**Staffers Prove Possibilities of PA’s Continuous Improvement Initiative**

Focused on collaboration and thinking outside the box, Operations Services and Technology worked with Procurement, Management & Budget, and the Office of Continuous Improvement to develop measures that’ll save the Port Authority $11.7 million in 2017 without reducing operational effectiveness or raising tolls or fares. These are outcomes OCI was established in 2015 to engender.

OSD’s Central Automotive Division identified $6 million in savings through efforts that include reducing escalating costs of rental vehicles and creating a multiyear fleet management plan. These initiatives were steered by OSD Director Virginia Trubek, her team, including Sheila Koehler, Jim Monreale, Ed Anderson, and Jeff Trilling, and Procurement’s Shanta Nelson.

New Look, Same Priority: You

Notice any changes? It’s possible you don’t; you may be reading PA News for the first time (Greetings, new hires!) or the first time in some time (Greetings, seasoned movers of the region!). Whatever the case, we want to introduce you to the newly redesigned PA News.

We’re happy to present a more vibrant and dynamic look, ideal for recognizing and sharing your accomplishments with the rest of the Port Authority.

Of course, we can fit only so much news from the PA’s roughly 50 departments every two weeks, so we will soon introduce something to greatly enhance your access to information. Just stay tuned to eNet.

Many thanks to Creative Design & Production Services, as well as Pure Design LLC, for their time and talents, and for making this redesign possible.

**PA Issues Draft Capital Plan**

The Board on January 5 issued the Port Authority’s unprecedented $32 billion draft 2017-2026 Capital Plan for public comment. This marks a major milestone after months of extensive dialogue among the Commissioners and painstaking analysis, planning, and development involving virtually every department, particularly Engineering and departments within the Offices of the Chief Financial Officer and Chief, Capital Planning, Execution & Asset Management.

Calendar

**PA’s 30th Annual MLK Breakfast**
Jan. 19, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Metropolitan Room at the Newark Club, Newark. Join colleagues in honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at this annual event hosted by the Network of Black Employees. This year’s keynote speaker is Baptist minister, author, and public advocate Dr. DeForest B. Soaries. Admission is free. RSVP to PAevents@panynj.gov.

**South/Central Jersey Retirees Luncheon**
Jan. 19, Noon. Captain’s Inn, East Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ. RSVP by emailing Liz DeLaura at lizd1071@aol.com.

**Three Kings Celebration**
Jan. 20, 5 - 10 p.m. Iberia Peninsula Restaurant, Newark. Celebrate the Epiphany with great food and cultural performances, courtesy of the Port Authority Hispanic Society. Tickets are $60 and available until Jan. 13. RSVP and purchase tickets by emailing Patty Fernandes at pahs@panynj.gov. Tickets will also be available at the door for $70.
Achievements

PAPD PO Named Officer Of the Year
Port Authority Police Officer Juan Guzman, a 14-year PAPD veteran currently assigned to the George Washington Bridge, was named “Officer of the Year” by the Crisis Intervention Team New Jersey Center of Excellence in recognition for his heroism and success in preventing suicides at the world’s busiest vehicular crossing.

PO Guzman, a 2016 graduate of the Bergen County CIT training program, is among the top officers in suicide prevention at the bridge, having made more than 20 saves so far in his career.

AOC Named Project of the Year
The Port Authority’s Agency Operations Center Team received the New Jersey Chapter of the Project Management Institute’s “Project of the Year” Award in recognition of the AOC’s complexity and significant role in regional transportation. Only one project receives this award each year, and nominees span all industries.

PMI, a global organization with 2.9 million members, is dedicated to advancing the profession of project management. Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Dawson, Assistant Chief Traffic Engineer Rizwan Baig, AOC Manager Theodore Bobowsky, and AOC Assistant Manager Andy Kaplan accepted the award on the team’s behalf.

Aviation’s Latest AOAs Graduate From Revamped Training Course

Eleven employees graduated in December from Aviation’s latest, newly revamped four-week Airport Operations Agent training course and are ready to maintain essential airside responsibilities at LaGuardia, John F. Kennedy International, and Newark Liberty International airports.

The new AOAs are (pictured front row, from left) Rizan Majeed, Shant Ohannessian, Christopher Shoy, (middle row, from left) David Johnson, Jacqueline Gibbs, Michael Trulby, Gene Gelmer, (back row, starting second from left) Donald Rogers, Wayne Vaughan, Yannick Brown, and Phillip Monde.

The course featured a refreshed curriculum designed through a first-time partnership between Aviation, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, the American Association of Airport Executives, and the Transport Workers Union, and consisting of hands-on training and classroom instruction on topics such as runway/taxiway inspections, emergency aeronautical operations, and wildlife management, among other duties.

