



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Boston Chapter

**2016 Annual Report**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For 2016, my goals as President remained the same: to focus on how we operate as an organization, continue to increase public-sector engagement, and provide new and interesting programming. I'm happy to report that we have and continue to work on all of these areas.



- Our operations – especially as an 100% volunteer-based organization – are working smoothly thanks to our chapter leaders and volunteers.
- Our membership numbers overall – and number of public sector members – continue to rise.
- And, finally, our programming has continued to provide both networking and professional development opportunities, with topics ranging from public-private partnerships to the new freight corridor in South Boston.

I consider these all tangible outcomes and more or less easy to quantify or demonstrate. However, there is another piece of why this organization is so critical and impactful that is harder to demonstrate at times. That piece is why WTS exists – to support the advancement of women in transportation. I have been honored to be a leader of this organization and hope I have played a small part in making WTS-Boston a strong, sustainable Chapter. WTS has also helped me – I have become a better thinker, a better communicator, and a better manager. I strongly believe that all of our volunteers benefit in this same way, whether they are a committee member, co-chair, or Board member.

You do not need to be a leader to benefit from WTS. There are opportunities for women and men, members and non-members. If you are interested in joining a committee or serving as a future co-chair or Board member, let us know! If you have staff who can benefit from this organization, encourage them to join or attend our events! The return on investment – of their time, and your money or theirs – is high and results in a win-win for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael B. Sack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachael Barolsky Sack  
WTS-Boston President

## BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

#### Rachael Barolsky Sack

Program Manager  
U.S.DOT/ Volpe Center  
55 Broadway – RVT-22  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

#### Rebecca S. Williamson, P.E.

Senior Project Manager  
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### SECRETARY

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### TREASURER

#### Finance Committee

#### Sarah E. Dennechuk, P.E.

Project Manager  
Massachusetts Port Authority  
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### PAST PRESIDENT

#### Advisory Board Chair

#### Alison Plant Lima, P.E.

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### DIRECTOR

#### Memberships/Professional Dev.

#### Cynthia Carleo

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### DIRECTOR

#### Communications/Outreach

#### Lori L. Chicoyne

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### DIRECTOR

#### Programs/Diversity

#### Colleen Moore

President  
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### DIRECTOR

#### Special Projects/ Outreach

#### Jessica Kenny

Manager of Environmental Compliance  
for Construction  
MassDOT Highway Division  
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Email: [jessica.kenny@state.ma.us](mailto:jessica.kenny@state.ma.us)

### DIRECTOR

#### Public Art/ Scholarship

#### & Awards

#### Susie Bailey

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695 Atlantic Avenue  
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### DIRECTOR

#### Mentoring/ Student Chapter

#### Paula Simmons

District Projects Engineer  
Massachusetts Department of  
Transportation  
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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Lisa Jacobson**

Program Officer, Mobility,  
Barr Foundation

**Kim Sousa**

VP of Marketing and Business Development  
Sanborn Head & Associates

### DIVERSITY

**Christine Breen, P.E.**, Transportation

Engineer  
Nitsch Engineering

**Rachel Strauss**, Community Planner

US DOT Volpe Center

### FINANCE

**Sarah Dennechuk**,

Project Manager  
Massport

**Marie Harris**

FST, now Stantec

### FUNDRAISING

**Heather N. Ostertog, P.E.**

Principal Engineer  
FST, now Stantec

**Kristen Whitman, P.E.**

Structural Engineer  
Jacobs

### MEMBERSHIP

**Selma Mandzo-Prelidzic, P.E., LEED AP**

Project Engineer  
VHB, Inc.

**Shahpar Negah, P.E., M.B.A.**

Project Manager  
MassDOT Highway Division

### MENTORING

**Susan Nichols**

Director of Environmental Planning  
VHB, Inc.

**Allison Sweeney**

Project Coordinator  
MBTA

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Jackie Carver**

Civil Engineer  
Howard Stein Hudson

**Arzu Kurkoglu, P.E.**

Senior Project Engineer  
Hatch Mott MacDonald

### PROGRAMS

**Laurie Carlson**

Program Coordinator  
MassDOT Highway Division

**Lindsey Barbee**

Engineer  
GPI

### PUBLIC ART PROJECT

**Lisa A. Brothers, P.E., LEED AP**

President and CEO  
Nitsch Engineering

**Hyun-A Park**

President  
Spy Pond Partners, LLC

### OUTREACH

**Ali Love**

Structural Engineering Specialist  
STV Incorporated

**Katie Choe**

Chief Engineer/Director of Construction Management  
City of Boston

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

**Anna Nadler**

Assistant Resident Engineer  
MassDOT Highway Division

**Carrie Lavallee, P.E.** Project Manager

MassDOT Highway Division

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Sarah Deschaine**

Civil Engineer  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

**Alison Felix, A.I.C.P.**

Transportation Planner  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

### STUDENT CHAPTER

**Jill McLaughlin**

Senior Transportation Engineer  
FST, now Stantec

**Pam Degan**

Director of Marketing and Business  
Development  
Rickes Associates

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

### **PAST-PRESIDENT (2015-2016)**

**Alison Plant Lima, P.E.**  
Senior Project Manager  
Tetra Tech

### **PAST-PAST-PRESIDENT (2015-2016)**

**Lisa A. Schletzbaum**  
Traffic Safety Engineer  
MassDOT Highway Division

### **APPOINTMENTS TASK FORCE**

#### **CHAIR**

**Janice Martin Bergeron (2014-2016)**  
Senior Program Director  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

#### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**Amy Corbett (2014-2016)**  
Regional Administrator  
FAA

#### **Dr. Rachel H. Winkeller (2014-2016)**

Director, Transportation Policy and  
Planning USDOT/Volpe Center

#### **Patricia Leavenworth, P.E. (2015-2017)**

Chief Engineer  
MassDOT Highway Division

#### **Margaret O'Meara (2015-2017)**

Vice President  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

#### **Loretta Girard Doughty, P.E. (2015-2017)**

Structural Section Manager HDR  
Engineering, Inc.

#### **Lee Filipe (2016-2018)**

Deputy CIO  
Massport

#### **Michelle Muhlanger (2016-2018)**

Deputy Regional Administrator  
FRA

#### **Linda Sharpe (2016-2018)**

Transportation Program Analyst  
DIGITALiBiz, Inc.

