WTS CT’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO HAS ARRIVED!

Founded in 1992, the Connecticut Chapter of WTS (WTSCTC) has begun preparation for its silver anniversary through the creation of an ad hoc committee to create a celebratory logo. With Shawna Kitzman, chapter member and mentor program graduate, of Fitzgerald & Halliday (FHI/WTS corporate sponsor) regularly looking for opportunities to assist, the chapter took advantage of her expertise. A contract was negotiated between FHI and WTSCTC and our celebratory logo came to life.

Chaired by Patrycja Padlo of TranSystems, our ad hoc committee members – Sandra Dumas, HAKS; Lori Long, AECOM; Shawna Bartkus, Lochner; Lisa Slonus, Weston & Sampson; Bonnie Torres, VHB – worked with Shawna Kitzman to create a logo emblematic of our state yet representative of WTS.

This milestone mark serves not only as an announcement but a continual reminder of the significant achievements our chapter has made in program development and recognition to advance women in transportation.

This celebratory logo will be featured on many pieces of marketing materials and throughout regular communications over the course of the coming year. In 2017, WTS Connecticut will be hosting a Gala event in celebration of those that have committed to our growth by giving their time and sharing their passion for our cause. For the event, we ask of all the current and past members to submit stories about the time you were active in the organization or any stories that can be featured in commemoration of the day.
As part of our chapter's upcoming 25th Anniversary we are looking to compile a calendar with Connecticut Transportation photos. This calendar will be available for purchase beginning in December 2016 at the WTS CT Chapter Holiday Social. All proceeds will go towards a 25th Anniversary Community College/Technical School Scholarship that the Chapter plans to award.

There are 12 photograph categories, Aviation, Bridges, Buses, Construction, Environmental, Green, Highways, Historical, Multi-Modal, People in Action, Ports and Rail.

This contest is open to all friends and supporters of WTS CT. Each person can submit a maximum of 12 pictures, one per category per person. The deadline for submission is November 4, 2016.

Please contact Angelica Quintero at wtsctc@gmail.com for more information.

WTS CT CHAPTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST

CTFASTRAK PUB CRAWL- HARTFORD, CT

On June 23rd WTS CT Chapter held the first, and most likely to become annual, CTfastrak Networking Event/Pub Crawl.

The event started at the CTfastrak Downtown New Britain Station where everyone boarded the 101 Hartford-New Britain route to downtown Hartford. The first stop of the evening was Black Bear Saloon where attendees enjoyed some light appetizers and got acquainted. The second stop was Black Eyed Sally's where a selection of comfort food was served before the group headed to the third stop, Pig's Eye Pub. Everyone then boarded the bus on Asylum Avenue in Hartford to head to the last stop of the night, Corner Pug in West Hartford, conveniently located right across the street from the CTfastrak Elmwood station.

It was a wonderful evening of fastraking and networking!

Interested in becoming a member? Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!!!

Tamara Costa
Yubo Song
Andrea Drabicki
Julia Jack
Lynne Loberg
Taylor Schuman
Emily Rice
Taylor Leaska

Upcoming Professional Development

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Leadership Lineup presented by Dr. Howard Fero

Keep an eye out for the WTS CT announcements email for more information!
WTS—HISTORY OF A NAME

Why “Women’s Transportation Seminar”? Have you ever wondered why “Seminar”?

WTS was founded in 1977 in Washington D.C. by a group of 40 women in the transportation industry. In the 1970s, women could not be subsidized for an association membership unless they were educational. By definition, seminar “is a form of academic instruction, either at an academic institution or offered by a commercial or professional organization”. Therefore, the founding women named the organization “Women Transportation Seminar”. For this reason, and to remember a very important time in history, WTS Transportation Seminar is more than the name it’s the history.

In the late 1960’s and 1970’s many colleges and universities were just beginning to admit women into engineering programs, which resulted in about 3% of women engineers in the industry. In 2010, 18.4% of bachelor’s degrees in engineering went to women. The number of women in engineering over the last 20 years has held steady.

