



Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter



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November 2018

November 2018

The Future of Midtown: The Cross-Section of Rezoning, Real Estate, and Transportation

November 5th, 2018, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Midtown Manhattan landscape is constantly changing, but do you ever wonder how some of those large-scale redevelopment projects came to be? Part of the story can be answered by examining the connections between city planning, transportation, community development, and the real estate sector and how each are vital to Midtown Manhattan's future development. Come discuss this "Trending Topic" with fellow Young Professionals as you listen to and meet with those involved in shaping the future of Midtown.

Register [here!](#)

Fall Dinner Program. Tappan Zee Bridge: The Women Who Made it Happen

November 19th, 2018, 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Please join WTS-GNY for our Fall Dinner Program on The Tappan Zee Bridge Project: The Women Who Made it Happen. The program will highlight the roles of some of the extraordinary women who contributed to the construction of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. The panel will discuss the complex delivery of this design-build project and lessons learned.

Register [here!](#)

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December 2018

Emerging Women Leaders On-Site Training Series - 7 Steps to Becoming a Thought Leader

December 4th, 2018, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

In this webinar, learn how to identify your niche, express your expertise in ways that fit your personal style, and become a sought-after expert. You'll walk away with a practical plan to share your passion and build your personal brand at the same time. Speakers to be announced.

Register [here!](#)

Please check [our website](#) for event updates.

Monthly Discussion Topic: Behavioral based Incentives

Often transit agencies and programs use behavioral and incentive based initiatives in transportation planning for example awards, recognition based on performances of services. What do you think about those? Do you know of any successful programs? #transportation #incentivebasedplanning

Each month in the Chapter News, we will introduce a discussion topic. If you have an idea for a December topic, please let us know. We want to hear from you!!

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[LinkedIn Page](#) and [Discussion Group](#)

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

Transportation You

Transportation YOU, New Jersey was delighted to host its annual *Kick-off: Hear From the Professionals* event on September 27th at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) offices.

Ten high school girls, accompanied by their parents and teachers as well as mentors and WTS members, attended the event to inaugurate this year's New Jersey Transportation YOU program. The event began

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with remarks by NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen, who welcomed the students and emphasized the importance of such a mentoring program.

Her remarks were followed by a presentation in which Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, co-chair of New Jersey Transportation YOU, highlighted the activities the girls can participate in during the academic year, including a light rail tour, a Newark Airport tour, and a professional development seminar. The program also offers the girls an opportunity to accompany their mentors during the workday on *Shadow the Mentor Day* and the possibility for one selected applicant to attend the *Annual Transportation YOU DC Youth Summit* in Washington DC. Another function of the program is to coach and help the young women as they navigate the application process for various summer internships and the WTS scholarship.

After Ms. Bandyopadhyay's presentation, the students participated in a roundtable discussion with special guests Mary K. Murphy, director of Planning and Regional Development, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Flora Castillo, president of Pivot Strategies, who both shared their own stories and career paths. Ms Murphy and Ms. Castillo also encouraged the girls to consider the transportation sector as a career, which for many young females in technical disciplines, is quite literally "the road less traveled."



About Transportation YOU

Transportation YOU is a hands-on, interactive mentoring program that offers girls an introduction to a wide variety of careers in the transportation industry. The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation, introduced the program to the New York and New Jersey area. The program consists of regularly scheduled events and activities aimed at sparking the interest of young women in all modes of transportation and encouraging them to take courses in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the stepping



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stones to an exciting career in transportation. To learn more about the program, please visit www.transportationyou.org.

WTS Membership Survey

WTS-GNY Membership Survey: Complete for your chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card

WTS Great New York Chapter is conducting a series of surveys to give us insights in how we as an organization can better serve our members as well as the transportation industry as a whole. This is the first survey in the series. We value your opinion. Everyone who completes the survey on or before November 19th, 2018, will have a chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. The survey takes around 5-10 minutes to complete.

Take the Survey!

Thanks for your participation

WTS GNY 2018 Gala

By Adrienne Zicklin Kanter

WTS-GNY once again hosted their Annual Gala on a beautiful October evening to a sell-out crowd of almost 400. After mingling on the patio of the Battery Gardens Restaurant in Lower Manhattan, attendees headed upstairs for the formal presentation where WTS-GNY President Alexa Gangemi offered welcoming remarks. Special Guest Host Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, also spoke.

