In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Events</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's Message</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer's Week</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Open House</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Breakfast</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Program on Federal Economic Stimulus</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship Program</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilizing the Region</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Mini Series “Call for Session” Proposals</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around the Area</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors &amp; Committee Chairs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.wtsinternational.org
MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

In New England, the spring season is a time of renewal and growth. At WTS, this means we are re­newing our commitment to provide more benefits and professional development opportunities to our members. One of the newest benefits of WTS membership is the opportunity to participate in the inaugural year of our Mentorship Program. The Mentorship Program offers mentors the opportunity to share their experiences with others. And, mentees can learn new skills, enhance those they already possess, and establish a stronger professional network. After much planning and organization, and support from our sister WTS Greater New York Chapter, the Mentorship Program kicks off on May 20th.

Spring is also a time of celebration! At WTS, this means we are preparing to celebrate the outstanding achievements of some of our colleagues. On April 30th, WTS CT Valley Chapter will hold its Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce its 2008 awards and scholarship recipients:

- **Woman of the Year**—Ms. Leslie A. Haines, P.E., Vice President/Manager of New England Operations, Parsons Transportation Group
- **Member of the Year**—Ms. Shawna Bartkus, Marketing Manager, Dewberry
- **Employer of the Year**—AECOM, Inc.
- **Innovative Projects of the Year:**
  - South Windsor Safe Routes to School Program/Town of South Windsor and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
  - Frenchtown Road over Route 15 (Merritt Parkway)/Gannett Fleming, Inc.
- **Scholarship Recipients:**
  - Ms. Tiffany Cartier, University of Hartford
  - Ms. Emma Chapman, Yale University

Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

Laurel Stegina
WTS CT Valley Chapter President

---

**Calendar of Events**

**Save these DATES!**

- Mentorship Program Kick-off Meeting  
  - Wednesday, May 20th
- CT Valley Chapter Meeting  
  - Wednesday, May 20th
- River Boat Cruise  
  - Friday, June 19th
- Golf Clinic - Southington, CT  
  - July TBD — Stay tuned!

For more information, please contact any of your WTS CT Valley Board Members (see back page for a listing)
2009 CT Engineers Week Dinner

The 2009 Connecticut Engineers Week Dinner was held on Monday, February 9th at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin. The event was jointly sponsored by WTS CT Valley Chapter, American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut, Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers, Association for Facilities Engineers, IEEE, and Institute of Transportation Engineers.

The Connecticut Engineer Week Dinner featured a presentation by Fred Wajcs, P.E., of Northeast Utilities (NU), who spoke on "What Engineers Need to Know about Energy Efficiency." He presented on energy efficiency programs offered by NU, codes and standards, and energy efficiency technologies and professional practices.

The event was attended by about 75 people, including WTS CT Valley Chapter members David Gilbert of Garg Consulting Services, and Ruth Fitzgerald and Laurel Stegina of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

WTS CT Valley Chapter Open House

The WTS CT Valley Chapter held its first ever "open house," WTS 101, on Tuesday, Feb. 17th at AECOM in Rocky Hill. The purpose of the open house was to provide an informal setting for those interested in learning more about WTS.

WTS CT Valley Board members shared information with attendees about the Chapter’s upcoming events, professional development opportunities, and access to a national network of professionals in the transportation industry through WTS International.

During an informal “round table” discussion, Board and Committee Chairs asked attendees how WTS CT Valley Chapter can serve its members, seeking new and innovative ideas for the coming year.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

Why not get involved with WTS? The Connecticut Valley Chapter could use your help! Volunteering has never been easier and the opportunities are endless. To volunteer, contact one of our Committee Chairs listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Pictured from left to right: Kristen Stiff, Lauren DiGiovanni (Michael Baker), Katherine Rodriguez-Marcellino (Michael Baker), Lia Huang (Capitol Region Council of Governments), and Jeffrey Parker (Deputy Commissioner Connecticut Department of Transportation).
Legislative Breakfast

The WTS CT Valley Chapter co-sponsored a Legislative Breakfast with Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) and ConnectAbility on February 26th. The event, held in the State Capitol Building in Hartford, brought together advocates for Connecticut's public transportation system.

The breakfast featured opening remarks from Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Joseph F. Marie and comments from co-chair of the Connecticut General Assembly's Transportation Committee, Representative Antonio Guerrera.

Gloria Mills of CACT presented information on the importance of the state's public transportation, which provides affordable trips to work, educational institutions, health care centers, community services, shops, and social activities. The American Association of Public Transportation (APTA) estimates that approximately $8,480 is the average annual savings for a person riding public transportation instead of driving. Despite the economic and environmental benefits of public transportation, there are numerous gaps in services identified in a 2007 Bus Needs Analysis conducted by Urbitran Associates for Transit in Connecticut. To close the gaps, CACT estimates an additional $63.6 million is needed annually for operating expenses (assuming a farebox recovery rate of 20%) and a capital investment of $215.4 million.

