President's Message

As I reach the midway point of my term as WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter President, I find there is much to be optimistic about in the transportation industry, in Connecticut and across the nation.

President Obama’s announcement on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail grants promise investments that will make passenger rail more efficient, providing better service in travel markets across the country. High-speed rail offers competitive door-to-door trip times, reduces congestion of key routes between cities, reduces emissions, and creates jobs. What will the historic investment of $8 billion for high-speed rail mean for Connecticut? The Northeast Region of the country is poised to receive $485 million for high-speed rail and $706 for Amtrak, including an award to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield corridor.

I’m also very optimistic about the future of WTS. The Board of Directors is comprised of many seasoned and proven leaders. You’ll be seeing more of these ladies this year, as we embark on a year of growth and succession planning. And, we are seeking new talented, energetic, and positive people to serve as members of our Committees. We feel that with a greater number of active members engaged in our Committees, the more we can do collectively to serve our members and network with each other. We hope for and want the future leaders of WTS to come from those serving on our Committees today. Your investment of time on a WTS Committee will reap priceless rewards, both professional and personal. Ask anyone on the current Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is very optimistic and excited about our 2010’s upcoming events and programs including the Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner on April 8th, when we honor those leaders in the transportation industry who have shown extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS. And, please save the date, October 14th for our signature event, the 4th Annual Transportation Mini Series.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in 2010! Please contact me anytime at 860-256-4914 or lstegina@thiplan.com.

Laurel Stegina
President
WTS - Connecticut Valley Chapter
Join us in

Washington, DC

May 19 to 21

for the

2010

Annual Conference

at the Capital Hilton

for Registration, Conference Sponsor, Exhibit

Visit us online at

www.wtsinternational.org

Working to create new opportunities and advance the careers of women in transportation.
Planning Retreat

On a snowy Saturday in January, the WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter Board of Directors participated in a day-long 2010 planning session. The gathering, at the home of Lori Long, was attended by Chapter Officers: Laurel Stegina, Terri Albanese, and Nancy Rolfe; Committee Chairs: Shawna Bartkus, Jessica Peruti, Kim Tran, and Lauren DiGiovanni. The planning session, a WTS tradition, was focused on conducting the business of the Chapter. However, it was also an opportunity to affirm many long-time friendships and welcome and embrace new leaders on the Board.

At the planning meeting, the Board of Directors selected our 2009 Annual Awards Recipients. We also reached consensus on hosting/co-sponsoring a full slate of events and programs this year for our members. The Board is pleased to announce and asks you to please save the date for:

- Engineers Week Dinner – February 23rd
- Legislative Breakfast – February 24th
- Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner – April 8th
- Membership Connections – May 6th
- WTS International Conference – May 19th-21st
- Q-Bridge Tour, followed by Summer Social – TBA
- Tour des Farms – September TBD
- 4th Annual Transportation Mini Series – October 14th
- WTS International Management Leadership Training – November TBA
- Holiday Social – December TBA

We will also be offering in 2010 several Professional Development Sessions (open to WTS members and state employees only), the 2nd year of our Mentorship Program, and the 4th year of our Scholarship Program.

And, well be researching, this year, Connecticut’s capacity to support a WTS Student Chapter. If there is interest, look for this initiative to potentially kick-off in 2011!

Please keep an eye out for our Chapter Newsletter to be published quarterly in 2010, and check our website www.wtsinternational.org, which is frequently updated with new information!

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The most dangerous roads in Connecticut are US-1 & US-5?
107 pedestrians were killed on Connecticut streets in the three years from 2006 through 2008. Tri-State Transportation Campaign’s analysis of federal traffic fatality data reveal that US-1 & US-5 suffered the highest number of pedestrian deaths over the period. Annual Statewide Pedestrian fatalities in 2006 (38); 2007 (32); & 2008 (37); total of 107 fatalities.

