WTS 45 YEARS
Boston

Annual Report
2025



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Message from the President

Sarah Bergman
WTS-Boston President



2025 was a milestone year for WTS-Boston as we celebrated our 45th anniversary and reflected on the leaders, members, and partners who have shaped our chapter since 1980. It was also an honor for me to serve my first year as President of an organization that has had such a meaningful impact on my own career.

Our anniversary provided an opportunity to celebrate our history while looking ahead to the future. At our April anniversary luncheon, past chapter leaders shared stories and insights that highlighted the relationships, dedication, and sense of community that have defined WTS-Boston for more than four decades. Their reflections reinforced what continues to make this chapter special: members supporting one another and investing in the success of future generations.

Throughout 2025, WTS-Boston continued to deliver strong professional development, technical programming, networking events, mentoring opportunities, student outreach, scholarships, and TransportationYOU initiatives. We recognized outstanding people and projects through our annual Scholarships and Awards Banquet, strengthened industry connections, and created opportunities for members at every stage of their careers to engage and grow.

We also reached an exciting milestone, surpassing **500 members** and becoming the largest WTS International chapter in the United States. More important than the number itself is what it represents: a vibrant community where transportation professionals come together to learn, build relationships, advance their careers, and contribute to the future of our industry.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. WTS-Boston is powered by the contributions of our Board, committee leaders and members, Advisory Board, mentors, speakers, sponsors, agency partners, and many others who dedicate their time and talent to advancing our mission. I am deeply grateful for their commitment and support.

As you read this annual report, I hope you see not only the accomplishments of 2025, but also the people and partnerships behind them. Forty-five years is an extraordinary legacy, and I am excited to continue building on that momentum as we write the next chapter of WTS-Boston together.

Thank you for being part of WTS-Boston.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bergman
WTS-Boston President

2025 Board Officers and Directors

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2025 Advisory Board Members

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2025 WTSI Northeast Region Council

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2025 Corporate Sponsors

EXECUTIVE LEVEL

AECOM
AI Engineers, Inc.
Arcadis
BSC Group
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
GEI Consultants, Inc.
Green International Affiliates, Inc.
HDR
HNTB Corporation
Howard Stein Hudson
Jacobs
Kleinfelder
McClure
M&J Engineering, Inc.
Mott McDonald
Michael Baker International, Inc.
Nitsch Engineering
SMK Services Inc
Stantec
STV
Suffolk
VHB
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
WSP USA

PUBLIC PARTNERS

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Massachusetts Port Authority
MassDOT Highway Division

ASSOCIATE LEVEL

ATANE Engineers, P.C
Benesch Hardesty & Hanover
BETA Group, Inc.
Bowman Consulting Group, LTD
CDW Consultants
Fennick McCredie Architecture, Ltd.
GPI
Kimley-Horn
PMA Consultants
Tetra Tech

SUPPORTER LEVEL

Affinity Business Development
Collins Engineering
Dewberry
French & Parrello Associates
Keville
McFarland Johnson, Inc
GZA Environmental, Inc.
RND Consultants, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

Committee	2025 Income	2025 Expenses
Chapter	$ 10,822.30	$14,003.55
Communications	$0.00	$6,258.60
DEI	$0.00	$3,000.00
Fundraising	$145,585.75	$15,994.56
Membership	$1,758.65	$3,518.49
Mentoring	$0.00	$2,624.82
Professional Development	$30.66	$0.00
Program	$67,090.34	$74,217.47
Scholarship & Awards	$0.00	$1,942.49
Special Projects	$66,884.75	$95,869.42
TransportationYOU	$0.00	$1,841.36
Student Chapter	$0.00	$268.38
Boston Charitable Fund	$0.00	$ 35,086.44
Total Gross	***$ 292,172.45***	**$254,625.58**



Advisory Board

Chair – Gina Solman, Past-President

The WTS-Boston Advisory Board consists of nine members plus the WTS-Boston immediate Past-President, who is the Chair, and the immediate Past-Past-President. These are volunteer positions where experience and advice are sought on broad strategic issues as they relate to the Boston Chapter. The goal is to maintain involvement of members who have been active with the Boston Chapter and who will offer their expertise, insights and access to key people within the transportation industry.

The Advisory Board met four times during 2025, and supported WTS-Boston's mission in the following ways:

- Moderated and presented at the 45th Anniversary Luncheon in April, featuring Advisory Board members Anna Barry and Dorri Raposa, with speaker speakers Mary Jane O'Meara, Anne Aylward, and Lisa Brothers.
- Led the nomination process for the 2025 Annual Leadership Award, resulting in an award to Abbie Goodman.
- Facilitated Management Networking Roundtable in September, by Advisory Board member Kathy Campbell.
- Offered speaker and moderator ideas and connections in support of WTS-Boston events.
- Served as mentors in the Formal Mentoring Program and advisors to Emerging Leaders and Emerging Professionals program participants.
- Supported staff participation in WTS and enhanced partnerships between agencies, companies, and the WTS-Boston chapter and its committees.

