

WTS INTERNATIONAL

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES AND ISSUE AREAS

The WTS International Legislative and Regulatory Priorities set the basic advocacy guidelines and topic areas for WTS International.

WTS International's advocacy work is focused mainly on federal policy, with an understanding that successful implementation at all levels, including state and local, is necessary for long-term progress. WTS International's legislative priorities are focused on supporting and fulfilling the WTS vision of equity and access in transportation.

Our advocacy efforts support our strategic goals of:

- Developing a workforce that can tackle the challenges and opportunities of a complex, diverse, and globalized society,
- Driving conversation and education that supports women and strives for a safe, efficient, equitable, and sustainable transportation system,
- Being a leading voice of influence in the national dialogue around the desired state of transportation,
- Engaging in policy development that advances policies that support women and diverse workforce development, and
- Supporting women-owned and small businesses through mentorship, engagement, training, and advocacy initiatives so that women and small businesses can grow and increase access to a broader world of opportunities.

These priorities drive specific and annual activities that relate to specific legislation and regulation. WTS International's priority and issue areas are focused around:

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Recruitment & Retention for a Diverse Transportation Workforce

Support policies and organizations that expand access to training, education, and job opportunities for all populations. Support programs that encourage internal advancement, upskilling opportunities, and flexible work opportunities for higher retention of women in the transportation workforce.

Support, Education, Training, and Mentorship of the Next Generation of Transportation Leaders

Promote and deliver programs that support the next generation of transportation leaders, and reduce barriers to entry for the next workforce, at all levels. Support the education and training of young women and underrepresented populations to increase access to transportation-related jobs.

Ensuring Basic Needs and Rights of Underrepresented Workers in All Modes

Advocate and support policies that promote diverse hiring and promotion practices. Ensure the protection of workers from discrimination on the basis of their gender.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Equitable and Accurate Representation of Our Industry and Our Communities

Advocate for gender equality in the private sector in leadership roles; and in the public sector, including elections and appointments for federal, state, and local transportation positions, boards, and commissions. Advocate for the representation of women, and underrepresented populations, at all levels and in all positions within our industry.

Transportation System Safety, Sustainability & Accessibility

Advocate for the funding, development, and deployment of technologies that help reconnect underserved communities with clean and reliable transportation options. Serve as a resource for the Administration's Justice40 Initiative which aims to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy, including sustainable transportation, to underserved, disadvantaged communities. Promote practical safety applications and planning and design decisions in our system that allow for the creation of safer infrastructure and help to reduce the devastating death toll on America's roadways.

SMALL, DISADVANTAGED, MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

Disadvantaged/Minority/Women-owned Business (D/M/WBE)

Support the United States Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise certification program. Support women and minority business owners to build generational wealth, encourage business ownership, and ensure access to job opportunities for small businesses.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES

Equal Pay

Advocate for equal and fair pay practices and legislation. Support initiatives that develop accountability standards for fair pay policies that ensure equal pay for equal work. Protect women and under-represented populations from discriminatory pay and work policies.

Health Care and Benefits

Advocate for paternity leave and sick leave to support women and parents in the workforce.

Family Support Programs

Advocate for family and caretaker leave policies, the rights of pregnant workers, and benefits that provide flexibility for families so that workers can bring their best selves to their work.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH

Equitable Innovation & Technology Deployment

Support innovation and technology development that connects communities and expands access to systems. Ensure unintended or unconscious bias is not present in the development and deployment of new technologies, i.e. AI, autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, fare payment systems, etc. and advocate for equitable implementation.

Legislative, Regulatory and Public Policy Input and Advocacy

Provide an annual forum for policy-related thought leadership on topics of gender and transportation.

Research

Support and promote research initiatives that focus on the intersection of gender and transportation to better our economic output, boost our industry workforce, and allow for data-driven decision-making. Advocate for federally funded research on gender travel patterns and gender transportation workforce patterns.