The legislative breakfast was attended by approximately 75 people, including several WTS CT Valley Chapter Board Members: Theresa Albanese-Pereyo, Brooke Hoberman, Nancy Rolfe, and Laurel Stegina.
Special Program on Federal Economic Stimulus

The CT Valley Chapter held a forum on March 5th about the recently signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA promises to provide funding through an economic stimulus package for a host of projects devoted to the rehabilitation of infrastructure, such as bridges, and new projects, many of these in transit. The forum was designed to help answer some of these important questions:

- What are the real-world implications of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?
- What will the Economic Stimulus Package mean for Connecticut?
- What opportunities will it provide and what challenges will it present for the transportation industry?

The Program featured a distinguished panel comprised of:

- Deputy Commissioner Albert Martin, Connecticut State Department of Transportation
- George Poirier, Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Cynthia Burbank, National Planning and Environment Practice Leader, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- David Gehr, Senior Vice President, Parsons Brinckerhoff

George Poirier of FHWA provided an overview of ARRA. Connecticut is poised to receive $350 million from ARRA — $202 million in highway funding and $138 in public transit. Deputy Commissioner Albert Martin said the funding will be used "transparently and with accountability and in keeping with the Governor's vision to improve the quality of life of Connecticut residents and visitors to our state." Although the list of projects was not announced, Deputy Commissioner Martin said the funding would be used for roadway, bridge, transit, airport, water port, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.

David Gehr of Parsons Brinckerhoff noted that ARRA funds are limited to capital investment and can be used for planning, design, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), permitting, and construction. Projects funded under ARRA are subject to NEPA, Civil Rights, and Buy America regulations.

Cynthia Burbank of Parsons Brinckerhoff noted the time constraints associated with obligating the ARRA funds. She also discussed the expectations of the next generation of transportation legislation with the impending expiration of SAFET-LU.

The presentation slides of each speaker are posted to the WTS CT Valley Chapter website at this link http://www.wtsinternational.org/Chapters.aspx?ID=6880.
CT Valley Chapter Mentorship Program

After two years of research and planning, the CT Valley Chapter is finally embarking on the inaugural year of its Mentorship Program. The seeds for the CT Valley Chapter’s Mentorship Program were planted at the WTS International Management Leadership Training in February 2007 in Houston, Texas, where one of the training sessions was about Mentorship Programs offered by other chapters. After the training session, CT Valley Chapter members began researching the mentorship programs offered by the Phoenix, Colorado, and Puget Sound Chapters. We realized that although each Chapter's Mentorship Program is a little different, the core elements are the same: the pairing of a senior-level professional with a junior-level professional for the purposes of sharing experience and knowledge for the overall goal of advancing women in the transportation industry.

In June 2007, we reached out to one of our neighboring sister chapters, the Greater New York Chapter, and invited Linda Travis and Charles Manning to share, at a CT Valley Chapter Mentorship Program planning meeting, their Chapter's experiences with starting a Mentorship Program. The lessons learned and insights gained from this exchange of information with the Greater New York Chapter were critical to getting our chapter's fledgling program off the ground.

Some of the biggest issues the CT Valley Chapter has encountered along the way include how to involve state agency staff in the program and how to financially support the program. One way the CT Valley Chapter is making it easier for state agency folks to participate is by holding some of its Mentorship Program meetings in our state department of transportation offices. A second was to offer the program at no charge to our membership. Therefore, all enrolled in the program must be WTS members, but won't need to pay any additional fees.

The CT Valley Chapter program will have duration of 10-months. Meetings will consist of either group sessions or individual mentor/apprentice sessions. Group sessions entail guest speakers, seminars and group discussions on special projects.

For questions about the CT Valley Mentorship Program, please contact Shawna Bartkus at Dewberry 203.776.2277 sbartkus@dewberry.com.
MOBILIZING THE REGION

Gas Prices Fall, But Auto-To-Transit Shift Continues

Driving fell throughout the U.S. in November 2008.

How times have changed. As of today, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline is $1.85. This may be just a temporary drop, but it’s nevertheless relatively cheap to drive again.

And yet Americans are continuing to cut back on driving. According to just released figures from the Federal Highway Administration’s Traffic Volume Trends report, Americans drove almost 13 billion fewer miles in November of 2008 than in November 2007, a decline of 5.3 percent. That is the second biggest drop in driving of any month this year, and it came even as gas prices were falling to the $2 per gallon range.

Through the first eleven months of 2008, driving has fallen an astonishing 102 billion miles, a drop of 3.5 percent over the same period in 2007. Assuming that trend holds true through the end of the year, it would represent the biggest decline in driving since World War II.

Meanwhile, transit systems across the country are reporting record ridership. Nationwide, ridership grew by 5 percent through September of 2008 compared to the same period last year, according to the American Public Transportation Association. APTA doesn’t yet have nationwide data for October and November, but cities as diverse as Albany, Kansas City, Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas and Portland, Oregon all saw continuing ridership gains in November. Within the tri-state region, preliminary numbers from NYC Transit show modest, but continuing November growth on buses and subways.

