



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> Washington DC

## **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **WTS WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER**

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# Chapter Board and Advisors

Officers				
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Immediate Past President
Sophie Guiny, <i>InfraStrategies</i>	Shelley Wynne, <i>Dewberry</i>	Cerasela Cristei, <i>ATCS</i>	Ellie McCurdy, <i>WMATA</i>	Katie Kraft, <i>Thompson Coburn LLP</i>
Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and Volunteers				
Communications, Newsletter and Social Media		Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship		Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
<b>Chairs</b> Morgan Bassford, <i>Epstein Creative</i> Katie Masetti, <i>Mead &amp; Hunt</i>		<b>Chairs</b> Shelley Johnson, <i>Epstein Creative</i> <b>Volunteer</b> Cherie Gibson, <i>HNTB</i>		<b>Chair</b> Audra Bandy, <i>FHWA</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Deepika Fields, <i>RS&amp;H</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Amanda Roberts <i>Avid Core</i> Robyn Wells, <i>AtkinsRéalis</i> Melissa Kim, <i>WMATA</i> Melanie Flores, <i>Assedo Consulting</i> Tiffany Batac, <i>KPMG</i>
Holiday Party		Legislative		Membership
<b>Chair</b> May ElKhatab, <i>Burns Engineering</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Chetna Sinha, <i>Gannett Fleming</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Amanda Sink, <i>NVTA</i>		<b>Chair</b> Kate Roetzer, <i>WMATA</i> <b>Deputy Chairs</b> Brianne Eby-Stockert, <i>Northeast Corridor Commission</i> Jillian Kinder, <i>APTA</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Laura Luo, <i>AECOM</i> Abigail Wolfgram, <i>Guidehouse</i>		<b>Chair</b> Laura MacNeil, <i>DDOT</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Poonam Patel, <i>Kimley-Horn of DC</i> <b>Volunteer</b> Jane Morris, <i>WMATA</i>
Mentoring		Professional Development		Program Logistics
<b>Chairs</b> Ruochang Huang, <i>WMATA</i> Roxanne Feige, <i>AtkinsRéalis</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Rachel Hensler, <i>Kimley-Horn of DC</i> Melissa Kim, <i>WMATA</i>		<b>Chair</b> Lindsey Robertson Lentz, <i>Evans Consulting</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Nadiya Kutishcheva, <i>Foursquare ITP</i>		<b>Chair</b> Laura Duke, <i>Foursquare ITP</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Valentina Farias, <i>Graduate Research Assistant at GMU</i> Elizabeth Patel, <i>FHWA</i> Rachel Staley, <i>Foursquare ITP</i>
Recognitions		Scholarship and Fundraising		Transportation YOU
<b>Chair</b> Jamie Rosen, <i>WMATA</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Edith Tapia, <i>WSP</i>		<b>Chair</b> Alanna McKeeman, <i>Foursquare ITP</i> <b>Deputy Chair</b> Regis Stinson, <i>WSP</i> <b>Volunteer</b> Niloo Parvinashtiani, <i>Iteris</i> Lindsay Valentino, <i>Terracon</i>		<b>Chair</b> Melanie Flores, <i>Assedo Consulting</i> <b>Volunteers</b> Kyla D'Sa, <i>Kimley-Horn of DC</i> Nadia Anderson, <i>Sound Transit</i> Polly Hanson, <i>APTA</i> Circe Torruellas, <i>GFT</i> Melissa Kim, <i>WMATA</i> Brandon Buckner, <i>FHWA</i> Xiaoyu Guo, <i>DDOT</i> Tammy Jones, <i>TMaree Solutions</i> Victoria Karolenko, <i>FRA</i> Sarah Morgan, <i>CPCS</i> Heather Haney, <i>WMATA</i>
Advisors				
Avital Barnea, <i>LA Metro</i>		Adrienne Ameel, <i>Kimley-Horn of DC</i>		Susan Gygi, <i>WSP</i>
Neela Babu, <i>MDOT</i>		Jamie Rennert, <i>Federal Railroad Administration</i>		Brittney Gick, <i>Texas A&amp;M Transportation Institute</i>

## WTS-DC 2024-2025 Corporate Members

Thank you to the WTS-DC 2024-2025 Corporate Members! Your support helps sustain our chapter, including the programming and scholarships we offer!



## President's Message

Dear WTS-DC Chapter Members and Friends,

It is with true gratitude that I look back at our Chapter's accomplishments in 2024, none of which would have been possible without the dedication of Board members, volunteers, members, corporate sponsors and friends. Please accept my sincere thanks for everything you have done and continue to do for the Chapter's growth and success.

Our chapter has continued to build a legacy of commitment to advancing women and transportation in the Washington, DC region. We organized professional development and networking events, forged new partnerships and recognized both future leaders with our scholarships, and industry legends with our recognition awards. Our programming enabled us to have important conversations around equity, local transportation challenges and projects, creating healthy teams, and navigating an ever-changing environment.

When WTS-DC members are asked about the value of our chapter, one of the most common responses is connections - from professional networking to deep friendships. We provided many opportunities for connections at our events this past year, including coffee chats with Renée Hamilton and April Rai, our annual member happy hour and our bike rides.

Partnerships and collaboration are critical to broadening WTS-DC's reach. This year, in addition to our (always popular) annual event with the WMATA General Manager, we held an event with DDOT, featuring Director Sharon Kershbaum and other women leaders at the Department. The cancellation of our annual VDOT event due to hurricane response was a reminder of the vital importance of transportation professionals.

Supporting emerging leaders is at the core of WTS-DC's mission, through both our mentoring program and our annual scholarship awards. This year, both programs beat records in terms of the number of participants and awards. For seasoned leaders, our Executive Women's Roundtable remains an important forum to connect and discuss current topics. And for future transportation professionals, our

Transportation YOU program continued to grow, forging new partnerships with high schools and scouting groups and holding numerous site visits.

As the founding chapter of WTS, we strive to lead the way at the international level as well. At the 2024 WTS-International conference in New Orleans, our chapter was once again recognized with the Gold Circle of Excellence Award. The conference was also the opportunity to celebrate two of our 2023 recognition winners who went on to win the international award: Renée Hamilton as Woman of the Year, and the I-95 Variable Speed Limit Project as Innovative Transportation Solutions Award.

We closed 2024 with our annual Holiday Party on December 3 - a sold out event to celebrate the season with over 275 guests, including industry leaders from Nuria Fernandez to Randy Clarke. Our award winners at Amtrak, FHWA and WMATA reminded us once again of how central to our nation's transportation system the DC region is.

In closing, I want to personally thank again the 2024 WTS-DC Executive Board, Board members, advisors, members, friends and sponsors for ensuring a successful year and many more to come. Your individual contributions are instrumental to the success of the Chapter.

As I look to 2025 and the future, I see challenges and changes ahead, but mostly I see a vibrant organization, ready to equip current and future transportation leaders and to continue advancing women and transportation in the DC region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Sophie Guiny  
2024 WTS-DC Chapter President

# Treasurer's Report

Table 1 - Operations Budget as of December 31, 2024

Revenues	Actual 2024
Holiday Party Revenues	\$15,160
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Corp. Membership Dues	\$45,000
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship: Program Sponsorship	\$500
Diversity Committee Revenues	\$933
Legislative Committee Revenues	n/a
Membership Committee Revenues	\$7,703
Professional Development Committee Revenues	45
Recognition Committee Revenues	n/a
Mentoring Committee Revenues	n/a
Other Programs Revenues	\$18,428
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$87,769</b>

Expenses	Actual 2024
Holiday Party Expenses	\$30,138
Communications/Outreach Expenses	\$1,188
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee Expenses (to Scholarship Fund)	\$4,500
Corporate Membership Expenses (to WTS International)	\$3,855
Diversity Committee Expenses	\$7,254
Legislative Committee Expenses	n/a
Membership Committee Expenses	\$3,480
Professional Development Committee Expenses	\$16
Program Logistics Committee Expenses	n/a
Mentoring Committee Expenses	\$351
Recognitions Committee Expenses	\$1,046
Scholarship and Fundraising Committee Expenses	\$166
Transportation YOU Committee Expenses	\$5,374
Other Program Expenses	\$14,934
Administrative Expenses	\$5,613
2024 WTS International Conference and Leadership Training Expenses	\$11,039
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$88,954</b>

Table 2 - 2024 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2024
Cash Balance:	\$158,910.93	\$217,638.72
Other Assets:		
Cash Reserve Account	\$95,742.00	\$56,334.00
PayPal	\$2,619.91	\$168.03
Accounts Receivables:	\$0	\$0
Accounts Payable:	\$0	\$0
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$268,971.82</b>	<b>\$274,140.75</b>

Table 3 - 2024 WTS-DC Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Fund	Balance
Starting Balance	\$66,909.52
Total Amount Raised*	\$17,614.51
2024 Corporate Member 10% Allocation**	\$4,500.00
2024 Sponsored Named Scholarships***	\$12,000.00
Additional Contributions (Individual and Company)	\$1,114.51
Total Amount Distributed****	\$30,000.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$54,524.01</b>

\*2024 Holiday Party Scholarship Tree donations were deposited in December 2023.

