



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Washington, DC Chapter

# 2006 Annual Report

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# 2006 Corporate Members

THE WTS-DC CHAPTER WISHES TO THANK AND EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR 2006 CORPORATE MEMBERS:



Association of American Railroads



CAIRO®

HDR

PBS&J



District Department of Transportation



Dewberry

Holland+Knight



Railway Supply Institute



JACOBS



## 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

### PRESIDENT

Jennifer Clinger Mitchell

### VICE PRESIDENT

Leigh Merino

### SECRETARY

Shirley LeBeau

### TREASURER

Michele Holland

### PAST PRESIDENT

Jeanette Kramer

## CHAIRS

### CORPORATE RELATIONS

Melinda Pagliarello

Traceé Strum-Gilliam

### DIVERSITY

Tonya Holland

Laura Trejo

### LEGISLATIVE

Kay Drucker

### MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Klass

Erin McLaughlin

### MENTORING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lynne Morsen

### NEWSLETTER & COMMUNICATIONS

Leigh Merino

### PROGRAMS

Margaret Ballard

Tanga FitzGibbon

### RECOGNITIONS

Tonya Holland

### SCHOLARSHIP

Odessa Phillip & Sina Raouf

Dear WTS-DC Members,

Looking back on 2006, I'm pleased to identify a number of achievements by the WTS-DC board and our volunteers. Below I've outlined three major goals we laid out for 2006, and my assessment of how we did.



**Goal 1:** Support the professional development of our members. We hosted two successful professional development programs this year. We had a terrifically successful mentoring program and “graduated” six mentees. We hosted two casual networking happy hours that over 20 people attended. We also drummed up a record number of scholarship applications from an amazing pool of local transportation students, and attracted more students to our luncheon programs.

**Goal 2:** Expand the diversity of the WTS-DC program offerings. This was a great year for WTS-DC programs. As you can see, from our slate of programs listed in the Programs Committee report, we featured speakers from various agencies and branches of government, and addressed a range of policies, programs and projects. We constantly try to balance the desire to attract “top level” speakers from the Federal government with focused, technical sessions or programs on local projects of interest. With limited volunteers and resources we're not able to hold all the programs we'd like to hold. However in looking back at 2006 I think we did a pretty good job touching upon the broad interests of our membership.

**Goal 3:** Boost the value of WTS membership. One area in which I feel we excelled was in better communications to our members, including new communication tools, and a revamped chapter newsletter with improved graphics and stories. We received amazing feedback about our newsletter from chapter members (and beyond), so it's great to know we're providing a valuable service to our members. We revised the program fees by increasing the fees for non-members, which enabled us to recover more of our program costs. We issued a web-based survey to learn more from members about their program interests without affecting our members.

Thank you again for joining WTS-DC and supporting us in our mission of advancing women in transportation. I look forward to serving as Chapter President in 2007, and I appreciate your continued support. If you are interested in volunteering to help us reach the goals I've outlined above, please contact me at [Jennifer.Mitchell@dullesmetro.com](mailto:Jennifer.Mitchell@dullesmetro.com).

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Clinger Mitchell*

## 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.

### Corporate Members

In 2006 WTS-DC was pleased to have 13 corporate members, which included 10 renewing and three new corporate members. 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.

The corporate membership year was standardized in 2006 to begin on June 1. This standardization has proven to successfully streamline the process of tracking corporate membership. Other initiatives in 2006 included updating the corporate tracking database for improved usability. The WTS board began the process of reviewing corporate membership benefits, particularly the link between WTS corporate membership at the chapter level and WTS International. This review is on-going and will continue in 2007. For a complete list of 2006 Corporate Members, please see page 3.

### 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. 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. The 2006 WTS-DC Programs and Sponsors were:

### February

**DMJM Harris | AECOM**

**AASHTO**

"Celebrating 50 Years of the National Highway System" feat. J. Richard Capka, FHWA Administrator

### March

**HDR Engineering**

**Parsons Brinckerhoff**

"FHWA and FTA Initiatives to Promote Intermodal Planning" feat. FRA's Brigid Hynes-Cherin and FHWA's Cynthia Burbank

### April

**Parsons**

Sandra Bushue, Deputy Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

### May

**The Ferguson Group**

**Railway Supply Institute**

Annual Legislative Program Panel



*Above, an example of how program sponsors and annual corporate members are recognized during programs – sponsor sign (foreground); 2006 corporate members' sign (background).*

[April Program with Sandra Bushue.]

