



Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

Summer 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the new Charlotte Metro chapter!



The record number of incoming jobs and people relocating to the Charlotte area generates critical issues and opportunities for our area's highways, transit, and aviation infrastructure. We look forward to providing area professionals with the opportunity for sharing and discussing transportation topics/issues that touch our lives, both personally and professionally.

On behalf of the 2007-2009 chapter officers, we are excited to be a part of the growing WTS community. We were officially chartered by the WTS International Board at the WTS Annual Conference on May 2, 2007, making us the 42nd chapter. We are the second chapter in this great state, with the existing "NC Chapter" to be renamed the "NC-Triangle Chapter."

Speaking of the WTS Annual Conference...I thought I couldn't be more proud and thrilled to be a part of this chapter's establishment. Then I attended my first WTS Conference in San Diego May 2-4. What an experience! The conference had fantastic sessions, mobile tours, and plenary speakers. It is incredible how WTS has made such a difference in women's lives, both professionally and personally. Through its professional development benefits, leadership training, and international and local scholarship opportunities, it will no doubt touch many more lives in the future.

I look forward to seeing and speaking with each of you. Feel free to pass the word and help build our chapter membership as we have a lot of great things planned for our local chapter. This is just the beginning! Contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. I can be reached at 704-665-4404 or via e-mail at kdbereis@pbsj.com.

See ya soon!

Kim Bereis

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER CONTEST

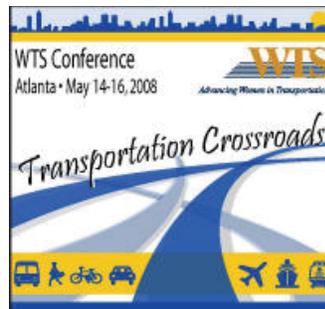
Can you help us name our newsletter? There is a \$25 gift card in it for the winner!

Please submit all suggestions to kgoforth@charlotte.nc.us by October 4th. The winner will be announced in the Fall newsletter. You may submit up to three entries.



IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message ... 1
- Program Highlights: Transit & Tolls .. 2
- Board of Directors ... 3
- Committee Chairs ... 3
- New Chapter Members ... 3
- Member News ... 4
- National Highlights ... 4
- Upcoming Events ... 4
- Corporate Sponsors ... 5



SAVE THE DATE!

The Atlanta Chapter of WTS is developing an exciting and informative program for the 2008 Annual Conference to be held May 14-16, 2008. There will be several topics covered during the conference; a few of these

topics include: International and Global Transportation Issues; Leadership and Management Skills for Public and Private Sector Transportation Professionals in the 21st Century; Noteworthy Environmental and Sustainable Transportation Practices, including climate change; and Funding the transportation system in the future.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Transit and Tolls



The WTS Charlotte Metro programs are off to a successful beginning, with great turnout for our first two programs in May and July. On May 15, approximately 50 people met at the Pewter Rose on South Boulevard for the WTS Charlotte Metro chapter's first program featuring **Ron Tober, CEO of the Charlotte Area Transit System**. In his speech "*Past, Present, and Future of CATS*", Ron reviewed the vision of transit supporting our region's vision for a sustainable

pattern of growth and the expansion of the bus system and resulting ridership increases. He also discussed the future rapid transit system, including the light rail line opening in November 2007, and the funding of the transit system.

J.J. Eden, Chief Operating Officer of the NC Turnpike Authority, was the speaker at the July luncheon program held at Villa Antonio's. The program topic was "*New Roads for a Better North Carolina*." J.J. described the mission of the NC



Turnpike Authority and how this alternative method of financing roads will help North Carolina speed up the implementation of some important projects. He discussed the changing technology for toll roads, the status of potential North Carolina toll projects, and his experience with other toll projects across the nation.



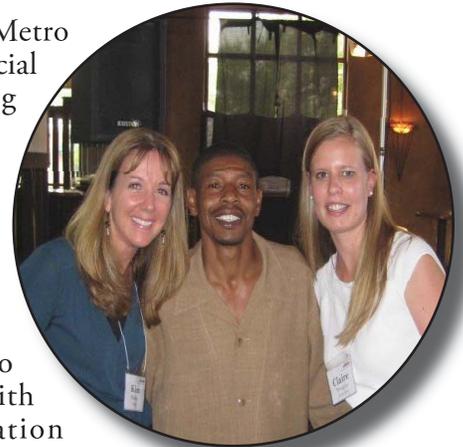
The WTS Board would like to express its appreciation to both Ron and J.J. for kicking off our chapter programs with topics that are of great interest to the transportation

community and important to the future of the Charlotte region. Thank you to everyone who attended!



FIRST AFTER-HOURS EVENT: A Success

WTS Charlotte Metro hosted its first social and networking event at the Southend Brewery on June 26, 2007. Twenty-three men and women turned out for free appetizers and an opportunity to meet and talk with other transportation professionals from the



Charlotte area. New members were also entered into a raffle for a \$30 gift card. And the winner was.....Judy Dellert-O'Keef with the Charlotte Area Transit System. Congratulations, Judy! Another bonus of the night -- former Charlotte NBA star Muggsy Bogues showed up at the restaurant and mixed with WTS members (above). We hope to see all of you at the next WTS after hours event (see page 4).





