



Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> Atlanta

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



WTS Set to Thrive in 2025!

We are so excited to kick off 2025 with a new board and valuable opportunities for our WTS Atlanta members and transportation community. So far, we've hosted a fun networking event for our annual membership meeting and an exclusive viewing of the moving film John Lewis: Good Trouble. We also have a new feature in the newsletter to help our community get to know our board members. We are looking forward to serving in new ways this year with a Habitat for Humanity project and opportunities to support young people interested in transportation fields. Read on to learn more and get involved!

WTS ATLANTA
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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welcome

TO OUR 2025
CORPORATE PARTNERS!

2025 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

Thank you for your support this year!

2025 Presenting Partner

AtkinsRéalis

2025 Diamond Partners

HNTB

kapsch >>>
challenging limits

WSP

2025 Platinum Partners

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30
YEARS

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2025 WTS Atlanta Corporate Partners

2025 SBE/Non-Profit Partners



2025 In Kind Partners

Atlanta Regional Commission
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Certified great. No debate.



Our employees have spoken—AtkinsRéalis is officially a Great Place to Work US, scoring nearly 30 percentage points higher than the industry average. Great Place to Work® is the global authority on workplace culture, with over 100 million employees surveyed worldwide.

From a warm welcome on day one to taking pride in our work, our people drive our success. Here, careers flourish, ideas thrive, and trust is foundational.

AtkinsRéalis isn't just a workplace—it's a winning culture where talent grows and innovation leads.

We're proud to be a WTS 2025 Presenting Sponsor.

91%

FELT WELCOMED
WHEN THEY JOINED

90%

TAKE PRIDE IN
WHERE THEY WORK

90%

BELIEVE MANAGEMENT
TRUSTS THEM

89%

SAY OUR LEADERSHIP
IS HONEST & ETHICAL

Source: 2025 Great Place
To Work Trust Index® Survey

Engineering a better future
for our planet and its people



— *Message from the President* —

Spring is here! Growing up in Puerto Rico, where summer weather lasts all year long, I enjoy changing seasons, with spring and fall being my favorites. I love spring in Atlanta and enjoy walking through Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden to admire the beauty of this season. Spring is a time of renewal and blossoming, and it perfectly mirrors the energy and enthusiasm within our organization.

It is amazing how quickly time passes by. Two months ago, it was the start of 2025, and with that, a new WTS Atlanta Board met for the first time to layout the vision and goals for the year. The WTS Atlanta Chapter started strong with its Membership Event in January. In February, our chapter joined the screening of the documentary “John Lewis: Good Trouble” presented by Atlanta Downtown and WABE. Our committees are hard at work planning events to fill the WTS Atlanta calendar, so I promise you there will be more opportunities to connect, learn and grow. Stay tuned!

WTS Atlanta events and scholarship programs would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors. Their commitment to advancing women in transportation is truly commendable. I would like to welcome the WTS Atlanta 2025 Corporate Sponsors, including our new Presenting Sponsor, AtkinsRéalis. It is not too late to join, so please contact me if your company would like to become a corporate sponsor. We are open all year round to new sponsors, but the sooner you join, the sooner you can enjoy the benefits.

I would like to encourage all our members to actively participate in our events and initiatives. Even more, I would like to encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas for programs and events. Your involvement is key to the success of our chapter. This is YOUR WTS, and the WTS Atlanta Board’s responsibility is to bring value to YOU, our members.

Let's make this spring a season of growth and success for the WTS Atlanta Chapter. And Happy Women’s History Month!



Iris Ortiz
WTS Atlanta President

Meet the Board & Committee Chairs Series

Sherl A. White: Senior Civil Engineer with Expertise in Design-Build Transportation Projects



Sherl A. White

WTS Atlanta Vice President
of Programs

Path to Transportation

Sherl A. White's journey into transportation began in 1990, when she started her career as a structural engineer in Chicago, designing railroad and highway bridges. This foundational experience in structural engineering opened the door to managing large-scale infrastructure projects. Over the years, Sherl has expanded her expertise, specializing in Design-Build projects for the Georgia Department of Transportation since 2011. Her leadership on multi-billion-dollar projects across the Midwest and Southeast has solidified her as an influential figure in the transportation industry.

