



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Washington, DC Chapter

# *2007* *Annual Report*

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## WTS MISSION

Our mission is the success of women in transportation.

## WTS-DC Diversity Statement

WTS-DC strongly supports increasing diversity in our membership, activities, and leadership positions. WTS-DC pursues greater participation of people from varying backgrounds and supports recruitment, retention and advancement of these individuals in our membership and in the transportation profession.

## OFFICERS

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### PRESIDENT

Jennifer Mitchell

### VICE PRESIDENT

Michele Holland

### TREASURER

Melinda Pagliarello

### SECRETARY

Robyn Sinquefield

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jeanette Kramer

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**Diversity Committee Co-Chairs:** Tonya Holland, Tracee Strum-Gilliam

**Legislative:** Kay Ryder

**Membership:** Michele Jacobson

**Professional Development:** Odessa Philip, Margaret Ballard

**Newsletter and Communications:** Ruchi Mohinder

**Programs:** Lauren Isaac, Jessica Juriga

**Recognitions Co-Chairs:** Tonya Holland, Tracee Strum-Gilliam

**Scholarship:** Margaret Ballard

# 2007 Corporate Members



Holland+Knight

HDR



**Dear WTS-DC Members,**

2007 was an especially busy year for transportation here in DC. On the local level, we've seen the substantial completion of the Springfield interchange and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge projects in Virginia; the start (and completion) of the South Capitol Street bridge reconstruction in DC; the start of the Inter-County Connector in Maryland, and the inception of HOT Lanes in Virginia. Ridership on Metro reached all time highs, even as the WMATA board enacted fare increases and dealt with the operational needs of the 40-year old system. Finally, jurisdictions across the region continued to identify innovative ways to provide access and mobility to their residents, even with declining resources available to make new capital investments.



On the national front, the tragic collapse of a major bridge in Minneapolis brought renewed focus to the challenges we face in maintaining our highway and bridge infrastructure. The industry began to look ahead to the reauthorization of the surface transportation legislation, currently scheduled to take place in 2009. The aviation industry faces a significant milestone with reauthorization of the nation's primary aviation legislation, which will (hopefully) bring some conclusion to the debate over how the nation's aviation infrastructure should be funded. And transportation users around the country – both passengers and freight providers – dealt with the reality of increasing fuel prices by re-examining their transportation modes and choices.

Looking back on the activities of the WTS-DC Chapter for 2007, I'm pleased to identify the significant accomplishments of the WTS-DC board and our volunteers, particularly in regard to our program offerings, and enhancing our scholarship fund.

**Programs:** One of our primary goals was to expand the diversity of our program offerings to provide more value to our members. The report below describes over a dozen programs held during the year, including luncheon programs, breakfast briefings, receptions, networking happy hours, and professional development seminars. We addressed a range of topics, ranging from the federal budget, FAA reauthorization, public-private partnerships, and the new Nationals ballpark. WTS members got up close and personal with some of the region's top leaders, including the Administrator of the FAA, the General Manager of WMATA, the Director of DC's Department of Transportation, and the Deputy Administrator of the FTA. And last, but certainly not least, we were honored to co-host a luncheon event with the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters. It's a testament to the high regard that our leaders have for WTS, and in particular, the members of the WTS-DC chapter, that they participate so actively in our programs and events.

**Scholarship Fund:** 2007 was a banner year in our ability to raise funds to grant scholarships to outstanding students. Each year, WTS raises money for the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund during our annual holiday party and silent auction. As described below, we raised over \$3,000 from the 2007 silent auction, plus over \$1,800 in direct donations. In March, we also raised over \$4,000 at the welcome reception for John Catoe of WMATA, which we co-sponsored with the DC chapter of the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). The funds raised at both events provided a significant boost for the scholarship fund, which will allow us to assist even more outstanding young women as they pursue their educations.

As WTS-DC looks forward, we have a number of things to be excited about in 2008 and beyond. We're pleased many new volunteers have joined us in board and committee positions, which helps us to provide even more services to our members. We can look forward to the dynamic changes that come about in DC with every election cycle, including new opportunities to support political appointments for women to key administration positions. And finally, we will begin preparations for the 2010 WTS International Conference, which we will be held here in Washington, DC.

