

The WTS logo is located at the top center of the poster. It consists of the letters 'WTS' in a bold, stylized font, with the 'W' and 'T' being larger and more prominent than the 'S'. The logo is set against a dark blue background with a yellow border.

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

SHINING THROUGH

2020 WTS San Diego Annual Awards & Scholarship Recognitions

LONG PROGRAM

September 17th, 2020

~Virtual Event~

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STUDENT CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS

- Dakota Adelpia
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- Alondra Ramirez Sinhoui

ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS

Annual Awards Committee

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2020 AWARD WINNERS.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD	SEANA URQUHART Caltrans, District 11
HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD AWARD	CLARK FERNON T.Y. Lin International
EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD	SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN SYSTEM (MTS)
ROSA PARKS DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD	TUERE FA'AOLA SANDAG
INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD	MILITARY MULTIMODAL ACCESS STRATEGY PROJECT
ALTERNATIVE MODES & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AWARD	COASTAL RAIL TRAIL PROJECT IN ENCINITAS
TECHNOLOGY FOR TRANSPORTATION AWARD	IMPACTS OF A NARROW-AUTOMATED VEHICLE EXCLUSION LANE ON AN EXISTING SMART FREEWAY: A TRAFFIC SIMULATION APPROACH
PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD	LISA MADSEN SANDAG
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD	COLEEN CLEMENTSON SANDAG

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.

CORPORATE SPONSORS WATCH PARTY
HOSTED BY INTERNATIONAL SINGER SAMANTHA RAE

4:00 PM

OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME
HOSTED BY INTERNATIONAL SINGER SAMANTHA RAE

5:00 PM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
BRIANNA PILKINTON • BURNS & MCDONNELL

TRANSPORTATION YOU
JIM STARLING • JACOBS
SHANNON GONZALEZ • PGH WONG ENGINEERING, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION
MIMI MORISAKI • RICK ENGINEERING
MARISSA THOMAS • T.Y. LIN INTERNATIONAL

AWARDS PRESENTATION
JULIE FROELICH • JACOBS
CATHERINE THIBAUT • IBI GROUP
MELISSA GOMEZ • PARSONS

BRIANNA PILKINTON • BURNS & MCDONNELL
SUNNIE HOUSE • PRINCIPAL STRATEGIES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
SHARON HUMPHREYS • SANDAG
PATTI BOEKAMP • WSP

PAZ GOMEZ • CITY OF CARLSBAD
CARIDAD SANCHEZ • CALTRANS DISTRICT 11

Thank you all for joining us for our first ever Annual Awards Watch Party. Things look different this year, but we are up for the challenge. And what a challenge it has been this year! We are feeling the strain of the pandemic on our local economy and our industry. We've dealt with tremendous loss in our transportation community with the sudden passing of MTS CEO Paul Jablonski. We've witnessed a call for action in addressing systemic racism in our society. As we deal with loss, anger, and uncertainty in our home lives, our work-lives, and in politics across America, we must also reflect on what this means for WTS.

It is our philosophy that despite challenges and especially during times of divisiveness, we must come together and continue to celebrate excellence, hard work, collaboration, and innovation. The force behind our capability and resilience here in San Diego is our people. And so today, this event means more than ever. Our theme this year is shining through the storm, and we are recognizing the achievements of trail blazing individuals and remarkable transportation projects that feature women in key positions.

This event is not just a celebration of where we are. It's a moment to look ahead and project what the future will be. With the sobering reality of the pandemic forcing us to look at another recession, and a simultaneous awakening and focus on racial justice, this may be the moment where we can enact real positive change. A critical component of any recession recovery is workforce, future workforce that attracts and retains more diversity, both women and minorities and the shaping of a stronger, smarter, more resilient transportation system that works for all people. And that's why this year, we are providing our biggest scholarship ever, a record \$30,000 in scholarship awards to several very talented young women who are embarking on bright and promising careers in transportation.

Throughout our Country's history, transportation and social equity have gone hand in hand. When dealing with issues of diversity and race, we need to have the courage to have the conversation and together face the issue head on to find solutions. As an organization, we are devoted to improving transportation in our communities, but improving transportation isn't only about planning, designing and constructing transportation projects... it's about building metaphorical bridges too. It seems more relevant today than ever to honor Rosa Parks and draw a connection with what we continue to strive for in WTS today. Rosa Parks was attributed as saying, "There were times when it would have been easy to fall apart or to go in the opposite direction, but somehow I felt that if I took one more step, someone would come along to join me."



We at WTS are here to join in taking one step at a time! Part of our mission is to promote women to level-up their careers and give them tools to do it, but another core part of our mission is to promote diversity out there in the transportation sector by making sure our transportation system works for everyone. We stand together in rejecting discrimination. This is a time for our organization to recommit to the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion. We are not immune to unconscious bias and prejudice.

We must build on our successes and double down on tangible actions to raise the bar even higher. That is why we are working toward re-instituting our diversity and inclusion committee and focusing on forming actionable solutions. Transportation provides access and connects people to opportunity, which has always been at the center of our mission.

WTS is incredibly influential. We are a voice for transportation that fights for equality but also strengthens the industry. Together we are a force to be reckoned with. WTS has over 68 chapters with over 8000 members. There is strength in numbers and membership is the key. I encourage everyone to become a member and help us grow to be a stronger organization. We need you, from the airport, to the seaports, from our bridge designers to our graphic designers... we need you. We must empower and grow true leaders within WTS to take our industry and our organization to the next level. This is why we are members, not only to strengthen the transportation industry, but to collaborate, educate, support and uplift one another. It's important, now more than ever, to connect with each other and be part of a community. WTS will meet this moment of change and progress—together, step by step.

Congratulations to our 2020 award recipients who collectively demonstrate excellence, inclusivity, and innovative transportation solutions that make San Diego County a great place to live, work, and play.

To our WTS San Diego County Chapter members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and friends, thank you for your contributions toward our chapter's success. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity to serve this tremendous organization as your chapter president!

Brianna Pilkinton

Department Manager, Burns & McDonnell
WTS San Diego County Chapter President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul was an avid supporter of WTS San Diego and our mission.

REMEMBERING PAUL JABLONSKI

Like many in our transportation community here in San Diego, we are shocked and saddened by the sudden loss of MTS CEO Paul Jablonski. We offer our deepest condolences and support to our MTS colleagues during this difficult time.

Paul was an avid supporter of WTS San Diego and our mission. He was a regular attendee at our networking and fundraising events and contributed his time and talents as a featured program speaker over the past 16 years since joining MTS.

He started his 40-year career in transit as a bus driver in Massachusetts and went on to work his way up through the industry, ultimately joining MTS in 2004 as CEO.

Paul was a dedicated and effective leader who knew his business from the bot-

tom up and the top down. He promoted diversity within his organization and supported opportunities for women to take on executive leadership roles, including Sharon Cooney who will step in as interim CEO. Our hearts are with his family and staff.

