



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



WTS-Boston

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President _____	3
Committee Chairs _____	5
Advisory Board Members _____	6
2017 Corporate Sponsors _____	7
Treasurer’s Report _____	8
Finance Committee _____	9
Communications Committee _____	10
Fundraising Committee _____	11
Membership Committee _____	12
Mentoring Committee _____	16
Professional Development Committee _____	18
Programs Committee _____	20
Scholarships and Awards Committee _____	28
Special Projects Committee _____	29
WTS Student Chapter Committee _____	32

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The end of 2017 marks the end of the first year as President and I am amazed at how quickly it went by. I am proud to be President of WTS-Boston and I look forward to another great year in 2018. We have a fantastic team of 50+ volunteers helping to deliver a strong Chapter focused on mentoring, professional development and networking for its members, while focusing on the WTS mission of advancing women in the transportation industry. For those of you not involved in

WTS, I encourage you to get involved with one of our many committees and attend our events. You will not be disappointed - WTS provides countless opportunities to sharpen leadership skills and grow your network in addition to all of the professional development and networking opportunities.

This annual report helps showcase just a small fraction of what WTS-Boston did in 2017 and I am amazed by our accomplishments, successes and the level of commitment of our strong leadership, enthusiastic committees and advisory board. In 2017, we had a record number of corporate sponsors to support the mission of advancing women in the transportation industry. We also raised a record amount at our Annual Golf Outing towards the WTS-Boston Scholarship Fund. We had some phenomenal luncheon speakers throughout the year including Kate Fichter, Assistant Secretary for Policy Coordination, Michelle Wu, the President of the Boston City Council, a panel of MassDOT District Highway Directors and Jackie DeWolfe, Director of Sustainable Mobility. The luncheon series closed out with the Secretary of Transportation, Stephanie Pollack, as the keynote speaker and WTS-Boston set a record for attendance at the luncheons with over 300 in attendance. Last year, WTS-Boston also reached a major milestone in its fundraising effort for the public art project with an award of \$100,000 grant from the City of Boston's Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund. Being awarded the \$100,000 grant helps bring this project one step closer to becoming a reality.

I am honored to have led the Chapter through 2017 and look forward to 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who have served with me from the Board, Advisory Board and Committee Co-Chairs for their support, hard work and dedication to WTS-Boston.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Williamson  
WTS-Boston President

# BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTOR

## President

Rebecca S. Williamson, P.E.  
Principal, New England Highway  
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## Past President

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## Director

(Programs)  
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Director of Environmental  
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MassDOT-Highway Division

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## Director

(Communications, Special Projects)  
Sarah D. Bergman, EIT, LEED, AP  
Civil Engineer  
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## Director

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Structural Designer  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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## Director

(Membership, Professional  
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BSC Group

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## Director

(Mentoring, Fundraising)  
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## Director

(Student Chapter, Scholarship &  
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# COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## Communications

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## Finance

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## Fundraising

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## Golf

Marta J. Nover  
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## Membership

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Search Consultant  
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## Mentoring

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## Professional Development

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## Public Art Project

Lisa A. Brothers, P.E., LEED AP  
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## Scholarship and Awards

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# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

## Past-President (2015-2016)

### Advisory Board Chair

Rachael Barolsky Sack  
Chief, Innovative Research Program Office  
U.S.DOT/ Volpe Center  
Email: [rachael.sack@dot.gov](mailto:rachael.sack@dot.gov)

## Advisory Board Co-Chair (2017-2018)

### Appointments Task Force Co-Chair (2016-2018)

Janice M. Bergeron  
President  
RND Consultants  
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## Past-Past-President (2015-2016)

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## WTS-Boston - 2017 WTS Northeastern Regional Board

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## Members At Large

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Shannon Reilly (2017-2019)  
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Margaret O'Meara (2015-2017)  
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Regional Business Manager, New England  
WSP USA  
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Loretta Girard Doughty, P.E. (2015-2017)  
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Leonor M. Filipe (2015-2018)  
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Michelle Muhlanger (2016-2018)  
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 1  
Federal Railroad Administration  
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Linda Sharpe (2016-2018)  
Transportation Program Analyst  
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# 2017 CORPORATE SPONSORS

## Executive Level

AECOM  
 AI Engineers, Inc.  
 BSC Group  
 City Point Partners  
 GEI Consultants, Inc.  
 GPI  
 Green International Affiliates, Inc.  
 HDR  
 HMMH  
 HNTB Corporation  
 Howard Stein Hudson  
 Jacobs  
 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.  
 Keolis  
 Kleinfelder

Massachusetts Port Authority  
 MassDOT Highway Division  
 Michael Baker International, Inc.  
 Nitsch Engineering  
 Nobis Engineering  
 Sanborn Head  
 SP Plus – Parking & Transportation  
 Stantec  
 STV  
 Tetra Tech  
 TranSystems  
 VHB  
 Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.  
 WSP USA

## Associate Level

Bryant Associates, Inc.  
 Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
 Donovan Hatem LLP  
 Geocomp Corp.

Keville Enterprises, Inc.  
 saam architecture  
 Sherin and Lodgen LLP

## Supporter Level

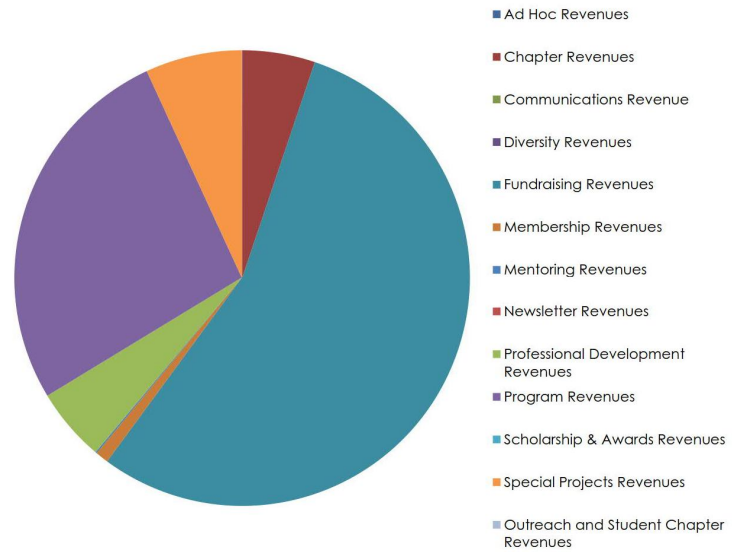
BETA Group, Inc.  
 CDW Consultants Inc.  
 Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge  
 Dewberry  
 Epsilon Associates, Inc.

