue to advance innovation, equity, and progress across our transportation systems. We celebrate these appointments, milestones, and the powerful impact women leaders have in moving our communities forward.

- Governor Mikie Sherrill, serving as New Jersey's 57th Governor
- Priya Jain, serving as the New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner
- Kathryn Garcia, serving as the Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

As we begin 2026, I am energized by the momentum our chapter and members have created. Your passion fuels our mission. Your participation strengthens our community. Your leadership—formal and informal—helps shape a more inclusive, resilient, and innovative transportation future.

**From our committees to our Board, our partners to our volunteers, and our longtime members to those joining us for the first time—thank you.** Thank you for your time, your ideas, your support, and your heart. It is your engagement that defines WTS New Jersey, and your success that fuels our own.

I look forward to another year of learning from one another, celebrating one another, and lifting one another up. Here's to a purposeful, productive, and inspiring 2026—together.

With gratitude,

Jacqueline Rooke  
*President, WTS New Jersey Chapter*



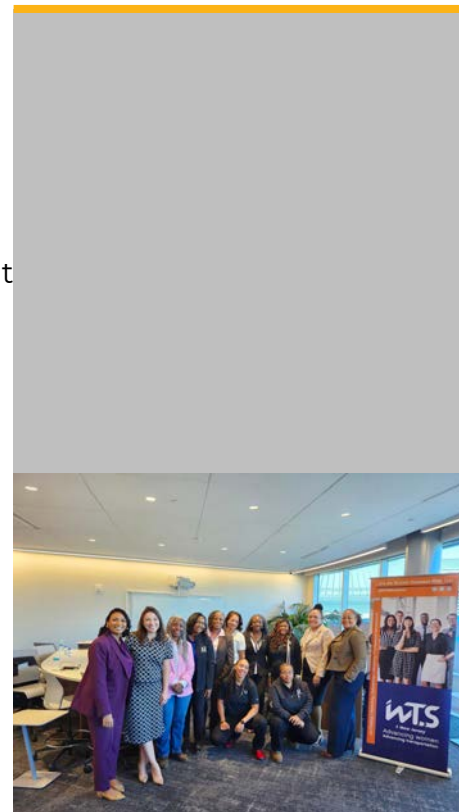


## EVENT RECAPS October 2025 - January 2026

- Thursday, October 2      Transportation YOU @ Essex County Newark Tech
- Thursday, October 9      The Bridges that Connect Us
- Wednesday, October 29   Tech Series - Modernizing and Improving Transit Access in NJ
- Thursday, October 30      Harvesting Financial Success
- Thursday, November 13   Annual Awards Gala - 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Friday, November 21      Corporate Partners Networking
- Thursday, December 11   Holiday Party
- Wednesday, January 14   Mentoring Graduation

**Transportation YOU @ Essex County Newark Tech** brought together an inspiring group of women leaders from WTS New Jersey, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey PATH, and NJ TRANSIT to connect with and empower female students at Essex County Newark Tech High School on October 2, 2025. Through a dynamic Women in Transportation panel moderated by Assemblywoman Dr. Carmen Morales, panelists shared their personal career journeys, lessons learned navigating change, and insights into building successful and fulfilling careers within the transportation industry. Panelists and organizers included: Naa-Adzeley Addo-Garrison, Laura Franklin, Felicia Bryant, Antanell Robinson, Lisa Belle, Chatel Fernandez, Debrorah Warner, Nia Joseph, Ana Valdez, Patrice Polite, Kyrra Mosley, and Jacqueline Rooke. Conversations explored critical topics including overcoming challenges as women in transportation, the evolving role of technology and artificial intelligence, and the importance of mentorship and support networks.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A and small-group networking sessions, where students rotated in groups of three to four to engage directly with panelists—asking questions, exchanging ideas, and gaining real-world perspective. This meaningful dialogue created a powerful space for connection, inspiration, and possibility, reinforcing Transportation YOU's mission to introduce young women to the breadth of opportunities available in transportation and to help them envision themselves as the future leaders shaping the industry.



