WTS-GNY ANNUAL GALA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015
Battery Gardens Restaurant
New York, NY
WTS Greater New York
Board of Directors

Congratulates

Polly Trottenberg
New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner

2015 Woman of the Year
2015 Annual Gala

October 7, 2015

PROGRAM

Cocktail Reception

Dinner

Welcoming Remarks
Beth DeAngelo, WTS-GNY president

Special Guest Host
Joan McDonald, former commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation

Scholarships
Stephanie Dawson, acting chief operating officer, Port Authority of NY &NJ
Keri Cibelli, WTS-GNY Scholarship Committee chair

Scholarship Recipients
Dominique Arno, Ejona Hadziu, Jacqui Scibior, Maryanne Moffett, Alexandra Gore, and Melissa Plaut

Introduction
Veronique “Ronnie” Hakim, executive director, NJ TRANSIT

Woman of the Year
Polly Trottenberg, commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation

Closing Remarks
Beth DeAngelo

Dessert and Coffee

Silent Auction
Auction Winners Announced

With gratitude to those who contributed so generously to the WTS Silent Auction:

B. Thayer Associates
Daniella Bernett
Cubic Transportation
Beth DeAngelo
Jing Du
Sandra Forte
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Graphic support: Betty Lin and Amy Geller; journal layout WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
Journal Editor: Daniella Bernett
Thank you for joining us tonight at the 2015 WTS-GNY Annual Gala, as we honor this year’s Woman of the Year—NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. Commissioner Trottenberg has made a positive impact on so many in the transportation industry through her focus on optimizing the value of funding, expediting project delivery, and efficiently addressing critical needs. She is a respected leader who makes the time to contribute to the advancement of women in transportation and serves as a distinguished role model for many others. Polly was a strong and visible supporter of WTS before she arrived at NYCDOT, and she has continued that legacy through consistent support of the Greater New York Chapter.

Tonight, we also honor six impressive women who have been awarded WTS-GNY scholarships to further their studies in transportation. They already have achieved a great deal. We will, because of the support of all of you, help propel them along their transportation career tracks and enable them to develop, inspire, innovate and lead us as we enhance transportation to improve our communities and region.

The contributions and activities of WTS, to advance women in transportation, results from the support of our members, Board of Directors, Advisory Board and very engaged committees, along with the generosity and vision of our corporate partners. Thank you to all.

Also, thank you to those who have renewed their memberships, and welcome to those of you who have recently joined. We could not do this without you! Finally, I extend a special thank you to everyone who has donated to our Silent Auction this year. All proceeds from the auction will go towards our scholarship program—so please bid generously to support our future leaders in transportation. Have a great evening!
Polly Trottenberg was sworn in by Mayor Bill de Blasio as Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation on January 27, 2014.

Trottenberg’s 22 years of government experience include over four years at the U.S. Department of Transportation, most recently as the under secretary of Transportation for Policy, where she developed key initiatives for the Obama administration including the groundbreaking TIGER discretionary grant program. In 2008, Trottenberg was named as the first executive director of Building America’s Future, a non-profit organization that advocates for increased investment in infrastructure and major transportation policy reform.

During her 12 years on Capitol Hill, Trottenberg worked with United States Senators Charles Schumer, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Barbara Boxer. Prior to her work in Congress, she served at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Trottenberg also serves on the MTA Board. She holds a B.A. in History from Barnard College and a Master’s in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

WTS-Greater New York
Women of the Year

2014 Veronique “Ronnie” Hakim
2013 Helena E. Williams
2012 Susan M. Baer
2011 Joan McDonald
2010 Pippa Woods
2009 Susan Bass Levin
2008 Susan L. Hayes
2007 Susan Kupferman
2006 Jane Chmielinski
2005 Janette Sadik-Khan
2004 Flora Castillo
2003 Barbara Spencer
2002 Barbara Thayer
2001 Laurie Gutshaw
2000 Martha Walther
1999 Deborah Wathen Finn
1998 Barbara Richardson
1997 Beverly Dolinsky
1996 Lorraine Hoffman-Ho
1995 Janis Beitzer
1994 Barbara Mickens-Washington
1992 Carole Metzer
1991 Shirley DeLibero
1990 Christine Johnson
1988 Lillian Liburdi
1987 Hazel Gluck
1980 Anne Canby
Veronique (“Ronnie”) Hakim was appointed executive director of NJ Transit (NJT) on March 3, 2014. As executive director, Hakim leads the nation’s largest statewide public transportation system which provides more than 895,000 weekday trips on 261 bus routes, three light-rail lines, 12 commuter rail lines, as well as through the Access Link paratransit service. NJT has a combined operating and capital budget that exceeds $3 billion and is the third largest transit system in the United States with 165 rail stations, 62 light-rail stations and over 19,000 bus stops linking major points in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia.