## CORPORATE SPONSORS - 2016

### EXECUTIVE LEVEL

AECOM  
BSC Group  
CDM Smith Inc.  
City Point Partners LLC  
GEI Consultants, Inc.  
Geocomp Corporation  
Green International Affiliates, Inc.  
Greenman - Pedersen, Inc.  
HDR  
HMMH  
HNTB  
Jacobs  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants  
Keolis  
Kleinfelder  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation  
Authority Massachusetts Port Authority  
MassDOT Highway Division  
Michael Baker International  
Nitsch Engineering  
Nobis Engineering, Inc.  
Sanborn Head  
Stantec  
STV Incorporated  
Tetra Tech  
TranSystems  
VHB  
Weston & Sampson  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

### ASSOCIATE LEVEL

Bryant Associates, Inc.  
Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Donovan Hatem LLP  
Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates,  
Inc. Keville Enterprises, Inc.  
Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.  
Sherin and Lodgen LLP

### SUPPORTER LEVEL

BETA Group, Inc.  
CDW Consultants  
Crosby | Schlessinger | Smallridge  
Dewberry  
Epsilon Associates, Inc.  
Hager GeoScience, Inc.  
McMahon Associates  
Nover-Armstrong Associates,  
Inc. saam architecture

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### 2016 Income

Ad Hoc Revenues	\$-
Chapter Revenues	\$12,408.63
Communications Revenue	\$-
Diversity Revenues	\$-
Fundraising Revenues	\$95,250.00
Membership Revenues	\$3,405.00
Mentoring Revenues	\$377.09
Newsletter Revenues	\$-
Professional Development Revenues	\$12,151.00
Program Revenues	\$57,441.90
Scholarship & Awards Revenues	\$-
Special Projects Revenues	\$9,385.00
Outreach Revenues	\$70.00
WTS Boston Public Art Revenues	\$-
<b>Total Gross Revenues</b>	<b>\$190,488.62</b>

Ad Hoc Expenses	\$24,241.01
Chapter Expenses	\$14,944.80
Communications Expenses	\$4,231.00
Diversity Expenses	\$398.46
Fundraising Expenses	\$10,077.20
Membership Expenses	\$7,137.11
Mentoring Expenses	\$1,657.64
Newsletter Expenses	\$-
Professional Development Expenses	\$11,139.29
Program Expenses	\$51,670.65
Scholarship & Awards Expenses	\$982.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$36,176.78
Outreach Expenses	\$6,864.18
WTS Boston Public Art Expenses	\$1,672.50
<b>Total Gross Expenses</b>	<b>\$171,192.62</b>



# FINANCE

The Finance Committee was chaired by Marie Sullivan, Stantec, and WTS-Boston Treasurer, Sarah Dennechuk, Massachusetts Port Authority. In 2016, the Finance Committee reviewed the overall financial health of WTS-Boston - including the yearly revenue and expenditures, investments, and scholarship account.

The Finance Committee coordinates with our Financial Advisor from Merrill Lynch regarding our long term investments. The ultimate goal of our long term investments is to endow the scholarships the chapter gives out on an annual basis.

In collaboration with the Scholarship and Awards Committee and the Fundraising Committee, a

major accomplishment this year was the review and recommendations associated with the annual scholarships and how they can be self-supported through our annual fundraising effort. In 2016, WTS-Boston awarded \$24,000 in graduate, undergraduate, and high school scholarships.

The Finance Committee has also streamlined the invoicing process to run through the Finance Committee rather than the individual committee hosting the event. After each event, the committee provides a reconciliation sheet to Finance and all outstanding payments are invoiced and tracked. This centralizes the invoicing process and helps to identify any issues or problems common to several events.

## COMMUNICATIONS

This Communications Committee is responsible for both internal and external chapter communications, including streamlining communication to membership and sharing WTS-Boston news, programs, and events. The Committee was co-chaired by Lisa Jacobson of Barr Foundation and Kim Sousa of Sanborn Head, supported by a half-dozen volunteers and Board Liaison Lori Chicoyne. In 2016, the Committee began to regularly utilize social media to advertise, post real-time, and recap all WTS-Boston events and programs, which is helping to increase awareness and on-line presence for the Boston chapter. Our largest project for the year was transferring from the International supported 'internal' registration software over to Constant Contact for all registrations and event management, as well as serving as our contacts database.

Communications Committee accomplishments in 2016 included:

- Drafted and published more than 70 eblasts
- Maintained eblast distribution list with nearly 2,500 active email addresses
- Implemented new 'regular' eblast spotlights featuring Corporate Partners and Members on the Move
- Established protocols and schedule for posting weekly content on Constant Contact
- Managed and participated in weekly eblast coordination calls with Pres/VP/Director/Co-chairs
- Updated and refreshed WTS-Boston webpage, including weekly Jobs postings
- Coordinated with the WTS-Boston photographer for events
- Maintained Flickr photo sharing site, which includes professional photos from most events
- Regular and increased presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn
- Prepared online registration for all 2016 events
- Researched and rolled out new event Registration System (Constant Contact)
- Drafted, coordinated information, and published the 2015 WTS-Boston Annual Report

## DIVERSITY

The Diversity Committee is committed to supporting WTS-International and WTS-Boston in building a strong, diverse membership; organizing a diverse range of events and activities; and establishing new and leveraging existing partnerships. The co-chairs for the 2016 Diversity Committee were Christine Breen, PE, of Nitsch Engineering, and Rachel Strauss, AICP, of the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center.

WTS-International defines “diversity” as: “the practice of encouraging inclusion and balance in an organization with respect to members’ varied backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, disability, discipline, education, ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, and sexual orientation.” Goals for the Diversity Committee, as identified by WTS-Boston, are: (1) Recruitment of new members for the Diversity Committee; (2) Collaboration and outreach, both with other WTS committees and other like-minded organizations; and (3) Programming and coordination with other committees, particularly with the Programs Committee to develop one luncheon program a year and with other committees to organize at least one after-work professional development session a year.

During 2016, the Diversity Committee accomplished the following:

- Organized a Women-Owned Small Business Roundtable. The event, held in March 2016, brought together local women owners and

entrepreneurs to share their perspectives and experiences in growing their businesses. Topics included the biggest challenges in managing a business; business development, marketing, and teaming; and HR-related topics, such as integrating new staff and expanding growth. As a result of the roundtable and the connections made, participants continued to hold similar discussions at their own offices through the remainder of 2016.

