RIZZO Associates was responsible for performing a portion of the geotechnical investigation program for the Second Avenue Subway Tunnel in New York City. The sampling and field-testing program extended 8.5 miles along Second Avenue. Sampling and field logging of the soil and rock was performed. The Burmeister classification system was utilized to classify the soil and rock samples and recording Rock Quality Designation. RIZZO performed field permeability testing including constant and falling head tests for the soil and packer testing for the rock, installed soil and rock monitoring wells, and managed the acoustic televiewer logging of the rock. The soils laboratory testing program included classification and moisture content, sieve analysis, atterberg limits and hydrometer testing, strength testing, and consolidation testing. The rock testing regime included point load testing, direct shear testing, moisture content, splitting tensile testing, compressive strength testing, abrasion testing, and SINTEF testing. The rock was tested and recommendations made for design of the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM).

Dr. Paul C. Rizzo, P.E., acts as the Chairman of the Geotechnical Advisory Board, which provides an independent review of the overall design and construction philosophy.