



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

JULY/AUGUST



Celebrating Transportation Partnerships

A summer with WTS Atlanta would not be complete without our annual State Transportation Board breakfast, which was held this year on July 20th. The program featured a panel discussion with the women Board members and an update from the GDOT Commissioner. As part of our partnership with GDOT, this newsletter edition also celebrates the work of our WTS GDOT members.

As we roll into the fall, we have even more great partnership events planned, including a Multi-modal Exchange Breakfast in September, our annual DBE mixer co-hosted with COMTO in October, and our annual Scholarship Luncheon in November. Read on and stay tuned for additional details about these upcoming events.

WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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by Rukiya Thomas



he annual WTS GDOT Board Breakfast was quite rewarding this year. We invited the State Transportation Board, Commissioner Russell McMurry and his senior staff as our guests. We held it at the Crowne Plaza Midtown hotel once again as a convenience to the scheduled GDOT board meeting that usually follows immediately. After a little networking, our WTS members and partners enjoyed a banquet breakfast buffet with all the classics while the program was presented.

We welcomed our guests and our amazing corporate sponsors for allowing us to deliver this annual affair. We reported the success of the International WTS Conference hosted by the Atlanta Chapter in May and celebrated our conference planning leadership and team in person. The program kicked off with a panel conversation with the leading ladies of the State Transportation Board. We heard from Dana Lemon, Ann Purcell, Stacey Key, Cathy Williams, and Emily Dunn as they spoke about the importance of female representation. Some of the highlights from their conversation included their tenures in elected leadership, their passions for their districts, their experience around serving as officers on the board and ensuring you lead with care and a listening ear in public service. WTS members showed great appreciation for this dialogue.



Photo (above): Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Board

Photo (top): GDOT Board members at the annual event - Commissioner McMurry, Stacey Key, Emily Dunn, Ann Purcell, Cathy Williams, and Dana Lemon.

In addition, Commissioner McMurry surprised WTS Atlanta with his annual update on all things GDOT regarding project opportunities and progress this year. He also shared his vision on the future of GDOT from EV infrastructure development to the diversity success and goals of his organization among employees and business partners. Male State Transportation Board members in attendance included Jamie Boswell and Curt Thompson. We certainly look forward to next year!











SPOTLIGHT ON WTS GDOT MEMBERS

WTS Atlanta is grateful for the strong partnership we have with GDOT. To further highlight this partnership this month, we would like to celebrate the wonderful and talented WTS GDOT members that support this organization and contribute in a variety of ways to providing quality transportation services for Georgia every day.



Kathe Ahmed
Project Manager

I'm a Project Manager at the office of Alternative Delivery at GDOT. I manage multi-million-dollar Design Build transportation projects. These essential projects improve our transportation infrastructure by providing safer roads, better connections, easier access to roads and reducing commute times for motorists. The roads impact everyone who travels in Georgia and I'm very proud to manage projects that improves the commuting lives of Georgians.



Marlo Clowers
Alternative
Delivery Program
Manager

Women are great multi-taskers and problem solvers. These skills are complimentary to all parts of a transportation organization. At GDOT, the distinct female and male perspectives work together to contribute to efficiency and innovation in delivering transportation systems to the State of Georgia. WTS supports and encourages women in pursuing careers in transportation which is a significant benefit to the industry. Recognition by WTS as 2019 Woman of the Year was a great experience and totally unexpected. I was overwhelmed by acknowledgement from such a distinguished organization. As a new member of WTS, my desire is to give back to the organization by helping with programs to encourage the next generation of women in the transportation industry.



Natalie Dale
GDOT
Spokesperson,
Strategic
Communications

As the Spokesperson for GDOT, my job requires me to take the results of decades of hard work, advanced technical degrees, and esteemed professional certifications and boil them down to easily digestible sound bites for the public and the media. Often, I am one of the most recognizable faces of the Department, as citizens may look to me for advice or information during crisis events or times of inclement weather. It is my goal in each scenario to ensure that the hard-working men and women of GDOT receive the recognition they deserve for the service they perform for the citizens of Georgia. I am proud to be a representative GDOT employees throughout the state on local and national news.



Kelly Gwin
Transportation
Planner

As a transportation planning professional, I have made my career in the public sector. I love being able to collaborate with urban and rural transportation agencies, local government officials and the general public to determine the best transportation investment opportunities for their communities. As a lifelong resident of Georgia, I don't take for granted that I have the opportunity to be able to be involved on a daily basis in decisions for transportation that help positively impact the state's transportation network. GDOT is a great place to work and establish your career in the transportation field.



Kimberly King
Equal Employment
Opportunity
Director

My work and that of the rest of the EEO team is all about civil rights. Our role is becoming increasingly more critical as the notion of equity and considerations of what is fair and just are being attacked, mischaracterized and maligned in a very real way. Our mission is to always be the "voice in the room" that reminds us about the importance of civil rights. About the seriousness of considering protected class individuals when providing access, information, and points of entry to opportunity in the workplace, on the job site and at the planning table. Our role is to make certain that the necessary considerations of the law, our own policies and fair play, generally are at the forefront of our professional activity. It is imperative that we remain vigilant in our communication, review and assessment of our activity, both for our internal and external customers, to ensure that the playing field remains level. We are daily aware and reminded of our responsibility and continuously work to ensure compliance and support at the intersection of infrastructure and equity.



Sandy Lawrence
State Environmental
Liaison

As the State Environmental Liaison, I'm in a key position to affect GDOT/Agency relationships in a positive way. Building on the strong relationships the Office of Environmental Services has cultivated through the years, IOEQ's mission is to strengthen further the collaborative spirit with the agencies through every interaction, big or small. It's a direct result of the trust relationships between GDOT and the agencies, such as USACE, SHPO, and USFWS, that we are able to deliver GDOT's program to the traveling public as expeditiously as possible with the state's important natural and cultural resources always in the forefront of what we do.



