

From: WTS Central Florida <gina@wtscentralflorida.ccsend.com> on behalf of WTS Central Florida
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Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 9:05 AM
Subject: WTS Central Florida Newsletter - July 2021 Issue



**Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Central Florida**

NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Central Florida Chapter Officers

Amy Windom, PE, President | Snehal Ambare, PE, Vice President | Ivannia Bok, Secretary |
Lizette Martinez, PE, Treasurer | Christina Colón, PE, Immediate Past President

President's Message

Hello WTSCFL followers - I hope your summer is awesome!
The WTSCFL chapter is busy in 2021 -- starting with virtual
and outdoor events and returning to in-person in August.

One virtual event was *A Walk in Her Shoes*, or AWIHS.
Typically, we collect gently worn shoes and donate to Greater
Orlando Dress for Success. Each sponsor firm was provided
seats for AWIHS based on sponsor level. Since we could not
hold the event in-person and collect the shoes, we decided to
make donation to [Greater Orlando Dress for Success](#) in
recognition of our sponsors on a per seat basis. So, please
visit the [Sponsor](#) section of this newsletter, which has
website links to hear more about their work!

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Thank you for your continued support!

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In This Issue

Upcoming Events

[Transportation Equity
Program Available on
YouTube](#)

[WTSCFL Book Club](#)

[Member Spotlight - WTS
International Rosa Parks
Diversity Leadership Award
Recipient](#)

[A Walk in Her Shoes](#)

[Bike Ride July 31st](#)

[Thanks to our sponsors!](#)

[Kudos & New Members](#)

[Contact Us](#)



We made sure to acknowledge these annual sponsors in a
letter to Dress for Success. By celebrating the transportation

*THANKS to our sponsors
and their efforts for*

industry's generosity as WTS sponsors,
we celebrate our community.

In addition, the list of articles in this issue to the right shows
more cause for celebration, including:

- YouTube video (July Transportation Equity program with COMTO)
- Announcement that Dr. Laine Powell received the WTS International Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award!

New events are in the works for August and September - with the return to in-person activities. We hope you can join us for one or more!!!

Finally, I wanted to congratulate WTSCFL Member Yassi Myers for being appointed the Florida Board of Professional Engineers.

Thanks for all you do!



Amy L. Windom, P.E.
President, WTSCFL

*advancing women and
advancing transportation.*
For more information
click on [BANQUET
SPONSOR](#).

Save the Date

8/18	Board Meeting
8/28	Bike Ride
9/7	Book Club
9/25	Bike Ride
9/30	Banquet
10/ 28	Program

Coming Soon

CLICK ON GRAPHICS FOR
LINK TO REGISTRATION
FOR MEMBERS HAPPY
HOUR AND SMPS
TRANSPORTATION
LANDSCAPE EVENTS





Reshaping Central Florida's **TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE**

A panel discussion on the future of transportation from a local city, county and state level in Central Florida.

 **FRIDAY,
AUGUST 20, 2021**

Orlando International Airport Intermodal Terminal Facility
8:30 AM to 12 PM
\$65 SMPS Members | \$85 Non-Members

SPEAKERS



Keynote Speaker: **Mayor Jerry Demings**
Orange County

PANEL SPEAKERS:

Christine Kefauver, Senior VP of Corporate Development | Brightline

Jared Perdue, P.E., District 5 Secretary | FDOT

Tawny Olore, P.E., Executive Director | Osceola County Transportation and Transit

Davin Ruohomaki, Senior Director of Engineering and Construction | GOAA

Glenn Pressimone, Chief of Infrastructure | Central Florida Expressway Authority

Mary Moskowitz, AICP, Division Manager | Seminole County Planning & Development

MODERATOR:

Gary Huttman, Executive Director | MetroPlan Orlando

SPONSORS

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Banquet Event Sponsors

❖ Partner Level:



❖ Supporter Level:



**REGISTRATION
OPENS
AUGUST 13TH**



24TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS *Banquet*

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
5:30 - 9:00 PM**



Featuring Keynote Speaker

Loreen Bobo, PE

Safety Administrator, Office of Safety
Florida Department of Transportation
District Five



