



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
> Charlotte Metro

# 2026 Corporate Sponsorship Program



# Join Us in Shaping the Future of Transportation in Charlotte



Dear Partners,

For nearly two decades, the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter has been at the forefront of advancing transportation excellence across our region. Through high impact programming, meaningful networking with industry leaders, and hands-on engagement with students, we've helped cultivate a stronger, more diverse transportation workforce. Our scholarships continue to inspire the next generation of young women to pursue careers that will shape the future of mobility.

As Charlotte and the surrounding region experience unprecedented growth, our mission has never been more important. We are committed to expanding opportunities for women in transportation and strengthening the local talent pipeline in 2026 and beyond.

This progress has been made possible through the steadfast support of transportation agencies, engineering firms, and industry partners. Now, we invite you to join us in accelerating this momentum.

## Why Partner With Us — and What Your Support Makes Possible

Your corporate sponsorship unlocks partnership levels designed to elevate your visibility, strengthen your community impact, and connect your organization with top talent. With your support, WTS Charlotte Metro will:

- Deliver dynamic programs, signature events, and professional development opportunities that keep our industry informed and connected.
- Expand mentorship and scholarship initiatives that empower emerging leaders and support college students and emerging professionals.
- Grow our Transportation YOU program, inspiring middle and high school girls to explore transportation careers through hands-on experiences.
- Build collaborative partnerships, spark innovation, and drive long term change across the industry.

Your sponsorship fuels these initiatives and positions your organization as a champion for progress, innovation, and workforce development.

## Be Part of the Movement



We invite you to partner with us in strengthening the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter and advancing opportunities for women in transportation. Your support not only amplifies our mission, but it also elevates your organization as a leader committed to shaping a more inclusive and forward thinking industry. Let's build the future together.

**Contact us today to secure your 2026 sponsorship and make a lasting impact.**

Kristen Van Gilst  
President

Mariate Echeverry  
Corporate Sponsorship Chair



Mochas and Mentoring



WTS International Annual Conference



Mini-Series

# Bold and Engaging Programs

The Women in Transportation Charlotte Metro Chapter enjoyed an outstanding year in 2025, marked by dynamic programming and meaningful engagement across the region. Our members and partners came together for inspiring events that encouraged professional growth, leadership development, and thoughtful conversations about the future of transportation.

## Highlights of our 2025 programs included:

- Embracing New Challenges Featuring Julie White
- Recovering After Helene: Update from NCDOT with Chris Peoples
- Annual Mini-Series with keynote speaker Patrick Norman
- Informational Breakfast: 2025 Sales Tax Transportation Referendum with Charlotte Regional Business Alliance



Recovering from Helene



Wake BRT: Community Engagement



Transportation Referendum Breakfast



J. Scot Cole Fundraising Walk/Event

These programs further demonstrated our chapter's strong dedication to creating meaningful spaces for informed community dialogue, equipping emerging professionals with the tools and mentorship they need to lead effectively, and championing initiatives that broaden equitable and innovative transportation opportunities throughout the Charlotte Metro area. Together, they reflect our ongoing effort not only to educate and engage, but also to shape a more connected, accessible, and forward thinking regional transportation landscape.



# A Dynamic 2026 Lineup You Won't Want to Miss

We're gearing up for one of our most engaging and impactful years yet. Our 2026 event schedule is packed with high value programs designed to inform, inspire, and connect the region's transportation community.

- Annual Membership Meeting with Becca Gallas
- Bryant Farms Phase 1 Technical Program
- Reception to celebrate the new Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority
- ThinkBike Joint Technical Program with NCSITE

Together, these events create a powerful platform for learning, collaboration and visibility, making 2026 an exceptional year to participate, engage and sponsor.



## Supporting the Future of Transportation

The WTS Foundation and the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter award competitive scholarships to women pursuing careers in transportation, recognizing candidates for their career goals, academic achievement, and relevant experience. Since 2019, the Charlotte Metro Chapter has awarded more than \$25,000 in scholarships.

In 2026, our Chapter aims to expand the total amount of scholarship funding we provide. Donations from our corporate sponsors will play a key role in helping us achieve this goal.



## Scholarship Awardee is Finding Purpose

In 2025, the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter awarded Barri Terry the Mary N. Clayton Emerging Leaders Scholarship as she prepared to begin her engineering studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Now, after completing the first semester of her freshman year, we are pleased to share that Barri continues to exemplify why the future of the transportation industry is in capable hands.