WTS Community, we have an opportunity to reach out to support one another in this difficult time of transition. As your WTS Board of Directors, we are here to lend a hand, offer a virtual shoulder to lean on, and to carry the torch forward for transportation in San Diego.



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The Mid-Coast Trolley project will improve mobility in the San Diego region, extending the San Diego Blue Line 11 miles from the Old Town Transit Center to the University City community.

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SAMANTHA RAE

Samantha Rae was born in Berkeley California and raised in La Paz Baja California Sur Mx. Musically inclined from a young age she always knew she wanted to sing. She has been a finalist in both Latin American Idol and The voice Mexico. Professional back up vocalist for Alejandra Guzman, Yahir, Yuridia, Miguel Bosé, Christian Castro and more... In 2015 she opened her own Venue "Rae's Concert Bar" in Tijuana BC. She has dedicated her life to music and hopes you enjoy the songs she has prepared for the show!



2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE

& KEYNOTE PANELIST

PATTI BOEKAMP, T.E.



Patti Boekamp has over 36 years of experience in the San Diego engineering industry. She is currently the San Diego and Imperial Counties Area Manager for WSP. Previously, Patti worked for another local firm as the PMC Task Order Manager and as SANDAG's Third Party/Agency Coordination Manager for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project. Patti also served 21 years with the City of San Diego and following progressively more responsible posts, she served six years as the City of San Diego's Director of Engineering and Capital Projects managing the delivery of the City's multi-million dollar CIP. Along the way, she was given several unique assignments during her time at the City of San Diego, including serving as the City Manager's Council Liaison, the City's Transportation Liaison for hosting the 1996 Republican National Convention and two Super Bowls, overseeing the Petco Park Infrastructure Project, serving as Acting/Interim Director of Development Services, and was a member of the 1996 FHWA Road Safety Audit Team. A native to San Diego, Patti received her BSCE from San Diego State University and is a registered Traffic Engineer in the State of California.



2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE

COLEEN CLEMENTSON

Coleen Clementson is Director of Regional Planning for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) overseeing work on a transformational transportation plan for the region as part of the 2021 Regional Plan and plans for a Grand Central Station that will connect to the San Diego International Airport. Her work includes oversight and implementation of the Regional Plan, which sets forth a strategy for the region's future growth and development that will provide more housing and transportation options while preserving important open space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with California Climate Change legislation. In addition, she leads work to integrate health, housing, social equity, sustainability in regional transportation efforts along with on-going performance monitoring. Coleen is the immediate past president of the California Planning Roundtable, a group of California APA members from the public and private sector who volunteer their time to advance the planning practice, providing leadership to create healthy, prosperous, and equitable communities.

2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE

CHARLENE K. DENNIS, P.E.

Charlene recently retired from her position as Engineering Manager for the Port of San Diego where she was involved in numerous projects and programs, management of the District's Capital Improvement Program and Major Maintenance Program, and capital project implementation that included coordination with the SD County Regional Airport Authority, the State Active Transportation Grants program and the Bayshore Bikeway. She also led the effort that resulted in the Port of San Diego becoming the first Port in the nation to receive accreditation with the American Public Works Association, and was the co-chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers California Infrastructure Report Card for 2019, Port Chapter. She has served on boards of several professional and nonprofit organizations including serving as Past President of the California Water Environment Association and has held multiple responsible positions with civil engineering consulting firms in the San Diego area.





2020 SCHOLARSHIPS JUDGE JEWEL EDSON • MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

Jewel Edson is a Solana Beach City Council member and small business owner. Her election in 2016 to the Solana Beach City Council follows a long, productive history of participation and leadership on local and regional boards, committees, and commissions. She currently serves on more than a dozen local organizations including the Board of Directors of NCTD, LOSSAN, and FACT, on the SANDAG Transportation Committee and as an alternate on the SANDAG Board of Directors. Edson's professional background includes successful leadership and management roles in the technology sector.

She is currently the Managing Director of a specialized technology consulting firm focused on go-to-market strategies and business development in the semiconductor, wireless, and SaaS industries.

2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE MONA GOCAN

A graduate of the University of Washington, Mona Gocan holds a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Since her move to the San Diego area in 2014, Mona has worked on most of the region's major rail projects on the San Diego - San Luis Obispo Rail (LOSSAN) Corridor. Mona was actually the first woman field engineer on the Mid-Coast Trolley project while working for Mid-Coast Transit Constructor (MCTC) Joint Venture. Now at CPM Partners, Mona works as a scheduler for local public projects.

Mona is highly involved in public and community service. She currently chairs the Traffic & Mobility Commission for the City of Carlsbad and holds a seat as a member of the Transportation & Mobility District Advisory Council for the State of California Assembly District 76. She is also the PTA President for her daughter's middle school. Mona has been involved in WTS since her college years and is very passionate about inspiring girls and young women to join the very lucrative STEM field.



KEYNOTE PANELIST PAZ GOMEZ, PE, CEM, GBE, CPM

Paz Gomez was appointed as the Public Works Director for the City of Carlsbad in August 2018 and was promoted to Deputy City Manager, Public Works, in March 2019. In her position, she is responsible for transportation including traffic, mobility, and streets and storm drain infrastructure asset management; utilities including water, wastewater and recycled water; facilities and fleet vehicle management; environmental management including watershed protection, sustainable materials, habitat management, and Climate Action Plan administration; capital improvement program (CIP) engineering; construction management and inspection; and public works contracts.

Prior to the City of Carlsbad, she was the Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Infrastructure and Public Works, for the City of San Diego from July 2015 to August 2018. In the private sector, she worked for AECOM (formerly URS) as Vice President of Building Engineering and Engineering Services Division Manager for the Southern California and Southern Nevada Area from 2011 to 2015. In 2011, she retired as a Captain after almost three decades of active duty in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, with her last tour of duty as Commanding Officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center in Port Hueneme, California.

Paz is a registered Professional Engineer (civil), Certified Energy Manager, Green Building Engineer and Certified Public Manager. She received her BS in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University; MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford University; MS in Management from Troy University; Advanced Executive Certificate from Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University; Professional Certificate in Hazardous Materials Management from University of California, San Diego; and is a graduate of the Naval War College Seminar Program.

Paz is also a member of the Women in Transportation Seminar, American Public Works Association (currently Secretary of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Chapter), American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of Energy Engineers, and Governing Board of the Alvarado Hospital Medical Center.



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2020 SCHOLARSHIP JUDGE & KEYNOTE PANELIST SHARON HUMPHREYS, P.E.