Thank you to our 2021 Annual Sponsors



Summary of Events

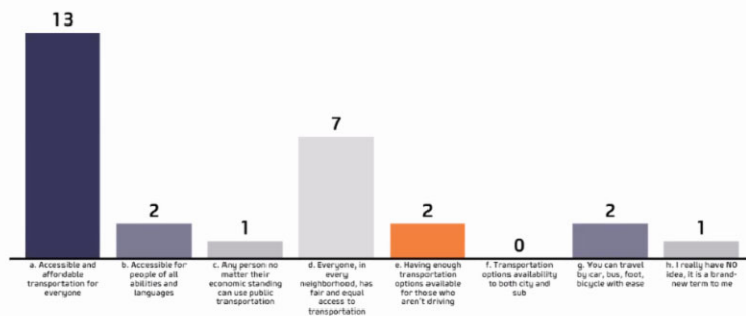


Transportation Equity Virtual Program

This year's summer program was in collaboration with COMTO Central Florida. The discussion was shaped around Transportation Equity. The program's moderator, Virginia Whittington (Metroplan Orlando), kicked off the conversation with a simple question to engage the audience....

What definition of transportation equity from the 2021 MetroPlan survey most resonates with you? Interestingly our audience gave us a vast range of answers; accessible and affordable transportation for everyone had the most votes.

What definition of equity in transportation most resonates with you?



Our panelists, shown below, all provided thought-provoking commentary throughout the program.

- Ann McNeil - President, MCO Consulting, Inc.
- Diana Mendes - Corporate President, Infrastructure and Mobility Equity, HNTB
- Tanya Wilder - Director of the Transportation, City of Orlando



Virginia began with some startling statistics from the MetroPlan survey. Virginia also noted that, "the average metropolitan Orlando resident can access more than half a million jobs by car within 30 minutes from their home while transit riders only have access to about 5,600 jobs in that same travel time." In addition, because they didn't have access to reliable transportation, 18% of respondents missed or skipped medical appointments this past year. This set the stage for the conversation.

Key points from the conversation included: Tanya's goal of connecting communities while shifting our thinking from car-centric to people-centric; Diana's encouragement to have the difficult conversations - if we are worried about saying the wrong thing, we will miss getting the right information and the right people at the table; Virginia reminded us to not only identify a problem but come with a solution; and Ann's takeaways were to be imaginative and to become the solution, once we acknowledged that we were the problem.



The passion from our panelists and moderator transcended to the audience and left all in attendance knowing that yes, we all are the problem, but we are enthused to be a part of the solution.

OR [LINK TO YOUTUBE PROGRAM](#)



BOOK CLUB

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AUTHORS!

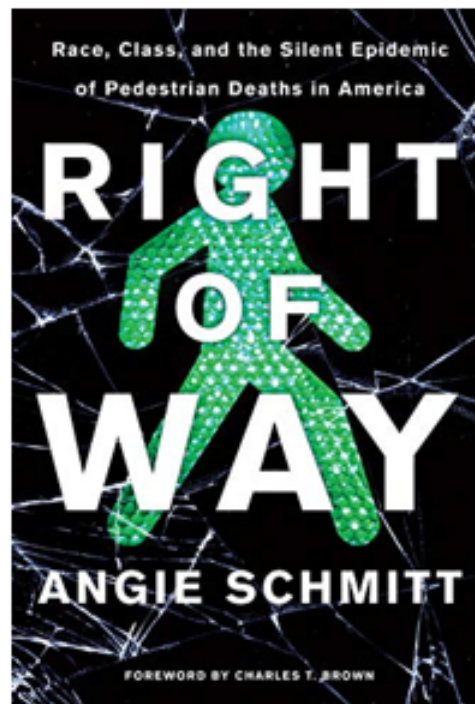
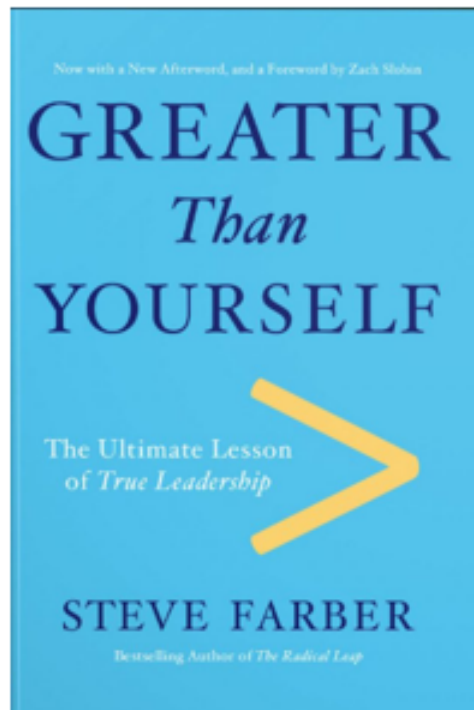
May 24th