A Moment that Reinforced Her Passion

One defining moment in Sherl's career occurred early on when she had the opportunity to see her design work come to life and directly impact the public transportation system. As a young engineer, witnessing her designs be constructed and put into service was a profound experience that reaffirmed her passion for the work she does. Seeing the tangible effects of her work on the community made her realize how significant her contributions were and solidified her commitment to the field.

Current Role in WTS Atlanta

Sherl has been an active member of the Women's Transportation Seminar for over 20 years, contributing to both the Chicago and Atlanta chapters. She has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as the Chair of the Transportation You Committee and a WTS Mentor in the 2022 and 2024 Mentor-Protégé programs. Currently, she serves as the 2025-2026 Vice President of Programs for the WTS Atlanta Chapter, where she is responsible for organizing impactful events and helping support the development of women in transportation.

A Moment She Felt on the Right Track



Sherl felt truly unstoppable when she was offered the opportunity to relocate to Atlanta and advance her career in the design-build industry. At the time, the field had few women in leadership roles, and the chance to take on a pivotal leadership position in this male-dominated industry was empowering. This decision not only accelerated her career but also reinforced her confidence in breaking barriers and thriving in spaces traditionally occupied by men.

Meet the Board & Committee Chairs Series

Martika Johanson-Murray: Systems Engineer Passionate about the Intersection of Robotics and Transportation



Path to Transportation

Martika Johanson-Murray's journey into transportation began in high school, where she became involved with WTS Atlanta through the Grady High School - TU Program. After graduating from SPSU/KSU in 2019 with a degree in Mechatronics Engineering, Martika began her career with Kapsch TrafficCom, specializing in Advanced Traffic Management Systems and transit projects. She also conducted research in textile material handling and collaborative robotics for a Fortune 500 company. Her passion lies in robotics and its potential to revolutionize transportation and intelligent systems.

Martika Johanson-Murray
WTS Atlanta Transportation YOU
(TYOU) Program Chair

Current Role in WTS Atlanta

Martika has been an active member of WTS Atlanta, holding a leadership role as the 2025-2026 Chair for the WTS Transportation You (TU) Program. This position is especially meaningful to her, as she was once a mentee in the same program. As Chair, Martika works with inspiring young scholars at South Atlanta High School, and she is also involved in the Community & Outreach committee, connecting with professionals throughout the transportation industry to expand the organization's reach and support the next generation of leaders.

A Moment that Reinforced Her Passion

A turning point in Martika's career came when she transitioned from working on Advanced Traffic Management Systems to transit projects. Although initially uncertain about the shift, Martika quickly adapted and found fulfillment in seeing projects come together from start to finish. Witnessing the completion of a project after months of work deepened her appreciation for the positive impact these initiatives have on communities and solidified her passion for working in the transportation industry.

A Moment She Felt on the Right Track

Martika felt truly unstoppable during a pivotal moment in her career when she faced challenges as the only female Systems Engineer in her office. Initially, building relationships with colleagues was intimidating, but over time, she grew more confident and integrated into the team. A significant moment came during a performance review when her male colleagues provided anonymous positive feedback, confirming that she was respected and supported. This experience helped Martika realize that, despite the obstacles, she had earned her place and gained the confidence to thrive in her field.



Meet the Board & Committee Chairs Series

Amanda von Oldenburg: Shaping the Future of Transportation through Mentorship and Expertise



Amanda von Oldenburg

WTS Atlanta Vice President
of Membership

Path to Transportation

Amanda's path to transportation began with a focus on hazardous waste management, where she worked for the USEPA cleaning up Superfund sites. After several years in that field, Amanda decided to shift her career toward a new challenge. She joined Atkins, initially applying for an Ecologist position, but her skills and interests in planning quickly led her into the transportation field. This transition sparked a new chapter in her career, where she has since become a trusted expert in transportation planning and environmental compliance, managing significant projects that positively impact communities and infrastructure.