Click [here](#) for Additional Photos



## The Bridges That Connect Us – Investing in the Future of the Delaware River Crossings hosting by the WTS New Jersey Advisory Council

On October 9, 2025, transportation professionals gathered aboard The Moshulu in Philadelphia for a joint networking breakfast hosted by the WTS New Jersey and Philadelphia Chapters. Set against the backdrop of the Delaware River, the event convened engineers, planners, and public agency leaders for an engaging discussion on the planning, design, and long-term maintenance strategies that sustain the region's critical bridge infrastructure.

Attendees gained valuable insight from two distinguished leaders whose organizations play a vital role in keeping the region connected. Kevin Skeels, PE, Chief Engineer of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC), and Mike Venuto, PE, PLS, Chief Engineer of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), shared updates on upcoming bridge improvement projects and long-term investment programs on both sides of the river, highlighting the scale and complexity of managing these essential crossings.

The discussion, expertly moderated by Ariella Maron, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), underscored how sustained infrastructure investment strengthens regional mobility, safety, and economic vitality. Through collaboration and forward-thinking planning, the conversation reinforced the critical role bridges play in shaping the future of transportation across the Delaware River region.

## Harvesting Financial Success @ Old York Cellars

On October 30, 2025, WTS New Jersey members gathered at Old York Cellars for Harvesting Financial Success, an exclusive fall networking event that blended professional development with a relaxed vineyard setting. Surrounded by local wines, members connected with one another while engaging in meaningful conversations about financial planning and long-term success.

The evening featured a dynamic and informative presentation delivered by Ty McGilberry, AIF, NSSA, CEO and Managing Partner of Pegasus Financial Planning. His engaging discussion explored current financial strategies and trends, offering practical insights designed to help attendees build confidence and take proactive steps toward securing their financial futures.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed continued networking, wine tasting, and small-group conversations that fostered connection and community. Harvesting Financial Success exemplified WTS New Jersey's commitment to delivering unique, value-driven experiences that support member growth, encourage collaboration, and create opportunities for learning in an inviting and memorable setting.



Click [here](#) for Additional Photos



## Modernizing and Improving Transit Access in NJ

On October 29, 2025, WTS NJ hosted a dynamic 90-minute virtual session Modernizing and Improving Transit Access in New Jersey, focusing on EWR Station Access and PATH infrastructure upgrades. The Port Authority of NY & NJ highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at improving transit accessibility across the region, with a focus on program development, interagency coordination, and inclusive design strategies that enhance mobility for all users. The session was well-attended (52 participants)

### Key Highlights:

- EWR Station Access scope, planning, and coordination
- PATH upgrades including station rehabilitation, track replacement, and infrastructure renewal
- Various challenges of expanding and modernizing existing facilities and infrastructure
- Coordinating simultaneous construction of multiple projects and minimizing service disruption during construction.
- Utilization of new technology to incorporate sustainability and enhanced design features that address equity and customer experience

### Speakers:

We would like to thank our speakers for providing an insightful and informative presentation!



**Simona Shapiro, PE**  
Chief of Design



**Tom Lemanowicz, PE**  
Sr. Design Executive  
Aviation Redevelopment



**George Soriano, PE**  
Project Principal

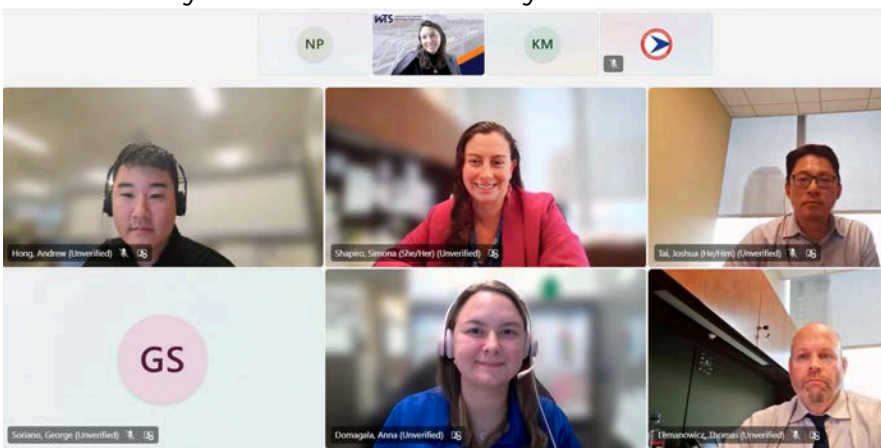


**Josh Tai, AIA**  
Sr. Project Principal



**Anna Domagala, PE**  
Project Engineer

We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to PANYNJ for becoming our first public agency to partner with our chapter and we look forward to the many collaborations in the years to come.