STEVE FARBER



July 15th

ANGIE SCHMITT

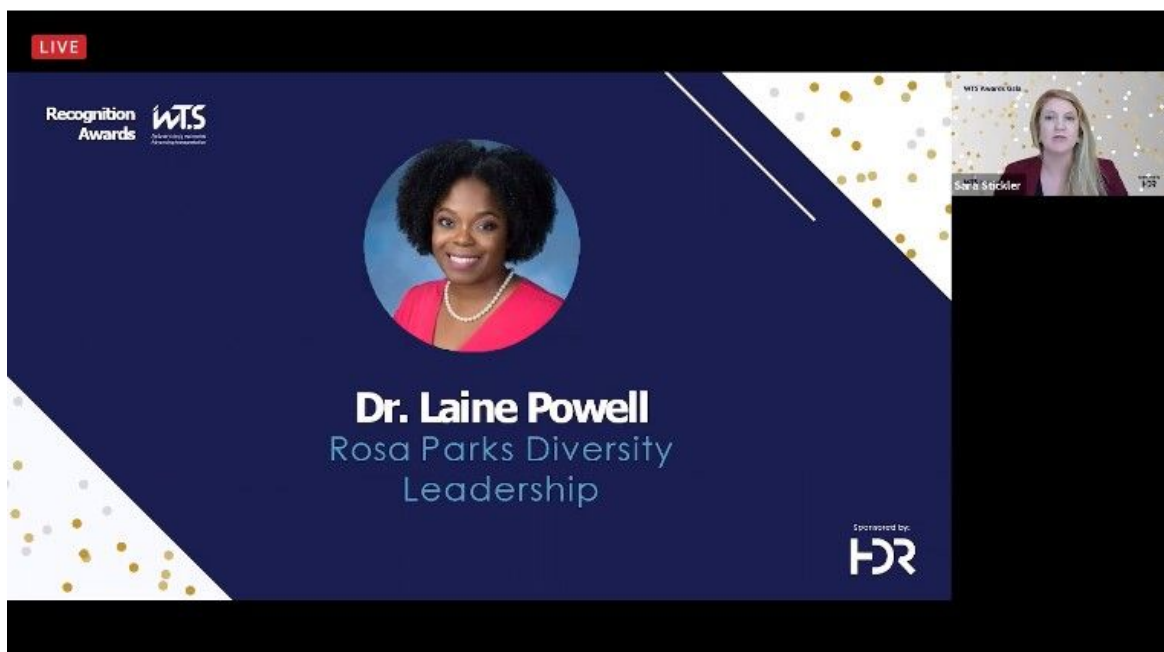


Read to Succeed In 2020 prompted the WTSCFL Book Club, and we have already read two fantastic books this year and we had the added bonus of the authors joining us for the discussion.

On May 24th, Yvonne Lopez-Diaz introduced her friend Steve Farber and shared how they met and became friends after she read *Greater Than Yourself* a few years ago. Steve shared that this philosophy, termed GTY, talked about the combination of fictional journey and real

experiences woven into this book. The core message - you grow when you help others grow - resonated with the participants who had several questions to find their own GTY project. Steve talked about his free, daily audio message - sign up at stevefarber.com.

Angie Schmitt joined the WTSCFL Book Club on July 15th for a discussion about her book *Right of Way*. A woman who lives her beliefs, she joined from a Greyhound bus while taking her son to see his grandparents! Angie shared her thoughts on the book and responded to questions. The book was written prior to the pandemic. 2020 will have different numbers due to less car travel and more bicycle/pedestrian activity - but unfortunately that has not resulted in less pedestrian deaths. Looking back over the decade, the 50% increase in pedestrian fatalities from just before the pandemic is staggering. Victim blaming by the legal system and media is one area of concern. If you want to learn more, Angie's presentation and interview with America Walks is available at this link: [America Walks Presentation](#)



Dr. Laine Powell received WTS International Award

Dr. Laine Powell is the founder and executive director of **Tech Sassy Girlz**, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring underrepresented girls in middle and high school to engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Affectionately referred to as Dr. Sassy - Laine received the WTS International Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award as part of the Virtual Conference in May.