Prior to joining NJT, Hakim served for nearly four years as executive director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA). While at NJTA, she successfully spearheaded effective cost-cutting initiatives while maintaining the agency’s high performance levels. These savings and efficiencies include trimming $10 million from NJTA’s operating budget; continuing funding of the agency’s ambitious $7 billion capital program at a lower capital cost; and bringing a greater level of transparency and accountability to NJTA.

Hakim also served in leadership roles over a 23-year career with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in New York City. This included service as special counsel at MTA New York City Transit and later as executive vice president and general counsel for Capital Construction at MTA Capital Construction. In that position, she provided senior management with policy and legal advice on numerous large-scale projects, including the Second Avenue Subway, the LIRR East Side Access and the No. 7 Subway Extension.

Executive Director Hakim holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Rochester and a J.D. from the Pace University School of Law.
**Guest Speaker Stephanie Dawson**

**Port Authority of NY & NJ**

Acting Chief Operating Officer

**Stephanie Dawson** oversees the Aviation, Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals, Port Commerce and PATH Rail departments, as well as the Operations Services Department and the Office of Storm Mitigation and Resilience. She began her career at PANY&NJ delivering technology and security projects and has been responsible for the agency’s capital program as well. Dawson also has directed the Public Safety Department, Office of Emergency Management and Security Program Management Office, among other assignments. Her focus is on implementing policies, procedures and practices that enhance coordinated action agency-wide and she advances initiatives that enable the seamless common delivery of vital services. Her goal is to preserve PANY&NJ’s infrastructure; sustain excellent customer service; and further organizational effectiveness and efficiency. She is a retired military ordnance and logistics officer, Sustainment Brigade commander (NYARNG), and veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She also received a B.A. from Cornell University, an M.P.A. from Marist College, and an M.S. from the U.S. Army War College.

Dawson is currently on the WTS International Board, and is a prior board member and past president of the New York Chapter of the Project Management Institute, among others.

**Guest Speaker Joan McDonald**

**Joan McDonald** is an experienced executive in transportation, economic and community development, public finance and public policy. She has an extensive background in both the public and private sectors; is a skilled negotiator; strategic innovator and decisive manager; and is respected by her employees and her peers alike. On August 26, 2015, she was appointed to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council by President Obama.

Prior to this appointment, McDonald served as the 11th commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). During her tenure, she was a member of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s cabinet and led a department of 8,300 employees located in eleven regions, as well as Albany. She was responsible for annual capital and operating budgets each valued at $2 billion. McDonald launched a department-wide asset management initiative, “Forward Four,” that served as the foundation of Cuomo’s NY Works program of accelerated infrastructure investment. She also oversaw NYSDOT’s many storm recovery efforts.

McDonald is a longtime WTS supporter. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in the transportation industry, she was honored as the WTS–GNY Woman of the Year in 2011.

McDonald received her Bachelor of Arts in English from LeMoyne College and earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.
WTS-GNY 2015 Scholarship Recipients

LEONARD BRAUN MEMORIAL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Alexandra Gore is a Master of Science candidate in Transportation Planning and Engineering at the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering. She received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in May 2012. As part of her studies at NYU, Gore is researching and building upon the connection between traffic modeling efforts and transportation policy at the local, state and federal levels. This includes not only the Polytechnic School curriculum, but also electives at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Currently, Gore works full-time as a traffic engineer at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff in New York City. She focuses on the personal vehicle and the associated infrastructure, via mesoscopic and microscopic modeling of regional roadway networks. In the future, Gore hopes to work on the development and improvement of efficient and sustainable transportation policy.