## Modernizing and Improving Transit Access in NJ

October 29, 2025

Newark Liberty  
International Airport

PATH

PORT AUTHORITY  
OF NY & NJ



Click [here](#) for Additional Photos



## Annual Gala and 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Annual Gala and our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a huge success. Over 200 attendees gathered at The View @ Lincoln Park to celebrate 5 years of WTS NJ and our amazing award winners!

In addition to our award winners, The WTS NJ College Outreach and Transportation YOU committees awarded 9 scholarship recipients at the Annual Gala. These scholarships totaled over \$30,000 where we received an overwhelming number of applications this year. This was the first year where WTS NJ debuted the scholarships offered at the International level through the WTS Foundation to the local chapter level. Additionally, the chapter introduced the Fred Berger Endowed Scholarship which provides financial support towards a student pursuing a transportation-related career. We are grateful for the Berger Charitable Foundation in selecting WTS International and our NJ chapter as a recipient to the endowment. Our scholarship recipients are ambitious individuals who are committed to making an impact in our industry. They are forward thinking leaders whose curiosity and ingenuity helps improve our communities and make transportation accessible to all. We're proud to have awarded these scholarships to the individuals and look forward to seeing them thrive in the future.

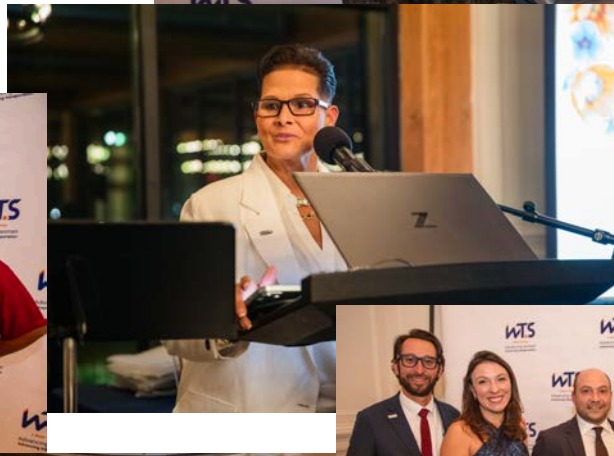
To commemorate our 5-year anniversary titled Reputable Roads & Milestone Miles, we introduced three additional awards to the recipients in the industry, Innovative Transportation Solutions Award, Rosa Park Diversity Leadership, and Honorable Ray LaHood Recognition. It is our honor to recognize the amazing work that all the awardees have contributed to the transportation industry.

This was truly a remarkable unforgettable memorable event as we recapped our journey through time highlighting our most cherished memories and celebrating our patrons who made it possible commencing with our founding Partners leading up to our new corporate partners. It is through your patronize that our chapter can continue to advance the mission. Thank you for your continued support of WTS New Jersey.

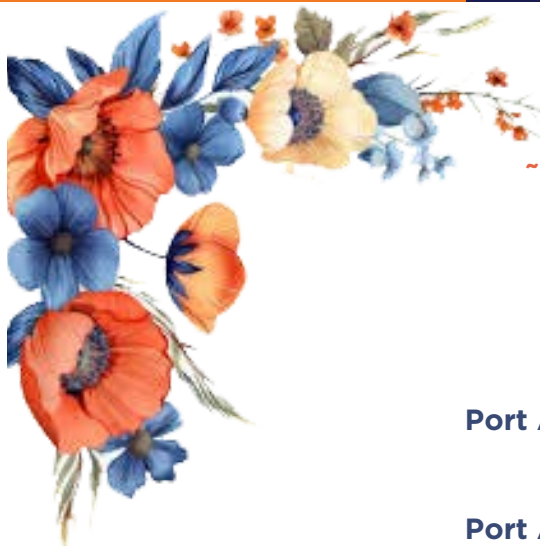


Click [here](#) for Additional Photos









~ 2025 WTS NJ AWARD WINNERS ~

Employer of the Year  
**HNTB**

Honorary Members of the Year  
**Lana Van Marter, AAE, IAP**  
**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