Sharon Humphreys is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer in California with over 25 years of civil engineering experience. Ms. Humphreys specializes in managing large, complex transportation design and construction projects involving multiple agencies with diverse interests that require the development of creative solutions to meet stakeholders' needs. Ms. Humphreys has extensive experience managing engineering and environmental tasks to obtain CEQA and NEPA clearance for civil engineering projects within environmentally sensitive areas. She also has extensive expertise in managing design development and construction for complete streets, creek restoration,

heavy rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and bikeway projects. Ms. Humphreys has developed work plans for projects including budget management and analysis, allocation of personnel resources, and project schedule maintenance to ensure projects are completed with the highest quality standards, within budget, and on time. Ms. Humphreys is currently serving as a Deputy Project Director at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE NENSI LAKRORI, PE, M.S., LEED AP BD+C

Nensi Lakrori is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University (SDSU). For nearly ten years Ms. Lakrori worked in project design and delivery on both transportation and rail-related projects in Michigan, Indiana, and Southern California. She began her career as a highway design engineer in Michigan before moving to California to work on the I-15 Managed Lanes and the SR-73 Toll Road widening projects. Ms. Lakrori holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University, where she also served as Chi Epsilon chapter president for two years, and an M.S. in Transportation Engineering from SDSU. She is a registered P.E. in California, holds a LEED AP Building & Construction accreditation as well as OSHA 10 certification. Since 2015 she has taught civil design, construction, and construction management courses and continues to help students acquire the skills necessary to reach their fullest potential upon graduation. In 2019 Ms. Lakrori was awarded both the



"Most Influential Faculty Award" in the SDSU Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Department as well as "Most Outstanding Engineering Educator" by the San Diego County Engineers Council. In addition to teaching, she acts as Faculty Advisor for the San Diego State chapters of WTS, Tau Beta Pi, and American Concrete Institute (ACI). She also serves as the Pacific West Region Council Vice-Chair for WTS. Outside of the classroom her two young and energetic boys are continuously helping her fine-tune the work-life equation.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP JUDGE JENNIFER L. MENDOZA

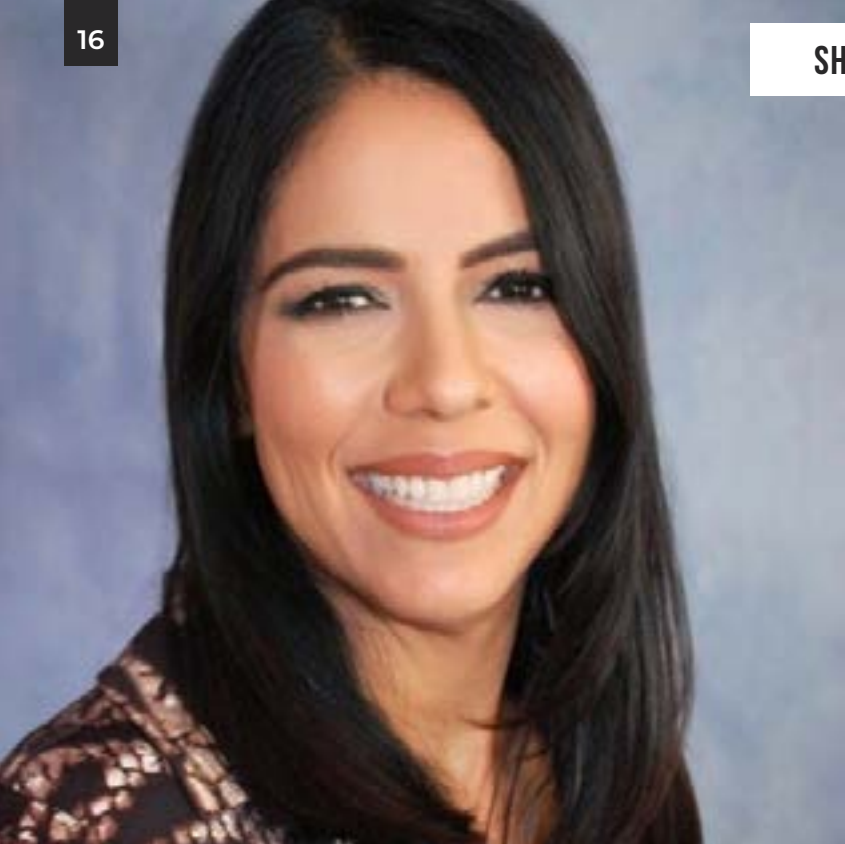
For the last fourteen years, Jennifer L. Mendoza has served the City of Lemon Grove as a Planning Commissioner and a city councilmember. Mrs. Mendoza has been actively involved in numerous service clubs and projects, managed a local food pantry, and served on the Lemon Grove Academy site council for seven years. She is most proud of her city and community have accomplished in improving residents' health, well-being, and physical activity. As a councilmember, Mrs. Mendoza continues to make her home of Lemon Grove, one in which people desire to live and work. She continually supports efforts for streets and sidewalk improvements, provides fire and law enforcement the tools they need to keep us safe and enhance parks and recreation facilities.

KEYNOTE PANELIST CARIDAD SANZHEZ

Caridad Sanchez is the Chief of Public Affairs for Caltrans District 11 covering San Diego and Imperial Counties. She is the chief public relations, communications and public information and legislative advisor to the District. Caridad also serves as the District focal point for providing products and services to the Caltrans External Affairs Division in Sacramento, the California State Transportation Agency and the Governor's Office. Previously, she served as the San Diego and Imperial Counties regional Director for United States Senator Barbara Boxer. Caridad oversaw the day-to-day operation of the San Diego office. She also served as a liaison for Senator Boxer to the communities in San Diego and Imperial counties. In addition to her work as liaison, she also provided strategic input regarding relevant legislation.

Caridad's interest in public affairs developed from her experiences growing up in San Diego's toughest inner-





city neighborhoods. She remembers her mother, a housekeeper, working hard to provide improve their quality of life. Caridad and her mother, Cristina, actively participated in political campaigns and organized voter registration drives. Through these life experiences, Caridad developed an understanding of and deep commitment to improving her community and country.

Born in San Diego, Caridad grew up in the neighborhoods Logan and Sherman Heights. She graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in History and Political Science. Sanchez previously worked as a senior community representative in the office of United States Congresswoman Susan Davis in San Diego. She previously chaired the San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemoration Committee and the San Diego Leadership Alliance.

Longtime residents of San Diego, Caridad and her husband Nicolaz Portillo remain active in school and civic organizations. They live in Southcrest, with their sons Nicolaz, Jr. (10) and Cruz (5) and dog Ira.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP JUDGE

YAZMIN ARELLANO-TORRES, P.E.

Yazmin Arellano-Torres is the Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer for the City of El Cajon, California. Yazmin is a Registered Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor in the State of California with over 20 years of experience in municipal engineering. Yazmin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a combined Master's Degree in Business Administration/Industrial Engineering from CETYS Universidad Mexicali, Mexico. Yazmin resides in San Diego with her husband, three kids, and the sweetest ugliest dog.



2020 SCHOLARSHIP JUDGE

BRUCE URQUHART, L.S.