WTS-GNY would like to thank the University Transportation Research Center for once again making a $1,000 donation to the Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship recipient.

PRESIDENT’S LEGACY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Maryanne “Mia” Moffett is a Master of Urban Planning student at Hunter College focusing on transportation. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Moffett is currently pursuing her career in transportation planning as an intern in the pedestrian projects group at the New York City Department of Transportation. She worked as senior photographer at the Museum of the City of New York before deciding to change careers and enter urban planning. Her photography has always focused on exploring and documenting the urban landscape and built environment. She is drawn to photographing abandoned and neglected urban areas, and waterways. After graduation in December 2015, Moffett plans to combine her photography skills, love of the urban environment and passion for transportation in her future career.

TRANSITCENTER TRANSIT POLICY INNOVATOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Plaut is a third-semester Master of Urban Planning student at Hunter College, focusing on the relationships between innovative technologies and transportation. She first became interested in transportation and urban planning in 2004 when she was a New York City yellow taxi driver—an experience she documented in a memoir, Hack, published by Villard/Random House in 2007. Since then, Plaut has lectured and published widely on taxi service in New York, including several op-eds in the New York Times arguing for improvements to the industry. From 2012 to 2014, she was the director of Driver Operations at the on-demand taxi app Hailo, where she engaged in rigorous advocacy efforts to get the City’s first “e-hail” pilot program launched. At Hunter, Plaut is a managing editor of the Urban Review, a student-run peer-reviewed planning journal, and the vice president of GUAPA (Graduate Urban Affairs & Planning Association). Plaut also is on the student leadership team at the LGBT Social Science & Public Policy Center at Roosevelt House.
SUSAN MISZKOWICZ MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Ejona Hadziu was born and raised in a small town in Albania. She is a Civil Engineering student at Syracuse University and will graduate in May 2016. Hadziu has been involved in many student organizations such as Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society, ASCE, Society of Women Engineers and U.S. Green Building Council Students Group. During the academic year, Hadziu works as a teaching assistant. Hadziu spent the summer of 2014 conducting research at Texas A&M University on the risks associated with cable-stayed bridges. This past summer, she worked as a technology analyst at JP Morgan in the Global Technology Infrastructure division. Hadziu recently traveled to El Ciprés, Honduras, to work on building a water treatment facility that will provide clean drinking water to the local community. She is excited to see the end results are changing a community for the better and improving the quality of life for the local residents. Hadziu believes passionately that engineering allows her to make a difference around the world.

MOLITORIS LEADERSHIP UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Jacqui Scibior is a senior at Clarkson University, studying Civil Engineering with a concentration in Construction Engineering Management and a minor in Sustainable Solutions for the Developing World. Scibior has performed internships at the New York State Department of Transportation and Alesia & Crewell Architects. This past summer, she worked in construction management for Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Washington, D.C. Scibior is a member of the Concrete Canoe Team and is involved with Engineers Without Borders. She serves as secretary of the ASCE student chapter and the Alumni Relations chair for Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. Scibior also was selected as an ASPIRE scholar, an honor bestowed on academically talented students in STEM majors. Scibior is looking forward to studying in Uruguay in 2016. She wants to join the Peace Corps upon completion of her degree.

TRANSPORTATION YOU HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Dominique Arno will be a freshman at Drexel University this fall and plans to major in Civil Engineering. She attended City Polytechnic High School in Brooklyn and worked hard to graduate in three years as the salutatorian. While in high school, Arno excelled in several engineering courses and was chosen to collaborate at the Cornell University CURIE Academy engineering program. She participated in various extra-curricular activities, such as ScriptEd and the Stoked Mentoring Program. She served as the captain of the first City Poly Robotics Female Team.

As part of the WTS-GNY Transportation YOU program, Arno attended the Youth Summit in Washington, D.C., where she visited the U.S. Department of Transportation. Arno is grateful to the WTS Transportation YOU program for providing mentorship and inspiration. She is excited to follow her dreams as a future engineer.
From left: WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); 2015 Member of the Year Polina Knaster (HDR) and WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Julia Kerson (NYC Mayor’s Office of Capital Project Development).