Thank you for your support in 2007 and your continued support of WTS-DC in the coming years!

*Jennifer Mitchell*

## PROGRAMS

2007 was a booming year for Chapter programs bringing several top-notch programs for WTS members and guests. We offered a variety of speakers, venues and program times. Also, the Chapter continues to appreciate the generous support of our program sponsors. The “meet and greet” segment prior to each program prove to be an integral element of extending networking opportunities our programs.

Program co-chairs squared away the program planning logistics with the hotels, speakers and sponsors and managed advanced registration and on-site check-in. As a way to gauge program satisfaction, the Chapter distributed a mid-year, online survey for members to assess the programs to date. Many thanks to the nearly 70 respondents who helped the Chapter stay on track with what members desire to see in future programs and events.

**February:** WTS-DC held a Breakfast Briefing on the FY08 USDOT Budget with Phyllis Scheinberg, Assistant Secretary for Budget and Policy Programs, USDOT. Ms. Scheinberg discussed the Administration’s budget proposal, as well as a future outlook for the transportation budget in coming years.

**March:** WTS-DC in cooperation with the Women in Government Relations (WGR) Transportation Task Force, co-hosted a members-only luncheon with the Honorable Mary Peters, Secretary of USDOT. Secretary Peters was welcomed to the event by Ann Koby, the WTS International President. Secretary Peters discussed the policy priorities being addressed by USDOT and her perspectives on effective leadership.

**March:** WTS-DC co-hosted, with the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) a reception to welcome John B. Catoe, Jr. as the incoming General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Over 300 people attended the event, which was held at the Ballroom at the National Press Club. The event

also raised over \$4,000 for WTS-DC’s scholarship fund.

**June:** Clark Construction generously agreed to provide a members-only tour of the new Nationals Ball Park in Southeast DC. The Washington Nationals Ball Park is the new home for the Washington Nationals and just opened for its first home game in March of 2008. It’s an important and exciting new development for the District and the Greater Washington region.

**May:** Emeka Moneme was appointed by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty as the new Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in January 2007. Over 60 WTS-DC members and guests gathered at the downtown Marriott to hear Mr. Moneme discuss his priorities for DDOT and an update of major transportation projects in the District.

**August:** Following the great opportunity to socialize with members of the transit, highway, government relations and aviation industries and a wonderful lunch at the Phoenix Park Hotel, attendees were treated to remarks from Marion Clifton Blakey, who, as Administrator of FAA, was responsible for regulating and advancing the safety of the nation’s airways as well as operating the world’s largest air traffic control system. Speaking with a slight accent from her home state of Alabama, Ms. Blakey described her experiences as FAA Administrator over the past five years and her deep respect for the agency and its staff.

**August:** WTS-DC hosted its annual legislative panel, with speakers from the House and Senate transportation –related committees. The program is discussed in the Legislative Committee Report below.

**November:** Members and non-members from DC, Virginia, and Maryland gathered at Ruth’s Chris in Arlington for an enjoyable meal and a panel discussion on the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project. This innovative public-private

partnership project will deliver the most significant improvement to the Beltway in Northern Virginia in more than 30 years – providing congestion relief and new travel choices to one of the nation’s most congested corridors. Three speakers, including Deborah

Brown, Director of Innovative Finance and Revenue Operations at the Virginia Department of Transportation, Sharon Gookin, Deputy Project Director at Fluor Virginia, and Jennifer Aument, Public Affairs Manager at Transurban Group spoke about this exciting project

## **LEGISLATIVE**

The Legislative Committee works to inform WTS-DC members about critical legislative issues that affect the transportation industry, and to strengthen the relationships between WTS-DC members and representatives on Capitol Hill.

Jennifer Pugh of HDR emailed introduction letters to both the House and the Senate Congressional members on March 29 on behalf of the WTS-DC President and Legislative Committee Chair. The chapter received several responses from Congressional staff showing interest in our events and requesting they be placed on our email distribution list.