Bruce Urquhart, Professional Land Surveyor, has over 37 years of experience in the land surveying and management disciplines. His last position at Caltrans was the Division Chief for Land Surveys in District 11 (San Diego.) In December 2015, Bruce retired from Caltrans. For the past 28 years, he has also been an adjunct professor at San Diego State University (SDSU) teaching Surveying for Civil Engineers.

Since retirement, Bruce's focus has been on teaching at SDSU. In addition, he's been an active member of the San

Diego Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) for the past nine years. He's been a mentor in the Mentor Program, served as a judge for the WTS Annual Awards and Scholarships, and continues to participate in WTS activities and events on a regular basis. As a faculty member at SDSU, he is a strong supporter of the Student Chapter of WTS.

2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE

DIANE VERMEULEN, P.E.

Diane Vermeulen has a BS in Civil Engineering from SDSU and has been employed at Caltrans since 1991 as a transportation engineer in various positions including environmental engineering and project management. She has been part of many projects put out by Caltrans throughout San Diego County in the last 29 years. She has been active in WTS, ASCE, and a PECC officer for many years. She has also chaired a group of engineers to judge exhibits submitted by junior and high school students at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. Also, she has participated in an Outreach program geared towards middle and high school students with mentoring their engineering projects intended to enhance the enclosures of the animals at the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary.



2020 ANNUAL AWARDS JUDGE

TERESA WILKINSON

Teresa Wilkinson is the Founder and Principal of TTG Environmental & Associates, an environmental consulting business she started in 2013. Active in the Transportation industry for 30 years, she has worked on projects ranging from the California High-Speed Rail and SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan to the SR 241 Foothill Corridor and SR 125 Toll Road project. Before starting her career in transportation, Teresa worked for the National Wildlife Federation as a Senior Education Coordinator. She served in the Peace Corps as a Natural Resources Manager in Honduras. Featured as our Woman of the Week (WoW) in 2017, Teresa has served on the WTS San Diego Board in past years as a Diversity Chair, Student Outreach Chair, and Transportation You Chair. In 2014, she received the WTS San Diego County Chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award in recognition for her efforts to promote diversity in our industry.



2020 HIGHSCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2020 HIGHSCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT ARIANA BERMUDEZ

Ariana is a senior at Patrick Henry High School. A first-generation college-bound student, Ariana will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Seizing upon an opportunity to bring STEM learning communities to students like herself, Ariana partnered with Women's Construction Coalition to found the Julia Morgan Society club at Patrick Henry Highschool. Personally experiencing the challenges with finding reliable and affordable transportation in lower-income communities, Ariana's goal as a future mechanical engineer is to find a way to provide affordable and reliable cars to low-income families.



2020 HIGHSCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT SHRAVYA SANIGEPALLI

Shravya Sanigepalli is a senior and valedictorian at Scripps Ranch High School. In the fall, she will be attending the University of California, San Diego, for a degree in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution. Sharvya's goal is to be an environmental advisor, using her research to advise companies, particularly the transportation industry, on more productive uses of our resources to minimize the environment's impact. Sharvya also holds a part-time job as a certified Bird Feeding Specialist and Sales associates at Wild Birds Unlimited-San Diego and Marine Biology Student Aide at Gateways Summer School while volunteering at Scripts Memorial Hospital and other organizations



2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT FLAVIA DEPLACHETT

Flavia is an undergraduate civil engineering student at San Diego State University and interns at Chen Ryan Associates. Inspired by how STEM education plays an essential role in developing communities and its members' lives, Flavia has been involved in many organizations that focus on the empowerment of minorities to propel society. Through civil engineering, specifically transportation, her mission is to use her acquired knowledge to improve communities. She considers mobility one of the most critical life commodities and a right for everyone. Flavia is also the current Event Coordinator for the student chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar at San Diego State University.



2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT TAYLOR GILL

Taylor is an undergraduate business administration student at San Diego State University. During her time as an MTS bus operator, Taylor witnessed passenger frustration over delays due to inefficiencies and miscommunication. Motivated to be part of the solution, she left the driver's seat after a year and a half to pursue a more active role as an Assistant Transit Store Supervisor. Currently overseeing revenue operations, Taylor plays a critical role in the upcoming new MTS fare system. After graduation, she plans to dedicate her career to creating career opportunities for women in Public Transportation.





2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT RUBISELA GONZALEZ

Rubisela is an undergraduate civil engineering student at San Diego State University and interns for IBI Group. She is also a Global Women's Network representative for IBI Group, meeting with other representatives to discuss office improvement opportunities. After joining the student chapter for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Rubi discovered her passion for transportation when she participated in the ASCE's Transportation Team for the 2019 Pacific Southwest Conference, later becoming the 2020 Transportation Team project manager. Rubisela

plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in transportation. Rubisela is also the current Fundraising Chair for the student chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar at San Diego State University.

2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT IMERDA MOKILI

Imerda Mokili is an undergraduate civil engineering student at San Diego State University. Growing up, her parents always reminded her to reach for the star, never limiting herself nor her capabilities. Imerda discovered her passion for transportation after meeting Erica Ortiz, who offered her an opportunity to participate in a Shadow Day program with HNTB. Coming from America, she had seen the great importance in Transportation Engineers' work and dreams of working on projects in a different country where building bridges, highways, and airports make lasting impacts for communities with needs. Since her freshman year of college, Imerda has been a part of several engineering clubs, became the Social Media Manager for the WTS SDSU Chapter, and will be the 2021 Safety Lead for the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter at SDSU.



2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT ALEXIS MORA

Alexis Mora is an undergraduate civil engineering student at San Diego State University. Her passion for her community has led Alexis to express a strong desire to contribute to the built environment's development. Alexis discovered her interest in transportation when studying abroad at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore in 2019. Experiencing another country's reliance on an efficient public transit system, she noticed how most passenger travel in the United States is vehicle-owned automobiles. High uses of motor vehicles over time can contribute to issues such as air pollution and traffic congestion. Due to her time in Singapore, Alexis aspires to modernize public transportation in California by contributing to the design of transportation projects involving light and heavy rail. Currently, Alexis holds an officer position with the WTS SDSU chapter as an Event Planner for Spring 2020 and is a team member of the ASCE SDSU Transportation Project 2020, a voluntary project where students submit a proposal for designing a real-world transportation project.



2020 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT NICOLE HURTADO-SAVIN

Nicole is a first-generation, undergraduate student at San Diego State University. She chose civil engineering because she wants to impact those in her community's daily lives. Through the betterment of transportation infrastructure, Nicole aims to contribute to our community's safety and efficiency. With her family's support, she attends SDSU as a fulltime student and volunteers as a mentor for different organizations, including Math Ambassador and Student Leader within the College of Engineering in concert with the Femineer Program. It is important for Nicole to help inspire younger generations through the impact of science in society and to encourage students to pursue STEM degrees. As of this summer, Nicole started an internship at WSP.