June

**American Public Transportation Assn.**  
“A Conversation with ...” A Professional  
Development Event

July

**HDR Engineering**  
**Virginia Chapter of APA**  
“Meet Matt Tucker”

October

**Cambridge Systematics**  
Freight Transportation Panel

November

**Clark Ventures**  
“InterCounty Connector: Looking Ahead”

The WTS-DC year-end signature event is the Chapter’s Holiday Party, Annual Awards Ceremony and Silent Auction. The Holiday Party sponsors help off-set the cost of hosting the event, allowing all silent auction proceeds and donations to go directly towards the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund. See page 16 for complete list of sponsors.

## DIVERSITY

In 2006, the Diversity Committee secured former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater to speak at the Chapter’s September program on “Reflections on Diversity and Leadership.” The Diversity Committee also drafted articles for Chapter newsletters summarizing the September program as well as an interview with Christie Dawson, the current President of the DC Chapter of COMTO. In addition, one of the WTS-DC newsletters included a hyperlink in a to an article, “The Impact of Race on Understanding Mentoring Relationships”.

The Diversity Committee increased outreach efforts by speaking to Cesar Chavez Charter School students about careers in transportation-related fields. Furthermore, the committee made an initial contact with TransTech Academy students of Cardozo Senior High School and further recommended the Board consider establishing a long-term relationship with the school. The mission of TransTech Academy, which has a high concentration of African-American and Hispanic students, is to provide experiences that will inculcate the values of education, constructive employment, and careers in various modes of the transportation industry. They link education to the real world, enabling students to successfully adapt to a complex and changing world.



*Attendees ‘meet and greet’ with former USDOT Secretary Rodney Slater (SECOND FROM LEFT) before the commencement of the September program. ‘Meet and Greet’ sessions provide a unique opportunity and access to our speakers and other attendees.*

Lastly, the Diversity Committee regularly participated in the WTS National Diversity Committee teleconferences and suggested speakers reflecting diversity for the national WTS speakers’ bureau.

## LEGISLATIVE

This year proved to be a busy one for transportation professionals responsible for the implementation of policies and related funding based on the new Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU was signed in to law by President Bush on August 10, 2005 with guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion. SAFETEA-LU authorized the federal surface transportation for the five-year period 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU focuses on safety, equity, innovative finance, congestion relief, mobility/productivity, efficiency, environmental stewardship, and environmental streamlining.

At the time of the WTS-DC annual legislative panel program in May, SAFETEA-LU had begun to roll out. Over 50 people attended to hear the six-person panel of transportation experts who worked for various transportation agencies and congressional committees. They discussed SAFETEA-LU implementation, resulting rulemakings, and programs.

Opening the program, Jane Bachner, Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration’s Office of Policy and Program Development, discussed sections of SAFETEA-LU dealing with rail car tank safety, inspections and subsequent rulemakings. Next, Joyce Rose from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discussed the pressures of formulating the legislation without exceeding the President’s identified funding limits. She emphasized that, despite



*Legislative Program Panelists (from left to right):  
Jane Bachner, Joyce Rose, Richard Steinmann,  
Ruth Van Mark, Susan Binder, and Larry Minor*

media coverage, earmarks for the legislation equaled less than 9 percent of the total funding for the overall legislation and she considered SAFETEA-LU “a policy driven bill”. Following her was Richard Steinmann with the Federal Transit Administration’s Office of the Administrator. He discussed resulting key programs and rulemakings, such as New/Small Starts, Parks and Public Roads, and programs for Native Americans.

The second half of the panel began with Ruth Van Mark from the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, who noted her appreciation of the WTS-DC chapter and the annual legislative event to bring legislative experts together in a constructive forum. She emphasized the challenge in communicating the need to retain a minimal balance in the Highway Trust Fund and that all the funds should be spent to benefit of the users of the transportation system. Next was Susan Binder, the Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy and Government Affairs at the Federal Highway Administration. Binder discussed the importance of thinking about the next bill as 2005 and 2006 funds are being disbursed; specifically thinking long-term she asked, “... [I]n the next century what is the federal role” for transportation planning? Larry Minor from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) closed the panel. He indicated it was the first time that FMCSA was included in a transportation bill which enhanced their enforcement authority and their ability to identify patterns of safety violations and target “bad players” in the motor carrier industry. The program closed with a brief Q&A session discussing the appropriations process in 2007 and possible technical corrections to the legislation.

