2017 was an exceptional year for the WTS Connecticut chapter. We celebrated our 25th anniversary which was quite a momentous occasion, bringing old friends and current members together to remember the steps taken to grow into a vibrant chapter. In 2017, membership and corporate partners increased to an all-time high. Needless to say, last year was successful on all these fronts; and we are extremely excited for 2018 and look forward to new objectives and higher goals.

One of our main objectives this year is to diversify both our membership and corporate sponsorship. It is our intent to expand these areas in an effort to bring fresh ideas to the chapter. We believe this is important for the chapter’s future growth.

WTS Connecticut has a mission. Our mission is taken straight from the WTS International organization’s mission to “Advance Women in Transportation”. Advancing women in the industry means helping each other to find the passion within ourselves, reaching outside our comfort zone while continuing to learn and share within the WTS network. My goal as President of this chapter is to support this mission and fulfill my role by moving this chapter forward, opening doors to new and creative ways of sharing information and knowledge for the advancement of women.

I am excited for what 2018 holds and welcome new and creative ideas from the Chapter Board, Members and Corporate Sponsors. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of our Board members. Cheers to a successful upcoming year.
CT FASTRAK GIRL SCOUTS TOUR
June 24, 2017

On Saturday, June 24, 2017, the WTS CT Student Outreach Committee teamed up with CTDOT, CRCOG and Connecticut Girl Scouts to tour CT FASTRAK. Committee members Sharon Okoye and Nancy Rolfe were joined by Lisa Rivers, Transit Manager and Alicia Leite-Transportation Planner (CTDOT, Bureau of Public Transportation, Transit and Rideshare) and Jennifer Carrier-Director of Transportation Planning (CRCOG).

The girl scouts and tour guides met at Cedar Street Station in Newington where the tour began with an introduction to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the trip planner and the transit app tools. The group then boarded the 101 to Downtown New Britain, looped around to Flatbush, Bushnell, and Asylum and High Stations before returning to Cedar Street Station.

CCSU STEM EXPO “ROAD EATS”
April 21, 2017

On Friday, April 21, 2017, CT Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), invited the WTS CT Student Outreach Committee to present at the Generating Girls Opportunities (G2O) event held at Central Connecticut State University. WTS volunteers, Nancy Rolfe, Sharon Okoye, Terri Thompson and Katie Hedberg, lead a presentation and student activity session for 30 girls. The topic was “Road Eats” which focused on the materials, production, and testing of asphalt and road pavement through the median of edible cookies.

CT SCIENCE CENTER “BRIDGE WARS”
October 21, 2017

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, the WTS CT Student Outreach Committee was live at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Committee members, Sharon Okoye, Katie Hedberg and Nancy Rolfe facilitated an interactive exhibit involving building and loading a simple beam “bridge” vs. a suspension “bridge”. The activity entitled “Bridge Wars” was open to all in attendance at the Science Center. Display boards included the basic bridge types, simple beam, arch, truss, and suspension and included pictures of Connecticut bridges of these types as well as the famous Brooklyn Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge. The exhibit was set up overlooking the Founders Bridge over the CT River. Science Center visitors were amazed to learn that Connecticut has the United States first Extradosed Bridge with the recently completed Q Bridge in New Haven. This is the second year WTS CT was a guest of at the Science Center, and we plan to make this an annual event.
I would like to take this time to thank each and every person who attended the WTS 25th Anniversary Gala in November 2017. Our committee has already reached out to the speakers and special guests, however, what I am talking about here is every single individual who took the time out of their schedules to attend this event - the largest ever held in the history of the WTS Connecticut Chapter.

I was astonished by the outpouring of attendees. Once everyone was in the room it was an overwhelming feeling of gratitude and celebration. Who knew that this, once very small chapter, would grow to be such an amazing group of transportation industry professionals that would bring us together to celebrate 25 years of hard work and dedication with energy left over to trip the light fantastic. Do you think it was the candy that kept everyone going until they started to remove the table cloths? I do not know for sure, but I do know, folks stayed until they were nicely asked to please leave. Kidding aside, my compliments to the 25th Anniversary Gala Committee; Alicia Leite, Rebecca Hall, Lisa Slonus, and Jessica Bliven These ladies worked tirelessly for 1 year to put every single detail in place for nothing less than an absolutely perfect event enjoyed by over 160 in attendance - kudos ladies.