**Simona Shapiro, PE**  
**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**

Member of the Year  
**Marissa Guadagno, EIT**  
**WSP**

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award  
**Olga Y. Garcia, PE, CME**  
**for the Traffic Mitigations and Real Time Monitoring to Support Construction of**  
**Rebuild by Design Hudson River Project**  
**City of Hoboken**

Honorable Ray LaHood Recognition Award  
**John Geitner, CHMM**  
**NJ TRANSIT**

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award  
**Glenessa Gordon, PE**  
**Port Authority of NY & NJ**

~ 2025 WTS NJ SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ~

**Woman of the Year**  
**Lamis Malak, P.E.**  
**New Jersey Turnpike**  
**Authority**



High School  
**Julianne Ma**  
**Madeleine Sillick**

Undergraduates  
**Elizabeth Halton**  
**Sonali Jepak**  
**Aleksandra Mondrzik**

Graduate  
**Abigail Alvarez**  
**Elizabeth Bielen**  
**Alissa Persad**

Fred Berger Endowed  
**Marry Lim**



## Corporate Partnering Networking Event

On November 21, WTS NJ hosted its 4th Annual Corporate Partner and DBE/WBE/MBE/SBE Expo at the Rutgers University Bloustein Center, drawing nearly 100 attendees and robust representation from nine major New Jersey transportation agencies. The event opened with an inspiring Keynote Address by Mary K. Murphy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who shared insights from her distinguished career across the public and private sectors, along with her longstanding commitment to WTS. Agency Spotlight Sessions—led by DRBA, DRPA, NJDOT, NJTA, NJTPA, NJ Transit, PANYNJ, SJTA, and SJTPO—offered strategic previews of upcoming transportation initiatives and contracting opportunities. The DBE Expo featured six of WTS NJ's DBE/WBE/MBE/SBE corporate partners, providing a platform for meaningful engagement and business development. Serving as a premier annual gathering, the event strengthened partnerships, expanded professional networks, and advanced the mission of promoting and elevating women leaders across New Jersey's transportation industry.



## 2026 Corporate Partnerships – Sign up is Open!

WTS New Jersey marked an exciting milestone in 2025 as we celebrated the 5th anniversary of our chapter's founding. Throughout the year, we delivered dynamic programming that highlighted every mode of transportation across the state, expanded our reach through partnerships with fellow professional organizations, hosted networking events, conducted student outreach, led a successful mentoring program, and awarded scholarships to support the next generation of transportation professionals. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated support of our 39 Corporate Partners—thank you! Your generosity enables us to fulfill our mission of advancing women and minorities in the transportation industry.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to offer a full calendar of events designed to attract, sustain, connect, and advance women's careers, further strengthening the transportation workforce of tomorrow. Your firm's continued support helps power our mentoring initiatives and provides critical scholarship funding for students pursuing transportation-related careers. We invite you to visit our website at [Corporate Partners|WTSNJ](https://www.wtsnj.org/corporate-partnerships) to explore partnership levels and benefits. We hope you will join us in our commitment to building a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive transportation industry. Thank you in advance for your generous support.



## WTS Celebrates the Season with Holiday Cheer and Giving Back

On December 11, 2025, WTS NJ gathered at Village Brewing Co. in Somerville for its annual holiday party—a night filled with camaraderie, celebration, and community spirit.

In keeping with the season of giving, WTS proudly sponsored a clothing drive in support of Suits for Success, an organization dedicated to helping women achieve economic independence by providing professional attire and career development resources. The outpouring of support was inspiring; members and guests alike contributed generously, helping ensure that many women will have the resources they need to succeed in 2026 and beyond.

