

2025 WTS-DC Recognition Awards



Presentation of the Recognitions Awards

*Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins
Chief Executive Officer, WTS
International and WTS Foundation*

With more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit management, public policy, marketing and communications, and strategic leadership, Dr. Wilkins brings a wealth of expertise that is already elevating WTS International and the WTS Foundation to new heights and leading the organization into its next era of growth, influence, and impact.

Dr. Wilkins comes to WTSI from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), where she served as Chief Strategy Officer and Chief External Affairs Officer. In those roles, she guided the ARC's comprehensive five-year strategic plan, aligning the agency's mission, values, and priorities across 11 metro Atlanta counties and among dozens of regional partners. She also spearheaded the ARC's first Transportation Demand Management Coordinating Committee, connecting leaders from transportation, housing, education, and the private sector to improve mobility for hundreds of thousands of commuters.

Her professional journey includes notable leadership roles with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and the Georgia Department of Human Services. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications from the University of Georgia, a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University. She has received numerous awards to include the COMTO Atlanta Women Who Moves Atlanta, ACEC Georgia's 100 Most Influential Women for eight consecutive years and a host of key awards through IBTTA and the Public Relations Society of America.



Woman of the Year

Kate Mattice

Executive Director

*Northern Virginia Transportation
Commission*

Driven by a passion for public service, Kate Mattice has spent more than 30 years shaping policies that have improved quality of life in our region and across the country. From data analyst to policy

director to deputy associate administrator to executive director, Kate's career has spanned the private sector, Capitol Hill, the Federal Transit Administration, and currently the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. Her dedication to using storytelling to support policy changes while building strong organizations has yielded transformational outcomes. In leadership roles at FTA and now at NVTC, Kate has built teams that have launched innovative programs, provided instrumental guidance to policymakers, and fought for long-term sustainable funding for public transit.

As a mentor both inside and outside the workplace, Kate has supported professionals and also volunteers extensively with Scouting America, serving as a founding Scoutmaster for an all-female troop and leading National Youth Leadership Training courses. She has earned prestigious awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, and Scouting America. Kate lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and two college-aged sons. She holds a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego.





Honorable Ray LaHood Award

Randy Clarke

General Manager & CEO

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Randy Clarke, General Manager & CEO of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro), is a visionary leader dedicated to transforming America's Metro System. A daily customer, Clarke has been relentless in continuous improvements and delivering safe, frequent, and reliable service,

which has led to consecutive years in ridership growth and recovery and APTA's 2025 designation of Transit Agency of the Year. He is focused on being fiscally responsible while working with the WMATA Board to deliver a balanced budget and reduce management costs. The Strategic Transformation Plan, Metro's guiding priorities, focuses on making Metro a world-class system today and for future generations.

Prior to Metro, Clarke led Capital Metro in Austin, securing one of the largest transit referendums in U.S. history. He also held key roles at APTA and MBTA, shaping public transit nationwide. Originally from Nova Scotia, he earned degrees from Acadia University and the University of Southern Maine. Clarke and his wife, both transit enthusiasts, love exploring the region alongside their two dogs, Pepper and Jelly.





Member of the Year

Morgan Bassford

Senior Communications Project

Manager Epstein Creative Group

Morgan Bassford is a strategic communications professional passionate about advancing public engagement in transportation, energy, and sustainability initiatives. As Senior Communications Project Manager at Epstein Creative Group, she leads outreach and marketing

campaigns for public agencies and local governments, helping translate complex projects into meaningful community connections. Previously, she served as Strategic Communications Manager at WMATA, leading high-profile engagement efforts for major infrastructure projects across the region.

As Communications Chair for WTS-DC, Morgan oversees all chapter communications—including social media, and email outreach—shared with more than 1,000 members and supporters. She has grown the chapter's social media following, generated over 50,000 annual impressions, and maintained a consistent content calendar that keeps members and partners engaged. Through strategic storytelling, she has strengthened the WTS-DC brand and elevated the chapter's visibility across the region.

Her work has been recognized with awards from APTA, the Virginia Transit Association, and PR News.





Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Oluseyi Olugbenle

Deputy Director

*Public Works & Transportation, Prince
George's County*

Mrs. Oluseyi Olugbenle is the Prince George's County Deputy Director in the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). Oluseyi supports the Director in the oversight of over 450 employees spanning 6 offices. Oluseyi oversees and manages all County transit services

including fixed-route, paratransit, micro-transit, shared mobility, planning, design and construction, fleet and facilities, as well as taxi operations. She also has oversight of the agency's Legislative and Policy team, Vision Zero Program, Human Resources Division, as well as other critical functions.

Prior to DPW&T, Oluseyi served as Director of the Office of Planning and Capital Programming at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), and as Transportation Planning Consultant at MDOT The Secretary's Office and the State Highway Administration.

In 2023, Oluseyi was appointed by Maryland Governor Wes Moore to serve on the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs, which reviewed, evaluated, and made recommendations on the prioritization and funding of transportation projects. Oluseyi is a passionate member of COMTO (Conference of Minority Transportation Officials) and WTS. In 2023, Oluseyi was awarded the National 40 under 40 Award by Mass Transit Magazine as well as the Outstanding Leadership Award by the Transportation Association of Maryland. In 2019, Oluseyi was awarded the National Emerging Leader of the Year by COMTO National. Oluseyi is a trusted leader in her community, serving as a youth mentoring leader for over 20 years.



Employer of the Year

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is a regional transportation organization committed to planning, prioritizing and funding multimodal projects that reduce congestion and enhance connectivity. We develop Northern Virginia's long-range transportation plan and invest in projects that improve mobility and provide travel options.

With a small but mighty team of 21, NVTA is over 60% women, including holding seven of 11 management positions. NVTA is led by a woman CEO, and women lead every department and major initiative. Key areas under women's leadership include Communications and Public Affairs; regional long-range planning; project investments totaling \$3.6 billion+; and financial operations including accounting, budgeting, procurement, and managing a \$2 billion+ investment portfolio.

Through strong women leadership, NVTA has committed nearly \$5 billion toward advancing more than 380 multimodal transportation projects across Northern Virginia, improving quality of life and supporting the region's economic growth.



Innovative Transportation Solutions Award

FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations, led by Guidehouse

The FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations project, led by Guidehouse, exemplifies innovative leadership in advancing aviation safety and workforce well-being. Tasked with addressing the complex challenge of air traffic controller fatigue, the team developed and implemented a comprehensive scientific report that identified 58 actionable opportunities that are now being implemented nationwide. These opportunities include exploring new staffing models, implementing new operational practices, providing education and resources, recommending scheduling practice refinements, and equipping leaders with fatigue research and tools to make data-informed decisions.

Guided by partnership with the FAA's predominantly female-led Human Performance Team, this project advances the FAA's Fatigue Risk Management program and supports more than 13,000 controllers nationwide. By continuing to focus on innovation for controller work practices and aligning with international safety standards, this project demonstrates how women's leadership continues to drive transformative change, advancing both transportation safety and the well-being of those who keep our nation's airspace safe.