Throughout 2006, aviation professionals continued to gear up for the reauthorization of Vision 100 and debated finance reform to address the looming expira-

tion of the Aviation Trust Fund. Aviation officials and industry experts testified to Congress and debated the future of aviation demands and needs with industry, the public, airports and other impacted parties. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials repeatedly emphasized the need to modernize the aviation system to handle new demand and pressures from smaller but increasingly used aircraft for commercial purposes and the mismatch between the levels of service required for the entire industry and the resources available to pay for these services.

In March, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey testified before the Senate Commerce, Science And Transportation Committee, Subcommittee on Aviation on FAA’s FY2007 budget and the Viability of the Airport And Airway Trust Fund and said, “As we look to the future, we see a complicated air traffic control system and workload. This trend adds to the workload of air traffic controllers without increasing tax revenue commensurately. Regional jets normally carry fewer passengers than the larger airliners, so the movement toward smaller passenger aircraft contributes to the decline in the Trust Fund revenue per flight.”

The later half of 2006 was characterized by change at the U.S. Department of Transportation and anticipated future change in the congressional leadership. On October 17, 2006, Mary E. Peters was formally sworn in as the new Secretary of Transportation. Peters replaced Norman Y. Mineta who retired on July 7, 2006. The November elections set a new tone for congressional decision-makers for the remainder of 2006. Not surprisingly, in December the 109th Congress extended the Department of Transportation’s funding appropriation continuing resolution bill for a third time until February 15, 2007. With the installment of the 110th Congress and its new leadership, we can anticipate more change.

## MEMBERSHIP

At the close of 2006, the Chapter gained 80 new members, held a retention rate of 73 percent, bringing the total membership to 235 members. Throughout the year, membership efforts focused on retention and recruitment activities. Retention efforts consisted of the annual renewal call campaign. The Committee made courtesy calls and sent e-mail notifications to remind members about membership renewals. 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



*In June, WTS-DC hosted a Networking Happy Hour at Capital City Brewing Company at Union Station. At this event, members were encouraged to bring a non-member.*

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 and to expand membership appreciation efforts by offering more member-only programs and, when possible, free or significantly discounted program fees.

## NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNICATIONS

The chair continued to function as an editor and worked with a layout graphic designer to develop each newsletter. Dewberry, a WTS-DC corporate member, generously provided an in-kind contribution of the time and resources for one of their graphic designers. There were six issues of the WTS-DC Chapter Newsletter distributed in 2006 via e-mail as a direct online link to the Washington, DC Chapter's section on the WTS website. The newsletter is broadcast to the WTS-DC Chapter members, WTS International Board, and the WTS Chapter Presidents.

Use of e-mail broadcasts to keep members abreast of Chapter activities was quite prolific in 2006. E-mail broadcasts have become the primary and most direct source of communication with our members. Each WTS-DC program flyer was developed by the chair and distributed via broadcast to members and non-members. Other periodic e-mail broadcasts called "WTS-DC For Your Information" notified our Chapter's members about upcoming transportation industry meetings, related organizations' events and activities – such as WGR and COMTO, as well as other points of news or interest were disbursed as necessary. 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 maintains significant portions of the WTS Washington, DC pages – particularly "News and Events" and "Newsletter" pages.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING PROGRAM

### *Mentoring Program*

The WTS-DC 2005-2006 mentoring program concluded in May with a luncheon to honor mentees and mentors. The October-through-May program focused on the individual relationships among seven mentees and eight mentors. Program activities included Leadership Night in February with videos by the Ben and Roz Zander, director of the Boston Philharmonic and his wife, an executive coach. The evening featured interactive and rewarding discussions. In March, the guest luncheon speaker, Cindy Burbank of the Federal Highway Administration, offered career advice to those in the mentoring program.

