Tuesday, August 4, 2020  
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Eastern Time  
Dana Hecht – Assistant Director - PANJNY  
“Building Confidence and Mentoring Opportunities in the time of the Pandemic”

Dana graduated from Temple University with a BS in Civil and Construction Engineering Technology and is a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP).

Dana began her State of New Jersey public service at the New Jersey Department of Transportation and finished at NJ TRANSIT after nearly 27 years in 2018. Dana has continued her career as public servant with the Port Authority of New York, New Jersey, currently serving in the role of Assistant Director in the Office of Major Capital Projects.

Dana is leading the regionally significant Port Authority Bus Terminal Replacement project and the PATH to Newark Extension project through the planning process and into future phases. Throughout her career, Dana has enjoyed being a part of many exciting projects such as the Route 35 Sandy Recovery pavement reconstruction projects, Route 206 Stony Brook and Flood Plain bridge replacements, Route 1 Hard Shoulder Running and the Portal Bridge program.

Dana truly appreciates the role that transportation plays in everyday lives from quality of life to economic development and most importantly health and safety. It is from this, that her favorite role to date, the administration of the newly formed New Jersey Transportation Agencies Partnership (NJ TAP) brings together aspects of project delivery, process improvements, mentoring and leadership all for the betterment of NJ.

Dana is currently a Co-Chair for the WTS-GNY chapter (Women's Transportation Symposium-Greater New York) mentoring committee, is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers Society South Jersey chapter, and the Project Management Institute.

Introduction and Q&A Moderator  
Gisele Passalacqua  
Gisele Passalacqua currently works at AECOM as the NY Geotechnical Department Manager. She is responsible for the overall management of geotechnical staff and multi-disciplinary projects. She has an extensive background in design of deep and shallow foundation, support of excavation, retaining wall, seepage and slope stability analysis, settlement and soil
consolidation, and soil investigation. Gisele has worked on a multitude of projects including airports, transit/railroad facilities, bridges, tunnels, energy, environmental, landscape, public infrastructures, marine terminals, and roadways. She is well-versed in leading Geotechnical projects and proposals, and delivering/reviewing design criteria packages, budgetary cost estimates, drawings, specifications and Geotechnical reports.

Gisele holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters degree in Geotechnical Engineering, both from the University of Brasilia (Brazil). She also earned a Masters degree from Columbia University, focused on Geotechnical Engineering. In 2017, she was an adjunct professor at the NYC College of Technology (CUNY), where she taught Soil Mechanics class. In 2018, she was selected as a ‘high potential’ employee at AECOM to participate in a 7-month leadership development program. Gisele has consistently published technical papers in the last years. She served as the treasurer of the ASCE Diversity & Inclusion Committee in the Metropolitan Section and is currently a member of the Women in Deep Foundations (WiDF) Committee.