WTS, nearly 40 years later is an International organization with almost 6,700 members.

MEMBERS MAKING MOVES!

Congratulations Rebecca Hall, P.E. of Tighe & Bond and Lisa Slonus P.E. Weston & Sampson for receiving PTOE certification. Nice work!

Do you know other WTS CT members making moves in their profession?

Please email alicia.leite@ct.gov so we can include their accomplishments in our future newsletters!

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FHI is a multidisciplinary company practicing collaborative planning to shape better communities.

STATISTICS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. Data from National Science Foundation, www.nsf.gov.

CONVERT TO BASE 10


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PERCENT WOMEN | NUMBER OF WOMEN (THOUSANDS)

On Saturday August 27, 2016, the WTS CT Chapter Student Outreach Committee joined forces with the Connecticut Science Center who hosted a student STEM event. WTS CT facilitated activities designed to spark interest in bridge engineering. See pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter for photos and all the details of this exciting event.

In addition, the WTS CT Chapter Student Outreach Committee has located a Girl Scout troop that would like to do a CTfastrak tour/transportation program. This event will take place on a Saturday morning and have a duration of a couple of hours. The goal is to have our scouts earn a TransportationYou badge. If you would like to assist with this effort please contact Nancy Rolfe via email at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com.

Volunteers needed for student outreach events! Please contact Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com if you are interested.

What is STEM?
STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education.

STEM involves a blended or interdisciplinary learning environment that shows students how the scientific method/design process can be applied to everyday life. STEM helps prepare students for learning and working in the real world where they will spend the rest of their lives.

Tip: When working with students emphasize that the process is just as important as the outcome.
BRIDGE WARS—HARTFORD, CT

On Saturday August 27, 2016, the WTS CT Chapter Student Outreach/TransportationYou Committee was live at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Committee members, Jennifer Mortensen, Sharon Okoye, Katie Hedberg and Nancy Rolfe along with Terri Thompson, Sandi Dumas and Alexander Klose 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. 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.

Above photos: Display boards including the basic bridge types, simple beam, arch, truss, and suspension and included pictures of Connecticut Bridges

Photo to the right: WTS CT Chapter President, Sandra Dumas sits on the floor with interested young ladies to discuss a bridge model constructed by WTS CT Chapter Student Outreach Committee Member and Bridge Engineer Jennifer Mortensen

WTS CT Chapter volunteers, from left to right, Alexander Klose, Katie Hedberg, Sandra Dumas, Sharon Okoye, Terri Thompson, Jennifer Mortensen, and Nancy Rolfe
BRIDGE WARS– HARTFORD, CT (CONT.)

Visitors could watch time lapse video of the Route 57 Weston Bridge aka “Bridge in a Backpack”, the Southington I-84 Bridge Replacement, and the Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge. Video of the I-90 Innerbelt Bridge Demolition provided a great opportunity to explain how controlled explosives are used in the demolition of large structures. Plus, who isn’t entertained by blowing stuff up “Myth Busters” style.

Additionally kids could try their hand at building a stone arch bridge out of wooden blocks. Bridge Wars was part of the CT Science Center’s 2016 Saturday Science Series Women in Science initiative.

The Women in Science initiative encourages girls and young women to pursue studies and career paths in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and celebrates the achievements of women in the sciences.

This page displays several photos of a bridge model constructed by WTS CT Student Outreach Committee Member and Bridge Engineer Jennifer Mortensen
TRANSPORTATION MINI SERIES (TMS) - OCTOBER 6TH, 2016

This year’s Transportation Mini-Series will be held at Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Meriden, CT. The event is a full day of technical presentations and panel discussions on a wide variety of transportation related topics. We hope to see you there!