Laine created **Tech Sassy Girlz**

in 2012 to address the critical shortage of women and minorities being represented in high-tech STEM careers. Prior to 2020, over 1,000 young women benefited from the program and in 2020, during the pandemic, over 1,500 were assisted as the remote learning enabled more students to get involved. In 2020 Laine also expanded to **STEM Iconz** for underrepresented young men. She was recognized as one of Orlando Magazine's 2020 Women of the Year, by the NBA's Orlando Magic for community service, and received the i4Business Magazine Spirit of Collaboration Award, among many other recognitions!

In the community, she serves on the boards of WTS Central Florida Chapter, the Florida Polytechnic University, NAF Information Technology Academy, and the Women's Business Center at Seminole State College.

One of the programs in **Tech Sassy Girlz** is Pearls in Tech, which is a workforce development program for high school students for STEM internship opportunities. The program focuses in software development and web design with a certification exam allowing eligibility for paid internships and setting the foundations for careers in STEM.

WTSCFL members have participated in the **Tech Sassy Girlz** annual day conference. This program has grown from 40 attendees in 2012 to over 500 at the event held at the University of Central Florida in 2019.

Laine accepted the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award as part of the WTS International Virtual Conference based out of Richmond Virginia. In her recorded remarks, she had a fantastic analogy -- *"Diversity is being invited to the party and inclusion is being asked to dance!"*

Let's dance!

A Walk in Her Shoes - Recap

On April 29th WTSCFL hosted A Walk In Her Shoes. This event is to hear from women leaders in transportation about their careers and advice. The plan was for Alison Stettner, AICP, Director of the Office of Policy Planning for the Florida Department of Transportation be a part of our outstanding panelists together with Betsy VanderLey, Former Orange County Commissioner, Senior Director of Business Development, and Dr. Lily Elefteriadou, the Barbara Goldsby Professor and Director of Civil Engineering at the University of Florida Transportation Institute with the esteemed moderator Carla Bell Johnson, Assistant County Administrator for Orange County. But, even after a year of practice doing virtual meetings, we had a snafu with Alison's connection, so Carla focused on Betsy and Lily as well as shared some of her own career stories. The life experiences that shaped and elevated their careers and family lives were inspiring.

Like preceding years, WTSCFL partnered with Dress for Success of Central Florida to support their mission of empowering women in our community to thrive and achieve economic independence.