All that hype and so much more happened on the evening of November 9, 2017, when we brought old friends and colleagues together to celebrate our accomplishments and successes. So many stories and memories, too many of them to count, were shared, celebrated and again became an archive that we will remember for a very long time. Not only the stories, but the photos that were captured and the fun we had at the photo booth and on the dance floor.

One of our greatest accomplishments at this event was the history captured on the timeline boards. These fascinating boards show the history of the Connecticut Chapter through photos. These boards are now on display at the Connecticut Department of Transportation in Newington. If you are not able to get there, please contact me, Lori Long at lori.long@aecom.com, maybe you would like to display them in your own office as a reminder of how far we have come.

As 2017 has now come and gone, we enter our 26th year with continued hope for a bright future for women in the transportation industry. Our hope is that we continue to advance the CT Chapter and the entire organization to surpass goals and break through glass ceilings.

Thank you all for your continued support I am anxious to see what the next 25 years will bring. I do not know for sure, but I am pushing for a 30th Anniversary Gala celebration, I just don’t want to plan it - any takers?

Lori Long
WTS 25th Anniversary Gala Committee Chair
For complete photo gallery please visit: [http://www.wtsinternational.org/connecticut/photos/](http://www.wtsinternational.org/connecticut/photos/)
If reproducing gala plots or using electronically, please reference Shauna Dai photography.
# TMS 2017 Schedule

**Thursday, October 5th, 2017**  
**Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, CT**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 8:00-8:30 | Opening Remarks  
Krista Kenney                                                  | Links in the Supply Chain: CT’s Infrastructure  
David Elder (CTDOT)-moderator |
| 8:45-9:45 | **Society and Self Driving Vehicles: A Framework for Understanding Transitions**  
Carol Atkinson-Palombo (UCONN)-ITE | **Tappan Zee Bridge: NEPA to Construction in 18 Months**  
Melissa Toni (FHWA) |
| 10:00-11:00 | **Cultivating Strategic Partnerships for Transit Ridership Growth**  
Dennis Solensky (CTDOT)-moderator, William Wendt (UCONN), Erika Steiner (CSCU), Dara Kovel (Beacon Communities) | **LaGuardia Airport**  
Maxine Hill (WSP) |
| 11:15-12:15 | **Use of Technology for Data Collection and Public Outreach**  
Michael Coulom (FHI)-ITS | |
| 12:30-2:00 | Lunch Speaker  
Carla Tillery (FHI) | |
| 2:15-3:15 | **Sustainability and Transportation**  
Mark Moriarty (City of New Britain) | **I-84 Hartford Multimodal Station**  
Rich Armstrong (CTDOT), Gina Trimarco (Transystems), Jamie Brätt (City of Hartford) |
| 3:30-4:30 | **Claims Mitigation: A Discussion of the Importance of Key Contract Clauses**  
Don Doeg (UKS)-moderator, Larry Russ (GM2), Randy Hubler (WSP), Steven Jenkins (Manafort) | |
| 4:30 | **Student Scholarship Auction/Corporate Sponsor Recognition/Cocktail Hour/Wall of Wine** | |
CTfastrak PUB CRAWL  
June 8, 2017

The CTfastrak Pub Crawl is a new favorite among WTS members and friends. Participants ride CTfastrak visiting stops in New Britain and downtown Hartford while networking and exploring the public transportation system available in this area. If you have yet to ride the CTfastrak or participate, plan to join us in June 2018. Look for the date to be sent in an email and posted on our website.

