

## As WTS-LA Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary, We Look at How the Whole Thing Started



*Panelists at WTS-LA Blockbuster "From the Boardroom" Program, Photos © John Livzey, 2015*

After several decades of helping women find opportunity and recognition in the Los Angeles-area transportation industry, WTS-LA now celebrates its 30th anniversary—a perfect time to hear from the women who founded WTS and learn why its original name was “Women’s Transportation Seminar.”

In 2005, *Mass Transit* magazine explored the 1977 founding of Women’s Transportation Seminar. The magazine found that including “seminar” in the organization’s name served as an ingenious stratagem. In those days, companies rarely paid for women to attend professional meetings. They would, however, pay for educational “seminars.”

WTS has grown considerably since Christine J. Vineis brought 40 women together and founded the first chapter in Washington, D.C. In *Mass Transit*, she describes the culture of the time and why she was driven to take that step. And Ms. Vineis isn’t the only voice captured in the article.



LA faves Sunnie House (right) and Prof. James E. Moore II are also quoted in the piece. A former WTS International president as well as a Los Angeles area chapter president, AECOM Southern California Area Transportation Market Sector Leader House describes why WTS was needed to battle societal prejudices. Moore, Vice-Dean for Academic Programs, USC Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California and President of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, notes the unique value students find in belonging to WTS chapters.