Lysa Scully, general manager of LaGuardia Airport, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey - the airport's CEO - introduced this year's eight winners of the scholarship awards, which amounted to over \$20,000, including:

- TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship - Jessica Murray
- Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship - Anna Stokes
- Susan Miszkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship - Emily Raque
- Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates - Hio Juan "Elsa" Kong
- Susan L. Kupferman Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship - Huan Ying Zhang
- Junior College/Trade School Scholarship - Tyra Brown
- Transportation YOU High School Scholarship - Savita Angira
- Leadership Legacy Award - Sofia Perez-Guzman



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Cathy Rinaldi, 2018 WTS-GNY Woman of the Year, was introduced by Ronnie Hakim, managing director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Ms. Rinaldi, who has served as president of MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR) since February 21st of this year, inaugurated her career at MTA in 2003 as the agency's deputy executive director and general counsel. In 2011, she was named MTA chief of staff. Prior to that, she had served as vice president and general counsel at the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). Having initiated a lunch and learn program as well as a women's book club for MNR employees, she is credited for her great advocacy on behalf of the MTA employees with whom she works. Each program has offered opportunities for staff to interact and network, particularly among those in different departments who would not typically cross paths.

Ms. Hakim, who as always, added a lot of humor and spirit to her remarks, pointed out that there were many MNR staff who had paid their own way to pay tribute to Ms. Rinaldi. She also highlighted that the two have much in common, having both arrived with backgrounds as lawyers to the field of transportation. Ms. Hakim went on to herald Ms. Rinaldi's drive and high expectations for herself and fellow employees in providing the best quality of service for customers. Then, addressing the scholarship winners, she added that in Ms. Rinaldi, they have a great role model. "You might be surprised by this, but in our industry, we sometimes get criticized," with feigned surprise.

When it was Ms. Rinaldi's turn at the podium, she opened by thanking her mother as well as other women who had served as role models, stressing that it is in the "spirit of friendship, the spirit of shared purpose that makes this job the most rewarding one that I ever could have imagined."

She reflected back on her career and her beginnings as an undergraduate at Yale where she majored in English and then as a law student at the University of Virginia. She expressed her appreciation for her education and early career as a lawyer in burnishing her skills as a good reader and writer as well as listener, strengths that have served her well throughout her many roles within the MTA.

Ms. Rinaldi posited that as a female leader she has a greater sensitivity to the work-life balance, recognizing the obligations of family all along the continuum, as well as the need to take one's professional responsibilities seriously. Citing the adage that "a woman is like a teabag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water," she remarked she's already found herself in hot water a few times in her new role.

In closing, she told the story of a day last May when a tornado swept through the MNR area, halting trains on all three lines. There was one train on the Beacon line that had been stranded for hours. The train crew called a local pizzeria that remarkably was both open and handling deliveries in spite of the weather and ordered pizza for all of those stuck on the train, assuring that they wouldn't go hungry. She praised the crew for their "complete professionalism, compassion, and concern for their customers' comfort and safety," attributes to which she aspires in her own role as MNR president.

Before the event came to a close, names for the scholarship raffle were drawn. Thanks to our many generous donors, the raffle generated a

record-breaking \$4,427. In addition, we raised \$5,000 from direct contributions. Great appreciation as well to the Special Events Committee for organizing this tremendously successful event, particularly Desiree Gazzo, chair; Beth Zall, liaison; Ani Toncheva, past liaison; as well as volunteers Daniella Bennett, Chrystin Binder, Sarah Colker, Pamela Daley, Gabriela Kappes, Aviva Laurenti, Ella McLeod, Janet McPherson, Julie Polak, Linda Travis, Daniela Zellers, and Jane Huang; as well as volunteers outside the Special Events Committee including Sheriza Majid, Bibi Kahn, Cherise Meyers, KellyAnne Valentine, Sofia LaFrance Brooks, Fiona Robe, Teresa Cannone, Jilla Moro, and everyone else who made the event possible.

See the full photo album [here!](#)

WTS-GNY Volunteers Wanted and Appreciated!

WTS-GNY is looking for a volunteer to develop marketing materials for the chapter.

New Jersey Programs Committee is looking for active members to assist with planning and execution of events.

The **Communications Committee** is seeking a volunteer to help organize photos for the chapter within Google Drive. We also are eager for help with social media postings and virtual discussion forums.

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

Members in the News

Liz Archer

Liz Archer, a business development manager at Dewberry, was recently selected to receive the Pillar Award by the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, New Jersey Chapter (NAIOP NJ), which will be awarded today!

With more than 24 years of experience, Archer has expertise in client, professional, and association relations for the design and construction industry in the greater New York and New Jersey areas. Archer received her bachelor's degree in architectural technology from the New York Institute of Technology (1993) and is an active member of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).

We congratulate you on this great honor, Liz!

Transportation Job Opportunities

WTS-GNY would like to be a resource for women seeking

positions in transportation and firms looking for candidates. Visit our [Job Opportunities](#) page for the latest updates!

If your firm would like to post a position, fill out our [job form](#). We will share your job opportunity on our LinkedIn Page and in our next Chapter News as well as on our website.

July Opportunities (more on the [WTS-GNY Jobs Page](#))

Employer Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Job Title Traffic Engineer

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline

Employer Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Job Title WTC Transportation and Sustainability Planner

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline

Employer National Express Transit

Job Title Assistant General Manager

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline

Have exciting content for the December issue?

Article pitches, women in transportation news, member spotlights, discussion topic ideas: [Email us](#) by 11/21/2018.

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.