\*\*Includes Corporate Memberships received in Year 2024.

\*\*\*2024 Sponsored Named Scholarships amount does not include Named Scholarship money received outside of Year 2024. For example, there are Named Scholarships funds that were committed / received in previous years for future years.

\*\*\*\*Total Amount Distributed does not include 3 scholarship recipient checks not cashed as of 12/31/24.

## Executive Board

The WTS-DC Executive Board is comprised of five members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. In 2024, the officers serving on the board were:

- President: Sophie Guiny
- Vice President: Shelley Wynne
- Treasurer: Cerasela Cristei
- Secretary: Ellie McCurdy
- Immediate Past President: Katie Kraft

As President, Sophie Guiny guided and led the organization. She set goals and objectives for the organization in conjunction with the Executive Board and the members. Sophie was also responsible for presiding at meetings and events, and for communicating with the board and the membership. In general, the president provides leadership and direction for WTS-DC and has the authority to sign official documents on behalf of the organization.



As Vice President, Shelley Wynne supported the President. She was also responsible for organizing meeting invitations and sending out the agenda prior to board meetings and the annual meeting. The Vice President oversees programming for the chapter, which includes coordinating with other committees on topics, dates, times, and locations for events.

As Treasurer, Cerasela Cristei had charge and custody of the WTS-DC accounts, both for the operations account and for the scholarship account. She was responsible for coordinating the budget, preparing monthly financial reports, preparing the annual financial reports, handling all donations, and



maintaining financial records. In addition to the President, the Treasurer has the authority to sign contracts and invoices on behalf of the chapter.



As Secretary, Ellie McCurdy served as the guardian of all WTS-DC Corporate records. She was responsible for keeping the minutes for all meetings and for maintaining the website.

As Immediate Past President, Katie Kraft served as an advisor to the Executive Board and a historian of previous chapter activities. She was also the chapter representative to the WTS Northeast Region Council.



The Executive Board collectively works to make decisions pertaining to running the chapter. All five officers work together to check in with committees, recruit volunteers for the Board, engage with members, and act as ambassadors for WTS-DC.

## Board Meetings

In 2024, WTS-DC board meetings were held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 13
- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 9
- Tuesday, May 14
- Tuesday, June 11
- Tuesday, July 9
- Tuesday, August 13
- Tuesday, September 10
- Tuesday, October 8
- Tuesday, November 12
- Monday, December 2

The Chapter continued to hold the majority of its 2024 meetings virtually, via Zoom. The Executive Board and representatives from each committee were expected to attend at least eight of the 11 board meetings. For a quorum to be established, at least three of the five executive board members needed to be present and at least six



of the committees needed to be represented. Committees submitted monthly committee reports before each meeting. The Treasurer also submitted the monthly report detailing the Chapter's finances. These reports were compiled along with the board meeting agenda and distributed by email prior to the meeting.

## 2024 Annual Meeting

The WTS-DC 2024 annual meeting was held at the start of our December board meeting. The primary business of the annual meeting was to vote on the WTS-DC 2023 Annual Report and the meeting minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. All members were invited to attend by Zoom; members also had the option to vote in advance or by proxy. Once a quorum was established, the membership voted to approve the annual report and annual meeting minutes. Members were invited to comment on any other business and then the meeting adjourned. The WTS-DC 2023 Annual Report can be found on the chapter website.

## 2025 Officer Elections

Every year, WTS-DC elects four officers for the following calendar year: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In the fall of 2024, the Executive Board presented a slate of candidates for those four positions for 2025. To facilitate anonymous voting, the election was held using an online system called Election Runner, which emailed each chapter member (who had been a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the election) a unique link to their ballot. The ballot listed the candidate slate and, for each position, presented the option for a write-in. Members voted for one person for each position. Per the WTS-DC bylaws, at least 10 percent of the membership must vote to establish a quorum. The response rate in the election exceeded that threshold, and the membership voted on the following officers to lead WTS-DC in 2025:

- President: Sophie Guiny
- Vice President: Shelley Wynne
- Treasurer: May ElKhattab
- Secretary: Regis Stinson

Katie Kraft will serve as Immediate Past President in 2025.

## Committee Reports

WTS-DC has 12 committees that contribute to the overall function of the chapter. The responsibilities of each committee are described below along with a summary of their accomplishments in 2024.

The year started with an enthusiastic Strategic Planning meeting in late January. The committees assembled and set goals for the year.

### Communications, Newsletter and Social Media Committee

In 2024, Morgan Bassford (Epstein Creative), as Chair, and Katie Masetti (Mead & Hunt), as Deputy Chair, led the Communications, Newsletter and Social Media Committee with assistance from the WTS-DC Executive Board. The committee handled the chapter's Constant Contact email lists and developed all Constant Contact e-blasts for the chapter. The committee also managed the newsletter development and publication process and sent a total of three e-newsletters in 2024, which featured a broad range of transportation-related content, including event summaries (both member-wide and invitation-only), recognition of national issues, and highlights of members, scholarship recipients, and award winners. In addition, the committee curated and managed the chapter's social media presence across X,, Facebook, and LinkedIn, applying best practices to ensure more consistent and effective engagement.

*The Communications, Newsletter and Social Media Committee works with the Executive Board and committees to provide regular communications to chapter members and friends. The committee has an active presence on social media as they curate content for the chapter's social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The committee is also responsible for publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, which includes a president's message, summaries of recent events, corporate member spotlights, and other articles written by members.*

Analytics are as follows (as of December 31, 2024):

- Total social media posts: 305
- Total social media impressions: 53,516
- Total social media post reach: 2,094

- Average social media post engagement: 6.25%
- Total social media followers: 1,676
- Total eblasts: 59
- Eblast open rate: 46%
- Eblast click rate: 13%
- Average # of eblast recipients: 815
- Total newsletters: 3

## Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee

*The Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee's responsibilities for corporate membership include: developing and updating the corporate membership benefits brochure; maintaining the list of corporate members; acknowledging contributions; recruiting new corporate members; recommending and, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, establishing corporate fundraising goals; and ensuring that the corporate membership logos and banner are up to date. Additionally, the committee is responsible for managing program sponsorships, which are donations for specific programs run by WTS-DC.*

The Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee was led by Shelley Johnson (Epstein Creative), as Chair, and dedicated volunteer Cherie Gibson (HNTB).

The committee had a record-setting year, exceeding the goals set for 2024. The committee not only surpassed its corporate membership target by 30%, securing \$65,000 in memberships for 2024–2025 (up from \$52,000 in 2023–2024), but also achieved meaningful growth across all tiers. Shelley led efforts to upgrade Dewberry's membership from silver to gold and welcomed new corporate members (ATCS, Fehrs & Peers, ITA (Idletime Advertising), RK&K, Cambridge Systematics, Flatiron Dragados, and Volanno), reinforcing WTS-DC's position as a trusted partner for organizations across the transportation sector.

The committee also spearheaded high-visibility sponsorship efforts, securing \$14,000 support for signature events, including \$9,000 from Thompson Coburn towards the Cocktails & Conversation with WMATA GM Randy Clark and the \$5,000 from HNTB for the WTS Holiday Party. These achievements not only fulfilled but exceeded the committee's 2024 goals:

- Raise a minimum of \$50,000 in corporate memberships
- Raise a minimum of \$2,000 in program sponsorships
- Upgrade one company membership or add one new corporate member

The WTS-DC 2024-2025 Corporate Membership offerings are shown in Table 4. The 2024-2025 WTS-DC Corporate Members are listed in Table 5.

Table 4 - 2024-2025 Corporate Membership Offerings

Benefits	Gold \$3,500	Silver \$2,000	Bronze \$1,000	Public Sector Agency \$750	W/M/DBE* \$500
Complimentary ticket(s) to the Annual Holiday Party	3	2	1	1	1
Logo prominently displayed at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X	X
Logo to appear in Chapter e-blasts	X	X	X	X	X
Verbal recognition at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X	X
Acknowledgement on Chapter website	X	X	X	X	X
Special name tag designation at all Chapter events	X	X	X	X	X
WTS assigned membership	1	1	1	1	1
WTS floating membership	1				
Corporate spotlight article in Chapter newsletter	X				

Table 5 - 2024-2025 Corporate Members by Membership Type (as of 12/31/2024)

Organization	Membership Type	Fee
AASHTO	GOLD	\$3,500
APTA	GOLD	\$3,500
Arup	GOLD	\$3,500
Dewberry	GOLD	\$3,500
GFT	GOLD	\$3,500
HDR	GOLD	\$3,500
HNTB	GOLD	\$3,500
Jacobs	GOLD	\$3,500
Transurban	GOLD	\$3,500
Thompson Coburn LLP	GOLD	\$3,500
AECOM	SILVER	\$2,000
AtkinsRéalis	SILVER	\$2,000
Burns Engineering	SILVER	\$2,000
Cambridge Systematics	SILVER	\$2,000
Kimley-Horn	SILVER	\$2,000
Mead & Hunt	SILVER	\$2,000
VHB	SILVER	\$2,000
WRA	SILVER	\$2,000
WSP USA	SILVER	\$2,000
ATCS	BRONZE	\$1,000
Boeing	BRONZE	\$1,000
Fehr & Peers	BRONZE	\$1,000
Flatiron Dragados	BRONZE	\$1,000
Foursquare ITP	BRONZE	\$1,000
Guidehouse	BRONZE	\$1,000
InfraStrategies	BRONZE	\$1,000
RK&K	BRONZE	\$1,000
STV	BRONZE	\$1,000
Alpha Corporation	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
Epstein Creative Group	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
ITA (Idletime Advertising)	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
PrimECS	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
Sensis Connect	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
Volanno	W/MDBE/SWaM	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$65,000</b>

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was led by Audra Bandy (FHWA) as Chair and Deepika Fields (RS&H) as Deputy Chair. Amanda Roberts (Avid Core), Robyn Wells (DDOT), Melissa Kim (WMATA), Melanie Flores (Assedo Consulting), and Tiffany Batac (KPMG) served the committee as volunteers.