### *WTS Mentoring Program Roster*

Lindsey Alden

*Richard P. Schweitzer, P.L.L.C.*

Susan Perry

*American Public Transportation Association*

Diane Bowman

*American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials*

Rosemary Covington

*District of Columbia Department Of Transportation,  
Mass Transit Division*

Anja Graves

*CHG & Associates*

Art Guzzetti

*American Public Transportation Association*



Laurence Bory  
*HDR Engineering Inc.*  
 Shana Johnson  
*USDOT, Bureau Of Transportation Statistics*  
 Rich Weaver  
*American Public Transportation Association*  
 Erin Morrow  
*AECOM Consult, Inc.*  
 Greer Gillis  
*Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas Inc.*  
 Marlys Osterhues  
*Federal Highway Administration*  
 Regina Mcelroy  
*USDOT, Office Of Transportation Operations,  
 Office Of The Chief Counsel*  
 Melinda Zwolinski  
*National Aviation Services, PBS&J*  
 Melissa J. Loughlin, Ph.D.  
*Airport Improvement Program Branch,  
 Federal Aviation Administration*

### Professional development

In June, about 30 members attended the "Conversation with..." professional development breakfast program at the Hotel Washington. Panelists included: Sallye Perrin, vice president and director of marketing and business development, for Parsons Corporation's Rail and Transit Systems Division; Bea Hicks, chief operations liaison officer for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and, Mariia Zimmerman, vice president of policy for Reconnecting America. Program Moderator Fran Hooper, who is a staff advisor for American Public Transportation Association, encouraged panelists to share their various career experiences on a more personal level with the audience.

The panel discussed what skill sets have worked best for them as they progressed in their careers, how they have balanced personal life and family with busy careers, and they shared some interesting and personal anecdotes. Several audience members participated in the casual conversation format to share some their own stories and advice.

In November, WTS-DC members participated in the Personality Strengths Seminar led by life/career coach Barbara LaRock, M.Ed. "Whatever the circumstances of your life, the more you know about your style and preferences, the more successful your life will be," stated LaRock. "It helps you to learn what kinds of jobs suit you best, more about your interactions with others, why we react the way we do, and

that differences in others are not flaws, but are differences in the way we're "hard wired."

The group's goals for the seminar were: better communications (without sarcasm); professional confidence; management and delegation skills, quick identification and understanding of people's communications skills; life-work balance; self promotion and selling your skills; time management and being better organized. Following a "mini-Jung-Myers-Briggs" type of test designed to heighten self awareness for better self management, the 27 attendees agreed that their goals were met and exceeded.

### PROGRAMS

2006 was a booming year for Chapter programs bringing several top-notch programs 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 all the program planning logistics with the hotels, speakers and sponsors and managed advanced registration and on-site check-in. As part of outreach, attendees' name badges included ribbons that delineated speakers, program sponsors, Board members, and, most importantly, any new members. Additionally, co-chairs prepared short biographies about speakers at each table for reference. Lastly, 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** - FHWA Administrator Rick Capka kicked off the year with a program focused on the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System at the



*FHWA Administrator Rick Capka (right) mingles during the pre-program "Meet and Greet".*

Holiday Inn Capitol. Over 60 attendees heard him also speak to key changes in financing opportunities and the future of solving transportation headaches like gridlock and keeping freight moving in America.

**March** – An overview of the initiatives made in streamlining and coordinating FHWA and FTA intermodal environmental review processes was presented by two Associate Administrators. Cindy Burbank, who was the Chapter’s Woman of the Year, and Brigid Hynes-Cherin each presented their agency’s efforts in this integrated approach to more than 70 attendees at the Hotel Washington.



*Burbank and Hynes-Cherin (above); Bushue (below)*

**April** – Sandra Bushue, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, spoke about several programs and funding challenges facing transit in the U.S. Over 90 attendees at the Hotel Washington heard her predictions for the new SAFETEA-LU legislation.



**May** – The ever-popular Legislative Panel Program was held during breakfast at the Phoenix Park Hotel. Six panelists covered the SAFETEA-LU federal legislation implementation. Committee staff from the House and the Senate, and policy analysts from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, provided lively discussion enjoyed by 60 attendees. See Legislative report for details.



*“Conversation with ...” panelists Sallye Perrin, Mariia Zimmerman, Bea E. Hicks, and Moderator Fran Hooper flank WTS-DC President Jennifer Clinger Mitchell.*

**June** – A special member-only Professional Development Program was held at Hotel Washington. “A Conversation With...” Bea Hicks, Sallye Perrin, Mariia Zimmerman provided the 20 eager attendees insights to success in professional careers with personal anecdotes and shared advice. See Professional Development report for details.