From left: WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Rena Barta (Jacobs) who accepted the Employer of the Year Award; and Julie Cowing (AKRF).

From left: WTS-GNY Advisory Board Chair Felice Farber (General Contractors Association of NY); Susan L. Kupferman Scholarship Winner Diane Xiao; and WTS-GNY Scholarship Chair Keri Cibelli (AKRF).

MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodniceanu served as the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting.

The B. Thayer Associates exhibit at the W/M/DBE Expo. B. Thayer is a corporate partner.

From left: Marsha Anderson Bomar, Stantec; Eileen Dalton, PANY&NJ; and Emily Gallo, NYCDOT

Members had an opportunity to network at the event.

TRENDING TOPICS SERIES: “HOW TO LOVE YOUR CAREER”
February 24, 2015
EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS
ON-SITE TRAINING SERIES:
“THE LANGUAGE OF LEADERSHIP”
February 24, 2015

WTS members learned what questions to ask to help them rise on their career ladder.

TRANSPORTATION TRIVIA NIGHT
April 7, 2015

The winning team was called “The Bridge,” from left: Josh Schneider, MTA Bridges & Tunnels; Steve Michejda, MTA Bridges & Tunnels; Alex Cohen, NYCT; Jennifer Swartz, MTA; Adam Hartke, MTA Bridges & Tunnels; Ian Hardouin, MTA Bridges & Tunnels.

Transportation Trivia Night Runner-Ups (from left): WTS-GNY Special Events Committee member Laura Azze-Singh (NYCT); Dan Zajackowski, NYCT; WTS-GNY Transportation YOU Committee Co-Chair Taylor Reiss Gouge (NYCDOT); Shri Iyer, NYCT; Christine Orthmeyer, NYCT.

2015 TransConOpps session speakers from left: Steve Santoro, assistant executive director, NJ Transit; Michael Venuto, director of Engineering/chief engineer, Delaware River Port Authority; Dave Lambert, state transportation engineer and director of Project Management, NJDOT; Ron Monaco, assistant director for Cost Management, PANY&NJ; Rob Fischer, chief engineer, NJ Turnpike Authority; and Brad Heigel, chief engineer, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

TRANSCONOPPS SESSION AT THE TRANSACTION CONFERENCE
April 22, 2015

2015 TransConOpps session sponsors, organizers and speakers from left: Patty Egan, director of Business Development, Stokes Creative Group; Steve Santoro, assistant executive director, NJ Transit; Michael Venuto, director of Engineering/chief engineer, Delaware River Port Authority; WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Dave Lambert, state transportation engineer and director of Project Management, NJDOT; Ron Monaco, assistant director for Cost Management, PANY&NJ; WTS Philadelphia President Megan Surnick (Hill International); Rob Fischer, chief engineer, NJ Turnpike Authority; and Brad Heigel, chief engineer, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission; and WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Polina Knaster (HDR).
General Membership Meeting
May 7, 2015

From left: WTS-GNY Directors-At-Large Linda Travis (NY Life) and Ella McLeod (NYCT); WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Polina Knaster (HDR); WTS-GNY Treasurer Elizabeth Hynes (Parsons); WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Lisa DiTaranti (VHB); WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff).

Transportation You “Effective Communications” Workshop
May 27, 2015

The students were excited to learn about how to conduct oneself in a professional manner to make a good impression.

Summer Solstice Celebration
June 18, 2015

From left: WTS-GNY NJ Programs Committee Co-Chair Colleen Connolly (Malick & Scherer); Lynn Middleton, NJDOT; Tam Sillick, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Polina Knaster (HDR); Veronica Murphy, NJDOT.

From left: Sam Knaster, Ammann & Whitney, and WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff).

From left: WTS-GNY Young Professionals Co-Chair Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA); Meghan Myers, Arora & Associates; Carolyn Trueman, USDOT.

From left: Janet Keiser, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; Lynn Middleton, NJDOT; Marilyn Fox, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff.
“GETTING IT DONE: CAPITAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION” PANEL DISCUSSION
June 23, 2015

From left: WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Julia Kerson (NYC Office of the Mayor); WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Stephen Dilts, HNTB; NYCDOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg; FTA Region 2 Administrator Marilyn Shazor; NJTPA Executive Director and WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Mary K. Murphy.