SUMMER SOCIAL  
August 10, 2017

The Summer Social, an annual event was held at one of our favorite locations, Paradise Hill Vineyard, in Wallingford. A hot and humid evening, we were able to socialize with friends and colleagues indoors at the vineyards tasting area. Paradise as always boosts lively discussions while enjoying wine and fine foods. Another good year for grapes and a great wine selection.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
December 7, 2017

The Annual Holiday Social was held at Esca in Middletown. This festive venue was totally decorated for the holiday season and offered exquisite appetizers while members enjoyed socializing and the wonder of the season. This event is so well attended, it was agreed that a larger room is necessary for the next gathering.
Following WTS International lead, in 2017 the CT Chapter kicked off a Leadership Program that is offered to our members at no cost. This program has been developed as a member benefit to include key managerial competencies that are presented quarterly. The Leadership Committee is dedicated to serving the membership and offering this professional development program to present the skills needed for members to enhance their leadership abilities and advance within the transportation industry. Below is a list of three sessions that kicked off this program in 2017.

**Beyond Diversity - March 23, 2017, Cultural Humility for Organizational Change**
The session was held at Fuss & O’Neil, Ira Revels kicked off the program with an insightful discussion about biases and how they influence our relationships, and how we can overcome those preconceived ideas to create richer, more meaningful relationships. Ira wants people to create “brave spaces” where difficult conversations about our differences can become inspirational conversations about what we have in common. Ira Revels is a former associate librarian at Cornell University and currently owns Ira Revels Consulting LLC where she helps colleges and universities build brand awareness by showcasing their archival collections, research and publications.

**Communication Module - June 1, 2017, by Carla D. Tillery**
A blend of passion, personality and experience are the ingredients for inspiring and educating an audience. Carla D. Tillery, an executive and career coach, draws from over twenty-years of professional and life experiences to infuse her presentations with the kind of energy that leaves audiences inspired and invigorated. Carla’s infectious enthusiasm is the catalyst for professional and leadership transformation.

**Interaction Skills - August 14, 2017, by Robert Coles Co-Founder & Chair Centre for Alternative Leadership & Management**
This session was hosted by CME, (Place of CALM) In our daily lives, we interact. At work, we must interact. Nothing can be achieved in a vacuum. However, interaction is not a mechanism that is well understood or utilized in organizational work. Discussion on interaction in three ways:

*First, as a discourse.* Taking the view that language is more than a simple mechanism, we will investigate discourse as a linking of the nature of the Work, the perceptions of the Worker, and the implications of the Workplace. Our first goal is to establish that, when discussing interaction, we are dealing with many layers of meaning.

*Secondly, as a tool of power or emancipation.* Interaction can and has been used to dominate others and control discourse, whether this is based on gender, hierarchy, or simply a demand for compliance. However, if we take a ‘Power-with’ view of interaction and dialogue; we can understand it as a mechanism of diversity, inclusion and innovation.

*And finally, interaction as engagement.* Interaction should be a predominantly listening oriented activity. However, we often fail to listen well. Based on collaborative leadership research, we will introduce and understand some great dialogic tools that you can use today, tomorrow and always. Be prepared to watch your team engagement grow!

In 2018 there will be a total of four leadership sessions opened to our members as well as nonmembers. We encourage attendance and look forward to another successful year.
Gender Barriers in the Workplace - September 20, 2017

Kate Farrar, Executive Director, CWEALF, and Mary Kate Smith, Esq., Law Office of Lewis Chimes, LLC provided their expertise as panelists for a moderated discussion on gender barriers in the workplace. Led by Amy Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator, FHWA, a lively discussion on the challenges and how to navigate around them, to implement change ensued. Steps for action and organizations providing assistance, such as CWEALF, were also shared.

CWEALF is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for and empowers women and girls in Connecticut, especially those who are underserved or marginalized. They work to create an equitable society where women and girls thrive.

Prior to CWEALF, Kate was the Vice President of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)'s Campus Leadership Programs in Washington, D.C. where she guided the strategy and management of the organization's nationwide college women's leadership programs, college/university relationships, and science, technology, engineering, and math programs for girls. In D.C. Kate also served as the associate director of National Programs and Policy at Wider Opportunities for Women where she led the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS), a nationwide project focused on policies and programs to move low-income families toward economic independence.

