



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Greater New York Chapter



*Issue: 31*

February 2018

2017 - 2018  
CORPORATE  
PARTNERS

### Upcoming Events!

#### February 2018

**Tuesday, February 13:**

**NJ Winter Networking Event, Manu's, Newark**

Market Yourself in the Year-End Review

Click [here](#) for more information

**Friday, February 16:**

**Mentoring Program Application Deadline**

Click [here](#) for more information

**Tuesday, February 20:**

**Emerging Women Leaders Training Series**

Speak Up and Lead

Click [here](#) for more information

**Wednesday, February 21:**

**Mentoring Program Selection Notification**

#### March 2018

**Tuesday, March 13:**

**Young Professionals Volunteer Event**

Recycle a Bicycle

Click [here](#) for more information

**Thursday, March 29:**

Diamond



**AECOM**

**ARUP**



**GPI**

**HDR**

**HNTB**

## Scholarship Fundraiser

An Evening of Wine and Beer Tasting and Conversation

Click [here](#) for more information

### WTS-GNY Wants You!

We want your pictures, your comments, and your ideas about WTS meetings you've attended. Stay connected between events by following us and posting on WTS-GNY's social media sites. Tag your posts with @WTSGNY on LinkedIn and Twitter and #WTSGNY on Facebook.

Visit us here:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

**We're not on your favorite platform yet?  
We're open to suggestions!!**

### Volunteers Wanted and Appreciated!

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to write content for the Chapter Newsletter and social media sites, as well as design new templates for chapter emails and our website. We also are eager for help in brainstorming new ideas for reaching out to our membership. We're especially interested in adding some marketing experts to our team!

The chapter's board secretary is looking for help with building up our chapter historical database. It's a fairly open-ended task, depending on what you're interested in! Some ideas: analyze our past event attendance to improve our programming or reach out to previous boards and committee chairs for #tbt photos.

Don't see anything of interest above, but want to help? Email our volunteer champion, [Julia Kerson](#), to find a committee that's right for you!

### Annual Dinner

By Adrienne Zicklin Kanter, Editor

**JACOBS**

**PARSONS**



**Ruby**



**CUBIC**  
Transportation Systems



**Emerald**



**LTK**  
LTK Engineering Services

**Sam  
Schwartz  
Consulting,  
LLC**

**Sapphire**



WTS GNY hosted its annual meeting on January 25th at Club 101. As Polina Knaster (HDR), outgoing WTS GNY President, remarked about the W/M/S/DBE Expo that kicked off the evening, it was a "little tight, but cozy." In fact, with just about 275 people in attendance, the dining room also was filled with energy.

The dinner program, as always, began with welcoming remarks from the president, followed by the awards presentation and then words from the keynote speaker. Ms. Knaster warmly greeted everyone, thanked the chapter's corporate sponsors and outgoing board, and then introduced the chapter's incoming president, Alexa Gangemi (CH2M), as well as the rest of the incoming board; Vice President for NY, Keri Cibelli (AKRF); Vice President for NJ, Zenobia Fields (NJTPA); Secretary, Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig); Treasurer, Sheriza Majid (VHB); and Directors-at-Large; Julie D'Orazio (AECOM); Kim Haas (Haas Media, LLC); Portia Henry (PANYNJ); Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA); Julia Kerson (City of New York); and Beth Zall (WSP USA).

There were four awards that were distributed. Ms. Knaster presented Beth DeAngelo (WSP USA), WTS GNY Past President and WTS International Advisory Board Member, with the Member of the Year Award. Nina Harvey of Arup, last year's Employer of the Year, presented the award to Ileana S. Ivanciu on behalf of Dewberry, this year's winner. The Innovative Transportation Solutions Award was presented by NYC DOT Chief of Staff Emily Gallo, to the LIRR Flushing Main Street ADA Station Improvements project team, led by Poonam Punj, and including Paul Dietlin, Andrew Wilson, Yonelle Baptiste, Todd Colabella, as well as Dewberry and Forte Construction Corp. Through the acquisition of a contiguous building lot, the team was able to achieve far greater efficiency at a lower cost, on a shorter schedule, and with a far more successful outcome than an original plan to provide ADA access to LIRR passengers involving a new building at a distance from the original station and which would have required the construction of a three-story overpass.

Flora Castillo, New Jersey Transit Board Member and United Healthcare Vice President of Transportation, was presented with the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award by Denise Berger, Assistant Chief Engineer/Operations for PANYNJ, for her work as a champion of women and minorities. In her role as an NJT Board member, Ms. Castillo has facilitated the agency's having meaningfully improved and sustained a successful relationship with communities of color and increased dollars awarded to small, minority, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises. Through her unyielding support, she also has successfully provided a platform for minority and mobility-impaired communities to advocate for their receiving equal access to public transit.