Of course, no WTS holiday event would be complete without a bit of fun! Our white elephant gift exchange brought plenty of laughs and friendly competition, though with such a warm and considerate crowd, “stealing” was minimal—and the gifts were fantastic!

The WTS Board extends heartfelt thanks to all who participated and contributed to a truly wonderful evening. Here’s to another terrific year in the books—and to an even more productive, successful, and inspiring 2026!





# MENTORING PROGRAM

## CONGRATULATIONS 2025 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES!

The WTS NJ Mentor Program has once again proven to be a remarkable journey of growth and empowerment for transportation professionals. The 2025 program, which concluded with a graduation ceremony on January 14th, 2025 hosted at the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, saw the participation of 9 dedicated mentor/mentee pairs. Highlights of this year's program included industry speaker sessions from Nicole Kahn (Founder W2K Consulting), Heather Engbretson, CF APMP (H&H Director of Marketing), Andrew Tunnard (HNTB), Lizzie Archer (McKissack) & Mary K. Murphy, the Clifton Strengths Top 5 Strengths Assessment, goal setting, networking/elevator pitch sessions, leadership/career growth/public speaking workshops, and a site tour of NJDOT's Bordentown Training Center. Lamis Malak, NJTA Deputy Chief Engineer, joined the group as a speaker for the 2025 program graduation where she shared her inspiring career experiences and insights.

As we look forward to the 2026 program, set to kick off on April 15th at WSP's Lawrenceville, NJ office, we remain committed to fostering meaningful connections and professional development within the transportation industry. Here's to another successful year of the WTS NJ Mentor Program!

If you are interested in participating in the 2026 program as a mentor or mentee, applications are now open. Please use the link below to access the application:

[2026 WTS-NJ Mentoring Program Application](#)





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

In 2025, WTS NJ welcomed 67 new members for a total chapter membership of 150! Special welcome to our Q4 new members:

Lois Johann  
Mojgan Mohtashami  
Rahul Kumar  
Hani Upadhyay  
Jacqueline Lawson  
Shailja Anjaria  
Anthony DeLuca,  
Jennifer Puschak

Want to become a Member?  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, March 18 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #2
- Thursday, April 23 Strikes for Scholarships
- Tuesday-Thursday, May 5-7 WTS International Annual Conference
- Wednesday, May 20 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #3
- Wednesday, July 15 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #4
- Monday, August 3 Swings for Scholarship - Annual Golf Outing
- Wednesday, September 16 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #5
- Wednesday, October 21 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #6
- Wednesday, December 9 WTS NJ Technical Series Session #7

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Programs Committee is continually seeking valuable content to share with our members and fellow technical professionals. Submit your abstracts on cutting-edge transportation topics and join us in presenting workshop where your insights can shape the future of the industry. Let's drive innovation together. Scan the QR Code to Submit

*For further details, please visit our [website](#) for updates.*







# CORPORATE PARTNERS (as of December 31, 2025)

Attention Corporate Partners! Scan here for 2026 Opportunities



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## Advisory Council

The Advisory Council consist of:

- Clarelle DeGraffe, Director/General Manager PATH, Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Sascha Frimpong, M.P.A., Director of Local Programs & Project Development, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Jeannie Kwon, Vice President, Stations - Capital Delivery, AMTRAK
- Lamis Malak, P.E., Deputy Chief Engineer, Design, New Jersey Turnpike Authority
- Jennifer Marandino, Executive Director, South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
- Ariella Maron, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Lana Van Marter, A.A.E., I.A.P. Deputy General Manager, NJ Airports, Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Mary K. Murphy, Director of Planning & Regional Development, Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Laine Rankin, Assistant Commissioner, Local Resources & Community Development, NJDOT
- Binu Thomas, Senior Vice President and Chief Administration Office, NJ Transit
- Michelle Warner, Counsel & Chief Ethics Officer, Delaware River and Bay Authority



The AECOM logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the top right corner of the image.