A Moment that Reinforced Her Passion

One defining moment for Amanda occurred during a public meeting for a transportation project. An upset visitor voiced concerns about the project, and instead of avoiding the confrontation, Amanda embraced the opportunity to listen and provide clarity. By explaining the project's goals and addressing the concerns in a calm and knowledgeable manner, she turned the conversation around. The visitor left the meeting grateful, saying, "This is the first time I've ever attended a public meeting and had a good experience." This moment reaffirmed Amanda's belief in the power of communication and reinforced her passion for working in transportation, as she saw firsthand how effective communication can help build trust and support for projects.

Current Role in WTS Atlanta

Amanda has been deeply involved with the Women's Transportation Seminar for many years. She has served in various capacities, including as the past co-chair of a subcommittee, and is currently the Vice President of Membership for WTS Atlanta. In this role, she focuses on growing the organization and strengthening the network of women in the transportation field. She is passionate about creating opportunities for women and young professionals, helping them navigate their careers and connect with key industry leaders. Amanda's contributions to the WTS community have been pivotal in shaping the organization's outreach efforts and ensuring the continued success of its initiatives.

A Moment She Felt on the Right Track

Amanda finds fulfillment in the times when junior staff seek her guidance. These moments serve as a reminder that success is not just about personal achievements but also about helping others grow and navigate their own career paths. Being able to mentor and support others in their professional journeys has been incredibly rewarding for Amanda. It has allowed her to see the impact she has not just in her projects but in the broader industry, as she contributes to shaping the careers of the next generation of professionals.





WTS Atlanta values the input of its members and is constantly seeking ways to improve the value of its programs and benefits to members. Please take a moment to complete this survey to help the 2025-2026 Board execute future programs aligned with the needs of the Chapter members. This survey should take approximately five to ten minutes. Thank you for your time!

[COMPLETE SURVEY HERE](#)

Please complete the survey by 4/4/2025



2025 WTS Atlanta

Upcoming Events Calendar

January	February	March
Membership Meeting (1/30)	Black History Month Event - John Lewis "Good Trouble at the Rialto Center for Arts" (2/21)	Women's History Month Event - Habitat for Humanity: Framing the Future (3/28)
April	May	June
WTS Atlanta/Gwinnett County Happy Hour (TBD)	WTS Annual Conference (5/7-9, Toronto)	GDOT Board Breakfast (6/12)
Community Service & Outreach Event - Atlanta BeltLine Cleanup (4/26)	100th Anniversary of Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta Airport Event (5/22)	
ACEC Introduce a Girl to Engineering (4/19)		
July	August	September
Professional Branding Webinar (TBD)	DBE Social Event w/ D&I Committee (TBD)	Multimodal Exchange Event (TBD)
October	November	December
(TBD)	Scholarship and Awards Luncheon (TBD)	Holiday Party (TBD)

[View Events Here](#)

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



2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

by Amanda von Oldenburg

W

e are excited to share the highlights from our recent membership event held at the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on January 30, 2025. The event was a great success, with 52 individuals in attendance, and we are thrilled to welcome six new members to our WTS Atlanta cohort since the event.

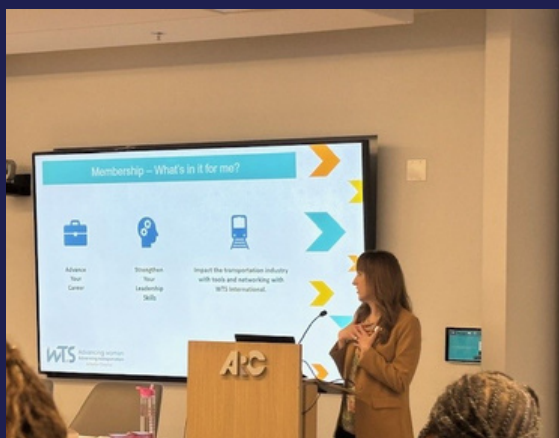
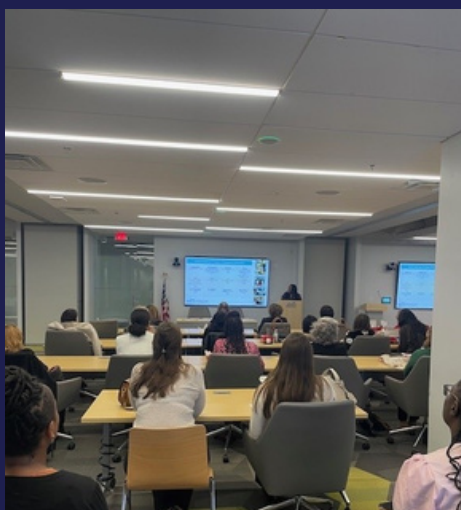
Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch setting the stage for an hour filled with information on planned events, personal stories, and networking opportunity. The event featured insightful presentations from many of our board members and committee chair members. We previewed our robust calendar of events and initiatives, which generated a lot of enthusiasm and momentum for the upcoming year. Additionally, several attendees signed up for various committees, showing their commitment to contributing to our WTS Atlanta community. We also gave away tons of swag to both existing and potential new members, creating a buzz around WTS for the year ahead.