Fennick McCredie Architecture  
 Hager GeoScience, Inc.  
 McMahon Associates  
 Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

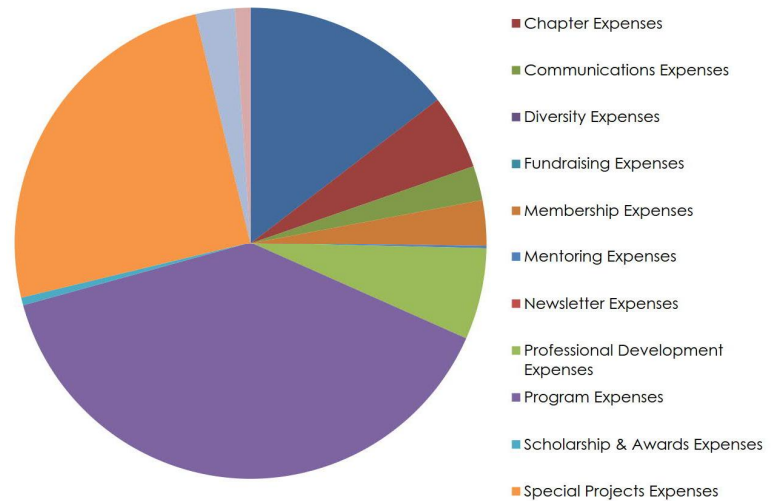
## 2017 Income

Ad Hoc Revenues	\$	-
Chapter Revenues	\$	10,520.00
Communications Revenue		
Diversity Revenues		
Fundraising Revenues	\$	111,780.00
Membership Revenues	\$	1,860.00
Mentoring Revenues	\$	240.00
Newsletter Revenues		
Professional Development Revenues	\$	10,585.00
Program Revenues	\$	54,520.00
Scholarship & Awards Revenues		
Special Projects Revenues	\$	13,960.00
Outreach and Student Chapter Revenues	\$	39.04
WTS Boston Public Art Revenues		
<b>Total Gross Revenues</b>	\$	<b>203,504.04</b>



## 2017 Expenses

Ad Hoc Expenses	\$	25,410.08
Chapter Expenses	\$	8,936.42
Communications Expenses	\$	4,120.00
Diversity Expenses		
Fundraising Expenses		
Membership Expenses	\$	5,527.38
Mentoring Expenses	\$	298.29
Newsletter Expenses		
Professional Development Expenses	\$	10,916.42
Program Expenses	\$	68,161.40
Scholarship & Awards Expenses	\$	922.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$	43,608.22
Outreach and Student Chapter Expenses	\$	4,690.07
WTS Boston Public Art Expenses	\$	1,860.00
<b>Total Gross Expenses</b>	\$	<b>174,450.28</b>





# FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee was chaired by Shahpar Negah, MassDOT and WTS-Boston Treasurer Marie Sullivan, Stantec. In 2017, the Finance Committee reviewed the overall financial health of WTS-Boston - including the yearly revenue and expenditures, investments, and scholarship account.

The Finance Committee collaborated with both the Scholarship and Awards Committee and the Fundraising Committee resulting in WTS-Boston

awarding \$14,000 in graduate, undergraduate, and high school scholarships in 2017.

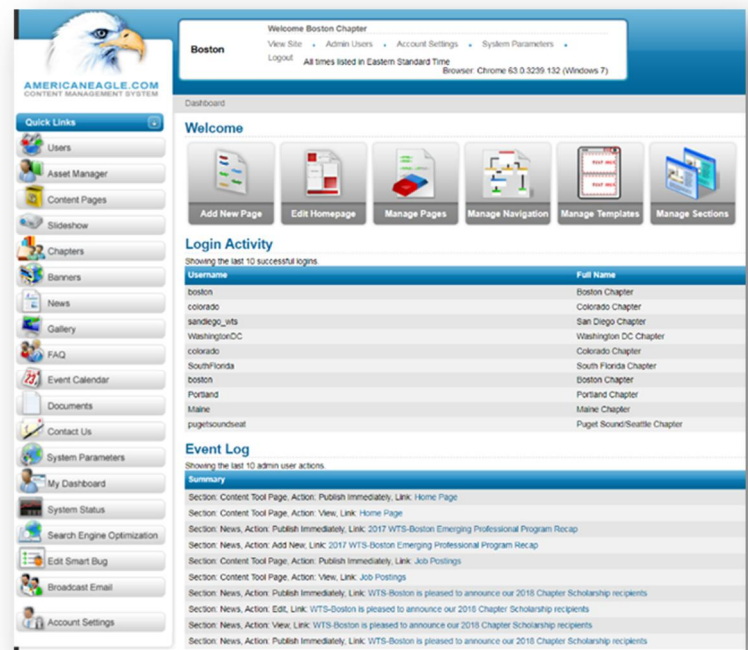
The Finance Committee continued leading the invoicing efforts for all WTS-Boston events after each event has closed. The Finance Committee have collected much of the outstanding fees for the 2017 events.

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This Communications Committee is responsible for both internal and external chapter communications including streamlining communication to the membership as well as heightening awareness of WTS–Boston by identifying opportunities for media coverage of WTS–Boston programs and events. The Committee is co–chaired by Lauren Dale of WSP and Sasha Gambarov of RND Consultants, Inc. In 2017, the Communications Committee maintained regular contact with all other WTS Committees in order to provide WTS-Boston with timely access to speakers and information on important issues impacting our industry and chapter events.

