

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Charlotte Metro Members and Friends of WTS:

I am looking forward to an exciting 2009 for the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter! We have a number of terrific programs planned for this year, including a Reception honoring the new Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Gene Conti. We are thrilled about hosting this event on April 23 and hope to see many of you there!



Since 2007, Past President Kim Bereis has led our chapter to a successful and strong start, building WTS Charlotte Metro's reputation for informative and interesting programs. At our 2009 Annual Meeting, we honored Kim with an Outstanding Service and Leadership award for her dedication and hard work in ensuring the successful establishment of our chapter. Under her leadership, our growing chapter has provided numerous opportunities for education, professional development, and networking.

In November 2008, I attended the Chapter Leadership Training in Denver, CO. It was an inspiring and extremely helpful event, providing information about financial policies and scholarship programs, as well as great ideas about innovative programs and events that other chapters sponsor. It helped me envision what our chapter can accomplish!

At our 2009 Annual Meeting, I was so excited and energized to see the enthusiasm of our members to the chapter's continued growth and activity. Over half our members have volunteered to serve on a committee! This level of involvement will bring our chapter to the next level. Thank you to everyone for volunteering your time and talent to benefit WTS Charlotte Metro.

As we look ahead to the next two years, our goals for 2009-2010 include:

As we look ahead to the next two years, our goals for 2009-2010 include:

- Build chapter's reputation by continuing successful programs.
- Increase member involvement through active committees.
- Recruit new members and retain current members through promotion of member benefits.
- Establish local scholarship and awards programs.

With your involvement and support, I look forward to continued growth within our organization as we provide you with programs and events that further your professional careers. As we face the economic challenges ahead, WTS Charlotte Metro desires to serve as a resource and asset for the transportation community. Please let me know your suggestions for programs and activities that would bring the most benefit to you.

- Kelly Goforth

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Local Committee of 21 Roads Initiative (February 2009)

Ned Curran, Chair, Committee of 21

The Committee of 21 is chaired by Ned Curran, who joined us on February 24, 2009 to provide an update on the committee's work. The Committee of 21 was formed to bring diverse stakeholders together to prioritize area road needs, identify long-term funding options and advocate for funding. The committee's members represent a demographic and geographic balance that includes residents of Mecklenburg County towns, neighborhood activists, environmental advocates and the business community.



Curran reported that the mantra "Let's get something done this time" set the stage for the discussion and outcome for the Committee. Studies show the top site selection factor of corporate decision making is highway accessibility. So, the Committee's focus is to improve roads and reduce congestion.

Guiding Principles

1. Must be politically viable
2. Strive to relate fees to users
3. Ensure that road decisions are appropriately consistent with public transportation system and adopted land use plans
4. Provide accountability and transparency while using limited political influence
5. Seek to leverage dollars
6. Encourage public/private partnerships

Four Financing Options

1. Vehicle registration fee - Maintenance of local roads
2. Sales tax - Construction of roads
3. Tolls on interstates - Completion and expansion of freeways
4. Vehicle miles traveled fee - Future road funding source



For more information about the Committee of 21, please visit the Charlotte Chamber at www.charlottechamber.com.

WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter Annual Meeting (January 2009)

The annual meeting, held January 22, was very successful. Everyone enjoyed it, from the ice breaker to the review of last year. The look into the future for this year energized us all. For details on upcoming programs see our April and May events listed in this newsletter. The response to committee sign-ups was amazing and we received some great feedback on programs. You can see all the committee sign-ups under the "Local Highlights" section. Thank you to everyone who attended!



People Skills = Business Success (November 2008)

Savannah Shaw, Etiquette and Protocol Consultant

In a recent study conducted by Stanford Research University, it was found that 85% of your job success is connected to your people skills. With this statistic and the great feedback we received from Shaw's first visit, we invited her back in November 2008 to share more business etiquette tips with the group. Shaw expressed her passion for civility, as it demonstrates one's respect for themselves and others. Proper etiquette distinguishes you by projecting confidence and builds relationships.

Shaw encouraged everyone to develop their 'soft skills,' since 85% of our job success is connected to people skills. Only 15% is based on technical skills. Some soft skills tips are: learn small talk, stay well informed, focus on others not self, let others finish without interrupting, and think before you speak. Everyone participated in several activities to help develop soft skills.



Please Join Us for a Reception Honoring...

EUGENE A. CONTI JR.
Secretary of Transportation, NCDOT



Thursday, April 23, 2009

6:00 pm Registration & Cocktails (Cash bar available)
6:30 pm Dinner Buffet
7:00 pm Remarks by Secretary Conti

Byron's South End

101 W Worthington Ave
Charlotte, NC 28203

Free parking available or
LYNX Blue Line to East-West Blvd. Station

Registration

To register, please RSVP to FGallagher@cmepec.net **by April 16, 2009** and provide:

Name	
Company/Agency	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

\$45 WTS Members
\$55 Non-Members

Make checks payable to **WTS Charlotte Metro** and mail to Frances Gallagher, Capital Management and Engineering, P.C., P.O. Box 37688, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Registered attendees may also bring payment on the day of the program. However, "no shows" will be billed. Register early - space is limited.

Proceeds to benefit the WTS Charlotte Metro Scholarship Fund.





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Charlotte Metro Chapter

In Motion

Winter/Spring 2009

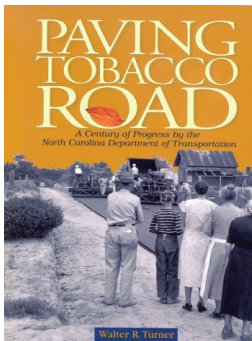
Walter Turner, Author and Historian

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On May 19, 2009, come hear Walter Turner, Historian at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC and Author of *Paving Tobacco Road, A Century of Progress* by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. As a fifth-generation North Carolinian, Mr. Turner has a lot of interesting history and fun facts to



share in his talk about North Carolina's Interstate History. Watch for your invite coming soon.