*The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee seeks to promote diversity and inclusion in the transportation industry for users and providers alike, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity/race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic circumstances. The Diversity Committee activities and efforts through the year promote the WTS-DC belief that every industry, including transportation, benefits from diversity and embracing diverse backgrounds and points of view will guide us towards more innovative and equitable transportation solutions that work for everyone.*

On June 23, the committee hosted a presentation titled Tulsa, Transportation, and Tragedy: How Modes of Transportation Affected the Tulsa Massacre. The featured speaker, Dr. Kimberly Ellis, a scholar of American and Africana Studies, and a lead historian and storyteller in The History Channel's "Tulsa Burning" documentary, spoke about the worst case of domestic terrorism in United States' history. She discussed the Tulsa Race Riot, War, and Massacre of 1921, with a particular lens on transportation modes and policies which contributed to the demise of Tulsa's Greenwood business and residential community and how today, more than a

century later, legislation and legal strategies could right some of the wrong.



On November 19, the EDI Committee held a virtual joint event with other WTS Chapters featuring Desiree Wood with Real Women in Trucking. Other participating chapters included, Central VA, Charlotte Metro, DC, Hampton Roads, NC Triangle, Northeast Florida, Savannah, South Carolina

## Holiday Party Committee

*The Holiday Party Committee is responsible for organizing the Chapter's largest event of the year: the Annual Holiday Party in December. The committee coordinates with several other committees to plan the event, including the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee, whose awardees are recognized at the event; the Recognitions Committee, whose awardees also are recognized at the event; the Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship Committee, to identify potential program sponsors and coordinate with corporate sponsors regarding complimentary tickets; and the Program Logistics Committee, on ticket sales.*



In 2024, the Holiday Party Committee was led by May ElKhatab (Burns Engineering), Chetna Sinha (TYLin), and Amanda Sink (NVTa).

The Holiday Party Committee worked throughout the year to plan and execute the chapter's annual holiday party. The committee collaborated with the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee and the Recognitions Committee to showcase the chapter's 2024 award winners and scholarship recipients at the event. Following the success of the 2023 WTS-DC Holiday Party, the annual WTS-DC Holiday Party and Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony was again held in the Ballroom of Hotel Monaco-DC on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

## Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee was led by Kate Roetzer (WMATA) as Chair. Brianne Eby-Stockert (Northeast Corridor Commission) and Jillian Kinder (APTA) as Deputy Chairs, Abigail Wolfgram (Guidehouse) and Laura Luo (AECOM) supported the committee as volunteers.

The committee prepared three articles for the chapter's newsletters. The articles recapped the November 2024 Transit Ballot election update, the USDOT RAISE Grant recipients, and the WTS-I Policy Symposium.

*The Legislative Committee works to inform WTS-DC members about critical legislative issues that affect the transportation industry and to strengthen the relationships between WTS-DC members and representatives on Capitol Hill. The committee typically hosts at least one event each year and contributes newsletter articles about legislative matters.*



## Membership Committee

*The Membership Committee is responsible for maintaining up-to-date membership records, preparing welcome packets for new members, sending renewal emails to chapter members, and answering any membership-related questions. They provide additional support to the Program Logistics Committee by confirming that everyone who purchased a member ticket for one of our events is a WTS member, and they support the Communications Committee to ensure that our membership email lists are up to date.*

The Membership Committee was led by Laura MacNeil (DDOT), as Chair, and Poonam Patel (Kimley-Horn) as Deputy Chair with support from committee volunteer Jane Morris (WMATA).

In 2024, WTS-DC continued to maintain one of the largest memberships of all the WTS chapters.

Our membership consists of approximately 300 members who indicated WTS-DC as their primary chapter.

The Membership Committee organized a Membership Appreciation event on the roof of Thompson Colburn's office in Downtown DC in June 2024, catered by Sugar Rim Catering and with over 50 WTS members in attendance.

## Mentoring Committee

*The Mentoring Committee matches industry leaders with emerging professionals in a mentor-mentee relationship. The committee facilitates learning experiences around professionalism in a friendly, interactive environment. In addition to the one-on-one matches, group events hosted by industry experts and professionals in various transportation sectors who share career lessons learned provide additional opportunities for connection and learning.*

The Mentoring Committee was led by Ruochang Huang (WMATA) as Chair and Roxanne Feige (AtkinsRéalis) as Deputy Chair. The committee was also supported by Rachel Hensler (Kimley-Horn).

The Mentoring Committee had 40 participants forming 20 mentor-mentee pairs in 2024. The program kicked off on April 25th with an in-person meeting to discuss program expectations and held a speed networking session for participants. Each mentor-mentee pair connected monthly, and group events complemented those meetings with professional development and networking opportunities. The committee hosted a joint event with the professional development committee at WMATA headquarters, on Creating Healthy Teams. The committee also held three happy hours to allow for informal networking.



The program hosted a panel on Negotiating for Higher Pay/Promotions, which consisted of three mentors. One panelist who works at Federal Highway Administration as a Major Project Team Lead, the second panelist owns her own coaching company and the third panelist working as the Mid-Atlantic Division Manager at AtkinsRéalis. The discussion consisted of how you can highlight your values when negotiating, understanding personal market value, advice on feeling anxious and nervous when anticipating these conversations, and how to handle pushback and rejection when it comes to negotiating.

The check-in event was hosted August 22nd at DDOT and was a hybrid format. Mentors and mentees shared their feedback first as a group and then met separately to allow mentors and mentees to speak to each other and offer advice on their experiences and give the committee some feedback on how to improve the program.

The final happy hour of the program was hosted on October 24th at City Tap House in Dupont. Sophie Guiny, the WTS-DC Chapter President, gave a short presentation of the WTS-DC Chapter Board and what each committee is responsible for. Mentees were able to learn which committees they can get involved with after completing the mentoring program.

## Professional Development Committee

In 2024, Lindsey Robertson Lentz (Evans Consulting) served as the Chair of the Professional Development Committee and Nadiya Kutishcheva (Foursquare ITP)

served as the Deputy Chair. Jeff Parker (WSP) and Regis Stinson (WSP) supported the bike tours as volunteers. In 2024, the Professional Development Committee organized events to foster collaboration, innovation, and career development.

*The Professional Development Committee provides opportunities for members and non-members to advance their careers through educational, informative, and skill-developing events. They collaborate with other committees to organize joint events to support career development.*

On November 21, the Professional Development and Mentoring committees hosted a workshop with Lindsey Robertson Lentz, Evans Consulting. Lindsey led an interactive workshop that included an assessment enabling participants to evaluate the health of their team and actionable steps that they can take to help their team develop

healthy habits. The event consisted of breakout sessions that encouraged collaboration and supported networking.

The committee also organized two bike tours: on May 18th in Washington, DC and on October 5th in Arlington County, jointly with CAPSITE, and COMTO-DC.

## Program Logistics Committee

*The Program Logistics provides support to other committees and groups who are hosting Chapter events. They support event organizers by helping to identify venues and caterers, and by providing advice on contracts. The committee works with the event planning committees, assists with planning the events and with catering and venue coordination when required for in-person events. The committee arranges registration on Eventbrite before events. For in-person events, the committee handles name-tags, registration, and works with walk-in attendees to purchase tickets at or after the program and assisted with event set-up.*

The Program Logistics Committee was led by Laura Duke (Foursquare ITP) as Chair. The committee was supported by Valentina Farias (Graduate Research Assistant at GMU), Elizabeth Patel (FHWA), and Rachel Staley (Foursquare ITP).

The committee provided logistical support for all public events hosted by WTS-DC that required tickets in 2024.

The committee worked with event planning committees, assisted with planning the events, and designed program graphics. Committee members were responsible for registration on Eventbrite before events and ticket purchases and adjustments, if needed, after the program. For in-person events, the committee assisted with setting up the event, ordering catered food/beverage items if needed, making nametags, greeting guests, and checking registration.