Dakota Adelphia

Dakota is a first-year graduate student pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at San Diego State University (SDSU). Having earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the same institution, Dakota was drawn to the transportation field due to its vastness, flexibility, and ever-changing technological advances impacting lives daily. She currently works at the City of San Diego as a design engineer. Her career goal is to be a founding partner in a transportation-oriented design-build engineering firm. Dakota is also currently the student chapter president of WTS at SDSU.



Shannon Mulderig

Shannon is a graduate student pursuing a Master of City Planning degree at San Diego State University (SDSU). She earned her Bachelor of Art in Public Administration, emphasizing City Planning and minoring in Geo-graphy. Driven to impact communities by improving public health, sustainable urban design, and social and environmental equity, Shannon plans to dedicate her career to policy creation and implementation through city planning and transportation systems. In addition to being a Graduate Assistant in the School of Public Affairs at SDSU, Shannon is also an Associate Planner serving in the Community Planning Division for the City of San Diego's Planning Department.

2020 Graduate Scholarship Recipients

Rebecca J. Smith

Rebecca Smith is currently working towards a Master of City Planning degree at San Diego State University (SDSU). She is a Graduate Research Assistant for the Active Transportation Lab within the School of Public Affairs and the SDSU's Research Foundation project: California Wildlands and Communities. Rebecca's future goal is to work for a planning firm or local government, seeking opportunities to develop pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure that meets the greater San Diego area's needs. After working in the field for a few years, Rebecca plans to return to academia to earn her Ph. D. in City Planning. Ultimately, she plans to teach at an accredited university and share her knowledge with the future generations of planners while continuing research and staying active within the profession.



2020 WTS Member of the Year Award

AWARD WINNER

SEANA URQUHART, DISTRICT 11 CALTRANS

Seana Urquhart epitomizes the WTS spirit in her leadership, commitment, collaboration, innovation, encouragement, and support in fulfilling her responsibilities as a WTS San Diego Chapter Board member.

Her contributions to the success of our chapter have been abundant in the last five years and she remains invigorated and committed to the mission of our organization since starting with her role on the Lunch-N-Learn subcommittee as part of the Corporate Sponsorship Committee.

In line with our new mission of "Advancing Women, Advancing Transportation," Seana is the originator and organizer of two successful legacy chapter programs that accomplish both our goals. Business Card Bingo and Thursday Thunder Talks have both raised our chapter visibility, enhanced the WTS brand, and have been a source for member recruitment and engagement.

As the Chair of our Annual Awards Dinner Committee for a third year, Seana has extensively elevated the brand of WTS through her dedicated

commitment to the organization. Her theme-based approach to the Annual Dinner embodies the mission and vision of WTS and encourages her committee and attendees to get behind a common purpose in our local transportation community and feel proud to be a part of WTS.

With this year's theme of "Shining Through," we look forward with hope and aspiration in 2020 as we overcome issues with the COVID-19 Pandemic and the racial injustice in our country.

Strategically working with the Communications, Recognitions, and Scholarship committees, Seana develops pre-event material published on the chapter website and in the quarterly newsletter, and on social media outlets to build momentum and anticipation ahead of the Annual Awards Dinner. This year we spotlighted "Shining Through" judges, scholarship winners, award recipients, and committee members and highlighted many of these individuals in the chapter's online "Women of the Week" recognition. This robust advertising provides members an opportunity to congratulate award winners,

HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHAPTER HAVE BEEN ABUNDANT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

celebrate their successes, and get excited for in the Annual Awards Dinner. Through her efforts, the Dinner raised \$9,500 in 2018, \$6,600 in 2019, and an impressive \$15,800 in 2020 for chapter operations and scholarships.

Seana believes in inclusivity in paying it forward, and she always looks for opportunities to help and support other women. She is continuously promoting and recruiting for WTS through her committee volunteers and provides them opportunities to not only lead their own subcommittees but also gain experience in collaboration and working on a common cause. Seana works tirelessly to achieve our goals and to raise awareness about our mission. Seana's dedication to the chapter and the organization is why she received this year's Member of the Year award.



Former United States Secretary of Transportation, Ray La Hood, is a vocal supporter of promoting women's transportation careers. Further, he actively advocates for other male transportation professionals to support women's education and employment in transportation. Secretary LaHood created the Transportation YOU program to expose young women to careers in transportation. The Honorable Ray LaHood Award celebrates Senator LaHood's dedication to transportation diversity by honoring men who carry on his legacy. The Honorable Ray LaHood award was created to recognize a man who has taken on that legacy of promoting gender diversity opportunities in transportation.

This year's Honorable Ray LaHood Award goes to Clark Fernon from T.Y. Lin International.

Clark Fernon, the Southwest Director for TY Lin International, a past President of the San Diego Chapter of APWA, a past

President of San Diego Transportation Development Association, and co-founder and current co-chair the SANDAG / Caltrans D-11 Calmentor program. A long-time supporter of WTS and the WTS mission to advance women in transportation, Clark not only encourages his female staff to be actively involved in WTS but consistently looks for opportunities to promote women into key positions and project roles at TY Lin.

One relevant example of Clark's interest in expanding diversity within his organization, he recruited Karen Chapman to head the new TY Lin office in Orange County in 2013. Childcare issues forced Karen to join part-time initially; however, Clark worked with her demanding schedule, eventually enabling Karen to move into her full-time position. Karen continues to promote within the company and has taken on multiple leadership roles as a result.

HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD AWARD

AWARD WINNER

**Clark Fernon,
T.Y. Lin International**

Clark has proven repeatedly that he does what he says he will do when it comes to the promotion and facilitation of diversity and inclusion. Clark's support and genuine confidence in his women employees actively transformed many careers for the better. Clark does not just see potential in people; he provides them with the mentoring they need to succeed, helping them believe in themselves. Clark is a genuinely warm, friendly, compassionate man who exemplifies the Honorable Ray LaHood Award's tenets as an outstanding supporter and promoter of women in transportation throughout the Southern California/Nevada region at TY Lin.



San Diego Metropolitan Transit System is the WTS San Diego 2020 Employer of the Year. Headed by Sharon Cooley as Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, popularly known as MTS, is an employer to a vast segment of San Diego's active working population. Sound, proactive leadership coupled with professionally qualified employees have enhanced the agency's commitment such that excellence and quality in product and services to the San Diego community is a daily expectation. MTS boasts more than 350 women employees, with five women filling key executive positions and a majority of women sitting on the agency's board. While the nationwide average of women working in the transportation workforce is only 15%, close to 30% of MTS new hires in 2019 were women.