May 19, 2009, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street, Room Ch 14
(basement)

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Thank you to everyone who signed up for a committee! With this support and the great programs WTS has lined up, we are looking at another successful year.

PROGRAMS

- Chair: Vacant
- Member: Allison Billings
- Member: Jamie Blackwell
- Member: Crystal Cummings

RECOGNITIONS/NOMINATIONS

- Chair: Eliza Rodriguez
- Member: Riley Birmingham

CORPORATE RELATIONS/SPONSORSHIP

- Chair: Candice Crago
- Member: Mary Clayton

SCHOLARSHIP

- Chair: Celia Gray
- Member: Edith Peters

MEMBERSHIP

- Chair: Brock LaForty
- Member: Sierra Haynes

NEWSLETTER

- Chair: Judy Dellert-O'Keef
- Member: Susan Paschal
- Member: Paige Yandle

WEB SITE

- Chair: Kim Bereis

COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair: Paige Yandle

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

Welcome new Charlotte Metro Chapter Members!

- Allison Billings, UrbanTrans Consultants, Inc.
- Gina Gilgo, Mulkey Engineers & Consultants
- Tandre Haynes, Parsons Brinckerhoff

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Celia Gray is the Quality Assurance Manager for CATS. Celia joined CATS over six years ago, during Preliminary Engineering of the new start South Corridor Light Rail project, now the LYNX Blue Line. Her initial focus was on the Design and Construction of the LYNX Blue Line and the Bus Maintenance Facility being constructed on South Tryon. Project Management Contractor Jacobs trained Celia on the FTA requirements for Quality Assurance in Transit Projects. Celia hired and trained additional quality staff to oversee design and construction and to





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implement Records Management. As CATS was getting ready to start operations of light rail, the Quality section added a Quality Engineer for Rail Operations. CATS Quality Section has grown to a staff of seven.

Celia Gray has a degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Illinois and spent 20 years working in manufacturing before joining CATS. Her experience leading Wolverine Tube Inc.'s Decatur Plant through ISO 9002 certification helped prepare her for implementation of the Quality Management System to include CATS Quality Manual, Project Quality Plans for major projects, centralized controlled policies and procedures, and a records management program including records retention schedules for 32 divisions and sections. Last year, Celia helped develop CATS requirements for project management planning and project management plans.

Celia has found Quality in Transit to be complementary to her previous experience, and has enjoyed learning about Transit and the Transit industry.

Celia is on the Board of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Design and Construction Division. Her Division is working on certification criteria for Design Quality and Construction Quality Engineers. Celia is an ASQ certified Quality Manager and Certified Quality Auditor.

Celia married her husband Tim while she was in college at the University of Illinois. Tim moved for Celia's job twice (to Erie Pennsylvania and then to Decatur, Alabama), before she moved for Tim's job after he was transferred to Charlotte. Celia's husband Tim has been a pilot with MESA Airlines for over sixteen years. They have two grown children and one granddaughter.

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 Kelly Goforth at kgoforth@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

PLATINUM

HDR Engineering

GOLD

HNTB Corporation
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Mulkey Engineers & Consultants
URS Corporation

SILVER

Kimley-Horn Associates
PBS&J
STV / Ralph Whitehead Associates



Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.





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Board of Directors/Committee Chairs 2008-2010

President

Kelly Goforth, Charlotte Area Transit System

Director-At-Large

Mary Clayton, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Vice-President

Brock LaForty, STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates

Treasurer

Frances Gallagher, Capital Management and Engineering

Secretary

Claire Brinkley, Kimley-Horn & Associates

Programs

Vacant

Membership

Brock LaForty, STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates

Communications

Paige Yandle, PBS&J

Scholarship

Celia Gray, Charlotte Area Transit System

Newsletter

Judy Dellert-O'Keef, Charlotte Area Transit System

Past President

Kim Bereis, STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates

Web Site

Kim Bereis, STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates

Corporate Relations

Candice Crago, Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

Recognitions

Eliza Rodriquez, HDR Engineering

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

Newsletter Committee

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Susan Paschal

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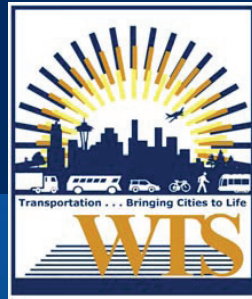
Paige Yandle

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Thank you to our newsletter contributors for keeping us In Motion this quarter:

Claire Brinkley, Judy Dellert-O'Keef, Kelly Goforth, and Celia Gray

In This Economy, You Need a Competitive Edge



Get it at the WTS Annual Conference in Seattle, May 20-22



Transportation . . . Bringing Cities to Life featuring:

- Networking with top industry leaders and learn leading-edge insight and strategies
- State/local officials and experts with innovative solutions
- Pathfinders and trend setters who can highlight the path to success
- Exhibitors with solutions and services
- Keynote speakers with diverse perspectives on success/economic issues
- Interactive breakout sessions for technical skill development
- Annual Awards Banquet recognizing individual and company accomplishments
- Technical tours of the Seattle area's current projects

Hotel rooms are available through April 14.

Deadline for Early Bird Registration is April 20.

For more details and to register, go to www.wtsinternational.org.



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*Knowledge, Networking
and Opportunity*