Patrick Foye, who became president of MTA in August 2017, was the keynote speaker. He opened his remarks by applauding the important work of the Flushing Main Street ADA Station Improvements project team and then praised many MTA and other NY region transportation leaders in attendance: Andy Byford, the





new NYCT president whom he referred to as a "rock star," a term he asserts to using "advisedly;" Ronnie Hakim, now managing director of MTA; Pat Nowakowski, LIRR President; Anita Miller, MTA Chief of Employee Relations; Veronica Vanderpool, MTA Board Member; Diannae Ehler, PANYNJ Director of Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals; and Denise Berger, Assistant Chief Engineer, PANYNJ and former colleague.

This is the "golden age of infrastructural renewal, at least in this part of the country," Mr. Foye declared, and then supported that statement by reeling off a list of major projects in the NYC region, including the development of Moynihan Station, the Javits Center expansion, the redevelopment of LaGuardia and JFK Airports, the construction of Phase I of the Second Avenue Subway, the construction of a third track on LIRR's main line, the development of East Side Access, the raising of the Bayonne Bridge, and replacement of the Goethals Bridge. He concluded the catalogue by expressing hope that the Gateway project, a plan to build new bridges and tunnels between New Jersey and New York, will soon be added to it.

Mr. Foye went on to focus on the governor's announcing a state of emergency for the subway system back in July and the Subway Action Plan in response, a roadmap for returning the system to a state of good repair, highlighting the 38 percent reduction in mean distance between failures already since then. He then briefly touched on the importance of a variety of topics related to returning the system to good condition. These included the New York State Budget, "usually dull, but something important to talk about with this crowd because of the introduction of "value capture." Value capture is an initiative to create a transportation improvement district in which the State can recoup the difference created by increased taxes from newly introduced transportation services like the Second Avenue Subway.

He also emphasized the urgency of Governor Cuomo's Fix NY proposal, the congestion pricing plan that charges drivers who enter Manhattan 60th Street and south, saying that the "prosperity of this region depends on the subway," since, in part, the money collected will fund subway maintenance. Mr. Foye also talked about the need for disruption and innovation as well as that for public-private partnerships.

His presentation ended with two questions, the first by Ronnie Hakim who asked what he could tell everyone about all the focus on run-away MTA construction costs. Mr. Foye reported that there were multiple task forces charged with addressing those issues as well as other sources of costs that seem high like paratransit. He went on to comment that he doesn't believe that making statutory changes is necessary, but that those in charge need to be "smarter, tougher and need to take advantage of private sector innovations. The second question was about the MTA Genius Grant Challenge which Mr. Foye enthusiastically responded to by remarking on its huge success in identifying both shorter and longer-term solutions to a variety of issues at MTA agencies. He then urged the crowd to a read a New



York Times article about one suggestion-maker, a lawyer who was a finalist in the contest:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/14/nyregion/subway-genius-challenge-finalist.html>

## 2017 Mentoring Program Graduation

By Sarah Steib, Mentoring Committee Chair

On Monday, January 22nd 2018, the WTS-GNY Mentoring Program graduated 10 apprentices from its program. It was a wonderful evening and culmination to the yearlong program that helps women in transportation assess and advance in their careers through one-on-one professional guidance from leaders in the transportation community. Apprentices, who have at least 5 years of professional experience, were matched with mentors and the pair worked together over the past year. Each mentor and apprentice pair met independently to discuss career goals and development. We also met as a program group once a month to develop professional skills and learn from diverse speakers and each other.

For our graduation, we invited WTS-GNY 2017 Woman of the Year, Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director of NJTPA, to participate in one-on-one conversations with our mentors/apprentices. She provided great insight and a valuable strategy to help us function when we feel overwhelmed. When we just don't have the resources to manage, Mary gifted each of us with a small box in which to put our emotions when work is too much and we need to focus on home; and vice versa. Many thanks to her and to our mentors who put in an amazing amount of work over the year to help their apprentices advance in their careers.

Please join in congratulating our graduated apprentices and thanking our talented mentors who volunteered their time throughout the year.



**Apprentice**

Anne Sinagra, NJTA  
Mallory Spagnoli, Jacobs  
Maddalena Romano, NYCDOT  
Daniella Zellers, WSP  
Rachel Cohen, NYC TLC  
Lisa Santoro, LTK  
Valerie Spies, PANYNJ  
Kat Lawrence, NYCT  
Heather Reiners, Westchester  
County  
Caitlin Glass, VHB

**Mentor**

Maria Grazia Bruschi, Parsons  
Mary Ameen, NJTPA  
Lois Goldman, NJTPA  
Tammy Petsois, VHB  
Patricia Lodge, NYCT  
Deb Moolin, WSP  
Lisa Schreiberman, NYCT  
Wendy Ho, AKRF  
Toby Kizner, AMCL  
Eve Michel, MTACC

**Have exciting content  
for the March WTS-GNY Chapter News?**

**Email us by 2/23/2018  
[wtsigny@gmail.com](mailto:wtsigny@gmail.com)**

***Did your email address change?***

If your email or mailing address has changed, log into [the WTS website](#) and update your information in the "My Account" page.

Communications committee  
WTS-GNY