*Table 6 - WTS-DC 2024 Events (excludes Mentoring Program events, Transportation YOU programs, and Board meetings)*

Date	Event	Description	Format	Number of Registrants
3/19	Coffee Chat with Renée Hamilton, CEO of the Dulles	Members Only	In-person	12
4/23	Transportation Milestones in Northern Virginia	Open Event	In-person	44
5/18	WTS-DC Spring Bike Tour	Open Event	In-person	8
6/4	Executive Women's Roundtable: with Polly Trottenberg (Invitation Only)	Invitation Only	In-person	36

Date	Event	Description	Format	Number of Registrants
6/6	WTS-DC Membership Happy Hour	Members Only	In-person	55
6/23	Tulsa, Transportation, and Tragedy	Open Event	In-person	27
8/14	Coffee Chat with April Rai, President of CEO and COMTO	Members Only	In-person	21
9/19	A Discussion with Senior Women Leaders at DDOT	Open Event	In-person	83
9/30	DC Streetcar Car Barn Tour	Open Event	In-person	12
10/5	Joint Fall Bike Tour Around National Landing (Crystal City): Promoting Active Transportation and Networking	Joint Event	In-person	Registration handled by CAPSITE
10/23	Cocktails and Conversation with WMATA GM/CEO	Open Event	In-person	74
11/18	WTS-DC 2024 Annual Membership Meeting	Members Only	Virtual	22
11/19	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Educational Speaker Series: Desiree Wood	Open Event	Virtual	19
11/21	Creating Healthy Teams with Lindsey Robertson Lentz – WTS Mentoring Program	Open Event	In-person	25
12/3	WTS-DC 2024 Holiday Party	Open Event	In-person	298
12/4	Executive Women's Roundtable: with Veronica O. Davis (Invitation Only)	Invitation Only	In-person	26

## Recognitions Committee

*The Recognitions Committee is responsible for handling the Chapter's solicitation, nomination, evaluation, and certification of its annual awards.*

The 2024 Recognitions Committee was led by Jamie Rosen (WMATA) as Chair and Edith Tapia (WSP) as Deputy Chair.

In 2024, the Recognitions Committee solicited nominations for six award categories. The Committee surpassed its goal of at least two nominees in every category, with a total of 26 unique nominees / 28 nominations. The Committee then organized a selection panel to review the nominees and select a recipient in each category. The Committee then coordinated between the selection panel and the WTS-DC Executive Board to finalize the recipients who were then notified of the awards. The Recognitions Committee also coordinated with other committees to collect materials for the program, coordinate complimentary tickets for the recipients, and address other

party logistics. The recipients were invited to attend the 2024 holiday party where they were presented with their award. The committee also wrote a newsletter article in early 2025 about the recipients and completed the nomination forms to nominate all of the recipients for the WTS-I Recognition Awards.

Our 2024 recipients included:

- Rosa Parks Diversity Award: Oscar Gonzalez, Senior VP of Transit & Rail, WSP
- Employer of Year: Kimley-Horn of DC
- Innovative Transportation Solutions: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign
- Honorable Ray LaHood: Shailen Bhatt, Senior Vice President and COO of Latin America and Minerals & Metals, AtkinsRéalis
- Member of the Year: Shelley Johnson, Co-Owner, Epstein Creative Group
- Woman of the Year: Laura Mason, VP of Capital Delivery, Amtrak



## Scholarship and Fundraising Committee

*The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee is responsible for both awarding scholarships and raising funds for scholarships. Each year, the committee plans the calendar year for the annual scholarships, seeks out potential applicants, convenes the review panel, seeks Board approval of the scholarship recipients, and notifies the recipients and coordinates with them on the logistics of accepting their awards. The committee is also responsible for coordinating complimentary membership for awardees and for completing the WTS-I scholarship applications.*

In 2024, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee was chaired by Alanna McKeeman (Foursquare ITP). Regis Stinson (WSP) served as Deputy Chair, and Niloo Parvinashtiani (Iteris) and Lindsay Valentino (Terracon) supported the committee as volunteers.

The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee had another great year, receiving \$25,500 in named scholarships – a record! – from nine generous sponsor organizations. After a highly competitive application review process, the selection panel selected to award scholarships totaling \$36,500 to a group of sixteen deserving women. The total scholarship amount awarded includes Named Scholarships,

donations to the Scholarship Donation Tree at the Annual Holiday Party, 10% of WTS-DC Chapter Corporate Sponsorships, and other program revenues, individual, and company donations throughout the year.

At the WTS-DC 2024 Holiday Party, due to the generosity of the attendees and thanks to the efforts of several WTS-DC board members who volunteered their time, the Committee raised over \$2,000 in donations through the scholarship tree.

We were pleased to see a record number of scholarship winners at the Holiday Party and have already seen some of the 2024 awardees staying involved with WTS-DC. We wish the 2024 scholarship recipients much success as they complete their education and embark on what we are confident will be impactful careers in the transportation industry.





## Transportation YOU Committee

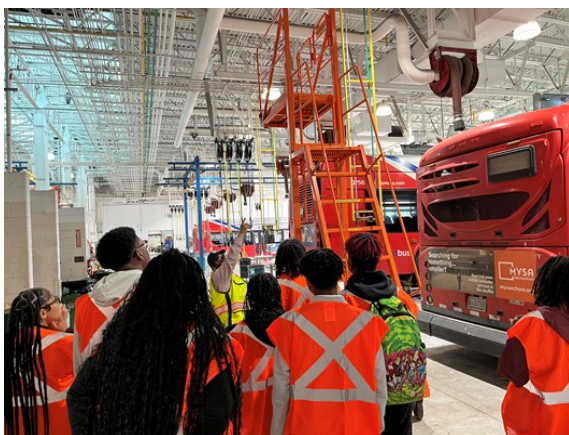
The Transportation YOU committee was led by Melanie Flores (Assedo Consulting) as Chair. Brandon

*The Transportation YOU Committee partners with local high schools in Washington, D.C. and is a hands-on, interactive, mentoring program that offers young girls (and boys) ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers.*

Buckner (FHWA and Cardozo High School Liaison), Kyla D'Sa (Kimley-Horn and Cardozo High School Liaison), Nadia Anderson (Sound Transit), Polly Hanson (APTA and McKinley Tech High School/Girl Scout Liaison), Circe Torrullas (GFT and Boy/Girl Scouts Liaison), Melissa Kim (WMATA), Xiaoyu Guo (DDOT), Tammy Jones (TMaree Solutions), Victoria Karolenko (FRA), Sarah Morgan (CPCS) and Heather Haney (WMATA) provided invaluable support as committee volunteers.

The Transportation YOU committee supported the WTS Capital Summit with attendance from WTS DC Mentor Xiaoyu Guo (DDOT) and Mentee London Thomas (Dunbar High School). The WTS Summit offers students an opportunity to meet transportation industry thought leaders, government and administration officials, and college students beginning their own career journeys in the industry. The Summit brings high school-aged mentees and transportation professional mentors to the Washington, D.C. area for a summer program of tours, lectures, and interactive experiences showcasing careers in transportation.

### McKinley Technology High School - Joint Field Trip with WMATA and DDOT



In May 2024, the WTS-DC Chapter Transportation YOU Committee partnered with WMATA and DDOT to host a transportation-focused field trip for 23 sophomores and 2 teachers from McKinley Technology High School.

The day began at Union Station, where students were divided into two groups for two site visits. One group boarded the DC Streetcar and traveled to the Car Barn

Training Center, a LEED Gold-certified facility operated by RATP DEV. There, students



learned about the history of streetcars in the District, toured the maintenance and operations center, and discovered how electric streetcars support sustainable urban mobility.

Simultaneously, the second group boarded a WMATA Zero Emission Battery Bus to visit the Shepherd Parkway Bus Division, home to nearly 200 buses, including Metro's growing electric fleet. Students received an in-depth look at WMATA's

zero-emission program, battery-charging infrastructure, and facility operations. WMATA staff shared insights into bus maintenance, transit planning, and the wide range of career paths available in public transportation.

Following the tours, both groups reconvened at Union Station for lunch, where students, teachers, and WTS TYOU volunteers reflected on their experiences and shared key takeaways from the day. Many students expressed excitement about what they learned, especially those interested in electrical engineering, and continued conversations with their peers and teachers throughout the afternoon.

### Boy Scouts STEM & Transportation Workshop

In April 2024, the TYOU Committee facilitated a STEM-focused transportation workshop for the Boy Scouts of America, welcoming both boys and girls to explore key concepts in transportation through a series of interactive activities. The workshop featured three core stations:

- **Bridge Building Challenge:** Students constructed bridges using pretzels and marshmallows, gaining hands-on experience with structural engineering and learning about design integrity.
- **Map-Making and Cartography:** This station introduced students to map reading and design by highlighting the importance of north arrows, scale, and visual elements used to convey transportation and geographic information.

- Traffic Safety and Intersection Design: Through a flashcard game and interactive layout, students explored roadway signage, traffic rules, and pedestrian safety, gaining an understanding of how intersections are designed to protect all users.

### Girl Scouts Partnership Development & Continued Outreach

In 2024, TYOU initiated efforts to build a new partnership with Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, marking an exciting step toward expanding outreach to young girls interested in STEM and transportation careers. Throughout the year, TYOU volunteers conducted outreach, identified key contacts, and began the process of coordinating potential future events.

The TYOU Committee is proud of the meaningful connections and educational experiences shared with students throughout the year, and is excited to increase outreach in 2025. From career exploration panels to field trips and mentorship programs, we remain committed to our mission of inspiring and equipping the next generation of transportation professionals.