Over 40 people attended the annual legislative program held on August 9 on Capitol Hill. The panelists consisted of four transportation legislative staffers: Jana Denning, Kate Hallahan, Amy Scarton, and Jennifer Esposito. They covered topics such as Aviation reauthorization, SAFETEA-LU implementation, resulting rulemakings, and programs;

Jana Denning from the House Transportation Aviation Subcommittee opened the program with a discussion on key sections of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 focused on funding levels, air traffic control modernization and NextGen, financing, airports, safety, environment and small communities. Next, Kate Hallahan from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies discussed short and long term challenges facing her subcommittee and strategies to address these challenges. She indicated that in the long term there was a need to focus on the intersection of transportation and housing and her subcommittee will be addressing these long term needs with a series of hearings based on a

new thematic format. In the short term, she identified several national challenges: changing demographics, congestion, aging population and workforce, affordable housing, infrastructure attrition. She also discussed new funding initiatives such as intercity passenger rail matching grant funds and rail relocation for small communities to address the safety and congestion challenges.

Following her was Amy Scarton, with the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. She mentioned SAFETEA-LU and a few technical corrections impacting FTA. She focused on a new bridge proposal to bring aging infrastructure up to standard safety codes. The new proposal would address inspection requirements, update standards and procedures, increase the frequency of inspections and emphasize the need for increased training. The proposal would also address the need for dedicated funding, the establishment of a national bridge ranking system and prohibit Congress and the Administration from establishing unnecessary earmarks.

Jennifer Esposito from the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials closed the program discussing several topics of interest. She discussed the House conference on the 9-11 Commission’s recommendations and implementation, expected passage of a rail safety bill (HR 2095) after the September recess with the timing dependent on aviation reauthorization. Additionally, the Amtrak reauthorization was under development and had been reviewed by the Senate with the hope a draft would be released by the end of CY 2007. Lastly, she indicated competition hearings with shippers addressing rail service rates and reliability are being planned in relation to HR 2125.



## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This year WTS-DC launched our newest initiative aimed at providing an added benefit to our most cherished members – A Professional Development Training Series. Early this spring, you may have received a request to complete a member’s interest survey. We asked you to rate various topics of interest so that we could offer a series of workshops that address the needs and desires of our membership. Based upon the responses we received from our members, we selected topics which had the highest interest generated from our survey.

On April 30, 2007 WTS-DC invited Barbara LaRock, Life Coach, to host the first of four workshops in this series. The first session focused on “Knowable Networking”, an

opportunity for us to learn great tips for improving the critical networking skills we all need to employ to be successful both in our professional and personal endeavors.

In November, WTS-DC hosted another session with Ms. LaRock on Effective Public Speaking. Ms. LaRock presented tips for maintaining your composure before (and during) presentations, and strategies for effective preparation. She emphasized that the most important strategy is to be well prepared and to know your subject matter inside and out.

Participants continue to provide positive feedback regarding the WTS-DC professional development sessions, and the chapter intends to expand these offerings in 2008.

## **CORPORATE RELATIONS**

Corporate support from public and private institutions is invaluable in enabling WTS-DC to present successful and informative programs and events. The local transportation community benefits from the support provided by our corporate partners, which allows WTS-DC to minimize program fees to registrants while presenting quality events.

Corporate partners benefit from the association with WTS and our well-respected chapter. There are three main ways in which corporate partners support WTS-DC: through corporate membership, program sponsorship and sponsorship of the annual Holiday Party, Awards Ceremony, and Silent Auction supporting the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund.

### ***Corporate Members***

In 2007 WTS-DC was pleased to have 10 corporate members, which included nine renewing and one new corporate member. These corporate members benefit from receiving two membership rate attendances for their

employees at each WTS-DC program and event. Each event also prominently displays signage throughout the year, thanking and acknowledging our corporate members. Additionally, corporate members are featured in the WTS-DC chapter newsletter on a rotating basis.

In 2007, the WTS-DC Board revised its corporate membership benefits to include one registration to WTS International for a corporate representative, as well as chapter membership benefits for a second representative. The chapter benefits can be shared among any corporate representative throughout the year. This allows companies to receive the full benefit of WTS International, as well as chapter benefits such as reduced program fees. The Chapter board continues to review corporate member benefits, particularly the link between WTS corporate membership at the chapter level and WTS International. This review is on-going and will continue in 2008.