The Communications Committee accomplishments in 2017 included:

- Maintained a 10+ person Committee, Drafted and published more than 70 E-Blasts
- Maintained E-Blast distribution list with more than 1,000 active email addresses
- Reformatted and maintained current content on the WTS–Boston webpage
- Maintained Flickr photo sharing site
- Updated social media regularly using Hootsuite dashboard (includes Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn)
- Introduced an Instagram page for photos and social media presence
- Reorganized file storage on Google Drive for ease of sharing and collaborating with Committee members
- Worked closely with the Fundraising to prepare Sponsorship materials
- Established protocols and schedule for posting weekly content on Constant Contact
- Coordinated with WTS–Boston Committees to update the website
- Assisted Committees in content development
- Prepared online registration for the 2017 events across committees
- Coordinated with the WTS–Boston photographer for events and maintained photography contract
- Published the WTS–Boston Annual Report



# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



The WTS-Boston Fundraising Committee raises funds to support scholarships and the operations of the Chapter through its Annual Sponsorship Program. Three levels of sponsorship allow for participation regardless of the size of the firm. Sponsor benefits range from website listings to large-scale banners and corporate logos on the WTS-Boston webpage. All Sponsor Program participants are able to attend the New Year's Reception and the invitation-only Annual Leadership Breakfast in April free of charge.

The 2017 Sponsors included 29 at the Executive level, 7 at the Associate level, and 9 at the Supporter level. The sponsor rate of return from 2016 was 93 percent and there were two new firms at the highest sponsorship level.

After working with the Scholarships & Awards and Finance committees in 2016 to evaluate the sponsorship pricing structure, the chapter increased the sponsorship rates and amounts to scholarship in 2017 in order to make the scholarship account sustainable. It is the first time we raised the rates since 2013.

The Fundraising Committee coordinates with several other WTS-Boston committees including Communications, Special Projects, and Programs to ensure that the chapter supporters receive their valuable benefits.

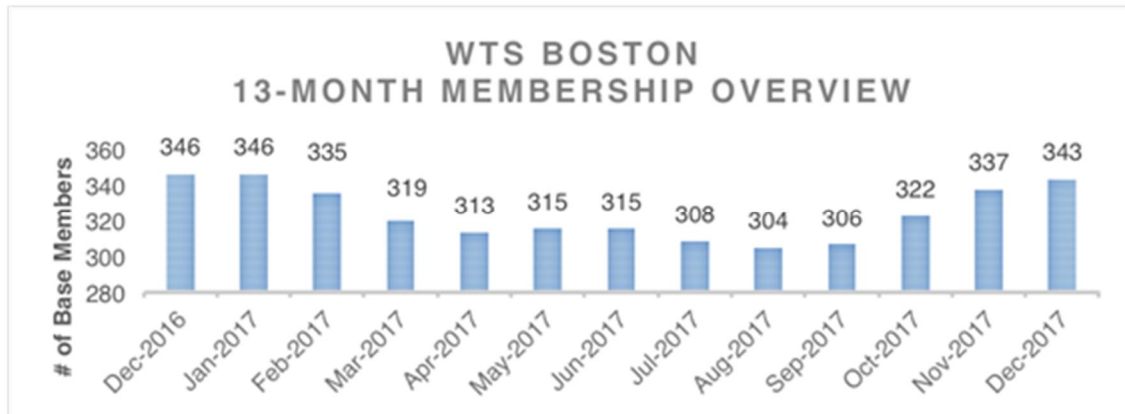
The committee also developed a sponsor longevity tracking database and populated it with records going back over a decade. While some companies have been acquired and the industry has experienced periods of recession and growth during that time, the Boston chapter of WTS continued to enjoy strong sponsor support.

Committee members were Jillian Gallagher, formerly with City Point Partners; Mary Gwaltney, Massport; Sheila Warren, Geocomp; and co-chairs Kristen Whitman, Jacobs and Crystale Wozniak, HMMH.

Those interested in knowing more about WTS-Boston and its many sponsorship opportunities can view the Corporate Partners page of the WTS-Boston website at <http://www.wtsinternational.org/boston/corporate-partners/>.

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## Membership Summary



WTS-Boston Membership Statistics  
Year-End 2017

<i>Chapter Members:</i>	343	
Regular Memberships	212	62%
Public Sector	91	26.5%
Students	12	3.5%
Executive Leaders (Private)	14	4%
Retired	6	2%
Executive Leaders (Public)	4	1%
Other	1	0%
Educators	3	1%
	343	100%

*Public Sector Members by Agency*

MassDOT Members	25
Massport Members	30
USDOT/FHWA/Volpe Center	18
MBTA Members	12
Other	6
	91

# Membership Events

## May Mixer - May 31, 2017

The WTS Boston 2017 May Mixer was hosted by the Membership Committee on the patio at Tia's Waterfront in Boston where we enjoyed refreshments, beautiful weather and great company. The WTS-Boston Chapter President, Becky Williamson of Jacobs Engineering welcomed the guests with a few words about the importance of becoming involved in WTS on a greater level - the first step being participation in a committee. Each of the Committee Co-Chairs introduced themselves and gave information about what their committees do.

- Cost:
  - Members, \$15
  - Non-Members, \$30
- Members Only: No
- Attendance/Registered: 51



## Membership Drive + Membership Celebration

### Membership Drive

Dates: October 1-November 2

The goal of the Membership Drive was to increase our membership by 10%. At the beginning of the drive we had 306 members, so our goal was to increase membership by 30-members in one month! We had 21 members join during the drive and had at least 5 additional new members in the following month as a result of referrals.

- Incentives for New Members to Join/Membership Referral
- Comp ticket to membership celebration - \$15 value!
- Enter referrers into a raffle for a big bag o' swag
- Here is a link for people to log their referrals:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/Nx11JgfXzMt0COyf1>
  - We reached out via e-mail to each person who was referred to encourage them to join.