Helen Pinkston-Pope
Senior Counsel

As an in-house legal advisor supporting GDOT on P3 and alternative delivery, I work with transportation professionals from a multitude of disciplines and organizations: engineering, tolling, financial, legal, tolling, from the consultant, contractor, developer, and public sector communities. Working with members of WTS benefits all of our projects. I value the professionalism and collegiality promoted by WTS and look forward to connecting at upcoming WTS events.



Patricia Smith
Transit Program
Manager

As the Program Manager, I have the opportunity to provide supervision, direction, and management to staff in the administration of the Department's statewide Transit Program. This is an exciting chance to assist the citizens of Georgia in collaboration with our transit providers by providing more than 144 million passenger trips to support economic development and connect Georgians to jobs, healthcare, and education opportunities.

Amber L. Phillips
Assistant
Environmental
Administrator

Working with diverse individuals at GDOT, WTS, and the community have allowed growth and perspective to assist with communication, project delivery, and innovation. Growth both individually and as a community is essential. Ideas and perspectives from a diverse group allow for improved communication and lead to better projects. Over the years, I have seen a lot of growth in this area of partnership and diversity. This has allowed for much greater communication with the communities we serve. Communities are able to participate in multiple ways, are able to receive information in multiple formats, and as a result are able to participate in more meaningful ways than ever before. These important partnerships and perspectives have been vital and will continue to help bridge the communication gap.

Multi-modal Exchange Breakfast

MODERATED BY
ANNA ROACH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO
ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Atlanta Regional Commission

Harry West Room (ground level)

229 Peachtree St. NE

Atlanta, GA 30303





**DBE Matchmaking
with COMTO
Atlanta**

**October
2023**

**More details and
date to follow.**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**





Scholarship Luncheon

Save the date for our annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Georgia Aquarium



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

Connect with
us on our new
LinkedIn Page



Out with OLD...IN with the NEW
Our new public LinkedIn page is
WTS Atlanta



Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

WTS Atlanta Mission

WTS Atlanta seeks to close the workforce gap in the Atlanta regional transportation industry by promoting lifelong careers in transportation for women. By attracting, retaining and advancing women in the industry, WTS Atlanta will be the most recognized network of transportation subject matter experts.



Get Involved!!

There are many ways to get involved this year! From joining a WTS Atlanta committee to participating in local events throughout the year. If you were unable to attend this year's membership event, take a moment to view the presentation below.

Want to learn more about our amazing benefits, like professional and leadership development, networking, educational programming, volunteering and mentorship, and events? Please contact our Vice President of Membership, Iris Ortiz at iortiz@hntb.com.

[View Membership Presentation Here](#)



Connect with WTS Atlanta

We love connecting with our WTS community on social media. Please follow, like and share WTS Atlanta!

Also, check out our industry [job postings here](#).



Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

2023 WTS Atlanta

Upcoming Events Calendar

April	May	June
<p>Introduce a Girl to Engineering</p> <p>Quarterly New Members Webinar</p> <p>Emerging Leaders Professional Development Series: Financial Literacy</p> <p>GA Legislative Wrap-up Event</p>	<p>WTS Annual Conference</p>	<p>No activities</p>
July	August	September
<p>New Member Webinar</p> <p>GDOT Board Breakfast</p>	<p>No activities</p>	<p>Multi-modal Exchange Breakfast</p>
October	November	December
<p>WTS Atlanta/COMTO DBE Mixer</p> <p>New Member Webinar</p>	<p>Scholarship Luncheon</p>	<p>Holiday Mixer</p>

[View Events Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

WTS International Vision

Equity and access for women in transportation.

WTS International Mission

WTS attracts, sustains, connects and advances women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry.

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Get Involved!!

Check out these WTS International events for 2023:

2023 Distinguished Speaker Series

WTS Member Meetups

Signature Leadership Training - October 10-14, 2023

Chapter Leadership Development - November 14-16, 2023

For more information on these events:

[View Events Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)

Member Opportunities

Get Scholarships!!

Check out these WTS Foundation scholarships for 2023:

Strategic Partner Scholarships

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

**Jannet Walker-Ford Leadership Legacy
Scholarship for Graduates**

Junior College/Trade School Scholarship

WTS Transportation YOU High School Scholarship

For more information on these scholarships:

[View Scholarships
Here](#)

Not a member yet? Join at Membership | WTS (wtsinternational.org)



Help WTS Atlanta Raise \$40,000 for Scholarships for Our 40th Anniversary



To celebrate WTS Atlanta's 40th Anniversary this year, our chapter has set a goal to raise \$40,000 for our scholarship program to support women pursuing transportation careers. Please help us reach this goal by scanning this QR code to donate.

Track our progress on the donation thermometer here:
[Fundraising Wall](#) | [WTS Foundation](#) | [GiveSmart Fundraise](#)

In 2022, WTS Atlanta awarded 5 scholarships for a total of \$15,000.

Your donation today will help us raise \$40,000 to expand our scholarship program in 2023.

Thank you for your donation and support!

2023 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

Thank you to all our partners and welcome to our newest corporate partners!

2023 Presenting Partner



2023 Diamond Partners



ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



2023 Platinum Partners



HATCH LTK

Positive Change for the Next Century



2023 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

2023 Gold Partners



Heath & Lineback Engineers, Inc.



2023 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

2023 SBE/Non-Profit Partners



BLUE
CYPRESS
CONSULTING



PERIMETER COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS



SJH Engineering P.C.



UNITED
CONSULTING

2023 In Kind Partners

SRTA/GRTA

Odonnell Company

Impact Public Affairs