EMPLOYER



Career development plans and a succession program are in place to allow women the opportunity to advance. A staggering 80% of women leaders were currently promoted into their roles, with 50% starting in entry-level positions. An impressive 75% of MTS interns are women, assuring a deep, well-qualified employee candidate pool. The MTS agency, clearly dedicated to diversity, enhancing educational opportunities, supports excellence and encourages women to enter the transportation field by setting specific goals to ensure MTS is recruiting, retaining, and advancing women at all employment levels with an eye toward fairness and professionalism. MTS has a tuition reimbursement program reimbursing up to \$5,000 annually to its employees, and in 2019, nearly 50% of reimbursements were to female employees pursuing bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, and professional certifications. MTS has invested in its female employees' learning and development through a robust program

OF THE YEAR

AWARD

AWARD WINNER



that advocates active participation in relevant educational and professional activities. MTS has established a network of community partners throughout San Diego County to help create awareness of the transportation industry and career paths.

MTS's competitive compensation and benefits ensure high retention of its female staff. The pay gap at MTS between men and women is only 6% compared to the nationwide average of 20%. MTS invests in developing its employees by offering a robust professional development program to encourage female employees to further their knowledge of the transit industry, continue their education, and hone their leadership skills. MTS also advocates for women to advance in the transportation industry by offering promotional opportunities through career development plans and a succession program.

Throughout the years, MTS has been an active participant in WTS. Many employees hold memberships and have contributed to WTS in various ways. MTS WTS members continually seek opportunities to contribute to industry advancement for women. They are heavily engaged with the WTS community, volunteering their time and sharing their knowledge and expertise with current and potential members. MTS has hosted WTS San Diego County's Lunch & Learns by providing a space for meetings and coordinating logistics. MTS also supports WTS San Diego through sponsorships, including the WTS Annual Awards Dinners.

WTS - MTS members played a highly active role in making WTS events a success. They dedicated resources, time, and energy to ensure positive experiences. They advanced the local chapter's reputation by collaborating in promoting WTS, coordinating speakers for various break-out sessions, providing buses for site tours and staff to lead project tours, and dedicating staff time to help with event coordination. MTS has been a constant and active participant in the WTS organization. MTS WTS members will continue to contribute to the transportation industry advancement for women.

With a daily ridership in excess of 86,000 San Diegans and visiting tourists, a state of the art light rail system, and transportation accommodations that encompass most of the San Diego County/Metropolitan area, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, coupled with its exceptional female workforce, will continue to be the transit backbone that moves people to their San Diego destinations every day. Congratulations to MTS and its dedicated staff.



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SANDAG San Elijo Lagoon Double Track Project
San Diego, CA

ROSA PARKS DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

AWARD WINNER

TUERE FA'AOLA • SANDAG



The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award honors an individual who promotes diversity and cultural awareness in the transportation industry. This year's recipient is Tuere Fa'aola from SANDAG. Tuere Fa'aola has worked in the transportation industry for over 17 years since graduating with a Master's in City Planning from San Diego State University. During this time, she demonstrated a unique talent for seeing and leveraging people's strengths, enabling them to achieve greater accomplishments within their organizations and teams.

Tuere is the project manager for SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan. One goal of this plan is to set the blueprint for the region's future by giving every San Diegan equitable choice for getting to their home or place of work within a balanced transportation system.

Tuere served on the WTS San Diego County chapter board of directors for many years in various roles, including chapter president and the 2018 national conference chair. During the conference's selection process, Tuere deliberately emphasized the need for diversity across the panels and posters in terms of geographic representation, public and private sector representation, amount of experience in the transportation industry, gender, and multicultural representation.

During her employment at IBI Group, Tuere mentored young women through the firm's mentoring program and informally, through project work. She was also an active member of the Global Women's Network, a company-wide working group that seeks to help women advance their careers, make connections, and build their skillsets. She actively contributed to hosting International Women's Day activities for the San Diego office each year.

Tuere, a perennial champion for minority and women-owned companies, promote such companies by facilitating critical introductions leading to long term opportunities. She consistently looks for opportunities to elevate the women she works with and assuring they undertake the appropriate next steps in their careers. Providing unbiased feedback and putting her employee's strengths and skills first, Tuere personifies a knowledgeable, forward-thinking approach. She consistently looks for the right opportunities, giving people work that aligns with their passions. Tuere's clear vision enables her to advocate for her fellow women and minority staff to fill challenging, exciting roles on projects.

As a previous WTS San Diego County Chapter President, Tuere purposefully recruited board volunteers with fresh perspectives to complement more seasoned board members. She emphasized hosting WTS programs with panels balanced with knowledgeable women whenever possible. She worked closely with the Diversity Committee to encourage and promote membership diversity; her efforts included outreach to local colleges and universities. She actively seeks out and encourages young women to get involved with WTS as volunteers and as board members. An avid participant in WTS's mentoring program, Tuere's involvement was instrumental for the chapter's mentoring program's genesis. Tuere Fa'aola, through career-long action and deed, clearly exemplifies the principles set forth in The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. Congratulations on this well-deserved award.



The Military Multimodal Access (MMA) Strategy stands out as an innovative project destined to have a lasting effect in the San Diego region by creating strong partnerships and leaving behind a framework and replicable tools to support more sustainable travel in San Diego County.

With projected military growth, congestion in the region and surrounding military facilities was forecasted to worsen unless more sustainable transportation options were implemented. Traffic congestion at military access points not only impacts our national security but also our regional goals of innovative mobility choices that support a sustainable and healthy region, a vibrant economy, and outstanding quality of life for all.

National security considerations and various military activities often make it challenging to coordinate long term planning efforts. Data sharing - a critical component of effective decision making - was also challenged by this concern. The team, lead by SANDAG, leveraged voluntary surveys of military personnel travel patterns, achieving only limited responses. The team leveraged a burgeoning partnership with the Community Planning Liaisons to encourage responses, but the lack of a formal data sharing processes and natural turnover in military contacts stymied more robust results.

Although the project team eventually had to rely on more anecdotal data from partners, the team continued to forge relationships with military leadership, which ultimately initiated discussions to develop a framework for standardizing the data sharing process between SANDAG and military despite contacts turnover. SANDAG and military representatives are now collaborating on a grant application to support this effort. These efforts and partnerships will undoubtedly



AWARD WINNER

Military Multimodal Access Strategy

INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AWARD

benefit not only the future update of the MMA Strategy but all planners that follow.

The military culture prioritizes mission readiness, often translated into the belief that cars are more efficient modes and best support the military mission. Throughout the project, the team elevated multimodal solutions as viable options to simultaneously support mission readiness and quality of life for personnel, their families, and the surrounding communities. This resulted in a more balanced project inventory and prioritization methodology.

Conceptions of the MMA Strategy addressed the challenges that arise at the roadway intersection and land use around military facilities and provide a lasting framework to expedite regional decision making by building on an established consensus of priorities and partnerships.

MMA Strategy undoubtedly achieved this and more through determination and constant strategizing by its project managers. The MMA Strategy provides an opportunity for the Working Group to discuss challenges among stakeholders and create consensus using a shared prioritization approach that supports its mission and values. The group developed a list of agreed-upon multimodal transportation solutions and actions that address traffic congestion at critical military access points while benefiting military facilities' goals and priorities, their bordering jurisdiction, the Working Group, and the region.