## Membership Celebration

Date: Thursday November 2nd

- Venue: Sip Wine Bar
- Registered: 68
- Attended: 50
- Members-Only: Yes
- Fee: \$15 - includes drink ticket
- Gift: Moleskin embossed with WTS Boston Logo
- Raffle tickets given out as follows: 3-tickets for referring a new member, 2-tickets for completing the time capsule and 1-ticket for completing the Bingo icebreaker. We raffled off 12 Swag Bags as prizes.
- Photographer: Frank for 2.5-hours
- Time Capsule: Organized by 40th Anniversary Committee. Uploaded to the WTS Membership Drop Box and Google Drive to be opened at a later date/event



# MENTORING COMMITTEE

In 2017, the WTS Mentoring committee held two successful events and provided support to the Emerging Professionals. The committee hosted a WTS Mentoring Roundtable at the MassDOT Innovation & Tech Transfer Exchange and a Ted Talk discussion: "Dare to Disagree." By Margaret Heffernan moderated by Margaret O'Meara.

## WTS Boston Mentoring TED Talk



The committee hosted a mentoring event featuring a Margaret Heffernan TED talk that spoke to seeking individuals and perspectives from different backgrounds that challenge existing views—this is vital in a world where organizations capable of affecting countless lives don't, or can't, think properly out of fear of conflict. The event was well attended (20+ participants) and included watching the TED talk followed by an in-depth discussion on the topic of conflict and what it means to professional women. The discussion was facilitated by Margaret O'Meara, Vice President at WSP USA. Margaret O'Meara brought her extensive mentoring and coaching experiences to the table. Attendees came from a wide variety of experience levels, ages, backgrounds, public/private sector, etc., which contributed to an illuminating discussion. Topics discussed included pattern recognition, the nuances of conflict (e.g., interpersonal vs.

project or organizational conflict), and approaches to conflict ranging from empathy to playing devil's advocate. Some noted that accepting or embracing conflict is not without consequence, that isolation can result from voicing disagreement. Tips were exchanged, funny and inspiring stories were shared, and it was ultimately a fun and fruitful event.

## WTS Boston Mentoring Roundtable

The Mentoring Committee hosted a Mentoring Roundtable at the MassDOT Innovation & Tech Transfer Exchange facilitated by Jessica Kenny, MassDOT Manager of Environmental Compliance for Construction.

WTS-Boston's mentoring program elevates our region's rising stars with 360 support as well as hosting mentoring bursts for transportation professionals at all levels. WTS held a roundtable discussion featuring



senior transportation officials, WTS mentoring leaders, and past WTS-Boston Emerging Professionals to showcase effective mentoring methods. Techniques featured include mentoring match-ups and mentoring-focused events such as TED talks and book clubs used to support career development for those new to the field of transportation and industry veterans. Following the breakout sessions, the group came back together for further discussion with the three featured guests. Prompted by questions brainstormed during the breakout sessions, the group talked about what makes a good mentor, how to cope with uncertainty in your organization or industry, and how to balance family, travel, career, etc.

## Emerging Professionals

The 2017 Emerging Professionals were:

- Margo Dawes, Community Planner, US DOT Volpe Center
- Michelle (Yuyin) Deng, Traffic Safety Engineer, MassDOT



Margo and Michelle had a successful year as Emerging Professionals. They attended board meetings and WTS events. They also worked with their Mentors throughout the year. Michelle joined the WTS-Outreach Committee and helped with activities like the Cambridge Science Festival. She also worked with the Communications Committee. Margo joined the Mentoring Committee and was active with reporting our Ted Talk and other events. She was one of the Volpe recipients of the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award this June and has been very helpful in sharing her insights on Diversity. Margo and Michelle attended the WTS International Conference in Brooklyn.

The Mentoring Committee also hosted the second annual Emerging Professional Alumnae Event in August 2017. This was a chance for current and past EP's to join together, network and celebrate.



Shown: L-R: Teryne Alexander, Michelle Deng, Sara Coyle, Dianne Gunther, Holly Durso, Margo Dawes, Margaret Czachorowski, Melissa Dullea, Allison Sweeney

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In 2017, the Professional Development Committee was an active committee that tried to provide professional development programming for the benefit of the WTS-Boston members. The committee organized professional development seminars and workshops on a variety of topics including road safety audit and social media. Networking opportunities were also offered, such as the Golf Skills and Networking event. The co-chairs for the 2017 Professional Committee were Allene Rieger, TranSystems and Jackie Davis, HDR. The Board Liaison was Christine Breen of Wynn Design and Development and Genevieve Cahill of BSC Group.

The first event of 2017 was held Tuesday, June 20, 2017. The event, "MassDOT- Road Safety Audits (RSA)" with Michelle Deng, was held at the State Transportation Building. Michelle Deng, a 2017 WTS Emerging Professional works in MassDOT's Traffic and Safety Engineering Department, led the presentation. Michelle has attended and reviewed over 50 RSAs throughout the state. During the presentation Michelle reviewed the MassDOT site, crash data, and discussed the importance of an RSA.

On Tuesday, July 18, 2017, the WTS-Boston Professional Development Committee hosted a Brown Bag Luncheon at the Transportation Library at 10 Park Plaza. The event was "How to Prepare an Exceptional Resume" with Maggie Pelletier, MassDOT University instructor. The seminar provided an overview of the standard types of resumes (chronological, functional, combination and targeted). Basic information for each resume type, such as what is it being used for and who should use it was presented. The seminar was filled with interactive discussion about what types of information are appropriate to include or not include on a resume.