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Calendar of Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 2010</td>
<td>CT Engineers Week Joint Dinner</td>
<td>Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24, 2010</td>
<td>Legislative Breakfast</td>
<td>State Capitol, Hartford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8, 2010</td>
<td>Annual Award Banquet</td>
<td>Cascades in Meriden, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6, 2010</td>
<td>Membership Connections</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Member attended the TRB Annual Meeting

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) was held in Washington, D.C. from January 10-14, 2010. Hongmei Zhou, along with other graduate students of Transportation from the University of Connecticut attended the meeting. The program attracted more than 10,000 attendees from around the world and more than 3,000 presentations were addressed. Everyone considered this to be a rewarding experience. As a WTS member and transportation professional, attending the meeting proved worthwhile.
WTS Held Final Professional Development Session at CTDOT

“Winning at Human Relationships” was the title of the final Professional Development session, under the WTSCVC Mentor Program 2009-10 season. Presented by Mary Jane Paris, President of Positive Impact Consulting, LLC, the group of professionals shared work place stories while delving into the dynamics of professional relationships. The group learned the essence of a good professional relationship is communication and attitude. Being open, honest and realistic when communicating expectations and goals allows for clear understanding; which in return, fosters relationships based upon mutual respect. We have the ability to control how we communicate, just as we have the ability to control our attitude. A positive attitude creates a positive work place. Controlling our emotions, not "checking them at the door," but controlling them by knowing and stating what is causing us to feel the way we currently do, allows us to grab hold of that negative feeling and make a conscious decision to leave it behind.

We do not always have the ability to control every decision that effects us within the workplace, but we do have the ability to implement change within ourselves. Once we change how we act and react, we will see this change can be infectious causing an uplift in overall morale within our departments and offices.

The Professional Development Sessions are open to all WTS members and CTDOT employees. This one took place at the CTDOT in Newington in the late afternoon on January 20th. This session was the third in a three part series. Watch for upcoming sessions in 2010/11! If you are interested in participating in the WTS Mentor Program as a mentor or apprentice or have a subject you would like to suggest for a future session please contact the WTSCVC Mentor Program Chair, Shawna Bartkus at sbartkus@dewherry.com or by telephone at 203-497-3684.

Research Forum
CT Transportation Institute

Connecticut Transportation Institute (CTI) held a research forum on November 5, 2009 at the University of Connecticut. The program was interesting in that there were several speakers who discussed a variety of programs in which CTI is involved with. Federal Highway Executive Director, Jeffery Paniati opened the session and showed great support of the work that CTI has performed. He stated that several of the techniques that have been tested at CTI were used in and around Connecticut with great benefits in transportation. CTI’s Transportation Commissioner Joseph Marie followed Mr. Paniati with similar sentiments that the research work performed by CTI is beneficial and has been used in making our transportation system here in Connecticut safer and cleaner. Several other topics that were discussed included Bridge Monitoring, Impacts of On-Street Parking, Designing Roads that Guide Drivers to choose safer speeds, asphalt materials and particle emissions. All topics were very interesting, some research has been completed and others are still in progress. The University of Connecticut also has a Center for Transportation and Urban Planning (CTUP) working to develop an index for Transportation Sustainability. The basis for this work is to recognize the significant impact on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Visit their and CTI's website for more information: www.ctup.unconn.edu and www.t2center.uconn.edu.

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WTS CT Valley Chapter Scholarship New Committee

The WTSCVC welcomes to its Scholarship Committee Lauren DiGiovanni of Michael Baker Engineering, Inc., Shivani Mahajan of URS Corp, and Basilia Huang of Central Regional Council of Governments. The WTSCVC Scholarship Program was created to financially assist young women currently enrolled in a college or university studying towards a career in transportation. The WTSCVC Scholarship was introduced during the Fall of 2007 and was first awarded in 2008 to a University of Connecticut Student in the amount of $1000.

The WTSCVC Scholarship is supported by our corporate sponsors, the annual WTS Transportation Mini Series, and private corporate donations. Shawna Bartkus of Dewberry, who has chaired the WTSCVC Scholarship Committee since its inception will be providing a supporting role to the newly enlisted Co-Chairs, Lauren DiGiovanni and Shivani Mahajan. If you have any questions about the WTSCVC Scholarship Program, would like to make a donation or volunteer on the committee, please contact Lauren at LDiGiovanni@mbakercorp.com or Shivani at Shivani_Mahajan@URSCorp.com.

“The ideal engineer is a composite. He is not a scientist, he is not a mathematician, he is not a sociologist or a writer; but he may use the knowledge and techniques of any or all of these disciplines in solving engineering problems.”