‘NET GAINS’ Made by Staff, for Staff

The Network for Emerging Talent has launched a new program to educate employees and advance their career development at the Port Authority.

NET Grub And Intellectual Nourishment Sessions, or NET GAINS, are regular events where members come together to enjoy their breakfast or lunch while learning about a department, agency process, transportation project, or some other aspect of the organization from a fellow colleague and subject matter expert.

The inaugural session in December featured Creative Design & Production Services Manager Jessica Dobrin, who educated attendees on the work her team does to design and print the visual messaging for both the line and staff departments. Ms. Dobrin even showcased a vast array of marketing materials they’ve created over the years.

Don’t miss out on making these NET GAINS. Email NET@panynj.gov to learn more.

From left: Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Dawson (also a former President of PMI’s NYC Chapter), Director of PMI NJ Awards Louis Vasquez, and AOC Manager Theodore Bobowsky.

The AOAs graduated through a ceremony at Vaughn College, joined by leaders at the college; AAAE, including AAAE CEO and President Todd Hauptli; the TWU; and other industry partners. Also in attendance were many Aviation staffers, including Aviation Director Huntley Lawrence, Austin Futch, Kevin Dauwalter, Al Graser (retired JFK General Manager), Maria Bordas, Peter Florio (AOA Instructor and retired Assistant Chief Operations Supervisor), April Gasparri, Michael Moran, and Kevin O’Driscoll.

Jessica Dobrin was the first-ever NET GAINS presenter.

Leadership Fellow Sarah Glose peruses Creative Design & Production Services’ extensive and impressive portfolio of marketing material.

Photos: David Arroyo
With ExpressRail Port Jersey Groundbreaking, Final Phase of Ship-to-Rail Initiative Begins

The Port Authority and GCT USA have broken ground for ExpressRail Port Jersey – the fourth intermodal facility in the Port of New York & New Jersey and last component in the $600 million agency initiative to establish direct access to on-dock or near-dock rail service for its major marine terminals.

ExpressRail Port Jersey, scheduled for completion in mid-2018, will be located at Greenville Yard – directly adjacent to the recently expanded, state-of-the-art GCT Bayonne container terminal – and have an annual capacity of 250,000 container lifts, as well as connect the terminal to CSX and Norfolk Southern’s rail network.

Executive Director Pat Foye said, “This project will not only expedite the movement of cargo through the region, but will take hundreds of thousands of truck trips off the road annually, providing a significant environmental benefit to the region.”

The new facility will feature 9,600 feet of track serviced by high-efficiency, cantilevered rail mounted gantry cranes (see rendering), and every container lifted to a rail car will displace the need for 1.5 truck trips. Each year, the facility will eliminate 375,000 trucks from the road and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 18,300 tons.

Port Director Molly Campbell said, “This project further enhances GCT Bayonne’s high-efficiency, ensuring that this terminal and the Port of New York & New Jersey as a whole maintain the competitive edge to attract new business for years to come.”

Read more in the press release.

A rendering of the new ExpressRail facility, expected to be completed in mid-2018.

Some Leftover Holiday Cheer from Across PA

Throughout the holiday season, in addition to serving an influx of travelers, the people of the Port Authority were busy providing holiday cheer to commuters, helping people in need in the community, and bringing colleagues together in the spirit of the season. Here are some of the festive agency activities that took place:

SIB Plants Giving Tree

Staten Island Bridges continued its annual Giving Tree project, which for a second consecutive year saw strong employee participation across all units, raising about $2,000 in gifts and monetary donations for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in affiliation with the Arc of Somerset County, as well as in support of the PAPD Marine Corps Association’s Toys for Tots program and a local soup kitchen. Pictured are Toll Supervisor Lindia Creighton (right), who started this charity drive several years ago, and SIB Assistant General Manager Olga Krueger (left) with SIB’s gift donations.

Retirements

PAPD Police Officer John Koster is setting off for retirement. Wish him well on January 27, 7 to 11 p.m., at Teddy Roosevelt Great American Restaurant in Williston Park, NY. RSVP by contacting PO Kevin Loughnane at 917 873-1540.

PATH’s Linda Vespoli is prepared for departure. You can wish her well on January 27, 5 to 9 p.m., at Salumeria Ercolano in Jersey City. RSVP by January 18 by calling Flo Heun at 201 216-6907.

PATH’s John Wargo is retiring after 31 years of service. Wish him well on February 10, 5 to 9 p.m., at Casino in the Park in Jersey City. RSVP to Kathy Leadbeater (201 216-6503) by February 3.

