

WTSCFL Newsletter



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Central Florida

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SECRETARY: Kelda Senior
TREASURER: Nancy Clements, PE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Amy Windom, PE*

SEPTEMBER 2022 | QUARTER 3

President's Message

Hello Central Florida transportation community,

I am thrilled to share our latest newsletter. Your WTS Central Florida Chapter has had another productive quarter.

Chapter leadership continues to keep our goals for the year in front of us as work to continue to deliver value to our membership and impact the community.

These goals include:

- Attracting sustaining, connecting and advancing the transportation profession
- Promoting diversity and inclusion with intentionality
- Growing our membership
- Establishing the WTS Central Florida Innovation and Advisory Council

We invite you to join us on this journey of advancing women in the transportation industry. You can support by becoming a sponsor, attending an event or simply following and engaging with us on [social media](#).

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you soon!

Snehal Ambare
2022 President, WTS Central Florida



President's Updates

Nicola Liquori joins Innovation and Advisory Council

We are excited to welcome Nicola Liquori, Florida Turnpike Enterprise's Executive Director and CEO, as the newest member of our chapter's Innovation and Advisory Council.

This Council assembles local leaders in public and private sector transportation to advocate for the advancement of women in the transportation industry.

We are thankful for Nicola's ongoing support of WTS Central Florida.

Stay tuned to learn more about the chapter's Innovation and Advisory Council, and future announcements of additional Council members.



President's Updates

WTSCFL Leadership Applications for 2023 Board of Directors Available

Leadership applications for the WTS Central Florida Chapter Board of Directors are now being accepted.

Board of Directors Positions

- President (automatic slate of current Vice President)
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Five (5) Directors at Large with specific committee responsibilities

Applicants must be a member in good standing of the Central Florida Chapter. For inclusion on the ballot, applications must be received on or before Friday, October 7, 2022 11:59pm EDT.

Ballots will be sent to members in good standing to vote.

For application form and position descriptions visit:

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/news/wtscfl-leadership-applications-2023-board-directors-available>



Welcome to our New Members!

- Joshua Davis, Kimley Horn
- Kevin Thibault, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- Brittni Stewart, Inwood Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Fabio Osorio, Patel, Green & Associates, LLC
- Judith Villegas, UCF
- Laura Duran, Turnpike, FDOT
- Marline Daceus, RS&H
- Angelica Corredor, EXP



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CHECK OUT RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO WTS MEMBERS

Home-MyWTS Communities
(wtsinternational.org)

Member Updates

WTS Member Chelsea Scheid Welcomes Newborn Kinsey Lynn

Join us in congratulating our Membership Co-chair and new mommy Chelsea Scheid Mason. She and husband John welcomed their baby girl Kinsey Lynn on August 16!

Chelsea, we can't wait to meet your new little one and welcoming her to WTS family. Sending you all wishes for health and happiness. The adventure has begun!



Kinsey Lynn Mason

Tuesday, August 16 3:55 p.m.

5 LBS. 12 OZ.

Upcoming Events

Register at wtsinternational.org/chapters/central-florida/events

Join WTSCFL and Brightline for Bright **Pinktober!** Brightline's Vehicle Maintenance Facility and Train Tour October 13, 2022 - 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Construction on Brightline's Orlando extension is more than 80% complete and service is set to begin next year. On Thursday, October 13th, we will get an inside look at Brightline's state-of-the-art vehicle maintenance facility and we will have the honor of checking out Brightline's **Bright Pink Train** in recognition of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month!**

Registration will open next week!

Dress should be appropriate for a walking tour:

- Long pants
- Closed toe shoes with a hard sole
- Boots preferred
- Absolutely NO flip flops, heels, flats

In honor of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, please choose a **pink or white shirt**.



Upcoming Events

Register at wtsinternational.org/chapters/central-florida/events

New Date! 25th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

We look forward to honoring our industry award winners and celebrating our scholarship recipients on the new Banquet date of October 25. Same time, same location.

Didn't get a chance to register the first time around? Registration is now re-opened for the new date through October 17.

<https://lnkd.in/gQ76rZ9j>

Already registered? Remember to update your calendar with the new date of October 25.



Upcoming Events



The Southeastern States and Women's Transportation Seminar North Carolina Triangle Chapter (WTS) will hold its bi-annual Southeast Rail Forum (SRF) March 22-24, 2023, in Arlington, VA. This notice is a call for presentations for a limited number of speaking opportunities.

The SRF objectives include highlighting and discussing the following:

- Rail success stories with an emphasis on partnerships (Federal, State, Local, Railroads, Private Sector) in the Southeast
- Strengthening today's Rail System for future advancement and development as an integral piece of the larger Transportation network
- Developing and leveraging sustainable and predictable funding sources for Rail projects in the Southeast
- Rail's benefits to long-term transportation resiliency, equity, emission reductions, and economic development including, transit-oriented development practices, and collaboration to move more people and goods by rail
- Challenges and solutions to provide a robust Rail System including Rail Safety, Evolving Technology and Maintaining Readiness

SRF/WTS is looking for fresh, innovative, cutting-edge ideas, case studies, and best practices that touch on the benefits of rail in the southeast.

Register at: southeast-rail-forum.constantcontactsites.com/



Contact Paddy Jordan to learn about VOLUNTEER and SPONSORSHIP opportunities for the forum!
Patricia.Jordan@mottmac.com

FDOT Grant Workshops Coming Up!

Regional Grant Information Sessions



Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) encourages eligible local agencies to apply for the many new discretionary grant opportunities created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). As such, FDOT wants to ensure our local partners are prepared with the knowledge, data, and resources to apply for and be direct recipients of federal discretionary dollars.