## Events Throughout the Year

### Coffee Chat with Renee Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer of the Dulles Greenway

On March 19, 2024, WTS-DC hosted our first event of the year, a coffee chat with Renée Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dulles Greenway. Coffee chats are an opportunity for WTS-DC members to meet with transportation leaders in a small group setting and ask questions directly.

We had a very interactive conversation with Renée, who shared insights from her 30+ year career, first with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and now as CEO of a privately-owned toll road. Renée noted that, although the focus is different between public and private sector leadership roles, people skills are critical to both. She stressed the importance of developing relationships across the public and private sectors as well as with elected officials; the relationships she forged





throughout her career are essential to her role today.

Relationships and building a strong team are also critical inside an organization. Renée explained that she always saw herself as more of a generalist than a technical expert and therefore intentionally surrounded herself with more technical staff, seeking to identify both the right people for the job and the right job for people that would enable

them to grow. Outside of work having a support network is also vital - Renée mentioned how important both her family and her network of strong supportive women have been to her career and life.

## Transportation Milestones in Northern Virginia



On April 23, 2024, WTS-DC held a panel discussion on recent transportation milestones and current hot topics in Northern Virginia. The discussion featured Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and Kate Mattice, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Transit Commission (NVTC). The panel was

moderated by Sophie Guiny, WTS-DC Chapter President and Managing Principal at InfraStrategies, and the event was hosted by NVTA at their Vienna office.

The meeting kicked off with opening remarks from Sophie Guiny where she welcomed attendees and gave a brief overview of WTS-DC as well as introductions of the panelists. Monica Backmon stated that NVTa's primary responsibilities include developing and updating the long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia, prioritizing and funding projects across all modes of transportation, and giving priority to projects that provide congestion relief in relation to costs. Kate Mattice shared the 60-year history of NVTC enabling transit in Northern Virginia starting with its establishment in 1964 to help realize the dream of rapid transit in Northern Virginia. NVTC is celebrating this year by hosting a transit innovation summit at George Mason University on June 14th.

Sophie Guiny then asked Monica Backmon and Kate Mattice what they believe to be the current pressing transportation issues in our region. Monica Backmon stated transportation issues are ever-changing, but particularly she believes more equitable travel options across the region are needed. Kate Mattice stated that we need to collectively develop a vision for moving people in our region with conscious decisions on how we work together to develop more long-term sustainable solutions for funding this vision.

Sophie Guiny asked Monica Backmon and Kate Mattice to elaborate on what they believe to be the biggest changes in Northern Virginia that affect transportation. Monica Backmon stated that traditional peak periods have shifted in the last few years and investments in transportation have grown significantly in the Commonwealth. Kate Mattice noted a dynamic shift in people working from home has affected our commuter-based transit network where now transportation planners are just starting to understand how our transportation network can adapt.

Next, Sophie Guiny asked Monica Backmon and Kate Mattice about how NVTa and NVTC are providing equitable outcomes. Monica Backmon stated that the core values of NVTa are equity, safety, and sustainability, and that project sponsors must address these core values when submitting for applications for funding consideration. Kate Mattice stated that equity is at the heart of NVTC mission as it strives to see a network of transit to provide equitable outcomes for people. Currently, NVTC is studying a regional overlay of our transit networks, specifically bus routes, and how they can work together. NVTC also focuses on policy studies that can help local elected officials make informed decisions on everything from fare policies to electrification.

In closing, Sophie Guiny asked Monica Backmon and Kate Mattice what they want their legacy to be as leaders of their respective reorganizations. Monica Backmon stated that she is empowered and inspired by her team at NVTa as each member of her team brings ideas and creativity. Kate Mattice wants her legacy to be leaving a strong organizational culture at NVTC that can continue to allow its professionals to thrive and provide the best products for the region.

The event concluded with a Q&A session from the audience based on the personal experiences of the panelists and advice for transportation professionals.



## Celebrate Bike Week with WTS-DC at our Annual Spring Bike Tour!

WTS-DC held its annual spring Professional Development bike tour on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and attendees rolled their bicycles through the ever-changing streets in northeast Washington, DC. The group gathered at Catholic University, ready to explore one of DC's most scenic routes from Brookland down to Columbia Heights. A light rain fell that

morning, but the cool drizzle didn't deter anyone. After quick safety checks and a rundown of the route, the group set off down the glistening streets. One of the highlights of the ride was experiencing the newer connectivity of the protected bike



lanes along Irving Street. The improved design, which now flows more continuously down the center of the corridor, provides an easy and safer ride. That stretch carried us west toward Columbia Heights, showcasing how small infrastructure upgrades can make a big impact on comfort and connectivity for cyclists.

From Irving Street, the route wound through Columbia Heights, offering a mix of gentle hills then we followed Rock Creek Church Road, passing along the Old Soldiers Home, where the historic grounds provided a quiet and scenic stretch. The ride showed DC continued efforts to add protected bike lanes and improve bike

infrastructure. WTS-DC thanks Jeff Parker for leading the ride and shared insights on the rich history of the District.

## Executive Women's Roundtable with Polly Trottenberg



WTS-DC hosted an in-person Executive Women's Roundtable (EWR) with the US Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg. In her role at USDOT, Deputy Secretary Trottenberg serves as Chief Operating Officer and supports Secretary Pete Buttigieg in providing leadership, strategic vision, and management for USDOT. Trottenberg has helped lead the agency's implementation of President Biden's landmark Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law, which created over 40 new programs to invest in all modes of transportation with more than 57,000 specific projects in all 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories. She also helps lead the agency's efforts on roadway safety, technology, and cybersecurity.

In her opening remarks, Deputy Secretary Trottenberg said that people often ask her about her career path, and she noted that in addition to mentors she has been grateful for the support of her peer network. She specifically mentioned the WTS community, which she herself has been a part of for many years.

This conversation was primarily a Q&A session. Technical topics included aviation, funding reauthorizations, and Congressional bi-partisanship for infrastructure. The group also discussed professional topics pertaining to the workplace. Deputy Secretary Trottenberg mentioned lessons she learned from previous bosses, and how she applies them now. One participant highlighted Deputy Secretary Trottenberg's all-female team and asked what leadership skill she works on to encourage and mentor her staff. She referenced the known trend of women hesitating to take on new roles if they feel they do not meet all of the qualifications, and she stated that she encourages her staff to pursue opportunities they may be a good fit for even if they have not done that specific work before. As usual, the attendees were attentive and engaged participants in the discussion, and we had a great conversation.



## WTS-DC Membership Happy Hour

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, the WTS-DC Membership Committee was happy to host the Annual WTS-DC Membership Social Hour. New and seasoned WTS-DC members gathered on the rooftop of the Millennium Building to connect with one another. They enjoyed food and drinks provided by the chapter. Perfect weather and spectacular views of the city helped make this social hour one to remember. Thank you to corporate sponsor Thompson Coburn LLP for providing the venue.

## EDI Event - Tulsa, Transportation and Tragedy: How Modes of Transportation Affected the Tulsa Massacre



For many communities, June is a time of celebration and reflection. On June 23, 2024, several days after Juneteenth, the DC Chapter paid tribute to the past and celebrated the future by hosting a presentation titled Tulsa, Transportation, and Tragedy: How Modes of Transportation Affected the Tulsa Massacre.

Dr. Kimberly Ellis, a scholar of American and Africana Studies, and

a lead historian and storyteller in The History Channel's "Tulsa Burning" documentary, spoke about the worst case of domestic terrorism in United States' history. She discussed the Tulsa Race Riot, War, and Massacre of 1921, with a particular lens on transportation modes and policies which contributed to the demise of Tulsa's Greenwood business and residential community and how today, more than a century later, legislation and legal strategies could right some of the wrong.

The history of the Greenwood neighborhood and the effects of the massacre reached beyond Tulsa. Aspects of this unresolved case can be seen throughout the country in transportation and planning decisions that have had long-lasting effects. Neighborhoods remain separated by past practices like redlining, railroad tracks that divided towns, and highways that split neighborhoods. However, programs like the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Grant Program, which includes the

Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program and the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP), aim to reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and burdened by past transportation infrastructure decisions. These types of initiatives are addressing some of the harm that continues to impact current and former residents.

After the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to spend the afternoon touring the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The remainder of the day was spent sharing a meal with Dr. Ellis at the Sweet Home Cafe and walking through the cultural exhibitions. Of particular note, the museum's exhibition on the African American community of Greenwood, colloquially known as "Black Wall Street", showcased many of the items and firsthand accounts discussed by Dr. Ellis.

### Coffee Chat with April Rai, President and Chief Executive Officer of COMTO



On August 14, 2024, WTS-DC hosted a coffee chat with April Rai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). Coffee chats are an opportunity for WTS-DC members to meet with transportation leaders in a small group setting and ask questions directly.

COMTO has a legacy of over 50 years of advocating for underrepresented minorities and for transportation leadership that reflects the communities being served. April noted both similarities and differences between COMTO and WTS - while both organizations are working to bridge the gap in representation, COMTO's focus is more on organizations and communities than on individuals and their careers.

We had a dynamic exchange with April on the topic of workforce and what has changed since the COVID pandemic. Flexibility and remote work have been very helpful to office workers, especially women, but frontline employees like bus operators have not benefited from the increased flexibility. COMTO is helping the transportation industry think through how to update the traditional shift model to attract and retain more workers.