Staffers Prove Possibilities continued from page 1

“This was a positive experience with notable outcomes to better our business,” said Ms. Trubek. “I am looking forward to working with OCI again on many other initiatives.”

Procurement’s Stacey Willner and TEC’s Margaret Zampini enabled TEC to save $5 million by reducing rates for computing services and hardware, as well as eliminating unused wireless plans.

OSD and TEC were guided by teams in Procurement – including Deputy Director Luke Bassis, Carmen Rein – and MBD, including Assistant Director Annie Persaud and Annesa Lau.

These accomplishments are just the start; by working with about 150 employees agencywide in 2016, OCI completed a five-year roadmap estimated to save $100 million, which could significantly increase the PA’s ability to invest in critical transportation projects.
Draft Capital Plan

The plan outlines investments in various capital projects, including $3.5 billion for a new Port Authority Bus Terminal, $2.5 billion to redevelop John F. Kennedy International Airport and a new AirTrain system to serve LaGuardia Airport, $2.3 billion to support redeveloping Newark Liberty International Airport’s Terminal A, $600 million to redevelop LGA’s Terminals C and D, and $1.7 billion for a new PATH link to EWR. The plan also includes $2.7 billion toward the payment of debt service for the Gateway Tunnel project.

The plan will be made available to the public on the PA website, and the review process will include first-ever Capital Plan public meetings. Read more in the press release.

In Memoriam

Kenneth Snapp, passed away on December 28. He is survived by his wife, Sara, and sons, Henry and Jacob. Mr. Snapp joined the Port Authority on July 3, 2007. At the time of his passing, he held the position of Assistant Director, Development, in the Office of the Chief, Real Estate & Development.

Leftover Holiday Cheer

Shomrim Lights Menorah

More than 60 people, including local community and religious leaders, joined the Port Authority Shomrim Society for its annual Hanukkah Menorah Lighting on December 29, the sixth day of Hanukkah, at 7 World Trade Center. Attendees enjoyed the traditional delicacies of this holiday, including latkes and donuts, and the lighting of the menorah, a prototype that replaced the one lost on 9/11 and made with steel from the original WTC. Pictured are members of the Shomrim Society’s executive board (from left): PA Police Officer Henri Portner, Lieutenant Scott Glazer, Lieutenant Scot Pomerantz, PA retiree Betty Astrizky, WTCC’s Marsha Hochstadt, and Treasury’s Craig Massoth.

EWR Mobilizes Merry Makers, Welcomes Area Schools

Newark Liberty International Airport brought holiday cheer to commuters in several ways. Westfield, EWR’s concession management group, again mobilized its Merry Makers (pictured right) who performed random acts of kindness throughout the terminals. EWR also invited students from area schools to give holiday performances, including caroling, dance, poetry, and even acting out scenes from holiday shows. Pictured are (back row, from left) Yusimil Un, Rich Gonzalo, and Carmine Alfano with students from the Toussaint L’ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6.

SBA Rallies for Team Walker

The Port Authority Sergeant’s Benevolent Association helped fund a special holiday party at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City for students on Team Walker, an organization founded in 1996 by Jerry Walker, a Seton Hall basketball standout, to provide young people with athletic and academic afterschool programs. Pictured from left are Sergeants Richard Kuncken, Thomas Bongiovanni, Pat Lenihan, Juan Diaz, Terrance Mckee, Albert Faraday, Andrew Caruso, and Richard Hassmiller (SBA President); Jerry Walker and Team Walker student Lauren Seervance; Detective Sgt. Rob Zafonte, and Sergeants Mike Scivetti, John Passarotti, and James Whelan.

JFK Unites in Festive Garb

On a festive – and fuzzy – note, staffers at John F. Kennedy International Airport hosted its first ugly sweater party to celebrate the holidays together. Participants included (from left) Micheline Jasmin, John Paradiso, Eric Essling, Andre Garcia, James Cicardo (who won “ Ugliest Sweater”), Marcelo Morelli, Michele Delgado (who won “Most Original Sweater”), Alexandra Nin, Ronnie Bendersnagel, Ken Poli, and Robbyn Stewart.

Remembering Terry

Friends were saddened to hear of the passing of their former colleague Terry Benczik, who retired in 2015 after 25 years of Port Authority service. Ms. Benczik was a dedicated and masterful communicator who held roles in Media Relations; Government & Community Affairs; and Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals’ Customer Services. She also published poetry and other literary works, including her essay, “9/11 Train Ride,” one of the first chosen by the Library of Congress for its American Memory project.

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