- Coordinated the Diversity Expo. The Expo, held in October 2016, recognized and celebrated partnerships across Minority / Women / Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Firms. The event included an Expo hour, featuring 21 exhibiting firms, followed by a luncheon with keynote remarks from speaker, Jabes Rojas, who serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Access and Opportunity under Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. Mr. Rojas spoke about the Administration’s current efforts to increase diversity and inclusion through the state’s Supplier Diversity Program.

In 2017, the Diversity Committee will be folded into other existing committees across the Boston Chapter. The goal of this effort is to integrate diversity across all of the Chapter’s activities and committees.

## FUNDRAISING

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 2016 Sponsors included 29 at the Executive level, 7 at the Associate level, and 9 at the Supporter level. They are listed below.

### EXECUTIVE (\$2,750)

AECOM  
BSC Group  
CDM Smith Inc.  
City Point Partners  
GEI Consultants, Inc.  
Geocomp Corporation  
Green International Affiliates, Inc.  
Greenman - Pedersen, Inc.  
HDR  
HMMH  
HNTB  
Jacobs  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants  
Keolis  
Kleinfelder  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
Massachusetts Port Authority  
MassDOT Highway Division  
Michael Baker International, Inc.  
Nitsch Engineering  
Nobis Engineering  
Sanborn Head  
Stantec  
STV  
Tetra Tech  
TranSystems  
VHB  
Weston & Sampson  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Bryant Associates Inc.  
Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Donovan Hatem LLP  
Howard Stein Hudson  
Keville Enterprises, Inc.  
Parsons  
Sherin and Lodgen LLP

### Supporter (\$750)

BETA Group  
CDW Consultants  
Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge  
Dewberry  
Epsilon Associates, Inc.  
Hager GeoScience, Inc.  
McMahon Associates  
Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc.  
saam achitecture

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.

In 2016, the committee had multiple conference calls with the Scholarships & Awards and Finance committees to evaluate the sponsorship pricing structure. Fundraising then prepared a Fundraising

### Associate (\$1,250)

Value Comparison spreadsheet and attended board meetings to discuss potential changes to the program. The Board approved increasing the sponsorship rates and amounts to scholarship for the following year (2017) in order to make the scholarship account sustainable. It is the first time we have raised the rates since 2013.

## Membership

WTS-Boston's membership continues their success year after year. In 2016, the Boston chapter was again one of the largest WTS chapters with approximately 440 members (including base and affiliate membership levels). According to the December 2016 member report, the chapter closed out the year with 358 base-members, compared to 321 base-members in December of 2015. WTSI member reports showed roughly 80 members joining and/or renewing their membership in 2016.

Details about the committee's 2016 activities are provided below:

- **Engineer's Week Sponsorship**—The Membership Committee represented WTS at the Career Night during the Engineer's Week Event that took place in late February. Committee volunteers staffed a WTS table introducing students and other interested parties in the organization and collecting resumes for distribution to WTS corporate sponsors.
  - **Summer Social**—Despite gray skies and a looming storm, many WTS members gathered at The Daily Catch Seaport after work for the Summer Social on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The event was in high demand, prompting an uptick in new memberships and selling out days in advance. Fortunately, the weather held out, allowing more than 50 people to connect with both new members and old friends. Members enjoyed harbor views, hors d'oeuvres, and most importantly, good conversation at the three-hour event.
  - **Annual Membership Celebration November Reception** – This year's Membership Celebration took place at Sip Wine Bar in Downtown Boston and was enjoyed by 60 attendees with WTS-Boston Vice President and Membership Committee Co-Chair opening the event. There were games, prizes (including gift cards and WTS-Boston tote bags), and
- fantastic food and drinks throughout the night. Guests also received a stem-less wine glass with the WTS-Boston logo to remember the celebration. Attendees made the best of the opportunity to network, catch-up with friends, and meet new people, with many guests staying beyond the scheduled closing time.
- **New Member Welcome Event** – For the second time, the Membership Committee hosted an informal after-work event focused on new members only. The "New Member Welcome" event took place at the LIR Irish Pub & Restaurant in early December. The goal of the event was to provide an opportunity for new members to meet other new members and some of the Chapter Leadership. It was also a great way to learn about WTS and the many Committee volunteer opportunities that are available as well as other ways to reap the benefits of their membership. Fifteen member attendees made this a special and intimate event with each new member walking away with a WTS wine glass. The Membership Committee recruited one new member at this event. The Membership Committee will continue to host the "New Member Welcome" Event at least once per year.
  - **Ongoing Activities** – The Committee continues to send Welcome Kits to all new members. The kits include a letter from the Boston Chapter President, a Committee Brochure and a small WTS gift (in recent years we have been gifting pens and pins with the WTS logo). The Committee also actively participates in informing members of their expiring membership and is responsible for responding to all general membership questions. The Membership Committee also downloads membership reports (including both member and new member reports) and develops member statistic summary data and provides

them to the Chapter leadership to keep them informed of current membership data, and coordinates with the Programs Committee and Communications Committee on updating the non-member mailing lists.

## MENTORING

In 2016, the WTS Mentoring committee held two successful events and provided support to the Emerging Professionals. The committee hosted a book club event with a panel discussing “Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom” by Liz Levin & and a Ted Talk discussion: “How to Speak So People Want to Listen” by Julian Treasure.

### WTS Boston Mentoring TED Talk

The committee hosted a mentoring event featuring a Julian Treasure TED talk emphasizing communication styles and techniques. The event was well attended (20+ participants) and included watching the TED talk followed by an in depth discussion of optimizing voice and word choice. The discussion was facilitated by Margaret O’Meara, Vice President at WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff. Margaret O’Meara brought her extensive mentoring and coaching experiences to the table, facilitating a lively conversation about public speaking and communication. Attendees came from a wide variety of experience levels, ages, backgrounds, public/private sector, etc., which contributed to an illuminating discussion. Topics discussed included how to be authentic and let your personality show in a professional context, how to speak up in a group when others are more outspoken, knowing your audience, challenges communicating as a woman in a male-dominated field, accents, posture and body language, and confidence. Tips were exchanged, funny and inspiring stories were shared, and it was ultimately a fun and fruitful event.



WTS Boston Mentoring Book Club



WTS-Boston Mentoring Committee



“Boots” Co-Author, Liz Levin



Ted Talk Discussion Group Photo

The Mentoring Committee selected “Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom” by Grace Crunican and Liz Levin as their 2016 book club reading. Event participants read the book and held a lively discussion over food and drinks.

