Louise Frankel
Stoll Visits Connecticut

Dr. Louise Frankel Stoll Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs for the U.S.DOT, addressed the WTS at a luncheon on October 31. Dr. Stoll talked to WTS members about “Preparing America’s Transportation Systems for the Next Decade”.

Dr. Stoll develops and defends the $40 billion budget before Congress. She has been instrumental in the implementation of comprehensive management information systems and innovative finance programs, which leverage the federal dollar in transportation infrastructure by attracting private investments. Her Department establishes and enforces safety standards and other key aspects of the transportation system, distributes funds to states and other transportation providers for planning, construction, and operations; works with other agencies to carry out broader federal mandates (i.e. clean air and national security policies); and provides national air traffic control and Coast Guard services.

We appreciate Dr. Stoll taking time out of her busy schedule to enlighten us on the directions the Federal Government plans to go in the area of transportation.

The Smart Guide to Winter Driving

PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE

Concerned about your safety, the Connecticut DOT and State Police encourage you to give your vehicle a thorough going over to be sure it’s in good mechanical conditions before the onset of winter’s wrath. This takes on added significance when you share your vehicle with others.

- Be sure there’s sufficient tread on your tires and that they’re properly inflated (Do not inflate beyond maximum pressure as stated in your owner’s manual).
- Never mix radial tires with other types of tires.
- De-ice and defog your windows before hitting the road.
- Make certain you have enough windshield washer fluid.
- Check to see that all your vehicle lights work.
- Replace, or at least recharge, weak batteries.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- Avoid using your parking brake whenever possible. It can freeze up in very cold, wet weather.
- Have your vehicle’s ignitions system fully inspected.
- Check your vehicle’s exhaust system for leaks to minimize the chance of carbon
monoxide poisoning (if you’re stuck in the snow and have the engine and heater running, open a window slightly and clear snow away from the exhaust pipe).

- Make sure your vehicle’s water pump and thermostat function properly; be sure to add antifreeze to the radiator.
- Replace windshield wiper blades that streak the windows.

Clear snow and ice from your ENTIRE vehicle so that all parts of it can be seen and so the snow, and especially the ice, don’t pose a hazard to others should they come flying off as the sun begins to melt them on your vehicles rooftop. (This is especially important if you drive a van.) Any airborne chunk of ice poses a serious hazard to others.

Additionally, having this happen while driving in Connecticut puts you at risk for being ticketed by police for infraction (GGS, 14-271a, b, e). You can be charged with failure to secure a load. The fine is $102.00, which can now be doubled if you’re ticketed while driving through a construction zone on a limited access highway in Connecticut.

WINTER SURVIVAL KIT FOR YOUR VEHICLE

For starters, a little extra preparation is in order for this coldest of seasons, in New England. Here’s some advice from AAA to help you prepare your own “winter survival kit”. Items should include:

- Ice scraper/brush
- Cloth/paper towels
- Booster cables
- Blanket
- Sunglasses (remember the sun’s reflection against snow or ice can create quite a glare).
- Warning devices (flares/triangles)
- Small box of food (such as crackers, in case you are stranded)
- Lip balm

CAUTION:
Do not keep food items or lip balm near the heat vents.
- Small bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, kitty litter)
- Small snow shovel
- Tire chains (They provide the best starting and stopping performance in severe snow and on icy surfaces)
- Traction Mats
- Flashlight
- Gloves and Hat
- Boots

(It is also a good idea to leave an extra pair of shoes at the office for mornings when you’re rushed and you start out wearing boots)
- Extra windshield washer fluid

Good luck in your travels.

Compiled by Lois Fusco in her former position at MetroPool in Stamford, with the help of Allan Sagal of AAA in Hartford and Dale Hourigan of CT State Police.

Bradley On The Net
DOT Bureau Chief Robert F. Juliano of Aviation and Ports announced that Bradley International Airport has established its own World Wide Web Site on the Internet. The new Web Site was designed to provide an array of information including special announcements, general information, airlines serving Bradley, local and regional weather links, an E-mail address and much more! Bradley is the first airport in New England to go “on line” with its own home page. Mr. Juliano commented, “The Web Page is another marketing effort by the Bureau to provide travel agents and airport users with current information that makes Bradley a user-friendly airport.” The Bradley Web Site can be accessed at http://www.2plus.com/bdl. Comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to Bradley’s E-Mail address: bdl@2plus.com.

Imaging Applications in Transportation

On October 4, at the Division of Research of the Department of Transportation, John Hudson gave a presentation on the development and implementation of imaging and linked data collection technologies. Since the early 1970’s ConnDOT used film strips of roadway images to enhance the productivity of engineering and operations personnel. Today, ConnDOT remains a leader in image-based transportation information systems. ConnDOT “photologs” its entire roadway system annually. (A photolog is a series of sequential images taken from a moving vehicle at driver’s eye level, to provide a permanent record of the
roadway.) This information is then transferred to laser video disks, which can be randomly used by ConnDOT at any one of the 17 stations in the State. In this way, ConnDOT can view any milepost of any Connecticut highway in seconds.

