



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Central Florida

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

President's Message

Hello Central Florida Transportation – We are in election season! If you are a member in good standing of the Central Florida chapter, you should have an email distributed by Constant Contact to vote by October 19 (Tuesday). If you have not received the email with the link to the ballot, please contact Courtney Reynolds at careynolds@vhb.com.

This newsletter also has information on upcoming events to finish the year including:

- **Bike 5 Cities** - WTSCFL will reimburse Central Florida chapter members who participate -let us know at WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com if you want to participate.
- **Year End Social** – WTSCFL will host chapter member plus one guest for cocktails and light appetizers at Mai Thai (22 E. Pine Street) followed by a night at the Improve at SAK Comedy Club located across the street (29 S. Orange Avenue). Registration will be available soon!

Also, I hope you will look at the highlights from our recent events including the fabulous banquet on September 30th! My thanks to Banquet Chair, **Barbi Stiles** for her leadership in planning this event. Everything went so smoothly, and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone in person!

Finally, as we transition from Constant Contact into the new WTS International tools, I learned WTS International staff are noticing several of our Corporate member are not receiving WTS emails. This year it appears many firms have set up stronger firewalls that are not allowing some (but not all) of WTS emails to get through. While WTS cannot solve the technical barrier on the recipient end, they are looking into the back end to see if anything can be done. In the interim, we are currently encouraging all IT Departments to add WTS to their "whitelists" (their terminology) and allow WTS emails through. If you have a personal email account, that may be another option to improve email delivery. Please let me know if you have feedback we can provide to WTS International for the new system and I hope to see you soon.

As always, thanks to our sponsors and stay safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Amy'.

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Thank you for your continued support!



Upcoming Events

WTSCFL Members – Lets start Mobility Week with BIKE 5 CITIES!

Bike/Walk Central Florida to work with the five cities on prioritizing improvements to connect the entire 28-mile bike-friendly route, branded as Bike 5 Cities – Orlando, Winter Park, Maitand, Eatonville and Casselberry. Also, there is a 5-mile family friendly ride option!

- What: The 5th Annual Bike 5 Cities
- Who: Riders of any age and bicycling ability - It's tailored to anyone wanting to learn where to feel comfortable and safe riding their bike.
- When: Saturday, October 30, 2021 starting at 7:00 am.
- Where: Registered riders can choose to start at any one of the five cities or family site

WTSCFL will reimburse Central Florida chapter members who participate – you will need to register yourself and submit payment receipt and picture of your participation for use in our annual report! Email WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com by Friday October 22 so we can provide the reimbursement information!

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION PAGE OR USE URL: <https://bikewalkcentralflorida.org/bike5cities/>



Holiday Social Friday Dec. 3 - WTSCFL Members-only!

Join us for Happy Hour and a Comedy Show in Downtown Orlando.. This is a chapter member only event for you and one guest. The event will include cocktails and light appetizers starting from 6 to 7:15pm at Mai Thai (22 E. Pine Street) followed by a night at the Improve at SAK Comedy Club located across the street (29 S. Orange Avenue).

Here is the website for SAK:
<https://www.sakcomedy.com/>

Please plan to arrive at Mai Thai by 7 PM to receive your ticket to the comedy show. We ask that you register by November 19 so we can reserve tickets!

While this event is free for Central Florida chapter members plus one guest, your registration is a commitment to attend. Members will be invoiced \$50 per person for no shows. We understand that life happens, so let us know by November 26 that you are unable to attend to avoid being charged. Otherwise, please find another member who is able to attend.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

- 10/20 (Wednesday): October Board Meeting - contact WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com to attend
- 11/13 (Saturday): Board Retreat at GPI

Recent Activities

WTS Central Florida hosts 24th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

WTS Central Florida welcomed over 170 attendees at Sea World's Port of Call ballroom for its 24th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on September 30. Special thanks to Banquet Chair, **Barbi Stiles** and the entire banquet committee for another successful event.

Banquet guests enjoyed a unique experience with special guests from several Sea World residents, including a majestic bald eagle and surprisingly charismatic sloth, during the networking cocktail hour.

The highlight of the evening included recognizing scholarship recipients and award winners, before an inspiring and motivational keynote speech from **Loreen Bobo**, Safety Administrator for FDOT's District 5. During her keynote, Loreen shared what motivates her in role, while challenging each of us to continue the work toward making Florida's roads safer for all.