7:30-8:00am
Registration & Breakfast

8:00-8:40am
Introduction & Welcome, Luica Paiewonsky, Volpe Center

8:45-12:15am
Breakout sessions

12:15-2:30pm (Lunch Program)
Diversity in the Workplace, Dr. Consuela Ward

2:30-4:45pm
Breakout sessions

5:00-7:00pm
Honorary Members Reception

Please contact Bonnie Damato-Torres, btorres@VHB.com, if you have any questions.

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A CORPORATE SPONSOR?

A sponsorship of WTS Connecticut offers vital mutual benefits to WTS and your company. WTS Connecticut offers outstanding networking and professional development opportunities for transportation industry employees and leaders at every level.

WTS offers informative programs, scholarships for students, mentoring program, and information exchange through our newsletter and website (including job postings).

For more information on the Corporate Sponsorship Program please contact our Chapter President, Sandra Dumas at sdumas@hawks.net

SUMMER SOCIAL - WALLINGFORD, CT

The summer social was held at Paradise Hills Vineyard in Wallingford. The vineyard featured a variety of lovely wines and members brought their favorite appetizers to share.

As always, the summer social was a relaxing evening attended by members and non-members from within the transportation community. The night provided for networking with industry influencers and catching-up with old friends.

Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to another great experience next year.

From left to right: Latoya Baugh, Christine Biske, Diane Lefrancois, Sharon Okoye, Karen Kennon, Fabiana Sobczynski

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On July 15, 2016, The Connecticut Department of Transportation hosted a WTS Lunch and Learn on Connecticut State Transportation Funding. For the people fortunate enough to get a seat in this full house session, it was well worth the time. ConnDOT’s Finance Administrator, Wally Lugli, introduced his team, including Lori Kiniry, Operating Budget Director, and Pat Hustus, Capital Budget Director, who gave the group a detailed overview of the DOT budgeting process.

Lori Kiniry began the program by explaining the 2 year Budget cycle and the process for getting the biennial budget from “proposed” to “approved.” In a nutshell, the budget covers two fiscal years and includes Operating funds, as well as Capital funds. It is requested on the odd fiscal year and adjusted on the even fiscal year. When the proposed FY2018/FY2019 biennial budget is created it will go first to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), then to the Governor’s Office, and to the legislature, with tweaking along the way, until it is enacted and implemented.

Lori then gave an overview of the Operating budget, followed by Pat Hustus providing an overview of the Capital budget. The Operating budget provides funding for general operations, one of the most significant being snow and ice control operation during the winter months. The Capital budget provides funding for Transportation Infrastructure improvements such as design, right-of-way purchases, and construction of roads, bridges, bus, rail and ferry facilities, as well as maintenance garages and office buildings. The Capital Budget funds preservation and enhancements projects, as well, and is a mix of federal and state monies. Pat also explained the Special Tax Obligation (STO) bonds are the primary state funding source for the Capital budget and that bond authorizations are used for 100% state funded programs, matching federally funded capital projects, and for pass-through grants to cities and towns. We were given an overview of Fund Accounting and an explanation of the three standard governmental fund types. It was very interesting to learn where General Funds, Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Projects Funds came from and what they can be used for. Lori’s explanation of the fund types segued into an historical overview of the Special Transportation Fund (STF).

Wally Lugli walked us through the ups and downs of the timeline from 1974 to the collapse of the Mianus River Bridge in June of 1983. The bridge collapse accelerated Governor William O’Neill’s plan for developing a “coordinated strategy” to repair and replace Connecticut’s infrastructure, and on July 1, 1983 the STF was established. A short time later, in February of 1984, Gov. O’Neill proposed the Transportation Infrastructure Renewal Program, which is commonly referred to now as the Capital Program. Wally gave a detailed explanation of where the money comes from, including DMV sales taxes and motor vehicle receipts, motor fuels, and license and permit fees. He noted that while fuel economy in vehicles saves money for consumers and is important for environmental sustainability, it results in a significant reduction in revenue from fuel taxes.