N.W. Dougherty

Message from New Scholarship Committee Chairs

In the coming year, the Scholarship Committee is planning to work on reaching out to local college students. Committee members will be visiting local colleges and universities to get the word out about WTS and promote our scholarship program. We’re hoping our efforts will encourage students to consider becoming involved in the transportation field and to look to WTS as an organization that can help them achieve their goals.
Member Spotlight — Colleen Kissane

For our first newsletter of 2010 we are proud to highlight a long-time WTS Chapter member Colleen Kissane in our feature “Member Spotlight” article. Colleen has been a member of the WTS CTV Chapter for eight years where she has had a constant presence at many WTS functions and programs.

Colleen has been employed with the Connecticut Department of Transportation since 1983. Her title and position is Transportation Assistant Planning Director for the Bureau of Policy and Planning. Since 2006, Colleen has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a Department-wide Asset Management and Performance Measurement Program. This program provides policies, principles and best practice methods to ensure optimal Department resource allocation and utilization decisions. As part of this program, Colleen’s office has developed more than 30 performance measures, which are posted on DOT’s website, to enhance transparency and demonstrate the Department’s commitment to accountability and results.

Colleen holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Hartford, CT. She is involved in many other professional organizations including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Public Works Association, Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers, Society of Women Engineers (Past President) and the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials. Colleen also serves as the Chairperson of the Department’s Scenic Roads Advisory Committee and is an active member of the Pavement Advisory Committee.

Colleen resides in Newington with her husband, Mike Tierney. Besides being an avid golfer, Colleen is probably Connecticut’s #1 Boston Red Sox Fan. She is also an enthusiast of anything “Irish” and all the Irish Heritage offers including Guinness!

Surface Transportation in CT

“Strengthening the Federal Investment in Your Ride!”

A Panel discussion sponsored by the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) was held on January 28, 2010 at the Greater Hartford Transit District office at Union Station in Hartford. The panelists were David Kooris, Vice President of the Regional Plan Association; YaTing Liu, Field Organizer for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign; and Ryan Lynn, Senior Planner for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. They discussed Federal Legislation (past and future), how the Federal bills strengthen Connecticut’s economy and the actions that can be taken toward this effort. All three speakers spoke confidently that everyone in the room had a voice and should impress upon our law makers to make the right decisions with regard to important issues like Public Transit, Livable Communities, Complete Streets and National Transportation Objectives.

WTS Welcomes New Member

Deborah Bailey Garg Consulting Services
Wendy Wark Metro North

WTS International Knowledge Center

WTS International is preparing to launch a new member benefit in the form of a Knowledge Center. This initiative will be on a page of the WTS International Website and available to all WTS Members. During development ten topic areas were determined and Knowledge Center volunteers were asked to select a topic of their specialty. The member benefit is to enter the Knowledge Center and ask questions or seek outside advice from a member with a similar background. Knowledge Center volunteers have already been notified and trained on the details and how the benefit is expected to function. Please stay tuned for your invitation to start using the New WTS Knowledge Center.

Still not a member of WTS CT Valley?
for information of how to join,
contact Terri Albanese at talbanese@gfnet.com
**SAFE PASSAGES: Research Experience for Undergraduates Program**

**Introduction:**
Design and operation of the nation’s surface transportation system is moving well beyond its original objective of providing citizens with safe and efficient passage. While maintaining this basic focus, there are ever increasing efforts to also consider the safe passage of the wildlife and aquatic organisms whose habitats the system traverses. The Safe Passages REU site will research this complex issue of simultaneously providing for safe passage of humans, wildlife, and aquatic organisms through rural transportation corridors. A 90 mile stretch of U.S. Highway 191 near MSU, which follows pristine mountain waterways and traverses part of Yellowstone National Park, will provide an ideal field site for students to pursue nationally replicable solutions to these issues. The REU site is hosted by the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University (MSU), which has established a national reputation for cutting edge interdisciplinary research on rural transportation safety, operations, and system impacts on the natural environment. Experienced WTI research staff and faculty will mentor a diverse group of eight undergraduate students each summer from all fields of engineering, as well as ecology, biology, and the environmental sciences. In addition to their project involvement, the students’ REU experience will be enriched by research seminars, training workshops, and similar educational activities over the course of the 10 week program.