We had a panel discussion with Liz Levin, Jane Chmielinski, and Mary Jane O’Meara. After a brief welcome and introduction, the group split into three small breakout sessions to discuss Liz, Mary Jane, and Jane’s stories more in depth, and to receive insight from the women themselves. One



group, facilitated by Susan Nichols, discussed Liz Levin’s journey from the world of housing and urban development to the private sector (M&E, Rizzo Associates), to her contributions serving on multiple boards. Another group, facilitated by Sara Coyle, spoke with Mary Jane O’Meara about her experiences working at the MBTA, MassDOT, and Massport, her long tenure as Director of the Tobin Bridge and her ongoing work at HNTB. The third group, facilitated by Allison Sweeney, talked with Jane Chmielinski about her start in the public sector (Mass Highway and the MBTA), and her time in the private sector (FRH, DMJM Harris, AECOM) where she served in a variety of roles, including COO and President of the AECOM Americas Group.

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 2016 Emerging Professionals were:

- Gonul Duren, Project Designer, EIT, MassDOT
- Leslie Stahl, Community Planner, US Volpe Center

Gonul and Leslie had a successful year as Emerging Professionals. They attended board meetings and WTS events. They also worked with their Mentors throughout the year. Leslie joined the WTS-Outreach Committee and helped coordinate a speed mentoring and simulators tour for young women at the Volpe Center. Gonul joined the

Communications Committee and was active with the WTS-Boston social media initiatives.

The Mentoring Committee also hosted the first annual Emerging Professional Alumnae Event in August 2016. This was a chance for current and past EP’s to join together, network and celebrate.



Shown: L-R: Gonul Duren, Susan Nichols, Allison Sweeney, Dianne Gunther, Holly Durso, Sara Coyle and Kristine Gorman

## Student Chapter

On behalf of WTS, we are pleased to complete another successful year 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 Marie Louis, the Student Chapter had a very active and successful year in 2016. The Student Chapter served as true stewards of WTS by volunteering and encouraging the next generation of young women to consider a career in transportation, engineering, and science by visiting local schools and serving as “homework assistance buddies” and mentors. They infused their own spirit into learning outside the classroom by promoting speakers that shared insights in areas such as achieving balance with work, family, fun, and friendship – all while advancing the role of women in the global transportation industry. 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. This year in particular, we saw an increase of speakers come to campus. The Student Chapter actively engaged other organizations on campus to collaborate and maximize the potential of their events. And by coordinating with WTS Boston Committee Co-Chairs, they effectively utilized the campus Transportation Seminar Series to expand their audience for visiting speakers.

Some of the events that were part of this year’s Student Chapter included the following.

**The Situation Room Teaching Event** – together, with UMass Amherst Graduate Women in STEM (GWIS), the Student Chapter co-hosted the Situation Room Teaching Event. GWIS had used the “situation room” training model in the past with great success and by teaming up with the Student Chapter, gathered a panel of faculty/post-docs with experience in what was termed

“predesigned situation room topics.” Each situation was reflective of what many of the panel had encountered in their own classrooms. With 4-5 graduate students as volunteers, students reacted to a prescribed situation which was then critiqued by all those in attendance. The panel along with the audience offered recommendations, alternatives, and approval to how each of the volunteers reacted – identifying both strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the volunteers also outlined what they might have done differently to change the situation outcome. Each situation was representative of an actual classroom occurrence and the overall program served as an effective tool to guide teaching assistants on how to resolve issues that arise with respect to discussions, labs, and lectures.

With speaking skills critical at any career level, this year’s Student Chapter took on the task of holding informal **Toastmaster Speaking** sessions to enable individuals to advance and improve upon their speaking and leadership skills. Chapter members practiced giving speeches, critiquing one another, and gaining feedback of what works and what does not when publicly speaking.

**Dr. Eleni Christofa**, Assistant Professor at UMass Amherst’s College of Engineering, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, presented on **How to Manage Grad Student Life** (similar to a work/life balance seminar). With every day demands of family and life, Dr. Christofa gave attendees a glimpse into her successes and challenges when faced with vying requests for her time and attention.

**Karen Winger**, Transit Division Director at **Gwinnett County**, Georgia, returned to campus to share her knowledge as a Transit Division Director and weigh in on what opportunities exist for UMass graduates in the field of transportation – and as an alum, she provided valuable insight of the many paths that transportation engineering can offer.



The **University of Massachusetts Amherst Summer Transportation Institute (STI)** hosted a summer transportation institute open to high school students ranging from 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade with the opportunity to learn about transportation-related careers and to encourage the pursuit of a college degree as preparation for a job in the transportation industry. Those students that showed a strong interest in mathematics, science, or computer technology were invited to attend a four-week session and learn about the various modes of transportation with topics ranging from Connected and Automated Vehicle Technology to simulated traffic operations to aviation. For many of the student attendees, it was the chance to experience the many “avenues” the world of transportation engineering can include.

The Transportation Seminar Series also brought some engaging and notable speakers to the campus, including:

**Carolyn Dykema, Massachusetts State Representative from the 8th Middlesex District** was the culmination of this year’s seminar series with her presentation on “How Transportation Policy is Designed and Funded throughout the Commonwealth.” With students, professors, and visiting WTS Boston members, Representative Dykema spoke about the impact that tolls – or the now lack of – impact our movement around the Commonwealth and the perceptions along with the realities that tolling affords us. Attendees were most interested in hearing her speak on the process by which initiatives are introduced at the state house and the path that each takes to gain

the necessary support to ultimately be implemented.

**Dr. Heather Rothenberg - Lead, Trust and Safety Research at Uber**, spoke on “How I planned for my job at Uber even though it never existed before.” Refusing to drive or ride in a car with anyone who isn’t wearing a seat belt since she was a kid, Dr. Rothenberg now channels that childhood desire to keep everyone safe to lead Uber’s Trust and Safety research, standards, and risk teams. She talked about combining existing research and state of the practice with innovative tools and technology to make Uber safer for everyone in the 400+ cities where they operate.

**Joanne Linowes, founding principal of Linowes Executive Development Institute, LLC**, brought to life the “Serious Soft-Skills for Engineering Success.”



Joanne’s lively discussion had participants actively engaged and on their feet as they

learned that beyond technical and design excellence, successful engineering professionals need “soft skills” to advance their careers. She stressed the ability to present your ideas and your SELF effectively is a valued skill – showing participants various ways to structure information for impact, ways to engage the client/decision-makers, and ways to make the impression that counts. Her interactive session provided specific, proven techniques that attendees could take away from the presentation and use immediately to enhance the “people part” of doing their jobs.