To address the reduction in tax receipts for fuel, Wally shared some ideas that could be considered as alternative transportation revenue sources. In addition to the recently added sales tax, a proposed “vehicle-miles Traveled (VMT) tax, a Value Capture Tax, and tolling were presented.

A VMT tax would tax individuals on the miles traveled in the course of a year, but it was not clear how this tax would be implemented. A Value Capture Tax would tax homeowners for Public Transportation benefits received, and the tolling option requires legislative changes to be implemented. Wally humorously suggested a Pokemon-GO tax of 1 cent per mile.
Pat fielded questions from the group on bonding and the bonding process. She walked us through the STO Bonding and STF Debt service process and explained how bond funds are generally used for improvements with a useful life of 20 or more years, and pay-as-you-go funds are currently used for improvements that last less than 20 years. STO bond sales historically take place once per year between September and November. She also noted that Connecticut’s most recent credit rating from the three rating agencies for the STO bonds is AA (Fitch IBCA), Aa3 (Moody’s Investor Service), and AA (Standard and Poor’s Rating Service).

Lori showed us where the FY 2017 appropriations will be distributed. Of the $1.463 billion 41% ($611.7 million) is for DOT operations, 38% is bond debt service, 14% is for pensions and fringe benefits, 5% for DMV operations, and the remaining 2% and residuals goes towards boating regulations, workers compensation and Insurance, and to OPM for salary adjustments. Lori broke out the 41% DOT Operating budget which show us that 59% ($358.7 million) is spent on public transportation services, 29% ($177.1 million) on personal services (salaries), 9% ($52.3 million) on other expenses, and 2%+ ($15.9 million) is spent on pay-as-you-go and equipment.

Pat broke down the $1.7 billion Capital Program where 52% ($909.1 million) is state bonds not used to match federal money, 40% ($685.3 million) is federal aid, 7% ($127.6 million) is used to match federal money, and 1% ($19.1 million) is state appropriated.

The four major sources of federal funding come from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). For fiscal year 2016 this totaled $685 million and breaks down to 72% ($494 million) from FHWA, 26% ($179.4 million), and 2% ($11.9 million) from FTA. We were also reminded that accepting federal money comes with many requirements. Pat explained that the Department uses a 5-year capital plan to manage the Capital Program and ensure that all available state and federal funds are fully utilized.

Wally finished up the event with an overview of the Federal Highway Trust Fund and how those dollars are acquired and distributed.

Connecticut’s Let’s GO CT initiative is the Best-in-Class vision for the agency over the next 30 years and the 5 year Ramp-Up is funded with an additional $2.8 billion beyond our base Capital Program over the 5 year period. Rails will receive $1.75 billion for repairs and improvements, highways will receive $613 million, bridges will receive $281 million, bike/ped/trails will receive $101 million, and buses will receive $43 million.

Many thanks to Wally Lugli, Pat Hustus, and Lori Kiniry for sharing their expertise and vast knowledge about how DOT receives and spends the Department’s various funding sources. Special thanks to Wally for sharing his own “STF” chocolate coins with us.
MARINE TIGER TECHNOLOGIES

Marine Tiger Technologies, a certified DBE in Connecticut, is a technology consulting firm that serves state, local and public agency transportation clients. Our mission is to help our clients reduce costs, improve services and support performance-based decision making through the strategic deployment of new technologies and business processes. What sets us apart is our real-world experience in implementing complex systems for large public agencies; our integration of change management into program design and decision making; and our commitment to stakeholder involvement. Marine Tiger Technologies holds the following certifications:

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- FEDERAL: ESWOSB and WOSB

Marcia S. Shapiro, a UConn Husky (Class of 1975), founded Marine Tiger Technologies in 2010 after struggling to find women-owned businesses to serve as subconsultants while leading projects for Spear Technologies and CH2M Hill. She named her business after the S.S. Marine Tiger, one of a class of cargo and troop ships built by the United States Maritime Commission during World War II and the ship that brought her parents to the United States in 1947.