**July** – Several “firsts” occurred during the welcoming luncheon for the incoming head of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Matthew Tucker. This popular program was co-hosted with the Washington, DC chapter of ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers). Over 110 people attended at Tucker’s first public speaking engagement since taking the role with VDRPT. In an effort to engage members outside the DC city center, the program venue, Embassy Suites, was a Metro-accessible venue in Alexandria, Va.



*Matthew Tucker*

**August** – A limited-space, member-only event Tour of the Port of Baltimore took place on a Saturday morning on the boat “M.V. Mary Lynn”. Ron Burns from the Maryland Port Administration narrated the picture-perfect tour of the port for 15 WTS members.

**September** – The Diversity Program was arranged by the WTS-DC Diversity Committee. The former U.S. DOT Secretary Rodney Slater spoke of many personal experiences to an audience of nearly 70 at the Hotel Washington. The DC Chapter of COMTO hosted a table at this program for its members and guests; also, several Howard University students attended.



*Tour in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor included a water-side glimpse of Port of Baltimore operations (in background).*



*Above - October Freight Panelists: Craig Rockey (left); Joni Casey (center); and, Tim Lynch (right).*

*Below - November Speakers Melinda Peters (left) and Trent Kittleman (right).*



**October** – The Chapter wanted to give freight transportation a voice! Over 70 attendees heard an engaging panel of distinguished experts from major modal associations. The panel consisted of: Joni Casey, Intermodal Association of America, Tim Lynch, American Trucking Associations, and Craig Rockey, American Association of Railroads. They discussed a variety of issues facing the movement of freight in the nation – particularly ways the various modes can work together to keep things moving.

**November** – For the next program, it was time to hear about a local “mega project”. Melinda Peters of the Maryland State Highway Administration offered ‘nuts and bolts’ of the alignment chosen for the InterCounty Connector while Trent Kittleman, Executive Director of the Maryland Toll Authority, provided some of the financial overviews and some high-tech toll collecting concepts under consideration. More than 50 people attended the luncheon at the J.W. Marriott; COMTO again hosted another table for its DC Chapter members and guests.

## RECOGNITIONS

In the fall of 2006, the WTS-DC Recognitions chair solicited nominations for the 2006 Chapter recogni-

tions awards. We placed articles and reminders in the Chapter newsletter, made announcements and utilized our blast communications technology to get the word out about recognitions and 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 categories – Woman of the Year, Member of the Year, Employer of the Year, and the Diversity Leadership Award – and the Chapter was able to honor award recipients in each of these categories. The nominations were then reviewed and evaluated by the Chapter Board, who selected the award winners.

### *Diversity Leadership Award*

Each year, WTS-DC recognizes an individual or organization that has exhibited outstanding efforts in developing opportunities for women and minorities. This year the 2006 Diversity Leadership Award was presented to Bea Hicks, Chief Operations Liaison of WMATA. Bea has over 25 years in the transit industry, including previous stints with the Chicago Transit Authority and SEPTA in Philadelphia. Bea has been a member of WTS for the entire length of her transportation career. She is well known and respected among her colleagues and peers in the industry. She is a long time supporter of WTS and actively promotes membership among her colleagues, and has been an active contributor to our mentoring program. She was also a speaker at a professional development program earlier this year in which she shared her insights on climbing the ladder of success and achieving a successful work-life balance.

### *Employer of the Year*

This award honors public or private sector organizations that demonstrate their support the goals and the purposes of WTS. The Employer of the Year Award is presented to a company that enhances the transportation industry through its commitment to quality, has an outstanding record of affirmative action, and supports the continuing education of its employees. This year’s Employer of the Years is HDR Engineering, Inc. HDR, is an employee owned company, that respects and nurtures its employees. Their corporate mission statement is to be a superior professional development firm known for its vision, value and service to its clients. The firm invests heavily in its employees and the community, has supported many programs promoting diversity and leadership, and has been an active corporate supporter of WTS at the chapter and international level.

## Member of the Year

This award is our opportunity to acknowledge a WTS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization. This member shows extraordinary commitment to the growth of WTS within the transportation industry, has worked effectively to strengthen communication between local and national WTS levels or among chapters, and has done an outstanding job of revitalizing or expanding our chapter or any of its functions. This year the award was given to Christie Dawson of APTA. Christie is truly one of the industry's emerging leaders, and in 2006 she was elected President of the DC Chapter of Council of Minority Transportation Officials. COMTO's mission is to support the advancement of minorities in transportation. Christie has actively supported WTS's mission by bringing together members from WTS and COMTO at our respective events. Christie is a graduate of the WTS mentoring program, has served as programs committee co-chair, and has been a member since 2001.