AECOM

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, multi-lane concrete bridge spanning a body of water. The bridge has several support piers and a curved section in the foreground. In the distance, a shoreline with buildings and trees is visible under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Celebrating women in transportation

AECOM is proud to support WTS <sup>NJ</sup> and its mission to advance women in the transportation industry. We believe infrastructure creates opportunities for everyone—uplifting communities, improving access and sustaining our planet.

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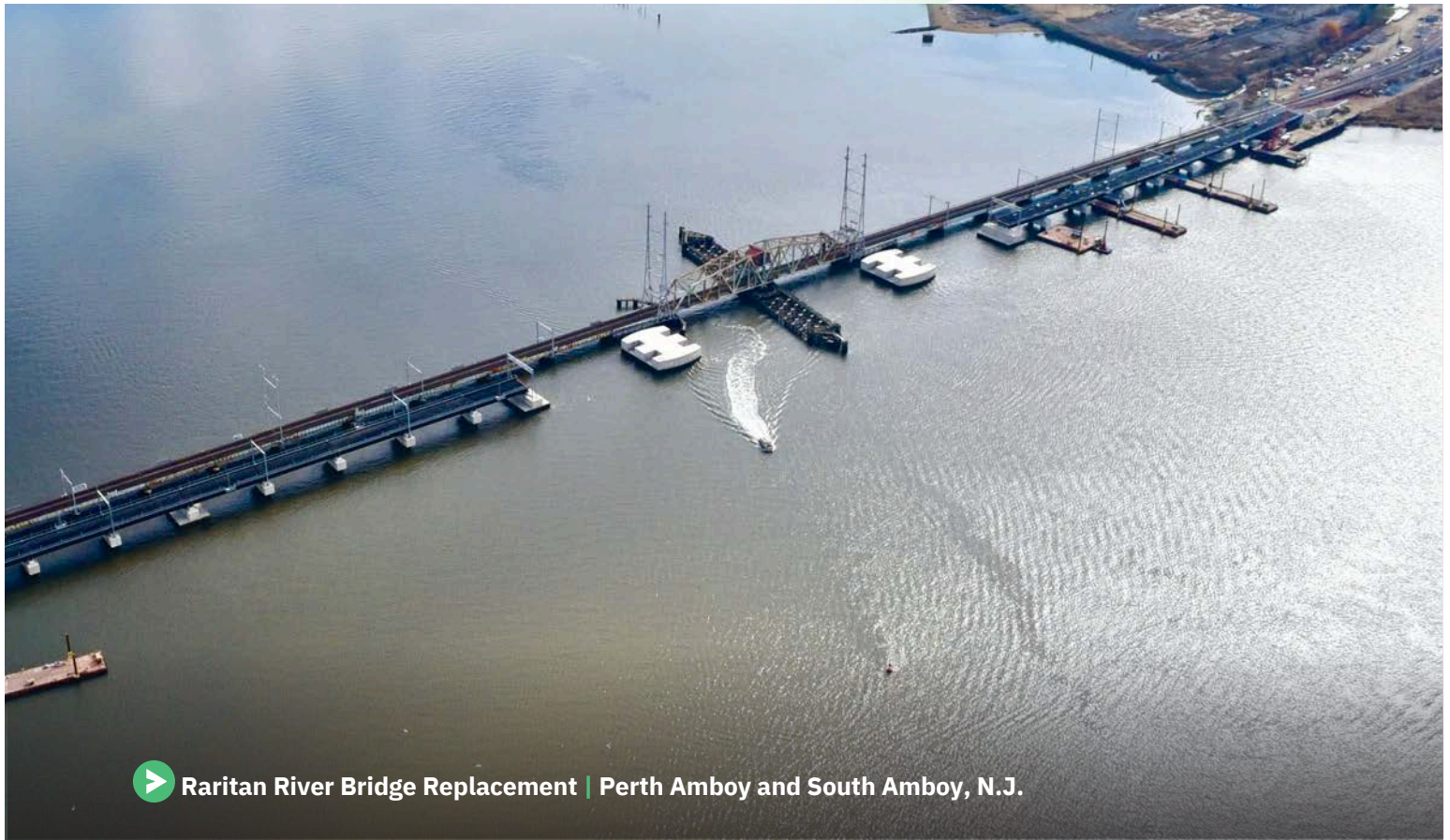




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For more information, contact:

**Laura Spann, P.E.**

*Senior Project Manager,  
Geotechnical Engineer | 973-658-3910  
[LSpann@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:LSpann@haleyaldrich.com)*

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## **NJ Turnpike Widening, Interchanges 6 to 9**

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NJ Turnpike Interchange 14A



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# Making communities better.