**Student Chapter Members along with WTS Boston Committee Chairs pose with Joanne Linowes.**



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, 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 Complete Streets and business development. Networking opportunities were also offered, such as the annual Golf Outing. The co-chairs for the 2016 Professional Committee were Jackie Davis of Howard Stein Hudson and Arzu Kurkoglu of Mott MacDonald. The Board Liaison was Cynthia Carleo of HDR.

The first event of 2016 was held Thursday, March 24, 2016. The event, "How to Negotiate" with Joanne Linowes, was at Transystems in downtown crossing. Joanne discussed the "invisible" flaws that affect your ability to reach your desired goal and feel satisfied with the outcome. A group of 16 participants enjoyed a night a dinner, drinks, and pointers that will lead to a success in a negotiation session.

The second event of 2016 was held Thursday, May 5, 2016. The event was a WTS-Boston Professional Development Brown Bag Luncheon at the Transportation Library at 10 Park Plaza. The event was "MassDOT Separated Bike Lane Planning & Design Guide" with Complete Streets Engineer, Luciano Rabito, P.E.. Lou discussed the guide as a resource for project planners and designers for considering, evaluating, and designing separated bike lanes as part of a Complete Streets approach where safe and comfortable accommodations are provided for all roadway users.

In August 2016, the Professional Development Committee held the 24th Annual WTS-Boston Golf Outing. The 9-hole Scramble style outing was held at the Wayland Country Club, Wayland, MA. The event was a great opportunity for beginners to play in a best ball format. The golf event had its highest turnout ever with 94 attendees. The event was a huge success thanks to our 21 adopts – a– hole

sponsors and our silent auction and raffle prize donors.

Adopts – a– hole sponsors;

- AECOM
- CDW Consultants
- Construction Industries of MA
- Fabiano Oil Corp.
- Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
- HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Keville Enterprises, Inc.
- Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc.
- Stantec
- Tetra Tech
- Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc,
- BETA Group
- City Point Partners
- Epsilon Associates, Inc.
- Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
- Hager GeoScience, Inc.
- Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
- Lamson Engineering Corp.
- Sherin and Lodgen LLP
- STV Incorporated
- TranSystems

Silent Auction and Raffle Donor

- Beta Group (Silent Auction)
- CDW Consultants
- Donovan Hatem
- Gill Engineering
- Bryant Associates
- City Point Partners
- Epsilon
- Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.



- Green International
- HNTB
- Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
- Kleinfelder
- Nitsch Engineering
- Sam Park & Co. (Silent Auction)
- VHB
- 6B Bar and Lounge
- Courtyard Marriott (Silent Auction)
- House of Blues Boston (Silent Auction)
- HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Howard Stein Hudson
- Keville Enterprises, Inc. (Silent Auction)
- Michael Baker Int'l
- Nover Armstrong
- Stantec
- Weston and Samson
- Southwick Zoo
- Swan Boats Boston
- The Boston Red Sox (Silent Auction)



Thanks to this generosity of the Adopt-A-Hole sponsors, mulligan ticket sales, and raffle ticket sales, WTS-Boston was able to raise more than \$5,000 for scholarships.

## PROGRAMS

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 2016 events and programs is provided below.

### February 25, 2016

Guest speaker Gina Fiandaca, Commissioner of the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), provided



attendees of the February luncheon with an informative and exciting presentation on BTD's responsibilities and key initiatives to move the City into the future. Having worked with the BTD for more than 25 years, Ms. Fiandaca was appointed Commissioner of the Department by Mayor Walsh in January of 2015. Ms. Fiandaca highlighted her five key initiatives: DriveBoston, ParkBoston, Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and Green Links.

Ms. Fiandaca described her vision to increase the safety, access, and reliability of the City's transportation system and discussed how the BTD has set forth an action plan involving the community, business, and political leaders to guide their vision forward.

The luncheon was attended by 170 guests.

### March 22, 2016

Dr. Laurie A. Leshin, President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), joined WTS-Boston for a lively discussion at WTS-Boston's Women's History themed luncheon. Judy Nitsch, founding principal of Nitsch Engineering and the first alumna member of WPI's Board of Trustees, introduced Dr. Leshin. Dr. Leshin, who holds the distinction of being the first woman president of

WPI, also recognized the WPI Alumni in the audience and mentioned that WPI is currently ranked in the top five percent of colleges for the number of women graduating as engineers. Her presentation focused on three key areas in becoming a future



innovator: Be Inspired, Have Help, and Do Something Impactful.

The luncheon was attended by 110 guests.

### April 7, 2016

The WTS-Boston April 2016 luncheon topic was Climate Change and the Commonwealth: A Panel Discussion. The panel of speakers consisted of Amy Longworth, Director of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission (GRC), Carl Spector, Commissioner of



the Environment Department for the City of Boston, and Steven Miller, Supervisor of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division's Environmental Management System and Sustainability efforts. The moderator for the discussion was Stephanie DiNezio, Project Manager within MassDOT's Environmental Services Department.

The panel of experts represented several different perspectives on the topic of climate change. Steve Miller is the project manager for the Central Artery vulnerability assessment program and has worked with numerous states and federal and international agencies to advance the understanding of climate vulnerability and to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Amy Longworth has more than 20 years of experience in helping corporate leadership shape their sustainability and business strategies to minimize risk and identify opportunities. Carl Spector oversees programs in climate change, environmental protection, historical preservation, and other aspects of sustainability for the City of Boston.

The panelists demonstrated the importance of public and private partnerships in achieving common goals, and were a remarkable representation of the collaboration efforts required in tackling climate change preparedness and adaptation at the local, state, and regional levels. The luncheon was attended by 150 guests.

#### May 24, 2016

At the WTS-Boston May 2016 luncheon, Scott Bosworth, the new Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT's) Chief Strategy Officer joined WTS-Boston. Scott shared his



thoughts regarding his new role and responsibilities, and also described some recent agency successes.

Scott shared recent successes at MassDOT. These included the new five year Capital Investment Plan; a reduction in overtime, absenteeism, and dropped bus trips at the Massachusetts Bay

Transportation Authority (MBTA); and improved customer service at the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). Scott also talked about public and private partnerships, where he is spending a fair amount of his time. These projects allow for integrated and alternative project delivery, use of private funds to spur infrastructure improvements, and accelerated project timelines. Scott ended his talk by making it clear that his door is always open, and that he wants to hear from stakeholders. Overall, his job is to support MassDOT's mission, to present new ideas, and to challenge others.