The group also discussed how we, as members of professional organizations, can make sure there is accountability for businesses in the industry. What mechanisms are in place to make sure that they are making a lasting, positive impact to the broader community and to their projects? Several participants shared their experiences and resources they have found helpful, such as USDOT's Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making Document.

This led to some interesting discussions about how WTS can better engage frontline workers, and how the private sector can genuinely help with matters of equity. Other topics we discussed included mentoring and how to ensure employers support participation in COMTO and WTS.

## A Discussion with Senior Women Leaders at DDOT



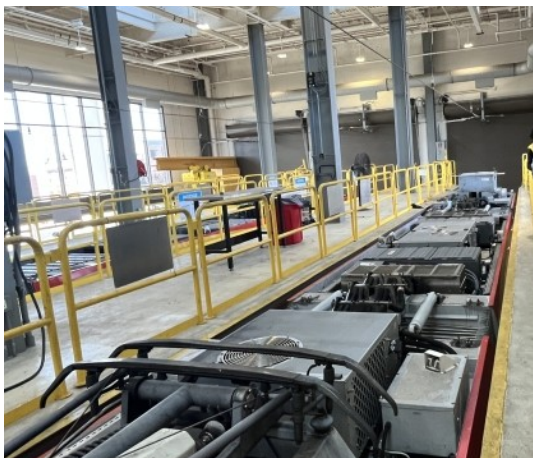
The WTS-DC Chapter had a wonderful event on Thursday, September 19, 2024 with women leaders from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on their career paths and new and exciting transportation projects in DC. Attendees heard from Sharon Kershbaum (Acting Director and Event Moderator), Yvonne Thelwell (Deputy Chief Engineer, Infrastructure Project Management

Administration), Christine Mayeur (Interim Associate Director, Multimodal Safety Engineering Division), Carla Longshore (Associate Director, Transit Delivery Division) and Kanika Singh (Strategic Initiatives Manager, Transportation Safety Administration).

The event was held at DDOT and included discussion on the panelists professional backgrounds and their stories of personal growth throughout their careers. A special thank you to Olivia Dedner, Laura MacNeil, Neelima Ghanta, and Regina Barnes at DDOT for helping with the logistics of the event! The WTS-DC Chapter is very grateful to have a strong relationship with DDOT.



## DC Streetcar Car Barn Tour



On September 30, 2024, WTS-DC partnered with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to host a site tour at the DC Streetcar Car Barn Training Center. The visit involved a deep dive into DC's electric streetcar system - from historic roots to present-day operations. A tour of the LEED Gold-certified facility included walking through how streetcars are maintained, operated, and controlled. The site tour of the DC Streetcar Car Barn Training Center highlighted transportation and electrical engineering and attendees enjoyed learning about how sustainable transit systems shape our communities.



## Joint Fall Bike Tour Around National Landing (Crystal City): Promoting Active Transportation and Networking



The DC chapter partnered with COMTO DC and CAPSITE recently to host a dynamic bike ride around the National Landing, located in the Crystal City neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia. This semi-annual event draws transportation professionals and advocates, as well as cycling enthusiasts, all united by a shared interest in promoting active transportation, sustainability, and professional networking. With National Landing transforming into a tech and business hub, alongside extensive infrastructure development for cyclists and pedestrians, the setting for this ride was ideal. The scenic route took participants through tree-lined streets, city parks, and vibrant urban landscapes, showcasing the evolving transportation ecosystem of the region.

### Highlights of the Ride

1. **Route Through Key Landmarks:** The ride featured several projects of interest, such as the new Long Bridge Project that will be replacing the century-old bridge that spans the Potomac River, the recently completed Boundary Channel Interchange Project and its new shared use path that connects Mount Vernon Trail to the Long Bridge Park, and the anticipated Route 1 Multimodal Improvement Project. Riders also passed through vibrant parts of Crystal City, showcasing how the region's transportation infrastructure supports both urban living and commuter access.
2. **Promoting Active Transportation:** As National Landing continues to develop, it has become a prime example of how cities can prioritize active transportation options. The bike ride encouraged participants to experience these options firsthand, highlighting the importance of accessible, safe bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly

streets for reducing traffic congestion and promoting a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.

3. Professional Networking in Motion: While cycling, participants discussed various transportation projects and developments, across Arlington County. The event fostered meaningful connections among transportation professionals, including engineers, urban planners, policymakers, and advocates. For many, this informal setting helped facilitate discussions that might not happen in a traditional conference setting.

### Conversation and Cocktails with WMATA GM/CEO Randy Clarke

On October 23, members and friends of WTS-DC gathered together at Parlour Victoria to chat with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. Guests enjoyed remarks from Mr. Clarke, craft cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and a welcome opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends.

Mr. Clarke joined WMATA as GM/CEO in July 2022. Now in its third year under Mr. Clarke's leadership, WMATA has recovered ridership, opened rail service to Dulles, instituted measures to combat fare evasion, and gained thousands of followers on the agency's X and TikTok accounts.



At the event, Mr. Clarke spoke about WMATA's achievements. Ridership continues to climb, customer satisfaction is at its peak, and Mr. Clarke is poised to keep logging the "wins" for the system. Thanks to Mr. Clarke's remarks and a diverse guest list, the evening offered the ideal combination of social interaction and professional connection.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Educational Speaker Series: Desiree Wood

On November 19, 2024, the EDI Committee held a virtual joint event with other WTS Chapters featuring Desiree Wood with Real Women in Trucking. Other participating chapters included, Central VA, Charlotte Metro, DC, Hampton Roads, NC Triangle, Northeast Florida, Savannah, South Carolina. The DC Chapter suggested reaching out to Desiree Wood as a speaker based upon previous interaction with her through TRB and the AME20 Committee on Women and Gender in Transportation.

The joint event fulfilled an objective expressed by the WTS-DC EDI Committee to reach out to other sectors within the transportation industry and to hear voices from the non-profit sector. Inviting Desiree Wood to speak meant that attendees would hear about the trucking industry from a woman that worked as a driver, and now aims to deliver highway safety through leadership, mentorship, education, and advocacy through the non-profit, REAL Women in Trucking, Incorporated. REAL Women in Trucking works to achieve positive outcomes by uniting and advocating for improvements in the work and lifestyle environment and ensuring everyone has access to the resources and support necessary to achieve their goals. They aim to bring attention to the challenges faced by female truckers and work towards creating positive changes in the industry.

## Creating Healthy Teams with Lindsey Robertson Lentz



On November 21st, the WTS-DC Chapter Mentoring Program and Professional Development committees partnered to host the "Creating Healthy Teams" workshop. The workshop facilitator, Lindsey Robertson Lentz, Senior Principal at Evans Consulting, led the interactive event focused on the importance of creating healthy teams within organizations. The event was held at WMATA and

attended by WTS-DC Chapter members, including participants in the 2024 Mentoring Program.

During the workshop, Lindsey guided participants through a deep dive into the critical components of a healthy team: resilience, trust and well-being, alignment, collaboration, and empowerment. By understanding these components, attendees were able to assess their own teams and identify areas for improvement.

The session included interactive breakout groups, allowing participants to network with fellow professionals and brainstorm strategies to enhance their teams' health and psychological safety. Some of the recommendations developed by the breakout groups included scheduling 1:1's with each team member, taking time to connect outside the office environment, and regularly practicing debriefing and lessons learned exercises.

## Annual Holiday Party



The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party was held at the Ballroom at Hotel Monaco (Washington, D.C.) on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. With over 300 tickets sold, the Chapter welcomed many members, friends, and guests from throughout the transportation industry.

This year's Holiday Party opened with welcoming remarks by Sophie Guiny, Partner at InfraStrategies and President of WTS-DC. The award announcers were

Bridgette Beato, Chair of the WTS-I Board of Directors and CEO at Lumenor Consulting Group, and Kristin White, Acting Administrator at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The 2024 chapter Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, Employer of the Year Award, Innovative Transportation Solutions Award, Honorable Ray LaHood Award, Member of the Year Award, and Woman of the Year Award were recognized and honored at the event. These awards were presented to the following recipients during the 2024 Annual Holiday Party:



- Rosa Parks Diversity Award: Oscar Gonzalez, Senior VP of Transit & Rail, WSP
- Employer of Year: Kimley-Horn of DC
- Innovative Transportation Solutions: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign
- Honorable Ray LaHood: Shailen Bhatt, Senior Vice President and COO of Latin America and Minerals & Metals, AtkinsRéalis
- Member of the Year: Shelley Johnson, Co-Owner, Epstein Creative Group
- Woman of the Year: Laura Mason, VP of Capital Delivery, Amtrak



These individuals and organizations made extraordinary contributions to the transportation industry as leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors and they generously support WTS in a variety of ways. Our WTS-DC Recognition Award recipients are shown in the Recognitions Awards section below.

In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized deserving students as recipients of WTS-DC Scholarship Funds. These scholarships are funded through the annual WTS-DC Scholarship Donation Tree, fundraising programs over the course of the year, and direct contributions from members and industry partners (Boeing, Burns Engineering, Jacobs, North American Transit Alliance, Dewberry, HDR, ATCS, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and WSP USA). These scholarships are a way to support our industry's future. (See the Scholarship Committee report for more details on our scholarship awardees).