Barri recently reflected on her first semester at North Carolina A&T. She shared that the most exciting part of starting college has been meeting such amazing and diverse people. She has also enjoyed engaging with her studies in a deeper, more meaningful way—an experience that has made everything feel more real and purposeful.

In starting school, she has learned a lot about herself. “One of the biggest things I’ve learned about myself since starting college is that I am very willing to grow. College has taught me early on how to accept no’s, missed opportunities, and setbacks. There are times when things do not go the way you expect, and that can be hard at first. But I’ve learned that life keeps moving forward whether you get the opportunity or not. Instead of letting those moments stop me, I use them as motivation to keep pushing. I now see myself as someone who does not fall back when things get tough but finds a way to grow through it.”

In her first semester, Barri attended the National Society of Black Engineers regional conference and received the McDonald’s Golden Arches of Positivity-Thurgood Marshall Scholarship.

WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter is proud to have helped support Barri in her future.

# Lead the Change – Sponsor WTS Charlotte Metro Today!

Our corporate sponsors support us in our commitment to continue advancing our mission through technical programs, in-person and virtual workshops and social events to bring together the local transportation community, generate interest in WTS membership and advance transportation in our region.

Both members and non-members benefit from the outreach and opportunities presented by WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter.

**Your sponsorship helps drive progress in the transportation industry and empowers the professional women leading it now and into the future.**

Don't miss your change to make a real impact—become a Corporate Sponsor for our Chapter! Joining WTS as a Corporate Sponsor isn't just a commitment to supporting a vital mission; it's a dynamic opportunity to elevate your firm and empower your team. By partnering with us, your company will join an enthusiastic, international network that's actively transforming the transportation industry. Together, we can inspire innovation, open doors for professional growth, and help to share the future of transportation in Charlotte.

## 2026 Board of Directors



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# Sponsorship Benefits



Our annual benefits include tickets to WTS Charlotte Metro programs, including the Annual Event; publicity through our emails, signage, and our website. The specific benefits by sponsorship level are described in the Benefits Summary.

As a Corporate Sponsor, we strongly encourage you and your staff to participate in Chapter activities/ events. We hope that as our Corporate Sponsor, you will promote membership and active involvement throughout your organization. Your investment in WTS will enhance our success and ensure that your company is seen as a partner within the transportation community. You can find more information about our chapter at this link: [WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter](#).

Sponsorship Level	Guardian	Advocate	Patron	Supporter	SPSF Guardian	SPSF Supporter
<b>Corporate Price</b>	\$6,000	\$3,250	\$2,250	\$1,750	\$2,500	\$1,000
Firm name and logo on WTS website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm promotion at all WTS meetings and functions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation-Only to the 2026 MPTA Welcome Reception	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	
WTS Local Scholarship Contribution*	\$1500	\$500			\$500	
Annual Fall Mini-Series Tickets	4	3	2	1	2	-
Highlighted at WTS Fall Mini-Series	✓				✓	

\*Scholarship distribution will begin in 2027

\*501 (c) 3 tax donation

# Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

## PLATINUM



## GOLD



## SILVER



# 2026 Sponsorship Commitment

## Charlotte Metro Chapter



☐ **Yes, I will support women in the transportation industry in North Carolina in 2026!**

Please use our company's sponsorship to:

- Shape transportation policies and decisions in North Carolina through access to high-level transportation professionals and elected officials
- Provide WTS programs, special events, and professional development programs
- Sponsor undergraduate and graduate students through the WTS Scholarship Program
- Further mentorship of middle and high school aged girls through the Transportation YOU program
- Create opportunities for to advance women in the transportation industry through strategic marketing and networking opportunities.

Please provide the information below for our sponsorship program records. Once your commitment form is received, WTS-Charlotte Metro Chapter will send an invoice with payment due by February 23, 2026.

Firm Name:	
Firm Contact:	
E-mail Address:	
Phone Number:	
Mailing Address:	

## Please Select Sponsorship Level



☐ Guardian \$6,000

☐ Advocate \$3,250

☐ Patron \$2,250

☐ Supporter \$1,750

☐ SPSF \$1,000

**Please e-mail your completed form to:**  
mariate.echeverry@kimley-horn.com

Contact **Mariate Echeverry** at **828-989-7904** or **mariate.echeverry@kimley-horn.com** if you have any sponsorship questions or would like to discuss our partnership program or payment options.

**Not ready to make a commitment - Reach out to Michelle Nance at Michelle Nance at [mnance@vhb.com](mailto:mnance@vhb.com) to learn how you can support our Scholarship Program with a donation to our raffle.**