The luncheon was attended by over 170 guests.

#### July 21, 2016

On July 21, 2016, WTS members observed firsthand the great progress that has been made on the Conley



Terminal Dedicated Freight Corridor Project. The WTS-Boston Summer Tour started with a presentation by Mr. Kevin McWeeney of Massport and Mr. Jerry Friedman of HDR. The Conley Terminal is New England's only full-service container terminal and provides global access for businesses and industry, as well as 14 million consumers.

During the tour, WTS members observed the construction of the dedicated freight corridor bridge, the truck access area and a newly constructed U.S. Customs building with state-of-the-art scanning capabilities. Tour participants also took a stroll in the new linear park, where new plantings are beginning to take shape. Tour participants rode in style to the Conley Freight Terminal project site in a state-of-the-art bus



graciously donated by the MassDOT Regional Bus Program. Ms. Connie Englert of TrueNorth Transit Group spoke about the bus program and the importance of buses in our overall public transportation system during the short ride to the project site. The Summer Tour ended with a well-attended networking happy hour at M.J. O'Connor's at the Westin Waterfront.

The tour sold out at maximum capacity with 50 guests in attendance.

### September 8, 2016

WTS-Boston members welcomed Betty Desrosiers, Director of Strategic and Business Planning at the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), to the September 8, 2016 luncheon. In a fitting tribute to a career spent galvanizing support for aviation initiatives in Massachusetts, Betty took the opportunity, on the eve of her retirement, to highlight the significant impact Massport continues to have on the economy of our region. Massport operates Boston Logan International Airport, the public container and cruise terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, Worcester Regional Airport and real estate holdings in South Boston, East Boston and Charlestown. Massport's operations



generate roughly 17,000 direct jobs and contribute approximately \$13.3B in total economic activity annually. By moving people and goods, Betty emphasized, "Massport connects Boston to the world."

Betty concluded by thanking her talented team at Massport for all their help implementing these ambitious plans and by reflecting on her long-term

involvement with WTS. Through her membership in the Boston chapter, Betty remarked she gained invaluable insight into the transportation industry and a vibrant network of talented women working to improve transportation in Boston.



The luncheon drew the largest crowd of the 2016 luncheon programs with more than 190 guests in attendance.

### October 27, 2016

On Thursday October 27, 2016, WTS-Boston celebrated the continued support of Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Firms during an Expo hour followed by a luncheon featuring speaker, Jabes Rojas, Governor's Office Deputy Chief of Staff for Access & Opportunity at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The event began with an Expo hour featuring twenty-one (21) exhibitor tables. Exhibitors and attendees each received a program containing information about each exhibiting firm including: background, services provided, contact information, and available job opportunities.

The luncheon featured Mr. Jabes Rojas, Deputy Chief of Staff for Access and Opportunity, who serves under Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. In February 2016, Governor Baker signed Executive Order No. 559, which elevated the Office of Access and Opportunity to the Governor's Office. During the luncheon, Mr. Rojas spoke about the Administration's current efforts to increase diversity and inclusion through the state's Supplier Diversity Program.

The luncheon and Expo was attended by 120 guests and exhibitors.

### November 17, 2016

At the WTS-Boston November 2016 luncheon, Chris Gordon, President of Wynn Design and Development for Massachusetts, shared the



exciting vision for the Wynn Boston Harbor project located in Everett. In 2014, Wynn was awarded the greater Boston area casino license by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. At an estimated \$2.1B, the casino development is the largest single-phase private development project in the Commonwealth. The project is slated for completion in 2019.

The project site is the former location of numerous chemical and industrial operations, including most notably the former Monsanto Company. The site has required approximately \$30M of environmental cleanup prior to the start of construction of the complex. The remediation efforts include restoration of the river bank, which will allow a reconnection with the waterfront in this area of Everett. Chris told the audience that they estimate that the project will create about 4,000 permanent jobs and 4,000 construction jobs. The luncheon was attended by more than 170 guests.

### December 15, 2016

At the December 2016 WTS-Boston luncheon and Annual Meeting, Joanna Aalto, Assistant General



Manager for Capital Program Oversight at the MBTA, shared her presentation 'MBTA Back on Track.' The presentation highlighted several key initiatives the MBTA has with a focus on improving capital delivery.

Janelle Chan, MBTA's Chief of Real Estate, shared an exciting presentation on transit-oriented development (TOD).

Incoming WTS-Boston Chapter President Rebecca Williamson took the podium to continue the Annual Meeting portion of the luncheon. Rebecca recognized outgoing and incoming Chapter leadership and thanked outgoing President Rachael Sack for her accomplishments during her tenure as Chapter President.

The luncheon and Annual Meeting was attended by more than 180 guests.

## Public Art

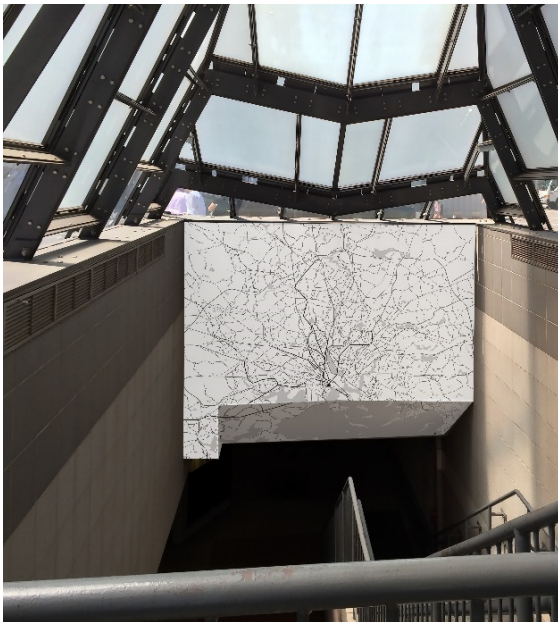
The Public Art Committee charter is the installation of a public art piece in a public transportation venue. The location of the planned art installation is the South Station MBTA Subway Station specifically, the Redline portal at Summer Street and Atlantic Avenue at the Federal Reserve Building.

The Committee's focus is to build awareness and raise money to fund this project and to work with the MBTA to develop this project. Last year significant progress was made and the Committee's development work included holding public presentations by three shortlisted artists, and selecting the final artist along with the preliminary public art piece.