The Scholarship and Fundraising committee and its volunteers worked with great enthusiasm to raise donations throughout the evening at the annual appearance of

the Scholarship Tree. A total of \$2,043.47 was raised for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. WTS-DC would like to thank the organizations and individuals for their contributions. This support allows us to continue providing scholarships to deserving female students in transportation related disciplines at area universities and colleges.

## **WTS-DC Executive Women's Roundtable Discussion with Veronica O. Davis: Inclusion Transportation for All**

On December 4th, WTS-DC Executive Women's Roundtable hosted a roundtable discussion with Veronica O. Davis, the Cities Program Director at AtkinsRéalis' and author of *Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities*. Held at AtkinsRéalis' Alexandria, VA. Office, the event brought together members of the WTS-DC EWR to explore how the principles of equity and inclusivity can shape the future of mobility.



Davis opened the discussion by sharing her experience as the former Director of Transportation & Drainage Operations for the City of Houston and her personal motivations for writing her book. As a long-time advocate for equitable transportation planning, Davis

highlighted the need to address historic inequities perpetuated by infrastructure design.

One of the most impactful ideas Davis discussed was her philosophy of designing transportation systems with a child's perspective in mind. Recalling her work in Houston, Texas, she shared how she had to adapt solutions to fit the city's unique needs while asking herself: Would a ten-year-old feel safe?

Davis also emphasized the urgent need for diversity in leadership at all levels of transportation planning and policymaking. She pointed out that boards and commissions often lack representation from women and people of color, leading to

solutions that fail to reflect the needs of diverse communities. To address this disparity, Davis encouraged WTS-DC members to actively advocate for change by recommending and supporting women for leadership roles, helping to ensure more inclusive decision-making.

The roundtable format provided an intimate setting for the EWR to engage directly with Davis. Questions ranged from practical approaches for integrating equity into transportation planning to challenges faced by women and minorities in the industry. Davis encouraged attendees to embrace innovative thinking, challenge the status quo, and advocate for policy changes that prioritize the needs of underrepresented communities.

WTS-DC EWR is proud to have hosted this engaging and enlightening event. Davis's passion and expertise left a lasting impression on all who attended, serving as a powerful reminder of the importance of equity in transportation.

As WTS-DC continues its mission to advance women in the transportation industry, events like this roundtable play a crucial role in fostering dialogue and inspiring action. Stay tuned for more events in 2025, where we will continue to explore transformative ideas shaping the future of transportation.





## Recognition Awards

WTS-DC honored the following individuals, entities, and transportation projects this year. The Recognition Award recipients received their awards at the WTS-DC Holiday Party on December 3, 2024.

### Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

*The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award honors an individual or organization that has made significant contributions in promoting diversity and cultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS. The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: exhibiting extraordinary efforts or initiatives in facilitating professional opportunities for women and minorities; and contributing significantly to promoting diversity, inclusion and multi-cultural awareness within his/her/the organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS.*



In 2024, WTS-DC honored **Oscar Gonzalez**, Senior Vice President of Transit & Rail at WSP, with the Chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. Oscar is a key member of WSP's local DC office in spearheading diversity and inclusion efforts. He aims to communicate and demonstrate the benefits of diverse teams at the local level but also with firm-wide programs such as the launching of Employee Resource Groups: Black Professionals Network, Women of WSP and Visibility and

Inclusion in the Built Environment (VIBE) for LGBT team members and allies that Oscar is leading. Oscar is a long-time supporter of WTS's mission. Starting his career at NJ Transit, he was a member of the WTS Greater New York chapter and was fortunate to know and be inspired by WTS founding members.

## Employer of the Year Award

*The Employer of the Year Award honors an organization (company, non-profit, association or government agency) for recruiting, retaining and advancing women. The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: an organization that includes women in executive and senior positions and leading major initiatives; an organization that has career development plans and succession programs in place for women to advance within the organization; an organization that provides continuing development for its female employees through professional education, professional organizations, and professional development opportunities; an organization that encourages women students to enter the transportation field by providing internship opportunities; and an organization that supports WTS through memberships, sponsorships, and employee involvement at the local and international levels.*



WTS-DC honored **Kimley-Horn of DC** as the recipient of the Chapter's Employer of the Year Award. Kimley-Horn of DC is a full-service, Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) consulting firm specializing in planning and design that supports the community. The firm draws on decades of collective experience, a track record of outstanding results, and strong relationships within the District of Columbia to solve complex design and planning issues for both public and private sector clients. Kimley-Horn of DC's team of

engineers, planners, and designers is passionate about working on complex urban projects and knows firsthand the challenges that come with permitting and building in our nation's capital. The firm's record of technical achievements is enhanced by its reputation for effective management and personal service. Kimley-Horn of DC brings to its clients a thorough understanding of the District's unique transportation network, including its associated challenges and opportunities, as well as the District's staff, processes, and preferences.

## Innovation Transportation Solution Award

*The Innovative Transportation Solution Award salutes an innovative transportation project led by a woman. (Only completed projects are considered for the award.) The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: the purpose of the transportation initiative, solution, project, or policy and the number of women involved from initiation to completion; the key elements of the project and how the female project manager successfully implemented those elements; a description of how female project manager successfully met and overcame challenges; and how the project achieved its purpose.*



WTS-DC honored **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority** and the WMATA Better Bus Network Redesign, as the Chapter's 2024 recipient of the Innovative Transportation Solution Award. Metro's Better Bus Network Redesign is a once-in-a-generation effort to redesign the region's bus service to better match when and where people want to travel, provide fast, frequent and reliable service, and increase access to opportunity for disenfranchised communities.

Technical innovation for the project involved using extensive data and advanced analytics, including the use of location-based data to understand where people today are traveling and find opportunities to improve or expand service to meet their needs. Metro embraced customer-driven, equitable engagement by implementing a range of innovative and inclusive techniques to meet customers where they are and engage with them in context- and culturally-sensitive, research-informed, and creative ways. Metro engaged almost 45,000 current and potential customers, received over 21,000 comments and 6,500 survey responses, held more than 130 customer-focused events and 120 briefings with elected officials, and engaged over 1,400 employees.

The team was a partnership between Metro and Kimley-Horn, Cambridge Systematics, Foursquare ITP, NeoNiche Strategies, WBA Research, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, and Sensis Agency.

## Honorable Ray LaHood Award

*The Honorable Ray LaHood Award honors a man who is a leader in transportation and has contributed, directly and by example, to the advancement of women and minorities in the transportation field. The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: a man who is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry; a man who has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field; a man who has led by example, seeking out opportunities to advance and advocate for women in his own organization, and who has actively ensured that women are able to compete for key positions of authority within that organization; and a man who through his career achievements and support of women in the industry has advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation.*



WTS-DC honored **Shailen Bhatt**, Senior Vice President and COO of Latin America and Minerals & Metals at AtkinsRéalis, as WTS-DC's 2024 Honorable Ray LaHood Awardee. Shailen's professional history is unparalleled having previously served as the Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration providing strategic executive leadership for all agency initiatives. He has helped deliver billions of dollars of projects across the country and has become a global voice for innovation in transportation. During his career, he has worked on every mode of transportation including transit, aviation, and active transportation. He is a former CEO of ITS America, a member of the ITS World Congress Hall of Fame and recently received the ITS World Congress Lifetime Achievement Award for his tireless dedication to transportation technology that engineers a better future for our planet and its people.

Shailen has held leadership positions with Colorado Department of Transportation, Delaware Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as well as in the private sector. He graduated summa cum laude at Western Kentucky University. When he is not working, he loves to play hockey and go for bike rides with his wife and two daughters.



## Member of the Year Award

*The Member of the Year Award honors a WTS -DC member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of WTS. The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: a member who has shown an extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth to WTS-DC by working effectively in support of WTS goals; a member who has promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry; a member who has worked effectively to strengthen communication between local and international WTS levels or between chapters; and a member who has done an outstanding job of revitalizing or expanding a chapter or any of its functions.*



The chapter celebrated **Shelley Johnson**, Co-Owner at Epstein Creative Group, as WTS-DC's 2024 Member of the Year. Shelley has been a devoted member of WTS-DC since 2017 and has consistently demonstrated her commitment to advancing women in transportation. As the chapter's Corporate Membership Chair for many years, Shelley has played a pivotal role in expanding WTS-DC's reach and impact, fostering strong relationships between the chapter and key industry partners.

With over 15 years of experience in transportation and public outreach, Shelley brings a wealth of knowledge to her WTS-DC activities. She currently serves as Co-Owner of Epstein Creative LLC, a women-owned DBE firm, specializing in marketing and communications for mission driven organizations. Shelley's dedication to WTS-DC extends beyond her official role. She actively participates in chapter events, mentors emerging professionals, and consistently advocates for diversity and inclusion in the transportation industry. Her efforts have contributed significantly to the chapter's growth and vitality.