Services include:

- Systems Engineering: concept of operations development, requirements analysis, systems architecture, interface requirements, and systems integration.
- Enterprise Asset Management (EAM): ISO 55001 and MAP-21 compliance, gap assessments, asset management plans, change management, EAM system requirements and software acquisition support.
- Training and Implementation Support: user documentation, training manuals, training plan development, train-the-trainer, classroom and web-based end user training, deployment planning and stakeholder communications.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems: systems design and integration, communications engineering, testing and construction support.

Recent projects include EAM Gap Assessments and Implementation Plans for NYCT Department of Subways, Metro-North Railroad, and the Long Island Railroad as part of the MTA EAM Improvement Program, an EAM Program Assessment for Amtrak, training and documentation for a Sign Management Information System for the NYC Department of Transportation, training and documentation for the SEPTA New Fare Payment System, and data analysis for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s Security Audit Program. Teaming partners include WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Jacobs, Parsons, Cambridge Systematics, CDM Smith, AECOM and CH2M.

Marcia is a past president and twenty-three year member of WTS-GNY.

To learn more about us, please visit www.marinetiger.com or contact Marcia at mshapiro@marinetiger.com
WTS CT VISION:

A WTS Connecticut Chapter that provides exceptional benefits to its members in the areas of professional development, career support, mentorship, and student outreach; offers leadership, educational, and networking opportunities; advances women in the transportation industry; and strives to function in an environmentally sustainable manner, with integrity and a commitment to diversity.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – LORI LONG

Lori Long joined WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter in the 1990s as a young professional, she became active immediately, rolling up her sleeves and assisting chapter committees. Without hesitation she dove in to assist in bringing the organization’s vision and goals to life. To date, Lori is the only WTS Connecticut member to be recognized twice as Member of the Year (1999 and 2007). In addition to being an active member, over the years she has chaired multiple committees, served on the executive board as chapter Vice President in 1998-1999, chapter President in 2000-2001, as well as co-chairing WTS International, New Chapter Development Committee for 4 years.

In Lori’s own words: “WTS is my passion and I fully believe in the organization and what it stands for. It is quite simple and something we all can do rather easily: ‘Women (and men) helping the advancement of women in the transportation industry’. When Lori speaks with young women entering the transportation field, she always encourages them to get involved in WTS. She advises them that there is no better organization for networking with industry professionals, to learn about the industry, and to be part of the advancement of women in our profession.

Lori is currently serving as the WTS Connecticut Historian and chairs an ad-hoc committee dedicated to the Chapter’s 25th Anniversary celebrations. She recently participated on the anniversary logo development team. Her current efforts and constant work on historical logs that are being digitized to preserve history in the making are commendable. Personally, I had the pleasure of going through boxes of materials and seeing firsthand the fabulous albums filled with photos, invitations, programs, and mailings. Prior to evites, Lori was one of the volunteers keeping the chapter mailing list and thus establishing the essential foundation for all that the fledgling chapter might do or become.

Lori has worked for consulting/design engineering firms for 30 years, on several highway and bridge projects, railroad renovations and reconstruction projects including Route 9, The Baldwin Bridge, Reconstruction of a portion of I-95 in Bridgeport, Upgrades to the New Haven Railyard and more recently the CTfastrak and currently on the Replacement of the Devon Bridge. As Lori points out: “I’ve been very fortunate in my career to have remained employed in Connecticut, where I was born and raised, and able to remain close to my family and friends. I also believe that not only have I done my part as a WTS Volunteer, but this organization has returned the favor 3 fold, by providing me with an amazing network of women and men who I can call the ultimate connection to the transportation industry not only here in Connecticut but Internationally”.

Do you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to submit?

Please contact:

Alicia Leite
Phone: 860-594-2826
E-mail: alicia.leite@ct.gov

Angelica Quintero and Lori Long at the 2016 Annual Awards Dinner
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