Thank you to our chapter's Scholarship Chairs, **Sherry Ann Tulloch** and **Francina Gill**, along with our Recognitions Chairs, **Courtney Reynolds** and **Kelly Eger-Smith** for leading this year's scholarship and awards process. More information for the scholarship and award recipients listed below at: [WTSCFL - Fantastic Annual Banquet | WTS \(wtsinternational.org\)](https://www.wtsinternational.org)

2021 Frankee Hellinger Memorial Scholarship Recipients

- **Agathe Emeran, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** | Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
- **Samantha Kusters, University of Florida** | Leadership Undergraduate Scholarship
- **Elisabeth McKinley Staten, University of Florida** | Memorial Graduate Scholarship
- **Jady Chen, University of Central Florida** | Leadership Graduate Scholarship

2021 WTS Central Florida Award Recipients

- **Kelda Senior, APR** | Member of the Year
- **Kelly Hogan Morphy** | Citizen Transportation Advocate of the Year
- **Stacey Russell, CDP** | Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award
- **Orange County Code Amendments for Pedestrian Safety and ADA Compliance** | Innovative Transportation Solutions Award
- **Don Hammack (Dewberry)** | **Honorable Ray LaHood Award**
- **Nancy Clements, PE (WGI)** | **Woman of the Year**
- **WGI, Inc.** | **Employer of the Year**

We appreciate everyone attending and want to make sure we recognize our event sponsors!

Thank you to our Event Sponsors

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Q4 Program - Future Ready Florida

The fourth quarter WTS Central Florida chapter program was a members-only event onsite at Beep in Lake Nona. This innovative and thought-provoking program was based on the question... *How do we position for a Future Ready Florida?*

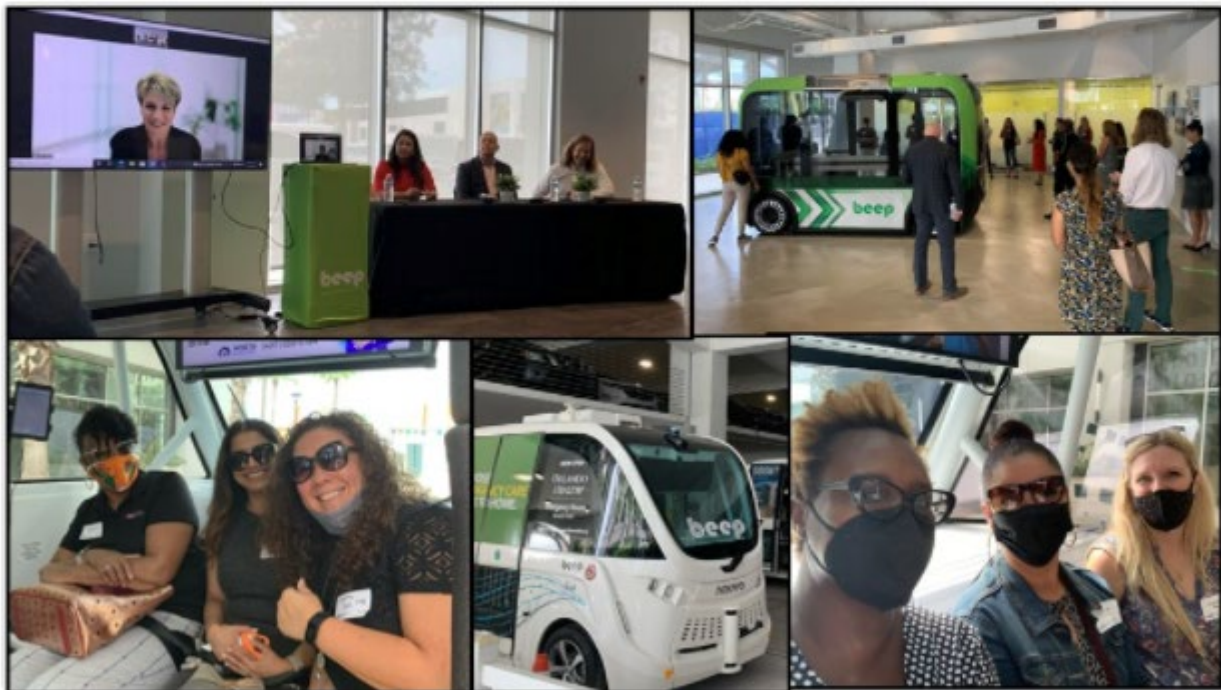
Racquel Asa (Chief Marketing Officer for Beep), **Ralph Ireland** (VP of Development Operations at Tavistock), **Matthew Broffman** (Senior Manager of Public Policy at Liliium), and **Beth Kigel** (VP of Intelligent Transportation and Emerging Mobility Solutions at HNTB and Chair of Autonomous Florida) served as our dynamic panelists whose synergy was felt by everyone in the room.