A special thanks goes to WTS International Board member and past Atlanta Chapter President, Malika Reed Wilkins, for allowing us to hold the event at ARC. Her support and dedication to our organization are greatly appreciated.

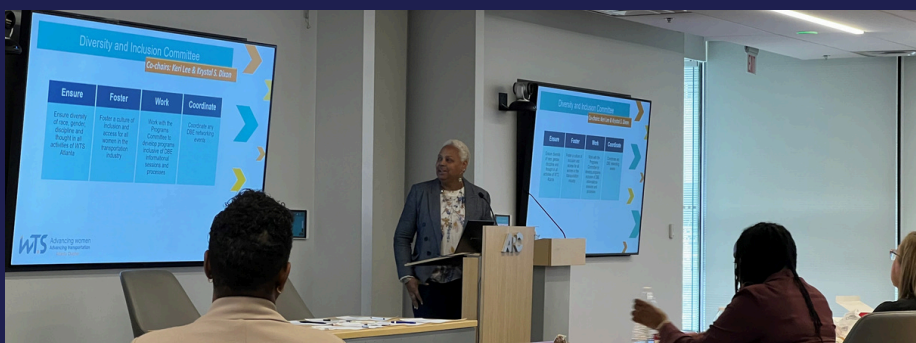


Photo (above): WTS Atlanta Board Members: Donia Aponte, Tonia Brown, Amanda von Oldenburg, Sherl White, and Iris Ortiz

Photo (top): Attendees at Membership Drive event



Overall, the event was a fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and build momentum for the year ahead. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of our new members and the exciting plans we have in store coming to fruition in 2025.