It seems that even as gasoline prices are starting to come down, the economic recession is suppressing driving. Vehicle miles traveled typically fall with the GDP, but what differs this time around is that transit ridership is not suffering — and, in fact, is even growing in most places. An APTA official told MTR that as Americans shifted to transit to save on gas, they “discovered” the benefits and convenience of transit. Significant unemployment could dampen the growth in transit ridership in coming months, but for now Americans are still piling onto buses and trains.

Obviously this is a trend the new Obama administration should support. Significant investments in transit operations and capital improvements, as part of the federal stimulus bill and beyond, could help catalyze a major shift in the way Americans get around.

This entry was written by Michelle Ernst and posted on January 26, 2009 at 3:52 pm and filed under Federal Policy.

WTS CT Valley thanks you for your support!
Third Annual Transportation Mini-Series
October 15, 2009
This year's theme is:
"Green Transportation"
Hartford Rocky Hill Marriott
100 Capital Boulevard
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

WTS invites you to participate in the Third Annual Transportation Mini-Series as a presenter! We are looking for timely, forward thinking subject matter relating to green transportation. Examples for subject matter are: using recycled materials in transportation design, economic growth effects on transportation, fragmentation of habitats by transportation corridors.

Last year's event drew over 100 transportation industry professionals including many state and municipal representatives. This is the time to make a difference, promote change, and share your research! If you are interested in presenting at the 2009 Transportation Mini-Series, please submit your proposal to WTS Event Chair Jessica Peruti at jperuti@haks.net

BY JUNE 15, 2009

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS!

Submission should include:
• Session Title (short & catchy)
• Summary of Session (200 words or less)
• Contact Information (name, title, company, address, phone, email)
• Resume (2 page maximum)
NEWARK REGIONAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Newark Regional Business Partnership’s Annual Transportation Awards Breakfast

Date: Monday, May 11, 2009 (8-10:00am)
Location: One Newark Center, 22nd Floor
         Newark, NJ

NRBP has celebrated National Transportation Week each year by honoring distinguished individuals in all segments of transportation for their contributions to the industry. NRBP and its Transportation Council will honor individuals who have helped to improve the region’s transportation network.

To RSVP by phone, please call 973-522-0099.

WTS RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

The Challenges of Urban Intersection Design

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 09
Location: Providence, RI

Professional development webinar on the operational and safety aspects associated with the geometric design of urban intersection. $15 for WTS-RI & RI-ITE members/$25 non-members. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by Monday May 11th to Chris Fontaine
CFontaine@garofaloassociates.com

WTS GREATER NEW YORK

6th Annual Golf Outing

Date: Friday, June 12, 2009
Location: Split Rock Golf Course
         870 Shore Rd, Bronx, NY

Join WTS-GNY at Split Rock Golf course for our 6th Annual Golf Outing benefiting the GNY Scholarship Fund.

The event includes: a continental breakfast, lunch, a round of golf plus cart, and a barbecue after the event at the course clubhouse.

RSVP: Send an email to wts_ny@yahoo.com.

Please include your name, organization, phone number, and email.

Visit WTS online! We are at:
www.wtsinternational.org

WTS RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

Connecting Transportation Decision Making with Responsible Land Use

Date: Wednesday June 3, 2009
Location: CDM, 56 Exchange Terrace
         2nd Fl Conference Room
         Providence, RI

Professional development webinar highlighting successful state and metropolitan area examples of targeting transportation funds to support sustainable development and smart growth. Cost for RI-APA and WTS-Rhode Island members is $10 /non-member fee is $15 (includes refreshments).

Register with Anne Galbraith by Monday, June 1 at agalbraith@cox.net.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you’ve recently changed employers or moved, please send an email to Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com so that your contact information can be updated & we can keep you informed of all upcoming WTS CT Valley events!
Board of Directors
Connecticut Valley Chapter

President
Laurel Stegina, AICP
Senior Planner II
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
lstegina@fhiplan.com

Vice President
Kristen Stiff
Howard/Stein-Hudson Assoc.
kstiff@hshassoc.com

Secretary
Nancy Puglisi Rolfe
Senior Civil Engineer
AECOM Transportation
nancy.rolfe@aecom.com

Treasurer
Brooke Hoberman
Employer Services Coordinator
Rideworks of Greater New Haven
bhoberman@rideworks.com

Immediate Past President
Theresa Albanese-Pereyo
Professional Wetland Scientist
Gannett Fleming
talbanese@gfnet.com

Committee Chairs

Communications Chair
Kim Tran
STV Incorporated
Khanh.Tran@stvinc.com

Events Chair
Jessica Webb
Haks Engineers, P.C.
jwebb@haks.net

Membership Chair
Theresa Albanese-Pereyo
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
talbanese@gfnet.com

Scholarship & Mentorship Program Chair
Shawna Bartkus
Dewberry
sbartkus@dewberry.com

Director at Large
Lori Long
longl@pbworld.com

WTS Welcomes New Members!

Lauren DiGovanni
Michael Baker Engineering, Inc.

Carla Tillery
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.