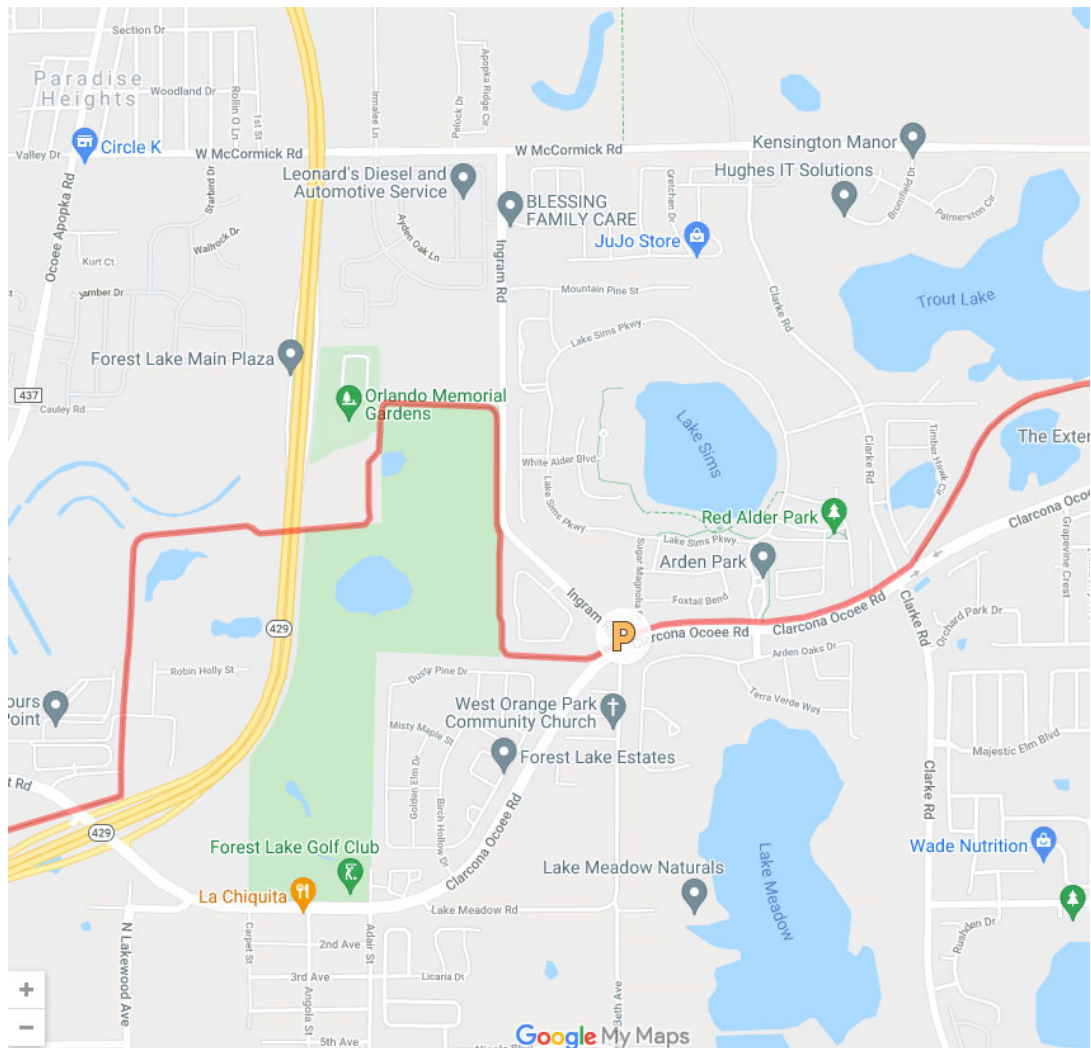
The WTSCFL chapter provided a donation of \$820 from our annual sponsors, based on a per seat dollar amount for the attendees from our annual sponsors, if the event had been in person. With that start, participants donated on the Dress for Success website and raised over \$1,200 during the event!

Click on the logo for more information about this important program.



Let's Ride (or Walk)!!

Saturday July 31st at 8am will be our next ride! This time we will explore the West Orange Trail starting at the Ingram Outpost (Ingram Rd. and Claracona Rd. - shown as a P on the map below).



- Ride to be led by Kathrin Tellez and Stacey Russell.
- Please email k.tellez@fehrandpeers.com so we can get contact information - we want to make sure we don't leave anyone behind!
- If you would prefer walking to riding a bike - speak up - if we can pair up walkers in addition to riders, we will add that second transportation mode.
- Check out our June 5th Bike and Brunch photos below (pushed back one week due to the holiday the last weekend of May!



After the ride – time for brunch – great French bakery in Winter Garden!

Thanks to our sponsors!

We are thankful for the new and continued support from the many firms who proudly serve as sponsors for WTS Central Florida. Since our last newsletter we added one additional platinum annual sponsor:

- Atkins Global
- See a full list of our sponsors below.



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Sponsorship Questions?

Contact:

Ivannia Bok and Brian Kirwan - Fundraising Co-Chair

- Ivannia.Bok@Volkert.com || Direct Phone: 321-274-4766
- Brian@KNEngineer.com || Direct Phone: 321-236-0423

Click [here](#) to download the banquet sponsorship request form.

Kudos & Announcements

Congratulations to Yassi M. Myers for being appointed the Florida Board of Professional Engineers



Kenyatta Lee
Jessica Marrero

Grace Taussig

Want to join the Board? Ask us how!

Job Opportunities

If your organization has an employment opportunity, we would be happy to post!

Click [here](#) to advertise an available position in the next newsletter.

Contact Us:

Email: WTSCentralFlorida@gmail.com

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Sincerely,

Jessica Dean ([Jacobs](#))
Newsletter Co-Chair

Abigail Osei-Asamoah ([CDM Smith Inc.](#))
Newsletter Co-Chair

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