**Board of Directors/Committee Chairs
2007-2008**

President

*Kim Bereis, AICP
PBS&J*

Vice-President

*Kelly Goforth
Charlotte Area Transit System*

Treasurer

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STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates*

Media Relations

*Paige Yandle
PBS&J*

Scholarship

*Jennifer Green
Charlotte Area Transit System*

Newsletter

*Kelly Goforth
Charlotte Area Transit System*

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

WTS Charlotte Metro welcomes our new members to the organization! We are now at 22 members, with a goal of 30 members by the end of our first year in May 2008. Spread the word about the benefits of WTS membership! We encourage all members to become involved in a committee and attend our programs to get the most out of your membership.

Bereis, Kimberly

PBS&J

Birmingham, Riley

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Brinkley, Claire

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc

Daniel, Deborah

Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

Dellert-OKeef, Judy

Charlotte Area Transit System

Dickey, Dave

URS Corporation

Eddleman, Vickie

City of Salisbury

Fisher, Susan

HNTB North Carolina P. C.

Gallagher, Frances

Capital Management & Engineering

Gates, Randi

*Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization*

Goforth, Kelly R.

Charlotte Area Transit System

Green, Jennifer A.

Charlotte Area Transit System

Hargis, Linda

STV Incorporated

Hartmeister, Lucy

City of Charlotte

Jones, Greg

Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

LaForty, Brock

*STV/Ralph Whitehead
Associates*

McCann, Adin

HNTB Corporation

Nance, Richard

ECS, LTD

Peters, Edith

Stantec Consulting, Inc.

Rennert, Jamie P.

Surface Transportation Board

Rodriguez, Eliza

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Yandle, Paige

PBS&J

To become a member of WTS Charlotte Metro, join online at www.wtsinternational.org. For more information, please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Brock LaForty, at blaforty@stv.com.



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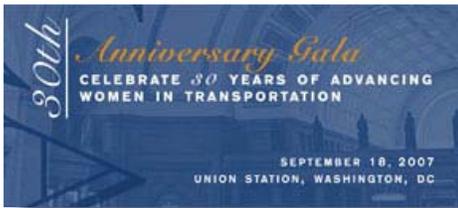
Summer 2007

MEMBER NEWS

In upcoming newsletters, we will publish information about what's going on with WTS members. If you have changed jobs, been promoted, or are working on a new and exciting project, please send us your news. Send your e-mails to Kelly Goforth at kgoforth@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

WTS 30th Anniversary. WTS will be holding its 30th Anniversary Gala on September 18, 2007, at Union Station in Washington, DC. The event will feature policy seminars focused on the theme, "*Global Climate Change: What is Transportation's Role?*" and a formal dinner celebration.



WTS Strategic Plan. WTS International also rolled out its framework for moving forward, the WTS Strategic Plan. The plan is available online at www.wtsinternational.org. The next step is to develop an action plan for implementing this strategic plan.

For more information on the WTS gala or if you would like to become involved in the strategic plan implementation, contact Kim Bereis at kdbereis@pbsj.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Business Etiquette-Seminar September 25. Our first professional development seminar will feature a luncheon seminar focused on *Business Etiquette*. Savannah Shaw, an etiquette and protocol consultant, certified by the Protocol School of Washington, will speak on the importance of business etiquette to professional development. Included in the presentation will be some of the top "must knows" and some informative, yet entertaining, interactive exercises.

Ms. Shaw has conducted programs for small to major corporations, including Duke Energy and Bank of America. The program will be held Tuesday, September 25, 2007, from 12pm to 1:30 pm at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center in room CH-14.



Cost will be \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. A registration flyer will be sent out in early September. Join us for this program! For more information on Savannah Shaw, please visit www.savannahshaw.com.



Upcoming After-Hours Social. City Tavern, 1514 East Boulevard-Thursday, October 4, 6pm. Join us to meet and mingle with fellow transportation professionals. Hope to see you there!

WTS/APTA Breakfast-October 10, 7:30-9am. WTS Charlotte Chapter members are invited to attend the 12th speaker breakfast at the annual APTA Conference to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center. The guest speaker will be Raghida Dergham, the senior diplomat correspondent for the Al-Hayat, the leading independent Arabic newspaper. She will share her perspective, knowledge, and passion on the challenges facing women in today's world. Chapter members can pay at the door if not already attending the conference. The cost is \$30 per person.

WTS and NCSITE will host a joint program this fall (tentatively scheduled for November). More details to follow.



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CORPORATE SPONSORS

WTS Charlotte Metro is proud to announce its inaugural list of corporate partners. We would like to thank all sponsors for their generous support of WTS and making the start-up of our local chapter possible! For more information on sponsorship benefits and opportunities, contact Kim Bereis at 704-665-4404.

PLATINUM

HDR Engineering



GOLD

HNTB Corporation



Mulkey Engineers & Consultants



URS Corporation



SILVER

Kimley-Horn Associates



PBS&J



STV / Ralph Whitehead Associates



If you have a suggestion, announcement, or great idea for this newsletter please contact a member of the newsletter committee:

Newsletter Committee

Kelly Goforth, Chair kgoforth@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Judy Dellert-O'Keef jdellert-okeef@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Paige Yandle pmyandle@pbsj.com