Internationally known artist, Ellen Harvey, was selected as the artist. Harvey developed a public art piece showcasing women's contributions to the transportation industry. One of 195 applicants, Harvey's unique concept and design called NETWORK carried her through to the final four

the South Station commission. Elated with the selection of Ellen Harvey, WTS, Boston Public Art Co-Chair Lisa Brothers reflected on the highly competitive process and the many impressive proposals received, "On behalf of the selection committee, we congratulate Ellen and thank all of the artists who participated sharing their creativity, professionalism, and evident support of public art projects. We have reached a milestone with Ellen on board. Her vision will direct us as we work collaboratively on final design concept and site selection process."

A key focus for this past year and the coming year will be to contract for the final design with the artist Ellen Harvey, raise funds for the fabrication and installation of the piece, and to progress the contract with the MBTA for the ownership and maintenance of the art. The funds raised are tax deductible charitable donations to the WTS-Boston Charitable Fund, Inc., a 501c3 organization that was established for public art project. The Committee is seeking philanthropic donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. The fundraising work includes reaching out to the WTS community, corporate donations, including the charitable arms of corporate firms, and hosting a fundraising event at South Station for area businesses and artists.



WTS-Boston Public Art Preliminary Piece,  
NETWORK by Ellen Harvey

selection process where she further demonstrated her understanding and creative ability to undertake

## OUTREACH

In 2016, the Outreach committee's main focus was to expand and solidify the Transportation YOU program to become a sustainable program in the coming years. The co-chairs for the 2016 Outreach committee were Katie Choe, City of Boston, and Ali Love, STV Incorporated, with Jessica Kenny Massachusetts Department of Transportation, acting as Board Liaison.

Transportation YOU is a joint initiative of WTS International and the U.S. DOT to introduce girls ages 13-18 to the world of transportation and to encourage them to pursue classes and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The WTS-Boston local efforts of the Transportation YOU initiative are three-fold.

Firstly, the Outreach committee sends volunteers to local science expos and fairs to run hands-on activities with young participants. In 2016, the committee focused on choosing events that had been the most successful in previous years and sent volunteers to five STEM expos.

The second portion of WTS-Boston's Transportation YOU program is hosting programs for students at local schools. The Outreach committee has found that working with a specific school to create a program catered to their needs works a lot better than coming up with a program idea and trying to get students from multiple schools to attend. The committee's focus for the year was to build relationships with our partner schools: Newton Country Day School, Shawsheen Technical High School, and the Everett Public School System.

Over the past few years, the Outreach committee has teamed up with the Volpe Center to host a program with Newton Country Day School. The students are given a hands-on tour of the Human Factors Lab simulators and then participate in a speed mentoring activity with volunteers from WTS and the Volpe Center. The event has been successful in the past, so the committee recreated the event in March, and again the following school

year in December. More than 20 volunteers helped to make both programs run smoothly.

The partnership with Shawsheen Technical High School began in the middle of 2015 when a committee member who had attended Shawsheen reached out to some of the teachers there. The committee worked with the teachers to come up with plans for the school year, including one program in the Fall and one in the Spring of 2016. In November, a duo from the survey team at Nitsch Engineering went to Shawsheen in Billerica along with a couple of WTS committee members and ran an activity with a small group of students, introducing them to the concept, procedure, application and importance of surveying. The students got the chance to practice their skills in a field at the school.

In April, the Outreach committee invited students from Shawsheen Technical High School to take a tour of the Longfellow Bridge between Boston and Cambridge. Outreach members Ali Love, Heather Moulton, and Mike Camoscio, all of STV, helped to plan the event and joined forces with members of the joint-venture contracting team Patricia Palmiere of Consigli and Christin Grygorcewicz of J.F. White to lead the girls on a tour through the ongoing construction the Longfellow Bridge. Each of the women in the group spoke about their involvement on the project and a little about their background, how they got into their current positions, and their favorite parts of their jobs. Apart from having to brave the cold and rainy weather, the girls enjoyed the event and were engaged throughout the tour and at a discussion over lunch, where they asked a number of great follow-up questions.

The third partnership that was fostered throughout 2015 was with the Everett school system. The outreach committee had been working with one of the schools in Everett, and over the summer of 2015, the committee co-chairs met with the Director of Science and the Director of Curriculum for the entire Everett school system to see how the partnership could expand. The Director of Science

was especially interested in providing programming to the students at each of the K-8 schools, so the plan for a series of programs for 6th-8th grade girls formed. The committee began hosting after-school programs in December 2015 and continued running the program at each K-8 school throughout 2016. Volunteers went to each of the Everett schools and ran a program based around an ongoing construction project of a large resort and casino in Everett. The program introduced various types of jobs that need to be done for a large construction project with hands-on activities that gave the students a better understanding of what each job entails. For the 2016-2017 school year, the committee planned a new curriculum and created a program with a similar format, but focused around aviation, a new theme for the year.

The last portion of the local Transportation YOU initiative is to send a mentor/mentee pair to the Washington DC Youth Transportation YOU Summit that WTS International and the U.S. DOT hosts every year. For the second year in a row, the committee was able to collect applications and choose a mentor and mentee who had been involved in WTS and Transportation YOU. Allison Sweeney and Emma Heller went to the summit in June and came back raving about how wonderful a time they had. The Outreach committee would like to work on finding funding to send a pair each year. In the meantime, however, the committee is working on planning a local Boston Transportation YOU summit for the Fall of 2017, instead of sending a pair to Washington DC.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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 2016 WTS Boston Annual Award winners were:

- **WTS Boston's Woman of the Year:**  
Mary Jane O'Meara, HNTB
- **Claire Barrett Member of the Year** – Sarah Deschaine, WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff
- **Employer of the Year** – Howard Stein Hudson
- **Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award** – Massachusetts Senator Karen E. Spilka, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee
- **Innovative Transportation Solutions** – Yvonne Graves Jones, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- **Honorable Ray LaHood Award** – Frederick Salvucci, Senior Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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 2016 WTS-Boston Scholarship winners were:

- **Ann M. Hershfang Graduate Scholarship** - Corinna Li of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Claire Barrett Memorial Graduate Scholarship** - Farnoush Khalighi of the University of Massachusetts
- **Jacquelyn R. Smith Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship** – Sarah Rauwolf
- **Community College Scholarship** - Kim Hardy of North Shore Community College
- **Transportation YOU Undergraduate Scholarship** - Emma Heller of Milton High School
- **WTS Leadership Legacy Scholarship:** Farnoush Khalighi, Umass-Amherst
- **Molitoris Leadership Scholarship:** Lindsay Cullen, University of Rhode Island