On Tuesday, August 22, 2017, fifteen professionals gathered at TranSystems after work hours to hear from Joanne Linowes on how to differentiate themselves and make their words count. Joanne Linowes, a nationally recognized presentation coach and communications advisor, has long been a WTS speaker. She has presented "How to Negotiate" at past WTS professional development sessions as well as been a guest speaker at interactive luncheons. In this seminar titled "What Do You Say?" participants were first prompted, "How are you?" to demonstrate how easy it is to fall into standard questions and responses. Joanne then guided participants using five key techniques on how to respond to standard questions with dynamic and unique answers. Participants took full advantage of the intimate setting, frequently asking questions and volunteering examples throughout the discussion. Most importantly for the professionals in the room, Joanne demonstrated how each of her tips could be tailored specifically to networking, interviews, or speaking to coworkers.

In October 3, 2017, the Professional Development Committee held the Golf Skills and Networking Event. The skills and networking were held at the Granite Links Country Club, Quincy, MA. The event was a great opportunity for all skill levels to learn how to golf from a professional. The event was attended by 3 members and included an hour long skills training and networking.

The last Professional Development event for 2017 was held, On October 4th, a brown bag lunch presentation on "Your Professional Social Media Persona" was given at MassDOT by Ashley Pate. Ashley explained the difference between some of the bigger social media sites (see graphic below). She also stressed that attendees should not use social media because people tell them to. It takes time and has to be something you want to do and invest effort into. Ashley went into more detail about what you should and should not post and had a detailed question session on LinkedIn.

# PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Programs Committee had a productive and successful year devoted to planning, coordinating, and implementing the Chapter's monthly luncheon programs and the annual summer walking tour. A summary of our 2017 events and programs is provided below.

## February 15, 2017 – Brian Shortsleeve

In February, WTS-Boston welcomed Brian Shortsleeve, MBTA Acting General Manager, for an in-depth discussion of the challenges facing the MBTA, as well as the remarkable progress the MBTA has recently shown in meeting them. Brian set an optimistic tone by celebrating the MBTA's success in serving record crowds after the New England Patriot's record fifth Superbowl win and demonstrating how investments in modern technology helped the MBTA keep trains running during Winter Storm Niko.



Brian then treated audience members to an inside view of the structural difficulties the MBTA must overcome. For the past 15 years, ridership at the MBTA remained nearly flat, while operating costs continued to grow. Dedicated funding for the MBTA, as well as revenue generated by the MBTA itself, have experienced growth of less than two percent. Operating expenses have grown three times faster than dedicated revenues, leading to a growing structural deficit.

Moving forward, the MBTA is focused on the rider experience. At the commuter rail, the MBTA is working to improve on time performance by increasing coach and locomotive availability. The MBTA will also work to accelerate capital delivery to speed investment in State of Good Repair. The MBTA is investing \$250 million to fully replace its Red Line Fleet, increasing capacity on the Red Line by 50%, and reducing headways from 4.5 to 3 minutes. The MBTA is moving forward with the historic extension of the Green Line, after a significant project reset. And, the MBTA is planning for its future through Focus40, a long term capital investment plan that will serve as a blueprint for fixing MBTA infrastructure.

The luncheon was attended by 250 guests.

## March 21, 2017 – Michelle Wu – Boston City Councilor



On Tuesday, March 21, 2017, Boston City Council President Michelle Wu joined WTS-Boston to celebrate Women's History Month and recognize female leaders. Michelle has been the Council President since January 2014 when she was elected unanimously by her colleagues and became the first woman of color to serve as Council President.

Michelle spoke candidly about initiatives that are important to her and those that will have the greatest impact on her constituents. These include providing accessible and affordable public transportation to all residents of Boston, engaging residents, and encouraging participation in public outreach. Michelle also emphasized the importance of having women leaders as positive role models.

Michelle and the City Council are approaching transportation issues by being proactive, innovative, and collaborative. This past year they brought experts to the Council to explore how the Council can contribute to transportation improvements at the city level. They held five sessions, in conjunction with Northeastern University and Professor Peter Furth, on low stress bicycle networks, pedestrian safety, Vision Zero, transit signal priority, and parking management. All five sessions can be viewed on the City Council's website. Michelle is also completing a report on the five sessions that will outline the Council's recommendations to improve transportation in the city.

The luncheon was attended by 125 guests.

## April 27, 2017 – Autonomous Vehicle Panel



WTS-Boston hosted a panel discussion on “What Automation means for how we plan, build, and drive.” The panel featured Elizabeth (Eli) Machek, Community Planner in the Technology Innovation and Policy Division of the U.S. DOT Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology; Kate Fichter, Assistant Secretary for Policy Coordination at MassDOT; Kristopher Carter, Co-Chair of the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics; and Jane Lappin, Director of Public

Policy and Government Affairs for Toyota Research Institute.

The luncheon was attended by 130 guests.

## May 25, 2017 – Jackie DeWolfe

At the WTS-Boston May 2017 luncheon, Jackie DeWolfe, Director of Sustainable Mobility in the Office of the Secretary, discussed MassDOT’s multi-modal goals across the Commonwealth. Jackie opened her discussion with her definition of multi-modal transportation as a means of connecting people to their destination through walking, biking and transit options. She emphasized the importance that designers and consultants think about context sensitive design and incorporation of Complete Streets elements into all projects. Jackie encouraged the designers in the audience to think about creating accommodations that users want to ride on, and to avoid designing facilities that only meet the minimum design guideline. Jackie urged the audience to consider the intent of the Healthy Transportation Policy Directive in their projects. Context is critical! She also reminded the audience to consider all modes, including the regional bus routes, when designing projects.



The luncheon was attended by over 110 guests.

## July 20, 2017 – Ink Block Park Tour

On July 20, 2017, WTS-Boston received an exclusive sneak peak of the new Ink Underground Park. The park includes 8 acres of newly renovated recreation space and parking underneath the Southeast Expressway between the South End and South Boston neighborhoods. During the tour, Mr. Kirk Jackson, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Real Estate & Asset Management of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation



(MassDOT), spoke about how MassDOT partnered with National Development to bring the park from a concept to reality. Mr. Jackson described how redevelopment of land owned by MassDOT, such as this park space, is a focus area for his group. Projects such as these allow MassDOT opportunities to generate revenue beyond increase fares or tolls. MassDOT will retain ownership of the land, but National Development will take over maintenance and operation of the park once it opens.