**Program Dates:** June 1 – August 6, 2010 (Ten-week summer program)

**Location:** Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

**Stipend:** $4,500 (paid in three increments of $1,500)

**Travel:** Travel reimbursement up to $900 for travel costs to MSU

**Housing:** Program covers all on-campus housing expenses for participants

**Eligibility:** Undergraduates from all fields of engineering, ecology, biology, environmental sciences, and related fields are invited to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Application Deadline:** March 1, 2010

For more information about the program visit [http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx](http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx)
**Professional Women in Construction - NY**  
*“Meet the Construction Chiefs”*  
**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2010  
**Location:** Il Valentino, New York City, NY  
NYC - Professional Women in Construction (PWC) presents “A Grand Networking Event with Exhibit Tables” at Il Valentino from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Honored Guests include George Toma, NYC SCA; Peter Marchetto, Tishman Construction Corporation; Elizabeth Velez, The Velez Organization; Michael Franco, Skanska USA Building; and Gus Maimis, STV.  
For additional information, contact PWC at 212-486-7745 or pwc@pwcusa.org

**WTS - Rhode Island**  
*“Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor Master Plan”*  
**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2010  
**Location:** Waterplace Restaurant, RI  
Come and join WTS-RI for a technical luncheon on Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor Master Plan from 11:30 to 1:30pm at Waterplace Restaurant in Providence. Guest speaker will provide a preview of the final master plan and recommendations for the corridor anticipated for release in the spring of 2010. Cost is $30 for WTS members & $40 for non-members.  
To register for this event, contact Erin Gallogly at 401-451-1368 or roges81@msn.com

**1000 Friends of Connecticut**  
*“Annual Statewide Smart Growth Conference”*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 18, 2010  
**Location:** Hartford, CT  
The 3rd Annual Smart Growth Conference will be held from 2:00-8:00pm in the beautifully restored G. Fox Building on Main Street in Hartford. This year's conference features David Owen, author of Green Metropolis, as the dinner keynote speaker and Rick Gustafson, founder of Portland Streetcar, Inc., as the featured afternoon speaker. The conference will also include various workshops on current hot topics in smart growth.  

**2010 New England Rail Forum & Expo**  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010  
**Location:** DCU Center, Worcester, MA  
Join them at the largest, most important industry gathering in the Northeast!  
- Equipment Expo  
- Rail Forum  
- Exhibit Pavilion  
- Keynote Presentation and more  
Expo only: $25 (all events except dinner)  
Dinner/Expo: $75  
For more details visit [www.nerailroadclub.com](http://www.nerailroadclub.com)

**The Connecticut Chapter (ITE-CT)**  
*“6th Annual Trans. Student Research Symposium”*  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 7th, 2010  
**Location:** UConn Campus, Storrs, CT  
The New England Institute of Transportation Engineers with The Connecticut Chapter (ITE-CT) present the 6th Annual Transportation Student Research Symposium at the University of Connecticut. For detailed program and abstract submission, email to [ITE-CT@vnengineers.com](mailto:ITE-CT@vnengineers.com)  
For more information, visit [www.ite-ct.org/CT](http://www.ite-ct.org/CT)

**Southern New England Chapter of PMI**  
*“The Passion & Power of Project Management”*  
**Date:** April 29-30, 2010  
**Location:** CT Convention Center, Hartford  
The 2010 SNEC Professional Development days will be held half day on Thursday & full day on Friday. This year’s event promises to meet and exceed the standards of excellence the previous four events have already set. Please mark your calendar and plan to join them.  
For more details visit [www.s nec-pmi.org](http://www.s nec-pmi.org)
Special Membership Meeting
to be held early Summer. The focus of
the meeting will be recruitment of new
members, empowering current
members to Volunteer as Committee
Members and providing information on
how to get the most out of your WTS
membership. We will provide an
overview of WTS and answer your
questions and hopefully put your ideas
into action! Invite a coworker, client or
a student. The theme will be
“Enrichments of WTS Membership
at the Chapter and International Levels”

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!

WTS Board of Directors & Guests (front to back): Shivani Mahajan, Lauren DiGiovanni; Laurel Stegina; Jessica Peruti, Theresa Albanese, Nancy Rolfe, Shawna Barths, Brooke Hoberman, Carri Keocha, and Lori Long enjoying connecting at the WTS Holiday Social held at the Rustic Oak in North Haven on December 5th, 2009 to raise funds for the Interval House in Hartford, CT. Interval House is dedicated to providing services to prevent and break the cycle of family and intimate partner abuse.