In April 1995, ConnDOT took delivery of the two state-of-the-art image/data collection systems, which combine imaging with ultrasonic and laser sensors, avionics inertial reference systems, and Global Positioning System technology, to provide pertinent geometric data, as well as an image corresponding to the milepost in question.

ConnDOT plans for future applications include: geo-referencing of all state-maintained roads for inclusion in the Department’s Geographic Information System (GIS), computer processing of images using pattern recognition software to expedite annual inventories of signs and pavement condition, and photologging Transit bus routes for driver familiarization, accident analysis, and bus-stop inventory.

Our thanks go out to John Hudson and the entire Imaging Applications Staff for making the presentation on this exciting new technology possible, and to Ann-Marie McDonnell for organizing the presentation and luncheon.

Member News

On a more personal note...

NEW BABY!!

Ann-Marie McDonnell of ConnDOT and her husband, Mike, who also works for ConnDOT, are the proud parents of a daughter Alyssa, born on October 23, 1996. Congratulations and best wishes to the new mom and dad. We’ll expect Alyssa to join WTS as a new member in 2025!

PROMOTION!!

Celebrate

Anne Hayes was promoted on November 1, 1996, to Director at Travelers Indemnity Co./Aetna Casualty and Surety Co. in Hartford. Anne has been with Travelers for six years and has been working in the parking and mass transportation unit for the past three years. In her new position, Anne monitors field locations that must be in compliance with Federal Clean Air Act regulations. The largest site is in Brea, CA. She also oversees employee relocation, and record storage. Congratulations to Anne on her recent achievement!

NEW HOME!!

Lori Long, WTS newsletter editor, of Parsons Brinckerhoff, purchased a new home with husband Steven. We moved on December 1 while the holiday seasons was already upon us (a word of advice, don’t ever move in December!!), giving me a good excuse to miss the last newsletter deadline! Our home is located in Burlington, on 2 acres of land. We all love the country, my son is looking forward to the day we agree to bring home a puppy... Maybe after the newsletter is printed and postmarked.

(Members may send other personal notes about weddings, births, anniversaries, special accomplishments, etc., for this column to Sue Reynolds at Conn. DOT, 2800 Berlin TPKE., P.O. Box 317546, Newington, CT 06131-7546. Sue is also looking for information about WTS members who have received promotions, professional achievements, awards, etc.)
the following New Members

Kathleen A. Bradford  
Maintainer II  
ConnDOT  
Franklin, CT

Arthur L. Handman  
Executive Director  
Greater Hartford Transit District  
Hartford, CT

Laura Lehsten  
President  
AXSYS Communications  
Danielson, CT

Meryl Mandell  
VHB  
Shutesbury, MA  
(Meryl also works out of a CT branch office)

JOB BANK

Attention WTS Members! Take advantage of our new HOTLINE telephone number! Thanks to The Rideshare Company, WTS has a hotline for information on exciting new jobs available in the industry. Just call:

(860) 298-7000, ext. 148

The hotline will be updated regularly, so call often. For more details on the specific job announcements, call Job Bank Co-Chairs: Leslie Haines at (860) 282-4400 or Colleen Kissane at (860) 594-3255.

Please remember that this is for WTS members only. Your discretion is appreciated.

WTS Scholarship News

The Connecticut Valley Chapter WTS is continuing fundraising in the Spring of 1997. Eligibility requirements include Connecticut state residency, enrollment in a degree program in a transportation-related field (female graduate students, or undergraduate students in their junior or senior years), or participation in an internship or research project relating to transportation.

If you would like to assist in increasing the scholarship fund by either making a tax-deductible contribution, would like to offer your ideas or expertise in fundraising for the scholarship, or are interested in obtaining additional information, please contact Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs Roxane Fromson (860-594-2038) or Bea Isaacs (860-768-4845).

Note from the editors

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a joyous, healthy holiday! As is traditional, WTS should take this time to commit to some New Year’s Resolutions! In addition to our own personal resolutions to lose weight, stop smoking, be more patient, etc., etc., we should all strive towards increasing WTS members, and brainstorm for some really great program ideas. The New Year is a great time to take stock, look back at what has been achieved, and set the path to where we want to go from here. WTS is your organization, and it will only be as good as WE (collectively) make it. As with anything, those who put the most in, get the most out!
WTS Connecticut
Chapter Calendar
The Chapter has scheduled the following event:

February 28, 1997
Brown Bag Lunch on
Affirmative Action Updates
Newington, CT
WTS will present speaker Aaliyah
Mahasin-Blade, the M.S.W.
Affirmative Action Office for
CTDOT. She will talk about the
current state of affairs with regard
to affirmative action, in general in
the State of Connecticut and in
particular at the Department of
Transportation. More specific
details to follow.

March 21, 1997, What is a
Bus Wrapping Project?
Ferguson Library;
Stamford, CT
WTS member Lois Fusco will give
a presentation of the details
involved in “Wrapping a Bus”.
Wrapping a bus is essentially
taking the steps necessary in
getting approval for a design to
place on a Library bus. The design
is either wrapped or painted on.
This moving billboard looks
great and is enjoyed by many.