The tour had approximately 60 guests in attendance.

## September 27, 2017 – MassDOT District Highway Directors

Over 200 people were in attendance on September 27, 2017 as WTS-Boston welcomed a panel of the MassDOT District Highway Directors to hear about recent activities within the Districts. Jonathan Gulliver, Highway Administrator for MassDOT, moderated the panel. During the discussion, audience members learned about the somewhat unique challenges that each of the Districts is facing and gained valuable insight related to how projects are prioritized, emergency preparedness, and how technology is positively impacting the Districts.

Patrick Paul, District 2 Highway Director, spoke about some of the geographic differences within the districts. District 4 Highway Director Paul Stedman spoke about how the districts prioritize projects and the balance of funding projects that keep assets in a state of good repair, projects that modernize infrastructure, perhaps to meet new safety requirements, and expansion projects. As District 5 Highway Director, Mary-Joe Perry takes emergency preparedness very seriously as many of the cities and towns in her district are located in higher storm areas like Cape Cod and the islands. Mary-Joe described how all of the Districts use an extensive program for responding to emergencies with different categories that establish the level of the response. Finally, Barry Lorion, Acting District 3 Highway Director, talked about how technology is improving communication and work efficiencies at MassDOT.

The luncheon had over 230 guests in attendance.

## October 19, 2017 – Nikki Tischler



On October 19, 2017, WTS-Boston hosted a breakfast event with speaker Nikki Tischler from MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning. Nikki is a Transportation Planner and Title VI Strategist, and she shared with the audience some of the interesting projects she is working on that relate to applying civil rights and equity to transportation.

Nikki is passionate about improving the availability and accessibility of transportation because she recognizes that transportation is a connector to life. When evaluating a transportation project, Nikki always asks important questions like "Who are we building this project for?" and "How do we get them at the table?". She feels that by asking these questions and pushing for diversity at the decision-making table, we can create more successful and inclusionary projects.

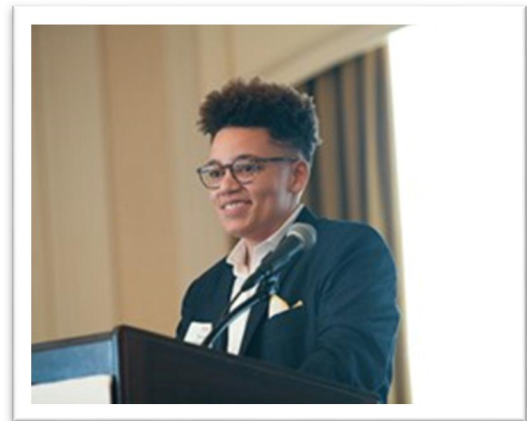
The breakfast was attended by approximately 50 guests.

## November 9, 2017 – Monica Tibbits-Nutt

On November 9, 2017, Monica Tibbits-Nutt spoke openly and candidly to an engaged WTS-Boston audience about her passion for transportation and the life-changing impact it can have through providing access and opportunities to all types of communities. Ms. Tibbits-Nutt is the Executive Director of the 128 Business Council.

Working in regional planning and transportation, Monica's experience includes public sector transit planning at both the MBTA Advisory Board and as Executive Director of TransitWorks.

Monica also serves on the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Board of Directors and the Fiscal and management Control Board that currently oversees the MBTA.



The luncheon was attended by approximately 100 guests.



## December 14, 2017 – MassDOT Secretary of Transportation Secretary Pollack



On December 14, 2017, MassDOT Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack spoke to an audience of over 300 WTS-Boston members and guests. Secretary Pollack spoke enthusiastically about planning for our transportation system and the importance of preparing plans that lead to action. During the discussion, audience members learned about five kinds of planning that MassDOT is focused on. These include operations planning, investment planning, implementation planning, modal planning and scenario planning. Regarding operations planning, the Secretary focused on bus planning and the need to improve the bus service network, including the collection of bus service data and development of plans to improve each bus route. By the end of 2018, the Secretary estimates that plans for each bus route will be complete. This planning includes intensive data analysis and a large public input component.

The Secretary expressed her desire for plans that lead to implementation. For example, the Secretary talked about the South Boston Waterfront Sustainable Transportation Plan and the success of implementing an adaptive signal system in the seaport. Another example is the Kendall Square model in Cambridge, which is a unique model for consolidating funds from developer investments to implement a wholistic approach to transportation improvements in Kendall Square.

As an added bonus, audience members were also given a sneak preview of the WTS-Boston Public Art Project that is being planned for the headhouse at South Station. The artist, Ellen Harvey, shared with our audience her vision for the art piece, which will celebrate the role of women in transportation. It was very entertaining to hear Ellen's vision, and the art project will surely be a lovely addition to our transportation system.

The luncheon was attended by over 300 guests.

# PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

The Public Art Committee's charter is to commission a public art piece in a public transportation venue that will celebrate women's role in transportation. The art installation will be located at the MBTA South Station, specifically within the Red Line head house at Summer Street and Atlantic Avenue at the Federal Reserve Building. The committee is working with MassDOT, the MBTA, and the City of Boston to coordinate the project.

## Background

In 2016, artist Ellen Harvey was selected through an open competition that received 195 entries. Harvey's unique concept, NETWORK, ultimately won over the selection committee. Her piece is a glass mosaic map of Boston and the surrounding ocean highlighting the transportation networks. To pay homage to WTS and all women in transportation, the WTS logo and surveying mermaid figures are incorporated into the design. The key focus for last year was to contract with Ellen for the final design, raise funds for the fabrication and installation for the piece, and make progress on the contract with the MBTA for ownership and maintenance of the art.