## Woman of the Year

Every year, WTS recognizes a woman that is an outstanding role model within transportation. This woman raises the visibility of WTS nationally as well as locally, and has advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation through her career achievements and support of women in the industry.

This year's winner is Cindy Burbank, who recently retired from her post as Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment and Realty, after 30 years with the US Department of Transportation. This was the second time WTS-DC has awarded Cindy with Woman of the Year; she received it in 2001. She also received the Member of the Year in 1987 and 1985. Cindy was a founding member of WTS, and has actively supported WTS continuously for 30 years at the chapter and national level in various leadership capacities. She continually supports the professional development of women and men in the industry and served as a mentor and advisor to WTS-DC's mentoring program. This year she was a speaker at a program highlighting changes to FHWA's planning policies and programs.

## SCHOLARSHIP

This year the Chapter mailed out informational flyers to the various colleges and universities in and around the Washington, DC metropolitan area to invite students to apply for the WTS various scholar-



*2006 Award Winners and Scholarship Recipients (left to right): Employer of the Year Jay Campbell (HDR Engineering); Woman of the Year Cindy Burbank (FHWA); WTS-DC President Jennifer Clinger-Mitchell; Member of the Year Christie Dawson (APTA); Diversity Leadership Award Bea E. Hicks (WMATA); Undergraduate Scholarship Samantha Williams (Howard Univ.); Graduate Scholarships Elham Esfahani (George Washington Univ.) and Ying Liu (Univ. of Maryland)*

ships. 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 15 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.

The pool of applicants was first-rate with students studying both traditional transportation modes through engineering and planning departments as well as transportation supply chain through business departments. The Board was fortunate to have six viable applicants from undergraduate programs and nine from graduate programs. This year one undergraduate and two graduate scholarships were awarded. For details, please see the Holiday Party report on page 14.

Elham Esfahani, from George Washington University was one of the graduate winners for 2006. She is a doctor of science student at GWU studying civil engineering and transportation safety. Esfahani holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering/ solid mechan-

ics from the University of Technology, Iran, and a M.S. in mechanical engineering/biomechanics from Shariff University, Iran.

Ying Liu, the other graduate winner, is a doctor of philosophy student at the University of Maryland studying transportation engineering. Liu has B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Tsinghua University in China.

Samantha Williams of Howard University was the winner of the undergraduate scholarship for 2006. Samantha is a Bachelor of Science student studying civil engineering with a focus on intelligent transportation systems and traffic operations management.



*Jay Campbell considers a bid as he looks over the auction items.*

All three winners attended the Holiday Party. During the Awards Ceremony, they were acknowledged and presented with their scholarship checks. Attending the party provided them a unique opportunity to net-

work with well over 100 attendees from various private and public sector positions in the area. In conjunction with the Holiday Party, the Chapter hosted another Silent Auction - the proceeds of which go directly to the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund. In 2006, \$3000 was raised the Silent Auction and about \$4200 was raised from direct contributions.



*WTS-DC Vice President Leigh Merino, WTS Int'l Operations Director Margaret Mullins, WTS-DC Secretary Shirley LeBeau, and WTS Int'l Executive Director Diane James*



*James Simpson, Administrator for Federal Transit Administration and USDOT Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration Linda Washington chat with Holiday Party attendees.*

## 2007 HOLIDAY PARTY, ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY AND SILENT AUCTION

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party, Awards Ceremony & Silent Auction was held on December 7 at the City Club at Franklin Square in Washington, DC. Over 120 WTS 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 is 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.) USDOT Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration Linda J. Washington, was the keynote speaker and awards presenter. The award recipients make outstanding contributions and provide generous support to WTS in a variety of ways. They are leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors who help WTS-DC continue to provide benefits to our members. In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized three graduate and undergraduate students as recipients of WTS-DC scholarship endowments. (See the Scholarship report for details).