JOHN LEWIS: “GOOD TROUBLE” SCREENING

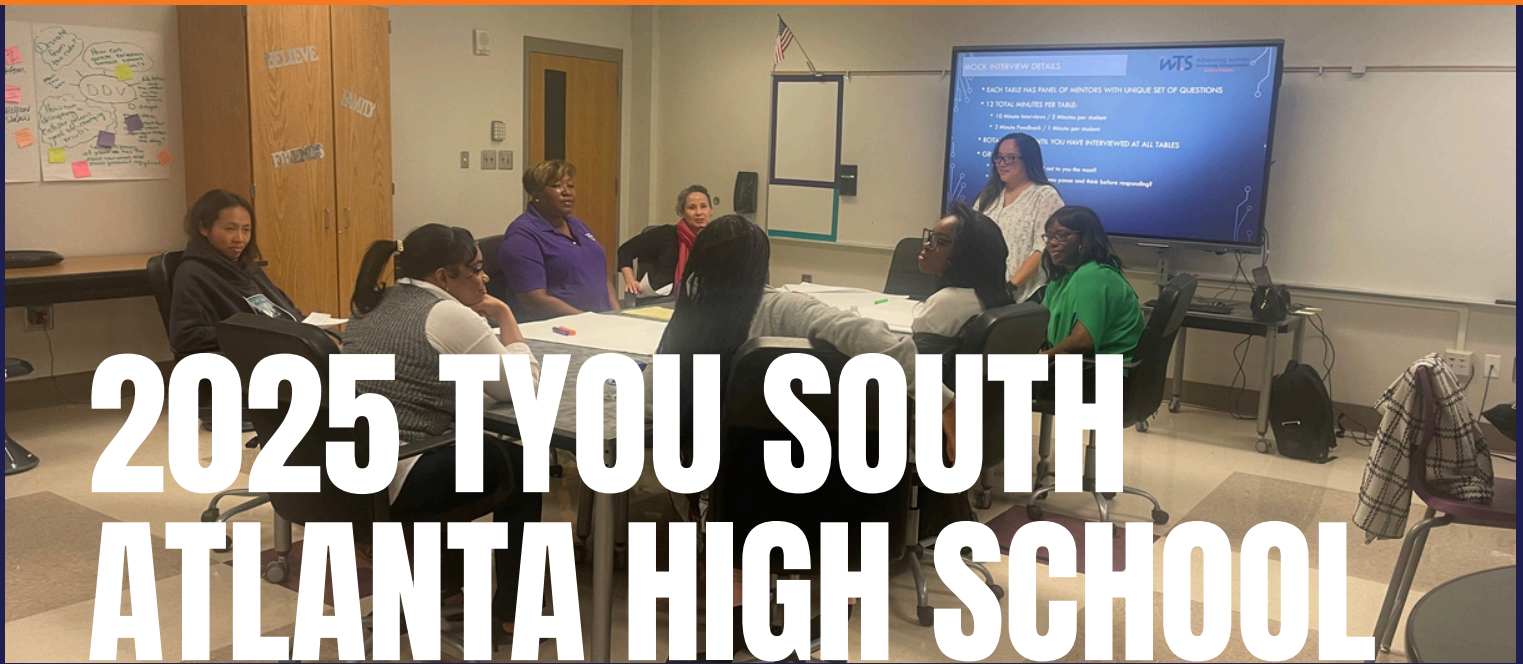
by Sherl White

In honor of what would be Congressman Lewis’s 85th birthday on February 21st, the WTS Atlanta Chapter attended a screening of the documentary, “Good Trouble: The Story of John Lewis and the Fight for Civil Rights” followed by a panel discussion at the Rialto Center for the Arts. Civil Rights activist John Lewis once said, “Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America”. Today, the John Lewis good trouble quote still inspires people to action, in pursuit of equity and social justice. From his early days as an activist in the heart of the U.S. Civil Rights movement to his distinguished career as a U.S. Representative, John Lewis left an unforgettable mark on the fight against racial injustice and inequality. The WTS group enjoyed a nice Friday evening pre-show dinner at Ted’s Montana Grill which included WTS International Foundation Co-chair, Odessa Phillip.



Photo (above and center): WTS Board and members

Photo (top): Moderator Rose Scott, and panelists Tuere Butler, Kabir Sehgal, and Rohit Malhotra



2025 TYOU SOUTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL

by Martika Johanson-Murray

In February, the 2025 Transportation YOU program kicked off their first meeting of the year with South Atlanta High School. First on the agenda was a presentation featuring Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March) all in one. After a quick break, we gathered around for a mock interview activity. Each student had the opportunity to gain experience with real-world interview questions and receive invaluable feedback from our lovely committee mentors. This year the committee consists of a diverse group of women varying in both profession and experience.

For March, we are leaving the classroom setting to take the students on a tour of GDOT's 511 Traffic Management Center. During this exclusive tour we will view the city roads live via CCTV cameras, visit the operations control room, learn about the storage of IT related data, and see the hub where HERO unit trucks are dispatched. Many thanks to Kim Williams, TMC Manager, Anslee Schroeder, Communications & Outreach Manager, and the GDOT team for making this tour possible.



Photos: TYOU 2024-2025 students and TYOU committee members

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.

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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, Amanda von Oldenburg at Amanda.vonOldenburg@atkinsrealis.com.

[View Membership
Presentation Here](#)

[Volunteer Sign up
Sheet](#)



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)

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 2025:

WTS International Chair's Reception at TRB Annual Meeting

WTS Workshops & Webinars

Distinguished Speaker Series

WTS Connects: Member Meetups

WTS Fall Women Business Owner's Roundtable

WTS International Annual Conference

WTS Capital Summit

WTS Signature Leadership Training

WTS Chapter Leadership Summit

For more information on these events:

[View Events Here](#)

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Member Opportunities

Get Scholarships!!

Stay tuned for scholarship opportunities coming out
Summer/Fall 2025!

Strategic Partner Scholarships

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

**Bridgette Beato 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](#)

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