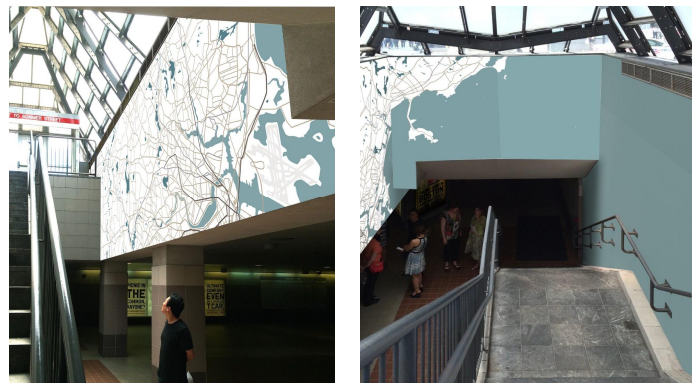
## Progress in 2017

The Committee made significant progress on these objectives in 2017. The committee exceeded their fundraising goal raising \$268,000 as of January 2018. Key fundraising efforts included applying for and winning a \$100,000 grant from the City of Boston's Browne Fund and hosting a fundraising gala for the industry and local community in September. Generous sponsors making this project possible include (as of January 2018):

Platinum Sponsors: \$25,000 +  
WTS Boston Chapter  
Massachusetts Port Authority

Gold Sponsors: \$20,000 +  
Stantec  
VHB

Silver Sponsors: \$10,000+  
HNTB  
Nitsch Engineering  
WSP



NETWORK mosaic concept by Ellen Harvey

**Bronze Sponsors: \$5,000+**

Spy Pond Partners, LLC

**Friends: \$1000 +**

Skanska

City Point Partners

Keville Enterprises

Lisa Brothers

Hyun-A Park

Ileen Gladstone

Dorri Raposa

Elizabeth Levin

Judith Nitsch

The WTS Boston Charitable Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization making all charitable donations tax deductible. Due to the success of the funding effort, the mosaic was redesigned to cover all three walls of the head house, an expansion of the original concept which only covered one wall.

Key developments were also made with the art installation process. The committee got the as-built drawings for the head house from the MBTA, and Stantec has generously offered to donate engineering services for site evaluation and calculations.

To close out the year on a high note, Ellen spoke at the December Luncheon recognizing our sponsors for their contributions and presenting the revised concept to all attendees.

## Focus for 2018

The focus for the next year is to finalize the design, execute the agreement with the MBTA, secure all necessary permits, and begin fabrication and installation of the piece. We will also begin planning for the opening ceremony. To receive the full Browne Fund grant, the project must be completed within 18 months of the award date (December 2017). We are on track to complete the project within 18 months and expect to share it with the community on or before June 2019.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://wtsbostonpublicart.com>



December 2017 Luncheon. Top: Artist Ellen Harvey presenting. Bottom: Sam Sleiman (Massport), Ellen Harvey (artist), Stephanie Pollack (MassDOT), Lisa Brothers (Public Art Committee Co-Chair), Hyun-A Park (Public Art Committee Co-Chair)

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Scholarship and Awards Committee had another great year of recognizing those in our community who have or who will have a great impact on the transportation industry. The 2017 WTS Boston Annual Award winners were:

- Woman of the Year Award
  - Abbie R. Goodman, IOM, Executive Director and Chief of External Affairs, ACEC/MA and The Engineering Center Education Trust
- Honorable Ray LaHood Award
  - Thomas J. Tinlin, Highway Administrator, MassDOT
- Claire Barrett Member of the Year Award
  - Ali Love, STV Inc.
- Employee of the Year Award
  - Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award
  - US DOT/Volpe National Transportation System Center
- Innovative Transportation Solutions Award
  - Ellen DeNooyer, AIA, LEED AP, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority



We received a large number of applications for scholarships, and the applicants were highly motivated and qualified individuals. The decision-making process is always very difficult and this year was no different. The 2017 WTS-Boston Scholarship winners were:

- Jacquelyn R. Smith Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
  - Emily Derrig, Northeastern University
- Ann M. Hershfang Graduate Scholarship
  - Marie Louis, University of Massachusetts - Amherst
- WTS-Boston Member Graduate Scholarship
  - Ali Love, Northeastern University
- Community College Scholarship
  - Olivia Murphy, Wentworth Institute of Technology



We recognize these individuals and employers not just for their achievements, but also to acknowledge how they further the WTS mission of advancing women in transportation.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Special Projects Committee was responsible for planning four events last year:

- New Year's Reception – February 1, 2017
- Annual Leadership Forum – April 4, 2017
- Annual Scholarships and Awards Dinner – June 14, 2017

## New Year's Reception

Downtown Boston served as a festive backdrop to the Chapter's 2017 New Year's Reception, held on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Courtyard Marriott on Tremont Street. The event provided a chance for public officials, members, and sponsors to reconnect after a hectic holiday season. The reception was also the first official event to be overseen by the chapter's new President, Rebecca (Becky) Williamson, P.E. of GPI! Becky opened the program by welcoming members and sponsors and thanking them for their continued dedication to making the Boston chapter what it is - one of the largest and most active chapters in the country.

In addition to being the first networking event of the New Year, the reception always features a guest speaker to highlight current transportation topics of interest to members. This year, Kate Fichter, Assistant Secretary for Policy Coordination at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), was the guest speaker. Kate's insights touched on the vital importance of organizations like WTS which serves as a venue for people from all different backgrounds to come together to collaborate on issues they care about as well as to build community.



## Annual Leadership Forum

The Annual Leadership Forum is an invite only event that is a benefit to the WTS-Boston chapter's corporate sponsors; and an opportunity for WTS-Boston to recognize a women transportation leader with our Annual Leadership Award.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, members of WTS-Boston Leadership, Sponsors and invited guests met at 7:30 am at the Courtyard Boston Downtown for their first cup of coffee, networking, and, most importantly, to honor a member who has shown consistent leadership, advocacy, and championing of women throughout her career. This year, WTS-Boston was lucky to be able to honor Lisa Brothers, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP BD+C.