Educating project stakeholders about the local transportation planning process and regional priorities was vital to developing relationships by taking the time to understand challenges and potential opportunities for each military installation, and local

jurisdiction required extensive communication and engagement. The team worked extensively with regional transportation infrastructure planning and offered technical guidance to navigate the complex relationships and change the paradigm of military community relations.

Stewarded by the SD Regional Military Working Group, this initiative provides a lasting framework to expedite regional decision making and develop unified transportation strategies. It leaves behind a legacy of a strong partnership between our military and local jurisdictions and stakeholders. This project will help create vibrant communities and support efforts to reduce dependence on the private automobile, easing congestion and reducing climate change impacts. Congratulations to everyone involved in the project.

ALTERNATIVE MODES AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AWARD

The Coastal Rail Trail - Encinitas (project) is a multi-use path that runs 1.3 miles along the east side of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Louis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor in the Cardiff community. This project provides a safe and attractive bikeway, complemented by pedestrian improvements, for people of all ages and abilities.

Heavy traffic, high motor-vehicle speeds, and non-contiguous sidewalks characterized before this project posed challenges for pedestrians and cyclists. Opened in May 2019, the completed project resulted in a separated Class I path between Chesterfield and Santa Fe drives, connected to the grade-separated railroad undercrossing near Swami's Beach. This trail connects riders to various destinations, including parks, beaches, libraries, schools, the Encinitas Coaster station, and Encinitas City Hall. It increases safety and comfort by completely separating users from vehicular traffic and provides a viable transportation option for driving alone. The project also provides a safe route to school, encourages outdoor exercise, and affords other environmental and social benefits.

Since opening, the project team observations show consistently heavy usage along the trail during site visits. Students, commuters, recreational riders, runners, dog-walkers, and pedestrians regularly enjoy the completed project. A safe environment for all ages and abilities has been provided to improve non-motorized users' mobility to bus and rail facilities, community and employment centers, and other local and regional destinations. Bicyclists and pedestrians,

AWARD WINNER

Coastal Rail Trail, Encinitas



including young students, do not have to interact with motor vehicle traffic for the project's entire length, significantly increasing safety throughout the project corridor.

From initiation to completion, the project team used innovative approaches to ensure its success. Significant community outreach, a key component of the project, included close coordination with the City of Encinitas, North County Transit District, California Coastal Commission (CCC), and stakeholders. Because of the proximity to rail and highway improvements currently being built as part of the North Coast Corridor transportation improvements, SANDAG partnered with Caltrans and took advantage of an innovative project delivery approach - a Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC). A dedicated team worked together to execute this successful project that serves the San Diego region and gives people the confidence to travel by bike. At least 15 women managed key aspects of this project or made significant contributions in various capacities.

This project establishes a path to more sustainable practices in the region. It also included developing a Manual that provides a clear and consistent approach to evaluating active transportation projects in the San Diego region. Congratulations again to everyone involved in the project.

The Alternative Modes and Active Transportation Award highlights projects that aim to improve safety and comfort when walking, biking, and other alternative modes of transportation in San Diego. Everyone is a pedestrian at some point in their daily journey. We should all have access to amenities that make us feel safe and provides the opportunity to enjoy a healthy lifestyle while admiring San Diego's natural beauty.

AWARD WINNER

IMPACTS OF A NARROW-AUTOMATED EXCLUSION LANE ON AN EXISTING SMART FREEWAY: A TRAFFIC SIMULATION APPROACH

The Technology for Transportation Award recognizes a project that showcases how transportation services, amenities, and supporting technologies can come together to increase transportation efficiency. This year's Technology for Transportation Award goes to San Diego State University (SDSU) with *Impacts of a Narrow-Automated Exclusion Lane on an Existing Smart Freeway: A Traffic Simulation Approach*, supported by Safe-D National University Transportation Center (<http://www.vQtti.vt.edu/utc/safe-d/>) granted by US DOT to advance the state-of-the-art in transportation research and develop the next generation of transportation professionals.

This project, a research collaboration between SDSU, Linscott, Law, & Greenspan (LLG) Engineers, and Caltrans District 11, developed under the leadership of principal investigator Sahar Ghanipoor Machiani— an Assistant Professor of SDSU Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. Professor Machiani's expertise in innovative solutions in transportation provided full supervision and responsibility for the overall project activities. This project applied essential, innovative research approaches, such as AV traffic simulation for emerging technology, with the potential to substantially change our transportation system.

Our current transportation system faces the issue that vehicle technology continues advancing faster than our infrastructure. The system now in place needs new standards to ensure optimization of roadway capacity, yet keeping an eye toward safety. Roadways currently designed for human drivers who rely on visual cues must be compared, espe-

Technology for Transportation Award.

cially given the difference between the operation of Automated Vehicles (AVs) and human-driven vehicles and the reliance of AVs on sensors as opposed to human capabilities. The question in need of answering remains, can we provide narrower roadways with more efficient right of ways, assuming AVs hold forth as more precise in lateral and longitudinal lane keeping behavior? To date, scientific studies regarding new infrastructure standards for the safe and efficient adaptation of AV technology on existing roadways remain limited in number.

The purpose of this study focused on expanding the knowledge base in terms of the safety and operational impacts of narrower freeway lanes for AVs. The project investigates the impacts of a narrow AV-exclusive reversible lane on I-15. The Interstate 15 Express Lanes (EL) currently provide four HOV and toll-paying FasTrak lanes. Caltrans actively seeks more efficient ways to handle more traffic at the ELs from the main lines. In the available width between the fixed concrete barriers that separate the EL facility from the regular lanes, it would be possible to add a narrow reversible lane to be used only by AVs. This reversible AV lane for travel in the peak traffic direction would be 9 feet wide and located next to the movable barrier. With this new configuration, the question of whether AVs could operate safely and efficiently and what mobility implications emerge due to this infrastructure adjustment to accommodate AVs.

This study's relevance in today's world correlates directly to delivering greater, accurate insight on the featured problem with the expectation that the study reveals far-reaching implications for future freeway travel as automated vehicles grow in both popularity and technological capabilities. This important research will contribute to the future implementation of sound infrastructure compatible with automated vehicles. Four outstanding women, including Project Principal Sahar Machiani, made major contributions to this project's success. Congratulations to Sahar Machiani and her team.



PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

AWARD WINNER

Lisa Madsen SANDAG

Lisa Madsen started her career as an intern with the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) in 2005, quickly promoting into a full-time position as a Transit Operations Technician. The same month of her promotion, she graduated from San Diego State University (SDSU) with a double major in Public Administration, emphasizing in City Planning and Art, emphasizing in Graphic Design.