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**Janet Keiser, P.E., PTOE**

*Vice President and National Director  
of Transportation and Infrastructure,  
WTS New Jersey Board Member*

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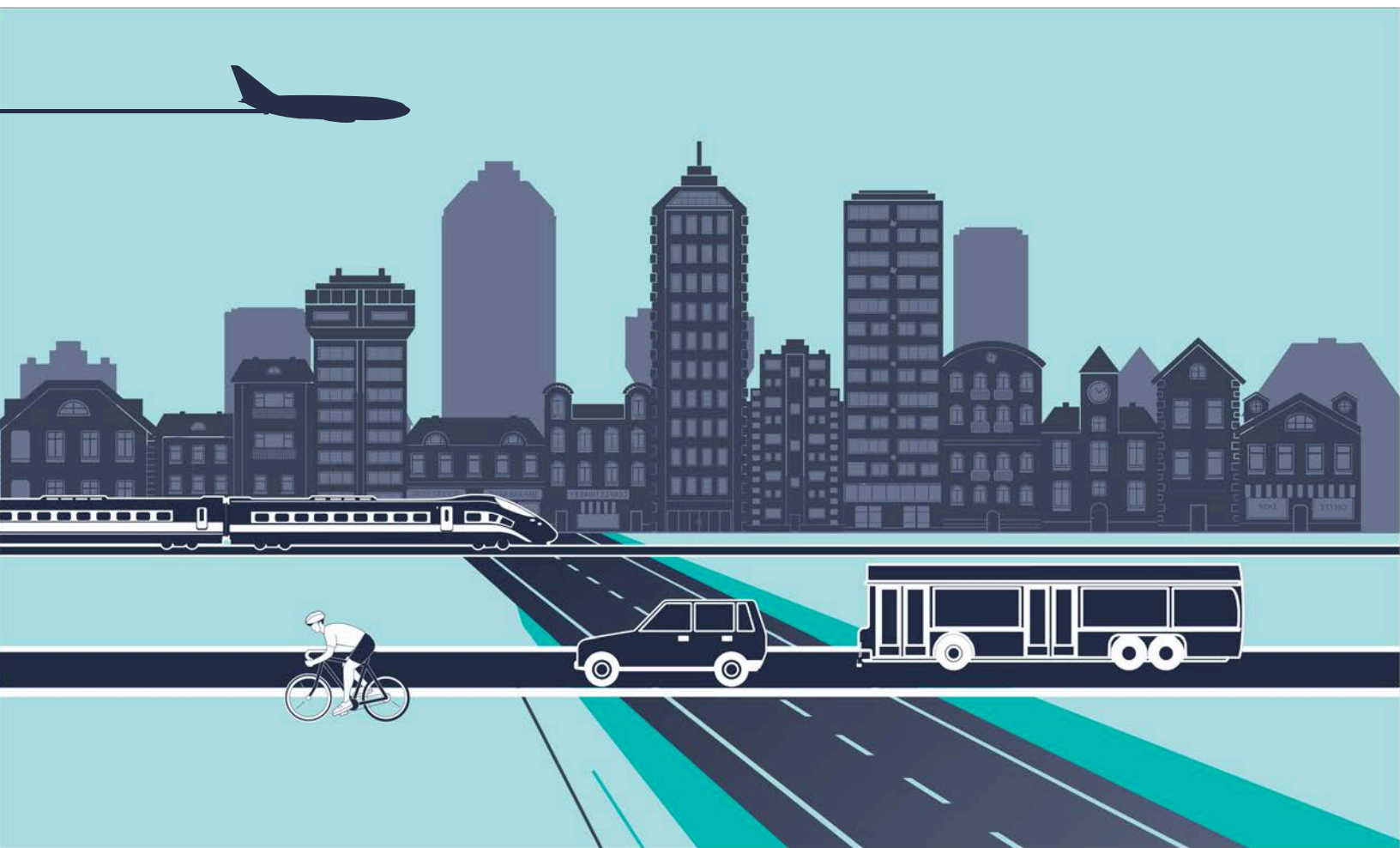
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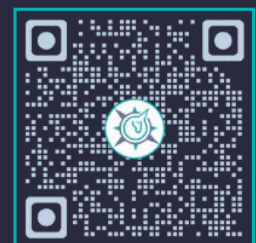