When Lisa took the stage for her acceptance of the 21st Annual April Leadership Award, she described what her leadership and career have meant to her, she spoke about her passions -- family, company, WTS, and the promotion of diversity within her field are the top priorities that keep her engaged and doing the hard work to be a leader. Currently serving as co-chair of WTS-Boston's Public Art Project Committee, Lisa's numerous roles during her 30+ year career, all point towards the advancement of women and the development of better communities, both personal and professional. Introduced by her sister Loretta Girard Doughty, P.E., and surrounded by her longtime friends and colleagues of WTS-Boston, Lisa's focus on the success of her family and her profession, as well as striking a balance between the two that works for her, was readily apparent. Additionally, her leadership at Nitsch Engineering's has seen the company grow and thrive, leading it to be named #1 mid-sized firm to work for by *The Boston Globe* in 2016.



## Annual Scholarships and Awards Dinner



On June 14th, honored guests, members, and friends of WTS-Boston gathered for a festive dinner to celebrate the 2017 Award and Scholarship winners. The lineup for both categories was impressive and the Seaport Hotel provided the perfect backdrop for the evening, with a fantastic view of Boston Harbor and its location in the up and coming Seaport District.

WTS-Boston scholarships were awarded to Oliva Murphy (Wentworth Institute of Technology), Emily Derrig (Northeastern University), Alison Love (Northeastern University) and Marie Louis (University of Massachusetts – Amherst). Achievement awards were presented to Abbie Goodman (Woman of the Year), Tom Tinlin (Honorable Ray LaHood Award), Alison Love (Claire Barrett Member of the Year Award), Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (Employer of the Year Award), U.S. DOT/Volpe National Transportation System Center (Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership

Award), and Ellen DeNooyer (Innovative Transportation Solutions Award). More information on all of the award and scholarship winners can be found online [here](#).

Rina Cutler, Senior Director Major Stations, Planning & Development at Amtrak, offered opening remarks, thrilled to be back in the city where she got her start at the Boston Transportation Department. Her intelligence and humor did not disappoint! Rina's key message was one of leadership - she told attendees that the essence of leadership is being responsible for projects in your organization that you can't control. Her advice was that rather than asking who is going to let you do your job, ask who is going to stop you. Further, when people expect you to "stay in your lane," realize that more value can actually lie in not staying in just one lane.

Annually, the Awards and Scholarships Dinner provides a unique opportunity for highly accomplished professionals to be recognized alongside well deserving students. This year's dinner proved to live up to WTS-Boston's high standards for planning events with the right mix of professionalism, elegance, and entertainment. We were grateful to spend the evening in such a beautiful setting among so many talented minds in transportation.

# WTS STUDENT CHAPTER COMMITTEE

On behalf of WTS, we are pleased to reflect upon completing yet another successful year (2017) working with the WTS-Boston Student Chapter at UMass Amherst. Since its inception, the student chapter has continued to grow and gain momentum by increasing its membership and advancing its mission to bring insightful and educational speakers to the campus.

Under the leadership of President Katerina Deliali and then transitioning to Sayeeda Ayaz in October 2017, the Student Chapter had a very active and successful year. The Student Chapter served as true stewards of WTS by volunteering and encouraging the next generation of young women to consider careers in transportation, engineering, and science by visiting local schools and serving as “homework assistance buddies” and mentors.

## October 2017 – Student Chapter Elections

Our newly elected board:

President: Sayeeda Ayaz

Vice President: Katerina Deliali

Secretary: Liz Casola

Treasurer: Alyssa Ryan

This year’s Student Chapter, like those before them, continued to embody the very mission of WTS International – by working to build the future of transportation through the global advancement of women.

## Highlights:

WTS student chapter member, Foroogh Hajiseyedjavadi, a PhD Candidate in the Transportation Engineering program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, was interviewed about her research on self-driving cars and studying driver trust to determine how technology impacts human behavior. Hajiseyedjavadi is evaluating drivers’ trust in automated vehicles and believes that understanding peoples trust in automated vehicles will help enhance human automation interaction models.

The group extended our congratulations to Marie Louis, past President, for receiving the WTS Boston Helen M Overly Memorial/Ann Hershfang Graduate Scholarship!!

Sayeeda Ayaz, WTS Student Chapter President, Research Assistant at University of Massachusetts, was recognized for her presentation the annual meeting for TRB on “An Alternative Approach to an Equitable and Pareto-Improving Transportation System.”



## Speakers 2017:

We continually are successful at securing speakers that are willing to come to the campus and share industry insights, lessons learned, and tactical trends.

- Susan Nichols, Director of Environmental Planning at VHB, joined the UMass Student Chapter April 13, to talk about the many environmental issues that arise from transportation-related projects. She spoke about her extensive work for the T.F. Green Runway Extension project which lengthened the airport's main runway by 1,534 feet to 8,700 feet. The extension project was part of the nearly \$250M Airport Improvement Program implemented at T.F. Green.



- State Representative, Carolyn Dykema, provided insight on "How Transportation Policy is Designed and Funded throughout the Commonwealth."
- Patty Leavenworth, MassDOT Chief Engineer came to campus to talk to the students about her role at MassDOT and her employ of asset management. She brought with her Margo Souza from MassDOT as well as three of her District Highway Directors. After the presentation, MassDOT graciously took names and contact information for networking opportunities for the students at MassDOT.

- In attendance:

- Patty Leavenworth, Chief Engineer, MassDOT
- Francisca Heming, District Highway Director, District 1
- Patrick Paul, District Highway Director, District 2
- Barry Lorion, Acting District Highway Director, District 3
- Margo Souza, MassDOT, Assistant to Chief
- Pam Degan, Rickes Associates, WTS
- Jill McLaughlin, Stantec, WTS



WTS Student Chapter Past President, Katerina Deliali, WTS Boston Co-committee Chair – Pam Degan, MassDOT Chief Engineer – Patty Leavenworth, WTS Student Chapter President – Sayeeda Ayaz, and WTS Boston Co-committee Chair – Jill McLaughlin.