Information sessions to cover:

- *Overview of the USDOT grant opportunities*
- *Regional improvements – working together*
- *What do you need to know – grant applications and implementation*
- *Collaborative discussions with FDOT District staff*

August 26, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Kick-Off Webinar, GoToWebinar

September 19, 2022 | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
District 7 Auditorium
11201 N McKinley Dr, Tampa

September 22, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CDT)
District 3 Auditorium
1074 Highway 90, Chipley

September 23, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Turnpike Auditorium, Turkey Lake Service Plaza Milepost 263, Bldg 5315, Ocoee

October 5, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
District 2 Conference Room
1109 S Marion Ave, Lake City

October 6, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
District 2 Training Building
2198 Edison Ave, Jacksonville

October 11, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
District 6 Auditorium
1000 NW 111 Ave, Miami

October 12, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
District 4 Auditorium
3400 W Commercial Blvd, Ft Lauderdale

October 13, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
North Fort Myers Public Library
2001 N Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers

October 14, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
District 1 Auditorium
801 North Broadway Ave, Bartow

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9GXZ3SN>

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Jacqueline Paramore, Title VI Coordinator, at (850) 414-4753 or by email at Jacqueline.Paramore@dot.state.fl.us.



Recent Activities

July Program took attendees Beyond Roads; Highlighted economic benefits of the Orange County Transportation Sales Tax Initiative

We are thankful to Luis Nieves-Ruiz, FAICP and Carla Bell Johnson, AICP for sharing valuable insight on how the proposed Orange County Transportation Sales Tax will impact our industry, and the local economy as a whole.

The Central Florida economy is on the rise along with our transportation needs. The proposed Orange County Transportation Sales Tax will benefit beyond roads by expanding the transit service, which based on ridership, will improve transportation equity.

In addition, potential roadway projects will incorporate Complete Streets for safety improvements for all users - including the potential for specified transit lanes, additional transit stops, separated bike lanes, and continuous sidewalks.

To learn more about the County's transportation initiatives ahead of the vote this November, visit the County's website: https://lnkd.in/edZqY_5Z



Recent Activities

WTSCFL partners with YPT Orlando for August Members Networking event

We had a blast axe throwing with Young Professionals in Transportation Orlando.

Our members work hard, but play hard too. You're invited to join us on this mission of advancing women in transportation. See you at the next event!



WTSCFL partners with UCF Urban Knights for Demystifying LinkedIn and Networking Online Event

Chapter members enjoyed the “Demystifying LinkedIn and Networking Online” event in collaboration with University of Central Florida’s UCF Urban Knights Planning Association.

Special thanks to our Director of Advancement & MetroPlan Orlando’s Sarah Larsen and BCC Engineering, LLC’s Albert Castro for sharing tips on how to spruce up LinkedIn profile and networking in the virtual world.

We are proud of our Student Liaison committee for executing this event, including: Sigal Carmenate, Negaar Minaei, PTP, Sreeja Karanam, PE, Margelis Rangel and Zhenlu Huang, EIT.



August's Crucial Conversations event creates a safe space

Our recent Crucial Conversations event created a safe space to discuss allyship and advocacy in the workplace.

Thank you to those who came out, and to our chapter's Director of Diversity, Stacey Russell, CDP for facilitating the discussion!



We appreciate the support of the transportation community, particularly our 2022 Annual Sponsors!

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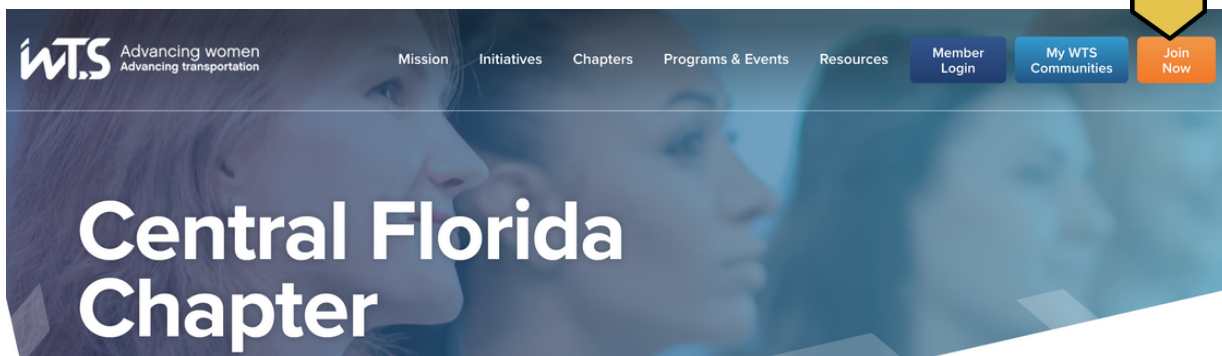
We would love to have you join us! To start your membership with WTS, go to our website using the QR code or URL below.

SCAN QR CODE OR USE URL:

<https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/central-florida>



CLICK ON JOIN WTS BUTTON
(UPPER RIGHT CORNER)



Follow us on Social Media

Stay connected with all things WTS Central Florida by following us on all social media. Be sure to use the hashtag #WTSCFL in any of your chapter- related posts! We love to see and share your WTS content.

- WTSCFL Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/wtscentralflorida>
- WTSCFL Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/55161918824>
- WTSCFL Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wtscentralflorida/>
- WTSCFL Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wtscentralfla>
- WTSCFL LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wtscfl>