*Keynote Speaker Linda Washington*



*WTS-DC Holiday Party Planning Committee Co-Chair Sara Wilson (right) joins with her WMATA colleagues and committee volunteers who helped make this event a success.*

This year we were fortunate to have the support of major sponsorship contributions from the following companies:

**Silver Sponsors**

- Ammann & Whitney
- PBS&J
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Raytheon
- Washington Group International

**Bronze Sponsors**

- American Bus Association
- American Public Transportation Association
- American Road and Transportation Builders Association
- DMJM+Harris
- Dulles Transit Partners, LLC
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

**In-Kind Contributions**

- Dewberry
- Rubber Manufacturers Association



*ABOVE:  
One of several auction tables for guests to peruse and make their bids.*

*RIGHT:  
WTS-DC Scholarship Co-Chair Odessa Phillip is pleased to witness Amy Polk depositing a direct donation check to the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund from Cairo Corp. Cairo Corp is a WTS-DC Corporate Member.*



The ever-popular Silent Auction celebrated its fourth consecutive year as part of the annual holiday party. As reported in the Scholarship report, about \$7,200 was raised for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. WTS-DC would like to recognize contributions of gifts and direct monetary donations from the following organizations and individuals:

- American Trucking Associations, Inc.
- Amtrak
- Bechtel Foundation
- Cairo Corp
- Custom Celebrations by Tia
- DC Self Defense Karate Association
- Dewberry
- DMJM+Harris
- Fran Hooper Consulting, LLC
- Hatch Mott McDonald
- HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Operation Lifesaver, Inc.
- Virginia Railway Express
- Washington Area Bicyclists Association
- Margaret Ballard
- Laurie Baulig
- Jeanine Black
- Sally Buckley
- Lora Byala
- Jay Campbell
- Jennifer Clinger Mitchell
- Cathy Connor
- Christie Dawson
- Elaine Dezenski and Josh Sawisliak
- Mort Downey
- Kay Drucker
- Ron Ewing
- Tom Flournoy
- Bea Hicks
- Sally Hill Cooper
- Michele Holland
- Tonya Holland
- Louise Tobi Kester
- Linda Lasley
- Linda Lawson
- Shirley LeBeau
- Rebecca Leonard

*Donor List Continued >>*

*Donor List Continued >>*

Erin McLaughlin  
Leigh Merino  
Beth Newman  
Melinda Pagliarello  
Odessa Phillip  
Laurie Radow  
Jamie Rennert  
Jim Simpson  
Laura Trejo  
Molly Wagner  
Norine Walker  
Sara Wilson  
Felicia Young

Furthermore, we especially thank everyone that bid on all of the wonderful auction items. Because of your support, we were able to raise funds for future scholarships that we award to deserving female students in transportation-related disciplines at area universities and colleges. Special recognition goes to our highly motivated Silent Auction Task Group Chairs, Leigh Merino and Odessa Phillip.



*Current WTS-DC President Jennifer Clinger Mitchell introduces 2006 graduate scholarship recipient Elham Esfahani to WTS-DC Past President Jeanette Kramer*



# Treasurer's Report

## SUMMARY REPORT

	2-Jan-06	1-Jan-07
<b>Cash Balance:</b>	\$19,709.35	\$35,314.15
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
<b>Cash Reserve Acct</b>	\$26,806.62	\$27,964.40
<b>Accounts Recievable</b>	\$4,375.00	\$1,550.00
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	\$7,024.99	\$475.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$43,865.98	\$64,353.55

## DETAILED REPORT

<b>Income:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Membership Dues	\$11,595.00
Program Meetings	\$15,278.20
Newsletter	\$0.00
Scholarship	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00
Corporate Memberships	\$14,000.00
2006 Holiday Party	\$5,042.50
Other Corporate Sponsorships	\$11,250.00
Interest (Investments)	\$1,447.35
Unrealized Gain	\$1,550.00
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,163.05</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	
Program Meetings	\$23,167.76
Newsletter	\$0.00
Scholarship Expenses	\$0.00
Administrative (other direct costs)	\$1,962.22
Blast Communications	\$1,188.20
Bank Fees	\$0.00
Recognitions	\$540.25
Professional Development	\$772.75
Mentoring Initiative	\$368.72
Membership Expenses	\$595.00
2006 Holiday Party	\$11,042.01
Other (unrealized loss)	\$38.57
<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,675.48</b>

Quality Programs



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*Advancing Women in Transportation*

Washington, DC Chapter

P.O. Box 23314

Washington, DC 20026

[www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)