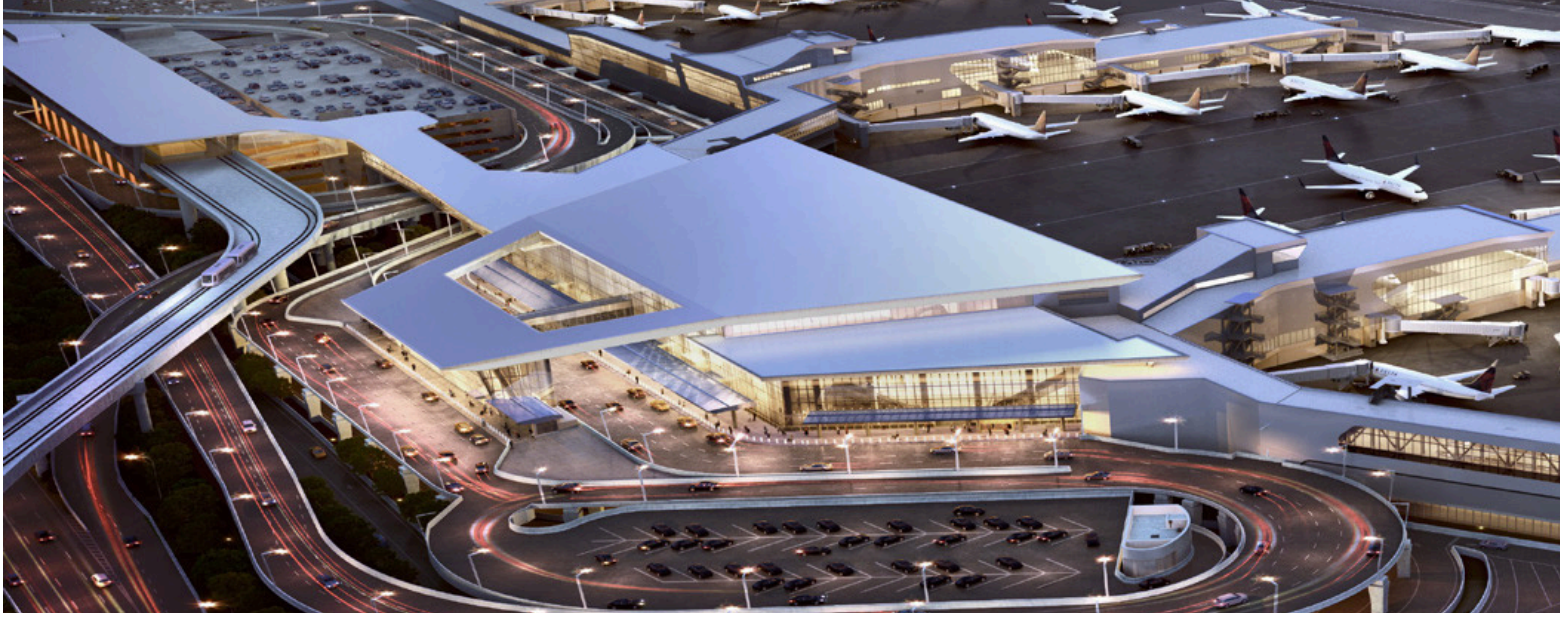
## Project and Program Management for the Transportation Industry



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