## Woman of the Year Award

*The Woman of the Year Award honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation. The award is intended to reach beyond WTS-DC membership. The recipient is selected based on the following criteria: a woman who is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry; a woman who has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field; a woman who through her career achievements and support of women in the industry has advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation.*

WTS-DC honored **Laura Mason**, EVP of Capital Delivery at Amtrak, as the Chapter's 2024 Woman of the Year. At Amtrak, she leads the bulk of Amtrak's capital investments (all non-recurring and non-IT projects) during the company's New Era of Rail, made possible by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act.

With over \$50 billion of infrastructure investments in planning and development, Laura leads Amtrak's efforts to turn its ambitious plans into reality. Focus areas include fleet acquisitions and facility expansions and upgrades, major stations programs, infrastructure projects — including the Gateway and Frederick Douglass Tunnel programs.

Prior to Amtrak, Laura served in a variety of leadership roles at WMATA. As EVP of Capital Delivery, she was responsible for project management, engineering and construction of major capital projects, infrastructure renewal, capital program planning, and the scheduling and contracting strategy for WMATA's entire capital program. Before that, Laura spent 12 years at Bechtel Corp., an American engineering, procurement, construction and project management company, where she served in a wide range of roles.



# Scholarship Awards

## Junior College Scholarships



**Ghezal Kohestani** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by HDR. Ghezal Kohestani is pursuing an associate's degree in civil engineering from Northern Virginia Community College. Ghezal is a dedicated Civil Engineering student with practical experience in structural and transportation design. She has demonstrated strong skills in roadway design, database administration, and youth mentorship, while actively advocating for increased participation of women in STEM fields. Her leadership roles in various clubs and volunteer work highlight her commitment to community support and professional development.



## Undergraduate Scholarships

**Fatima Omarjee-Chavez** received a \$2,500 WTS-DC scholarship. Fatima Omarjee-Chavez is pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from George Mason University. Fatima is a highly skilled student, proficient in software like Civil 3D and MicroStation. She has excelled in transportation engineering internships and won multiple awards, including first place in the Sustainable Solutions Competition at the Mid-Atlantic West ASCE Student Symposium.



**Kira Harrison** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by the North American Transit Alliance. Kira Harrison is pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. Kira is a dedicated student, with hands-on experience in project management and environmental engineering. She has demonstrated leadership in various roles, including directing Habitat for Humanity projects and serving as Vice President of the VT NAACP Chapter, while also earning multiple scholarships for her academic excellence and commitment to diversity and inclusion.





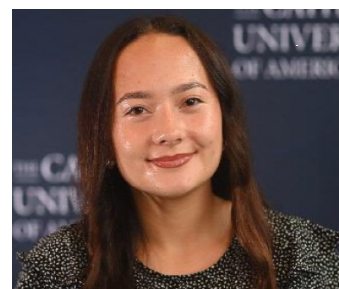


**Jenny Eattock** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Boeing Corporation. Jenny Eattock is pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture and civil engineering from the Catholic University of America. Jenny is a dual-degree student in Architecture and Civil Engineering at the Catholic University of America, maintaining a strong GPA of 3.76. She has practical experience in residential architecture and design and has demonstrated leadership as Vice President of the CUA Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



**Brownyn Horgan** received a \$1,500 WTS-DC scholarship. Brownyn Horgan is pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics from George Mason University. Brownyn has hands-on experience as an Infrastructure Economist Intern at STV, Inc. She has demonstrated strong analytical skills in economic development projects and has held leadership roles, including as a head coach for Girls on the Run, showcasing her commitment to community engagement and mentorship.

**Jyle Milstead** received a \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by Boeing Corporation. Jyle Milstead is pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture and civil engineering from the Catholic University of America. Jyle is a dual-degree student in Architecture and Civil Engineering at The Catholic University of America, recognized with multiple scholarships for academic excellence. She has practical experience in land surveying and structural design and has demonstrated leadership as Treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers and Head of Fundraising for the American Society of Civil Engineers at CUA.



## Graduate Scholarships



**Cher Griffith Taylor** received a \$2,500 WTS-DC scholarship. Cher Griffith Taylor is pursuing a master's degree in urban and Regional Planning from Georgetown University. Cher is a clean energy and development planning professional who is employed by Parsons and specializes in electrification, distributed energy, and grid modernization. Her advocacy and technical expertise supports local governments in the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), increases equitable access to the benefits of clean energy investments, and empowers communities and consumers. She has also contributed to USAID projects in her native Jamaica.



**Marta Perez Vidal-Ribas** received a \$2,500 WTS-DC scholarship. Marta Perez Vidal-Ribas is pursuing a PhD in Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech. Through her studies and work at ToXcel, she is heavily focused on smart cities and the design and implementation of sustainable transportation solutions in urban areas. She has received multiple fellowships for her studies and previously was a graduate assistant at Virginia Tech's Steger Center in Switzerland.



**Safoura Safari** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by ATCS. Safoura Safari is pursuing a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. Safoura has a strong academic background and a GPA of 3.93. She has extensive research experience in EV charging infrastructure and groundwater management, and has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Dean's Fellowship and NHERI Computational Academy Travel Grant.

**ATCS**



**Sydney Sotelo** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by WSP. Sydney Sotelo is pursuing a Master's in Community Planning from the University of Maryland. Sydney has extensive experience managing education and outreach programs at the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, demonstrating strong leadership, strategic planning, and a commitment to promoting sustainable transportation solutions.





**Jacobs**

**Neda Ghamari** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Jacobs. Neda Ghamari is pursuing a PhD in construction management from the Catholic University of America. Neda has a strong academic background, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Her research addresses how new technologies, such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), can be applied to improve the design, construction, and management of transportation infrastructure.



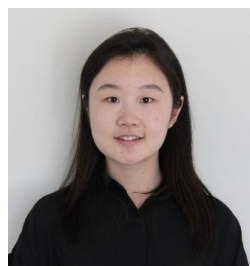
**Kimley»Horn**

**Hoda Hallaji** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Kimley-Horn of DC. Hoda Hallaji is pursuing a PhD in Environmental Engineering from George Mason University. Hoda Hallaji is a Ph.D. student in Environmental Engineering at George Mason University, with a strong academic background and a GPA of 3.93. She has extensive research experience in air pollution dispersion modeling and wastewater treatment, and has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Dean's Fellowship and successful completion of advanced training in environmental modeling software.



**Dewberry**

**Zahra Halimi** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Dewberry. Zahra Halimi is pursuing a PhD in Civil engineering from the University of Maryland. Zahra Halimi is a Ph.D. student in Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland, with a stellar GPA of 3.95. She has led significant research projects on transportation infrastructure equity and secured over \$50 million in grants for transportation agencies, showcasing her expertise in financial and benefit-cost analyses and her commitment to workforce diversity and inclusion.



**Yi Zhang** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Boeing. Yi Zhang is pursuing a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. Yi Zhang is a Ph.D. candidate in Transportation Engineering at the University of Maryland, with a focus on Connected Automated Vehicles and Intelligent Transportation Systems. She has received multiple fellowships and



awards, including the Maryland Transportation Institute Fellowship, and has published extensively on traffic flow models and adaptive collision warning systems.



**Burns**

**Narjes Shayesteh** received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by Burns. Narjes Shayesteh is pursuing PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. Narjes has a strong academic background and a GPA of 3.95. She has extensive experience in data analysis and machine learning applications for traffic safety and management and has demonstrated leadership as Vice President of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Council.



**Raven Royal** received a \$1,500 WTS-DC scholarship. Raven Royal is pursuing an MBA from Louisiana State University (LSU) through an online degree program and lives and works in Washington, DC. She maintains a 4.0 GPA while currently running marketing activities for the District Department of Transportation's DC Streetcar and previously led marketing for the DC Circulator.



## Other Chapter Activities

### WTS International Annual Conference

In support of chapter members' continued professional development, each year WTS-DC provides an opportunity for board members to apply for funding to attend the WTS Annual Conference. The Chapter sent four chapter members to the 2024 WTS-I Annual Conference in New Orleans in person: Morgan Bassford, Ellie McCurdy, Jamie Rosen, and Regis Stinson.



Along with the many plenaries, panels, talks and networking events, all four women and many other WTS-DC chapter members attended the WTS Foundation Gala, one of the highlights of the conference each year. The gala was held at Mardi Gras World, where the masked attendees could wander amongst past Mardi Gras parade floats and see some still in the works. During the main program, WTS-DC nominees from

the 2023 WTS-DC Annual Holiday Party Recognition Awards were honored with two of the Annual WTS International Recognition Awards: the I-95 Variable Speed Limits project was the Innovative Transportation Solutions recipient of the year, and Renee N. Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Toll Road Investor Partnership II L.P (TRIP II), was named Woman of the Year! This year, WTS-I also announced the introduction of the new Jannet Walker-Ford Breaking Barriers Award. The rest of the annual Recognition Awards and scholarship recipients were honored, including a Gold Level Award for the DC chapter, as part of the Chapter Circle of Excellence Awards.

## WTS International Chapter Leadership Training

In November 2024, WTS-I held its annual leadership training in Chicago, Illinois. Chapter members Sophie Guiny and Audra Bandy attended the event, which featured updates from WTS-I and workshops on the various aspects of being a chapter leader. There were also opportunities to socialize with and learn from members from other chapters.

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