From left: NJT Executive Director Ronnie Hakim and NYCT President Carmen Bianco.

“TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME” MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT
July 22, 2015

From left: WTS-GNY Scholarship Chair Keri Cibelli (AKRF); Betsi Nemeth (AKRF); Hilary Page (Texas A&M University/FRA Intern); Leslie Mesnick (AKRF).

From left: Stephen Dilts, HNTB; WTS-GNY NJ Programs Committee Co-Chair Colleen Connolly (Malick & Scherer); WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Polina Knaster (HDR); Bryan McDermott, HDR.

From left: Neil Lucey, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; Stamatia Petsios, VHB; Paul Gessner, Gessner Transportation Consulting LLC.

From left: WTS-GNY Scholarship Chair Keri Cibelli (AKRF); Betsi Nemeth (AKRF); Hilary Page (Texas A&M University/FRA Intern); Leslie Mesnick (AKRF).

From left: Manasvi Menon and Crystal Cummings both of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Interactive Elements employees enjoying the game.

From left: Catherine Chardon, RATP Dev; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Linda Travis (NY Life); WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member Marcia Shapiro (Marine Tiger Technologies); Michael Robinson, a guest.
The WTS Greater New York Chapter’s Transportation YOU Committee is excited to kick-off its fifth year of mentoring young women from City Polytechnic High School in Downtown Brooklyn. The mentoring program is part of a national initiative between WTS International and U.S.DOT to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) transportation careers for girls ages 13 to 18.

The WTS-GNY Transportation YOU Committee has established a dynamic program that offers the Citypoly students unique exposure to the transportation profession through behind-the-scenes tours and events. The 2014-2015 program included tours of the Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot and JFK Airport as well as a professional development workshop focused on effective communications. This year also featured a new STEM summer internship and college buddy system in partnership with City Polytechnic High School and MTA New York City Transit (NYCT). Ten students completed detailed projects for various departments at NYCT, which allowed them the opportunity to get hands-on experience working in the industry. Human Resources provided additional support by matching the students with college buddies interning with NYCT’s Student Experiential Program. The results of the completed projects were revealed in the MTA’s boardroom for industry leaders and students. The students were proud to present the results of six-weeks’ worth of hard work as they shared comprehensive maps, detailed plans, and designs.

The committee is looking forward to the 2015-2016 school year, which will be full of exciting events and continued growth of the program. Additionally, this year the committee is expanding to host an event for high-school students in New Jersey. More details will be available later in the fall.

If you have any questions about the Transportation YOU program in New York or New Jersey, or would like to join the committee, please contact Co-Chairs Taylor Reiss Gouge (treiss@dot.nyc.gov) or Alyssa Pichardo (apichardo@nelsonnygaard.com).
Each year, at the chapter’s annual meeting, WTS-GNY sponsors an EXPO featuring our W/S/M/DBE corporate partners. If you are interested in meeting potential project partners, please make sure to clear your calendar for our annual meeting to meet and see work of our exhibitors. Our 2016 EXPO is planned for January at Club 101. For further details, visit the WTS-GNY website: www.wtsinternational.org/greaternewyork.
The General Contractors Association of New York

Congratulates

Polly Trottenberg
New York City DOT Commissioner
WTS Woman of the Year
&

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POLLY TROTENBERG
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2015 WTS-GNY
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Number 7 Subway Line Extension and the Hudson Park Projects

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AECOM is proud to support the Women’s Transportation Seminar Greater New York chapter (WTS-GNY). We congratulate Polly Trottenberg, New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner, on being honored as the WTS-GNY 2015 Woman of the Year.

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Congratulations to 2015 Woman of the Year

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation

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CONGRATULATIONS

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POLLY TROTTERNBERG

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ARE PLEASED TO HONOR

2015 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

POLLY TROTTERNBERG

NEW YORK CITY
DOT COMMISSIONER

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or for information on publications and events, contact
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WTS Greater New York Chapter 2015 Annual Gala
Congratulations to Polly Trottenberg
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2015 Woman of the Year

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