### ***Program Sponsors***

Corporate partners who wish to be closely identified with a program or presenter have the opportunity to sponsor a program at various tier levels (\$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000). One of the most popular aspects of program sponsorship is the opportunity to have staff sit at the speaker's table; the number of speaker's table seats available to the sponsor varies with the sponsorship tier level. Program sponsors are acknowledged on program flyer advertisements and e-mail notices, on signs at the event, and during the program introduction.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

The Recognitions Committee is responsible for the submission of our Chapter's nominees for the WTS International recognitions awards, the solicitation of nominations for the Chapter recognitions awards in the fall, and the evaluation and selection of the award winners, also completed in the fall.

During the late summer, work began to solicit nominations for the 2007 recognitions awards. The Co-Chairs placed articles and reminders in the Chapter newsletter, made announcements and utilized our blast communications technology to get the word out about recognitions and to urge Chapter members to submit nominations. Our efforts paid off. This year we were fortunate to receive strong nominations in each of our four awards

## **DIVERSITY**

The Diversity Committee is responsible for coordinating the annual luncheon and participating in the national diversity calls. Each year the Diversity Committee coordinates a luncheon which acknowledges and honors the topic of diversity within the transportation industry. Sherry Little, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Sponsors are also acknowledged in summary articles published in the chapter newsletter as well as on the WTS-DC "News and Events" website pages where the sponsor's logo and link to their company website. All of these acknowledgements provided a wide range of positive exposure for our sponsors.

Program with Emeka Moneme, Director of DDOT:  
Louis Berger Group

Program with Marion Blakely, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administrator: Ammann & Whitney, Dewberry

Diversity Program with Sherry Little, Deputy Administrator of FTA: HDR

categories – Woman of the Year, Member of the Year, Employer of the Year, and the Diversity Award – and the Chapter was able to honor award recipients in each of these categories.

In December, at the annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony, the Chapter officially recognized the following award winners:

Deborah Lipman, Woman of the Year;

Cathy Connor, Member of the Year;

Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc (PB), Diversity Award

Federal Transit Administration, Employer of the Year.

The Chapter nominated these exemplary award recipients for the WTS International 2008 Awards.

addressed over 80 attendees, including several Howard University students, who were sponsored by HDR and are studying transportation related subjects. Deputy Administrator Little spoke about leadership, the importance of diversity within the industry, and steps that FTA has taken to promote diversity within the organization.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the close of 2007, the Chapter gained 68 new Members and held a retention rate of 70 percent, bringing the total membership to 209 members. Throughout the year, membership efforts focused on retention and recruitment activities. Invitations were sent by e-mail to non-members who had shown an interest in the organization and to those who had been members previously.

Throughout the year, the chair participated in the WTS International monthly membership calls. The

reason for these calls was to promote interaction among the various Chapters' membership chairs on best practices as well as to share ideas for retaining and recruiting members. WTS-DC also sponsored two happy hour events to encourage existing members to bring prospective members. The Membership Committee's goal in the coming year is to continue increasing membership numbers focusing on recruitment and retention goals.

## **NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNICATIONS**

This year the Newsletter and Communications Chair helped develop the newsletter design, while also providing overall editorial responsibility. The newsletter is broadcast to the WTS-DC Chapter members, WTS International Board, and the WTS Chapter Presidents. In 2007, five issues of the WTS-DC newsletter were distributed to the members via e-mail. These newsletter editions were made available on the WTS-DC's newsletter webpage.

Frequent broadcast e-mails were sent to Chapter members to advertise WTS-DC sponsored events and activities in 2007. E-mail broadcasts have become the primary and most direct source of communication with our members. Program flyers for WTS-DC events were developed by the chair and distributed via e-mail broadcast to members and nonmembers. Information on the Chapter's events was regularly posted and updated on the WTS-DC website. Other e-mail broadcasts notified our Chapter's members about

upcoming transportation industry meetings. Information on WTS-DC events was also transmitted to WTS International for inclusion in their newsletter.

An effort to re-format the current WTS-DC newsletter into an e-newsletter was initiated by the chair. The WTS-DC e-newsletter distribution is scheduled to begin in mid-2008. The chair also created the WTS-DC domain and specific WTS-DC e-mail addresses for the board members and applicable chairs.