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

- New Year’s Reception – January 28, 2016
- Tour of the MBTA’s Emergency Training Center with NEITE – February 18, 2016
- Annual Leadership Forum – April 26, 2016
- Annual Scholarships and Awards Dinner – June 29, 2016



Photo by: Sarah Deschaine

### New Year’s Reception

Thursday, January 28th marked the start of an



Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz

exciting 2016 for WTS-Boston with our Annual New Year’s Reception. The reception was well-attended by more than 150 members, special guests, and dignitaries. In addition to reconnecting with friends and colleagues, the highlight of the evening was Ms. Betsy Taylor, former Director of Finance and Treasury at Massport and current member of the MassDOT Board of Directors and the MBTA Retirement Fund Board, and the Massport Retirement System. WTS-Boston President, Rachael

Sack, started the evening by taking a moment to recognize the generosity and support of the WTS-Boston 2016 Sponsors and the many transportation leaders in attendance. Sam Sleiman, Massport’s Director of Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs, introduced Ms. Taylor. He informed the audience that she has been described by the Bond Buyer as a “Trailblazing Woman in Public Finance.” In her speech, Ms. Taylor focused on the importance of giving yourself credit for all your accomplishments. She reflected that men are often described by their accomplishments, while women are more often described by their personalities. Ms. Taylor encouraged attendees not to wait until retirement to add up everything we have done in our organizations and chosen professions. It is our responsibility to speak up, make our impacts known, and help our audience understand what our influential accomplishments have been.

### Tour of the MBTA’s Emergency Training Center with NEITE

On February 18th, a group of members of WTS-Boston and the New England Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (NEITE) got together for a joint event to tour the MBTA’s Emergency Training Center (ETC).

Opened in the summer of 2013, the ETC is a state-of-the-art public transit emergency training facility. The center was constructed in the former streetcar tunnels adjacent to the current Broadway Station in South Boston. Because of its location in the tunnels, the ETC provides an extremely realistic environment for advanced emergency response training for several different transit modes. Decommissioned and now fully restored Green Line cars, Blue Line subway cars and a bus are in place in a station setting along with a control room that can simulate advanced audio and visual effects to create realistic situations for training including loud “booms,” screams, and smoke. Numerous agencies and departments have used the ETC for training, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Boston Police Department, and Boston Fire Department.

Following the tour, the group went to Coppersmith Restaurant, also in South Boston, for an informal networking hour. With a small group, we were able to sit around one table and get to know each other. The event reinforced the benefit and importance of forming relationships with professionals in our industry within WTS as well as other professional organizations so we can share our experiences and knowledge and continue to grow our networks.

### Annual Leadership Forum



Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz

April 26th, 2016 marked WTS-Boston’s 20th Annual Leadership Forum. More than 150 dedicated WTS-Boston sponsors, chapter leaders, and public officials make their way to the Omni Parker House in downtown Boston by 7:30 in the morning to be greeted by strong coffee, close colleagues, and good conversation. This year’s invitation-only annual leadership breakfast honored Anne Aylward for her outstanding leadership and powerful advocacy for women in the transportation field.

Introducing Ms. Aylward was Luisa Paiewonsky, Director of the Center for Infrastructure Systems and Technology at Volpe. A past president of the



Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz

WTS-Boston Chapter, Luisa herself is a trailblazer in the field, having served as the Commonwealth’s first Highway Division Administrator for MassDOT under Governor Deval Patrick. Luisa described that “to know Anne is to be ready for laughter at any time.” Ms. Paiewonsky credited Ms. Aylward with such notable accomplishments as increasing the percentage of female employees at Volpe during her leadership from 32 to 57 percent.

Ms. Aylward described her own life and accomplishments starting with her diverse childhood growing up taking trains around Southeast Asia when her parents were in the U.S. Foreign Service. She spoke about the critical role that WTS plays in providing a space for members to make important connections by mixing the professional and the personal. This type of interaction allows for greater collaboration in the transportation field and for professional and personal exploration of our goals and priorities.

While the inspiring words of Ms. Paiewonsky and WTS Boston’s honoree illustrate the gains made by women in the transportation field during the past 40 years, Ms. Aylward urged those present never to take this progress for granted. She cautioned that without consistently strong leadership and support, organizations can be dismantled and progress can slip away. This reminder highlights the importance of this Leadership Forum event as a way to continually seek out and honor strong female leadership in transportation and to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all of our chapter sponsors, public officials, and chapter leaders for their support in advancing women in transportation and making WTS-Boston a model chapter.

### Annual Scholarships and Awards Dinner

The WTS-Boston Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner was held at the Omni Parker House on June 29, 2016 and more than 200 members of the transportation community attended. WTS-Boston President Rachael Sack presented the Boston Chapter Awards and Becky Williamson, WTS-Boston Vice President, then presented the Scholarship awards.





Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz

Honored at this event were recipients of these distinguished awards:

- *WTS Boston's Woman of the Year* – Mary Jane O'Meara, HNTB
- *Claire Barrett Barrett Member of the Year* – Sarah Deschaine, WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff
- *Employer of the Year* – Howard Stein Hudson
- *Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award* – Massachusetts Senator Karen E. Spilka, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee
- *Innovative Transportation Solutions* – Yvonne Graves Jones, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- *Honorable Ray LaHood Award* – Frederick Salvucci, Senior Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Also honored were these scholarship recipients:

- *Ann M. Hershfang Graduate Scholarship* - Corinna Li of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- *Claire Barrett Memorial Graduate Scholarship* - Farnoush Khalighi of the University of Massachusetts
- *Jacquelyn R. Smith Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship* – Sarah Rauwolf
- *Community College Scholarship* - Kim Hardy of North Shore Community College
- *Transportation YOU Undergraduate Scholarship* - Emma Heller of Milton High School

Without our 2016 volunteers these events would not have been possible.

Special Projects Committee Board Liaison:

- Jessica Kenny, MassDOT

Co-chairs:

- Sarah Deschaine, WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Alison Felix, MAPC

Volunteers:

- Teryne Alexander, Massport
- Karen Brown, Keville
- Emily Fatcher, U.S. DOT Volpe Center
- Leslie Haines, Parsons
- Ali Kleyman, CTPS
- Robin Mannion, CTPS
- Rayna Rubin
- Vanessa White, MBTA



*Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz*



*Photo By: Frank Monkiewicz*



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Boston Chapter