April 18, 1997, Annual
Luncheon, Intelligent
Transportation Systems.
Hawthorne Inn; Berlin, CT
WTS welcomes guest speaker
Ardell Hoveskeland, Project
Manager, Central Artery ITS
Project (Boston MA) of DeLeuw,
Cather & Company. With more
than 25 years experience Ardell
manages Intelligent Vehicle
Highway System Programs. He is
the Vice President and Manager of
IVHS Programs. His presentation
will detail intelligent transportation
systems and how he has used his
expertise during construction of the
Central Artery ITS Project.

May 7-9, 1997, WTS
National
Conference in Baltimore
Maryland.
This will be the 20th Anniversary
of the WTS National Conference.
This year’s conference theme is
EXPERIENCE AND
EXPECTATIONS!! The details
are in, it all sounds very exciting,
including a few of the following
issues that will be addressed:

- Intermodalism.
- Rhetoric or Reality?
- Re-authorization of ISTEA.
- Environmental Concerns;
  Opportunities or Obstacles?
- Safety Trends and Challenges.
- New Perspectives in
  Financing: Public/Private
  Partners.
- Issues in the Workplace:
  Down-sizing/Transferring the
  Institution.

If you have not yet received your
information package on the
conference, please contact Beverly
Vinzant, Conference Co-Chair at
(401) 859-7734.

In the past this conference has
proven to be an outstanding
experience for many WTS
members, hope that you have the
opportunity to attend. See you in
Baltimore!

June 1997
Visit ConnDOT Bridgeport
Facility
Bridgeport, CT
WTS will be offering an
opportunity to walk through the
ConnDOT Bridgeport Highway
Operations Center. The tour will
allow members to get a behind the
scenes look at DOT and the State
Police working together to monitor
traffic conditions on I95 between
Branford and Greenwich. The tour
will also include details on how
together the DOT and State Police
respond to accidents and
emergencies. If you have ever
wondered who is behind the
advisories on those electronic
message signs, don’t miss this tour.

July /August 1997
Follow-up to the River
Recapture Program
WTS Picnic and Program
Hartford, CT
In 1995 WTS sponsored a River
Boat Luncheon. In July or August
of this year WTS is scheduling a
similar meeting to get a status
update progress of the river
recapture program.

September 1997
Financial Investments
Newington, CT
WTS welcomes guest speaker
James W. Smith, Account
Executive, Investments of Dean,
Witter, Reynolds. Mr. Smith will
discuss financial investments and
answer your questions.

December 1997
Holiday Social Event
WTS Application

Who We Are

WTS is the Woman's Transportation Seminar, a national transportation organization.

The women and men who belong to WTS are committed to excellence in the transportation industry. The organization provides a neutral forum for the exchange of information, ideas and experience.

Established in 1977, WTS was first created through the efforts of 40 women involved in transportation in Washington, D.C. area. WTS is now a national organization of transportation professionals and other interested individuals with more than 2,300 members and 25 chapter nationwide.

The Connecticut Valley Chapter of WTS is a diverse, multi modal and multi-disciplinary organization that supports sound transportation planning and practices and strives for community awareness of transportation issues. We support and nurture the professional development of our members and encourage diversity in the workforce.

WTS Sponsors

As a not-for-profit organization WTS could not function without its sponsors. Sponsors underwrite WTS functions, seminars, and scholarships. Through membership and contributions, sponsors can achieve local, regional and national recognition. All levels of support are appreciated and can include goods, merchandise, and services.

We invite you to attend one of our functions to get to know us and perhaps become a member or sponsor.

Benefits of Membership

WTS aggressively seeks to fulfill its mission by offering a wide range of services and activities to its members at both the local and national level;

- Regular chapter meetings and education programs to learn about and discuss critical and timely transportation issues.
- Professional growth by networking with transportation professionals from all over the nation.
- National and local WTS newsletters highlighting current legislative issues, transportation regulations, industry innovations, affiliated chapter news, and member activities.
- Access to Connecticut Valley and National job banks which offer information on job opportunities.
- Annual awards programs recognizing individual and employer achievements in transportation.
- Access to national network through a directory of members.
- WTS sponsors an annual national conference which is hosted by a different chapter each year.
- WTS Local and National awards annual scholarships to encourage and assist woman who are pursuing careers in the field of transportation in undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

- Leaders in transportation face challenges which require the spirit and capability of a pioneer. In the Women's Transportation Seminar, you will find the environment, services and people who will help you challenge and fulfill that pioneer spirit.

WTS offers its members a place to grow, a place to progress. It is one of the largest professional groups of its kind with 25 chapters across the country and membership representing the diverse components of the transportation industry in both the public and private sectors. Anyone with a professional interest in transportation is welcome and encouraged to become a WTS member. WTS is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the application form and mail it with your annual membership fee of $50.00, in check form, made payable to WTS Connecticut Valley, Return to: WTS, P.O. Box 310106, Newington, CT 06131-0106.

If you have any questions, you may contact Sheila Suppicich, evenings at (860) 657-9390.