In 2009, Lisa again promoted to the position of Assistant Transit Operations Specialist. Her many responsibilities included managing the agency's contracts for the Minibus and Sorrento Valley Coaster Connection (SVCC) service and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit certification. She also assisted with the ADA paratransit bus operations contract. During this time, she successfully secured grant funding for MTS from SANDAG to purchase Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) technology via the New Freedom program and additional funding for new paratransit buses via the 5310 Program. Lisa further completed a Master of City Planning program at San Diego State University in 2012.

In January 2015, Lisa moved to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) as an Associate Transit Planner. At SANDAG, Lisa manages the bi-annual update of the Coordinated Plan, the triennial Transportation Development Act (TDA) Performance Audits for MTS, North County Transit District

(NCTD), SANDAG, and Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT), the triennial Title VI Program Updates for MTS and NCTD and the Passenger Counting Program (PCP). Lisa's duties also include staff liaison for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and currently works on the Transportation Performance Monitoring (TPM) Project as well as the SR78 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP).

Lisa's strong career aspirations reflect her clear vision and dedication to positively impacting her local community. Serving on the WTS San Diego Chapter Board of Directors for the past four and a half years, Lisa served as the Hospitality Chair in 2016, aiding in organizing staff programs and events. 2017 to 2019, Lisa served as Programs Chair, developing unique content for various chapter programs. Currently serving as Professional Development Chair, Lisa oversees the Mentorship, Book Club, Thunder Talk, Lunch and Learn, and Programs initiatives.

She also has been essential to the organized, streamlined transition of chapter programs into the virtual environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting stay at home order. Lisa's forward-looking attitude provides meaningful content to the diverse community that makes up WTS San Diego, promoting gender equality practices and developing programs on realizing leadership potential, often featuring female speakers in senior leadership positions. Lisa continues to be a focused mentor encouraging female students to enter the broad field of

transportation and develop viable careers in this ever-expanding, developing field through the American Planning Association (APA) Mentorship program, the WTS Mentorship program, and as a regular speaker to student groups.

Lisa's spare time sees her dedicated to First Descents, an organization that provides outdoor adventures to young adult cancer survivors. Lisa is a Red Cross Lifeguard, an avid cyclist and active transportation advocate, a past mentor in both the APA and WTS San Diego's Mentorship Program, and the adoptive parent of a rescued Miniature Dachshund.



Coleen is well established in the San Diego Metro area as a reliable supporter of the revitalization and utilization of San Diego for all citizens. A few of her noticeable accomplishments include having led the creation of an innovative grant program whose projects act as catalysts to revitalize communities, activate spaces, and spur investment opportunities in the communities throughout the San Diego region,

Early in her career at the City of San Diego, Coleen played a key role in the City of Villages Project, which focused growth into mixed-use activity centers that are pedestrian-friendly districts linked to an improved regional transit system. Upon joining SANDAG as a Principal Planner for land-use coordination, Coleen brought the principles of Smart Growth to the agency. Coleen led a collaborative dialogue among the local jurisdictions to identify Smart Growth Opportunity Areas through a Concept Map for better coordination between land use and transportation. A vital tool for implementing the Regional Plan, the Concept Map identifies locations within the region that can support smart growth and transportation investments, leading to a refined transit network. This innovative and collaborative map further serves to determine eligibility for the Smart Growth Incentive and Active Transportation Programs funded through TransNet, which has awarded over \$80 million and leveraged \$53 million for projects throughout the San Diego region since its inception in 2009.

In 2011, Coleen led the effort to complete the region's first Sustainable Communities Strategy, per California's climate change legislation. As Director of Regional Planning, Coleen now leads a bold new vision for mobility through a framework of transformative strategies that re-conceptualizes how our region will grow and how people and goods will get around. Known as the 5 Big Moves, this framework for a new transportation vision for our region will enhance connectivity, increase safety and sustainability, and improve life quality.

Coleen passionately engages stakeholders, building inclusive relationships across agencies, elected officials, and communities traditionally marginalized from the planning process. Through several iterations of the Regional Plan, she oversaw creating a program to engage Community-based Organizations (CBO) from environmental justice communities around the region to include outreach to their communities and collaboration on the Regional Plan's social equity analysis. SANDAG provides resources to the CBO Partners throughout the planning

AWARD WINNER

COLEEN CLEMENTSON SANDAG

Director of Regional Planning for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Coleen is a known, life-long champion for sustainable development practices, connecting land use to transportation demonstrated through her work at the City of San Diego on the award-winning City of Villages furthered by her current leadership tenure in creating a Bold Transportation Vision for the 2021 Regional Plan.

process so their communities can be meaningfully engaged. Most of the project managers for the CBO partners are either women or minorities or both. Coleen's inclusive leadership style with these community advocates has helped them understand the connections between their communities and the regional process, helping them advocate for their communities' needs. Under her guidance, the Social Equity Analysis for the 2011 Regional Plan became a core chapter of the Plan. Similarly, Coleen oversaw the development of the tribal liaison program in which the tribal nations are an integrated contributor to SANDAG's policymaking structure with a voice in the planning process in the region.

Coleen joined SANDAG in 2004, coordinating a team of women planners providing proactive support and strategic guidance in a variety of areas including affordable housing, smart growth, active transportation, tribal and military collaborative planning. These women have received local, state, and national recognition for their innovative work with her support. More recently, Coleen made a lateral move in 2018, which positioned to oversee the transit program, including significant transit projects such as South Bay Rapid, utilizing a female project manager-who was later promoted to a Principal- and a predominantly female technical team. Coleen is an empathetic and inclusive leader who fiercely defends her team and celebrates their strengths, providing opportunities to excel.

A dynamic leader, innovative thinker, and active nurturer, Coleen actively identifies her staff's strengths and creates opportunities for leadership for all while continuing to mentor young professional women in transportation. Coleen, tapped by Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director of SANDAG, took on the challenging task of Special Projects Director to oversee two significant initiatives: Airport Connectivity and the 2021 Regional Plan. Pulling together a new team to implement this transformative initiative, Coleen provided a platform for women in transportation planning to show their innovative ideas and dynamic leadership potential. Indeed, women lead all of the 5 Big Moves for the Vision. As part of a major agency reorganization, Coleen became Director of Regional Planning. She immediately restructured the department of 32 professionals, further supporting women and minorities' advancement to 50% of senior positions, including a female minority as Director of Integrated Transportation Planning. Coleen is passionate about Women in Transportation and continues to contribute to advancing women's careers through internships, the UCSD Alumni Network, and the APA Mentorship Program through both example and consummate leadership.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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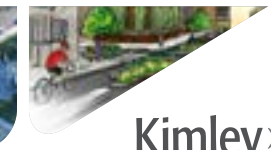
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- SANDAG I-15 Managed Lanes
- NCTD PTC Implementation
- San Diego International Airport
Terminal 2 Green Build

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RICK IS A PROUD MEMBER OF WTS SAN DIEGO + CONGRATULATES ALL AWARD WINNERS!