The website continues to be a secondary source of communication for our members. The WTS International primary website has dedicated sections for each of its 41 Chapters in the U.S., Canada and United Kingdom. The chair maintained WTS-DC pages including "News and Events" and "Newsletter" pages.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

This year the Chapter mailed out informational flyers to the various colleges and universities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to invite students to apply for the WTS various scholarships. In an effort to increase the number of applicants, the Scholarship Committee did extensive research to revamp the existing contact list of local college professors to include at least

one professor in the engineering and transportation departments of each school.

This effort was rewarded with an excellent group of 14 scholarship applicants from several different local programs/schools including: Catholic University; George Mason University; George Washington University; Howard University; University of Maryland; and

University of Virginia (Northern Virginia Campus) and Virginia Tech (Northern Virginia Campus).

The pool of applicants was first-rate with students studying civil engineering, urban and environmental planning, public policy, public administration, and business. This year the chapter awarded a total of three scholarships: undergraduate, masters, and PhD. The winners were:

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD: Alexandria McBride, Howard University

GRADUATE AWARD (Masters): Tanga Fitzgibbon, American University

GRADUATE AWARD (PhD): Sevgi Erdogan, University of Maryland

Each student received \$2,000 to help fund their educational expenses. Additionally, the Chapter pays for one year of WTS membership for each of the winners, and forwards each student's application to WTS-International for consideration for their annual awards.

## **2007 HOLIDAY PARTY, ANNUAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party, Annual Awards Ceremony and Silent Auction was held on December 11 at the City Club at Franklin Square in Washington, DC. Over 100 members and guests from throughout the transportation industry – government agencies, private business, trade associations, special interest groups, etc. – were in attendance.

This very special evening was an opportunity for our Chapter to recognize and honor our Member of the Year, Woman of the Year, Employer of the Year, and Diversity Leadership Award recipients. (See the Recognitions report for details). These individuals and organizations made extraordinary contributions to the transportation industry as leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors and they generously support WTS in a variety of ways.

In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized three extremely talented and deserving students as recipients of WTS-DC Scholarship Fund endowments. Funded through the annual WTS-DC Scholarship Fund Silent Auction as well as by direct contributions, these awards are a way to support our industry's future. (See the Scholarship report for details).

The following companies contributed to the event as Holiday Party Sponsors:

### **Platinum Sponsors**

Lea+Elliott

WMATA

Nossaman, Gunther, Knox, Elliott, LLP

Booz/Allen/Hamilton

### **Gold Sponsor**

PB

### **Silver Sponsors**

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

Railway Supply Institute

Holland+Knight

### **Bronze Sponsors**

APTA

DMJM Harris/AECOM

Ammann & Whitney

### **In-Kind Contributions**

Rubber Manufacturers Association

Dewberry

HDR

The ever-popular Silent Auction celebrated its fifth consecutive year as a part of the Holiday Party. Approximately \$4,800 was raised for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. WTS-DC would like to thank the organizations and individuals for their contributions of gifts and direct monetary donations.

We especially thank everyone that generously bid on all of the wonderful auction items. Because of your support, we can continue to provide scholarships to deserving female students in transportation related disciplines at area universities and colleges.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Summary Report**

<b>Income:</b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Dues	\$7,115.00
Program Meetings	\$9,122.85
Newsletter	\$0.00
Scholarship	\$13,899.88
Interest	\$1,285.38
Fund Raising	\$0.00
Unrealized Gain/Loss (Investments)	
2007 Holiday Party	\$11,525.00
Corporate Memberships	\$8,000.00
Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$1,343.94
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$52,292.05</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	
Program Meetings	\$20,853.60
Newsletter (costs included in e-mail hosting)	n/a
Scholarship Account	\$6,405.00
E-mail hosting and e-surveys	\$2,084.41
Supplies/Administrative	\$1,638.41
Bank Fees	
2007 Holiday Party	\$13,554.03
Corporate Members - Int'l annual membership	\$720.00
Membership (events & annual conference registration)	\$1,767.44
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,022.89</b>

	<b><u>1-Jan-07</u></b>	<b><u>31-Dec-07</u></b>
<b>Cash Balance:</b>	\$42,031.30	\$45,050.08
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
<b>Cash Reserve Account</b>	\$37,622.28	\$38,947.66
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	\$1,550.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	\$475.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,728.58</b>	<b>\$85,997.74</b>