Kelda Senior (WTSCFL) was the moderator and members in attendance were inspired by the messages including:

- Don't just plan for what's allowed now... imagination is key, aim for the moon and shoot for the stars.
- Lean into the future, embrace what could be, and don't sit back and wait for innovation to occur be a part of it now.

We look forward to continuing this conversation.

A special thanks to the Beep team for their amazing hospitality! After the tour and panel discussion, the 30 attendees were able to ride the Lake Nona autonomous shuttle — outstanding end to an informative event!



General Membership Meeting and Happy Hour

On August 12, a dozen or so members met-up at the Twisted Handel on Mills Avenue to catch up while having the general membership meeting. It was great to catch-up with old friends and make some new ones in a casual setting. At first, we weren't quite sure how to behave around other people, but after a drink and some appetizers, we realized how much fun it was to connect with each other in person! Instead of a power point like in years past, we had a brief welcome with displays to show the 2021 activities to date and upcoming events.



Bylaws Meeting

WTSCFL Membership approved Chapter Bylaws at a meeting on September 15, 2021. The meeting consisted of 33 members, which provided quorum defined as 1/5 of the members in good standing for the chapter. The members in good standing as of 9/15/21 was 131. Click on "Approved Bylaws" link below for a PDF of the approved document. The key differences are term of office changed from two (2) years to one (1) year and modifications for consistency.

APPROVED BYLAWS

Membership

Welcome to New (and Returning) Members

- Elizabeth Antin – WSP USA
- Loreen Bobo – FDOT
- Shannon Bonilla - Dewberry
- Lori Cox – LW Survey Company
- Leilani Farrell – Esciences
- Jennifer Ferngren - ESciences
- Mital Hall - EcoPreserve
- Nicole Jeffers – RS&H
- Tanya Schmidt – TransGraphics Consulting

CHECK OUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO WTS MEMBERS

[Home - MyWTS Communities \(wtsinternational.org\)](https://www.wtsinternational.org)

Informal Meetups – September Bike Ride

The **Fancy Women Bike Ride** was born in 2013 in Izmir (Turkey) to demand that cities create a welcoming space for women to cycle and interact with the city. This event is now held in over 120 cities throughout the world. While we had planned to make the trip to Tampa on Sunday September 19 to join the fancy women there, inclement weather had other ideas. We instead stuck to our local trails, riding about 20-miles interspersed with mimosas and proof that fancy women can tackle anything, with Courtney getting greasy fixing the bike chain on Kathrin's bike. Our tutus put smiles on so many people's faces and are a must for any future bike ride! We are thinking of planning a formal Fancy Women ride in Orlando – let us know if you are interested in helping to champion that event.



FANCY LADIES BIKE RIDE PARTICIPANTS COURTNEY REYNOLDS, STACEY RUSSELL, AND KATHRIN TELLEZ

Bonus Member Benefit for SMPS Program: Reshaping Central Florida's Transportation Landscape

SMPS invited WTSCFL to enjoy member rates for the 2021 transportation program on Friday, August 20 at the Orlando International Airport Intermodal Facility. They keynote address by Mayor Jerry Demings identified the importance of transportation funding and the link to affordable housing and jobs in Orange County. A panel discussion followed moderated by the Executive Director of MetroPlan Orlando Gary Huttman, AICP. The panel of Central Florida Transportation Leaders included:

- Christine Kefauver - Brightline Senior VP of Corporate Development
- Jared Perdue, PE - FDOT District 5 Secretary
- Tawny Olore, PE - Osceola County Transportation and Transit Executive Director
- Davin Ruohomaki – GOAASenior Director of Engineering and Construction
- Glenn Pressimone, PE – CFX Chief of Infrastructure
- Mary Moskowitz, AICP - Seminole County Planning and Development Division Manager

This dynamic discussion of the future of regional transportation showed the variety of project needs and concern for improved safety. Attendees also had the opportunity to see the progress on track construction and discuss the plans for the terminal and service with Brightline staff. Service expected in 2022!



Join WTS

We would love to have you join us! Please use the following code: "ONEWTS2021" in October to receive 10% OFF new membership or for members rejoining after becoming inactive (4 months past renewal date or greater). To start your membership with WTS, go to our website using the QR code or URL below.

SCAN QR CODE OR USE URL:

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/central-florida>



**CLICK ON JOIN WTS BUTTON
(UPPER RIGHT CORNER)**



Follow us on Social Media

Stay connected with all things WTS Central Florida by following us on social media. Be sure to use the hashtag #WTSCFL in any of your chapter-related posts! We love to see and share your WTS content.

Here are the links if you need them:

- WTSCFL Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/wtscentralflorida>
- WTSCFL Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/55161918824>
- WTSCFL Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wtscentralflorida/>
- WTSCFL Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wtscentralfla>
- WTSCFL LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wtschl/>