A lifelong advocate of women's representation in politics, Farrar served as President of the Women Under Forty Political Action Committee, the only nonpartisan PAC in the country that supports young women running for office. She volunteers as a mentor for the UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and as a committee member of the Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls. Kate earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She was honored in 2017 with the UConn Honors Alumni Award and Syracuse University Maxwell School Alumni Award.

Mary-Kate Smith is a 2004 graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law (with Honors). She received her master's degree in philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder (2001) and her bachelor's degree from the George Washington University (Cum Laude, 1998). During law school, she advocated for civil liberties at the Office of the Community Lawyer in Winsted, CT and received recognition for her service in the Asylum and Human Rights clinic representing refugees seeking political asylum in the United States. After law school, Ms. Smith served as law clerk to the Honorable Thomas A. Bishop of the Connecticut Appellate Court.

Ms. Smith practices in the areas of employment law, personal injury, and civil rights. She represents individuals in all aspects of employment litigation before state and federal courts and administrative agencies including claims of wrongful discharge, discrimination, harassment, defamation, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, wage and hour violations, and other employment-related matters. Ms. Smith is admitted to practice in the states of Connecticut and New York and in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Women's Roundtable Discussion - November 14, 2017

This annual event continues to be a chapter favorite with experiences shared by industry leaders and attendees alike. Our 2017 panelists included Laura Toole, Senior Manager for Public Involvement at WSP; Lynn Sadosky, PE, Director of Public Works for the Town of North Haven; and Loren Purcell, PE, LEED AP BD+C, Preconstruction Manager with O&G Industries, Inc. moderated by Shawna Bartkus, Marketing Director with GM2 Associates, Inc. The evening’s discussion covered work-life balance, career paths, managing up and using your voice. Along with implementable advice, participants strengthened their network with new connections.
The CTDOT hosted 77 incoming freshman from UCONN on Friday, July 14th, as part of UCONN’s BRIDGE program. The Diversity committee sponsored the event and provided breakfast and lunch to the students.

BRIDGE is a 5 week summer program designed to prepare students who are underrepresented in engineering fields for the rigor of engineering curriculum at UConn, introduce leadership opportunities and careers in engineering, and to familiarize students with the University of Connecticut and the college experience as a whole.

The program kicked off with tours of the incident management room, opening remarks by Anna Barry, and a panel of Engineers discussing their paths into engineering, and providing advice to the students with time for Q&A. After a break, there were presentations on some of the Department's major projects including the Q bridge and the I-84 Hartford Viaduct. During lunch, Alicia Leite gave a brief presentation on the importance of networking, joining professional organizations and the upcoming UPASS program. Throughout the program the students took advantage of the Q&A periods and the networking opportunities with CTDOT engineering staff.

On a cool October morning members, friends and family headed to the Linear Trail in Southington to enjoy fresh air. Stations were set up along the trail to encourage a healthy life style, safe trail use and bicycling. WTS volunteers set up a pumpkin painting station, passed out passports for stamping and coloring books, painted messages on stones to be left along the trail, and had many giveaways from local vendors to encourage supporting local business. As participants biked the trail they were able to stop at the stations and gather fun information. We are hoping to make this an annual event. Please look for 2018 Fresh Air Event announcement.
Welcome New Members we are glad you are here!

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WTS CT Chapter 25th Anniversary Display - located in the lobby of CTDOT in Newington
WTS CT would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continuous support of our mission and goals. Without them we would not have been able to hold a record number of events in 2017, including our special 25th Anniversary Gala. We look forward to working with all of our corporate sponsors in 2018!

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors – We Appreciate Your Continued Support!

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HAKS
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Kerville

ROBIN LEVEL

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CME

If you are not a WTS CT Corporate Sponsor, now is the time to get involved and join our team. Contact Lori Long @ lori.long@AECOM.com.

For more information regarding the chapter, please visit our website: http://www.wtsinternational.org/connecticut/
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