Communications Committee

Board Liaison – Jackie Carver

Co-chairs - Ali Love and Michaela Siegert

The Communications Committee is responsible for both internal and external chapter communications, including streamlining communication to the membership as well as heightening awareness of WTS−Boston by identifying opportunities for social media coverage of WTS−Boston programs and events.

The Committee is co-chaired by Ali Love of STV and Michaela Siegert of HSH. In 2025, the Communications Committee maintained regular contact with all other WTS Committees in order to provide WTS-Boston members with timely access to speakers and information on important issues impacting our industry and chapter events.

The Communications Committee's accomplishments in 2025 included:

- Drafted and published approximately 50 E-Blasts and over 100 Social Media posts to our various social media outlets.
- Maintained E-Blast distribution list with more than 1,000 active email addresses
- Weekly scheduling phone calls with WTS-Boston President and Vice-President
- Maintained current content and published new weekly content on the WTS−Boston webpage
- Coordinated with WTS−Boston Committees to update the website
- Coordinated and maintained the WTS-Boston Job Posting webpage, including almost 100 job posts.
- Provided social media support for committee events
- Prepared online registration for the events across committees
- Developed updated communication form
- Scheduled and managed contracted photography
- Updated chapter Flickr page

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Board Liaison - Ali Mattson

Co-chairs - Sara Yasin and Nancy LaFarge

The Diversity Committee serves as an internal resource and guide for WTS-Boston Committees to use in a collective commitment to increase diversity, inclusion, equity, access, and representation within the organization, industry, and communities we serve.



Throughout 2025, the DEI Committee continued its **DEI-in-Motion monthly e-blasts** to provide the Chapter with the history and context of topics that fit within the theme of the month.

Additionally, the DEI Committee continued collaboration with WTS-Boston Communications Committee to update a page on our Chapter's webpage to share our vision, goals, and DEI resources. This year we also linked the monthly DEI-in-motion articles to the webpage.

DEI Committee Event Guide

While planning for one of the Committees' largest events, we developed a guide which encompasses various elements of event planning. Our focus was on making sure the venue is accessible for all attendees - physical accessibility / ADA compliance, proximity to all modes of transportation, and whether audio and visual aspects accommodate those who are low vision, color blind or hard of hearing. Our Committee thought about all that goes into event planning and accessibility and made sure it is outlined in what we previously called a "Checklist".

From discussion with the Board, we decided to grow the idea into more of a guide to help other WTS-Boston committees in their operations. We decided to shift the focus from specifically event planning to all operations, including membership, speaker diversity, registration processes, and many other topics.

Summary of Findings

We created a subcommittee to meet with WTS-Boston Committees to discuss their diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies, and what they have been doing to keep it at the core of their operations. We found that majority of committees have been very thoughtful, prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion in their committees. We found that leadership, including co-chairs and board liaisons, have been engaging in different ways to ensure that their committee is doing their part.

Next Steps

From our discussions with various committees in WTS-Boston and the Board, the subcommittee found that rather than a specific guidance document or checklist, the committees wanted more of an active presence of DEI representatives to help with their operations. This led the subcommittee to think about how we can reshape some of our initiatives to be more of a resource for other committees rather than a standalone committee. That way we can accomplish the goal of DEI being at the core of WTS-Boston.

We decided that one of the best ways to achieve this is to assign one champion to each of the remaining WTS-Boston committees. The hope is for that champion to be a consistent guide for that committee and a resource whenever they need help. We also came up with an idea to develop a lesson learned or FAQ section for other committees to use as a resource as they navigate their operations.

From those discussions, we also noticed that some committees need assistance in specific initiatives. So, we discussed how the DEI committee should be proactive in reaching out to those committees to help.

DEI Committee Book Club

The DEI Committee hosted a quarterly book club to discuss various books on equity in the transportation industry. The Book Club is hosted virtually and open to all WTS members. The DEI Committee worked with the Communications Committee on developing a library to include all previous books discussed as well as a recap of those events.

1. March - *Justice and the Interstates: The Racist Truth about Urban Highways (Authors: Ryan Reft, Amanda Phillips de Lucas, and Rebecca Retzlaff)*
2. June - *Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution (Authors: Janette Sadik-Khan and Seth Solomonow)*
3. December - *Inclusive Transportation: A Manifesto for Repairing Divided Communities (Author: Veronica Davis)*

Fundraising Committee

Board Liaison - Jackie Carver

Co-chairs - Dieckmann Cogill and Chelsea Sadler

The WTS-Boston Fundraising Committee raises funds through its **Annual Sponsorship Program** to support scholarships and the operations of the Chapter. The 2025 Fundraising Committee was led by co-chairs Dieckmann Cogill of Jacobs and Chelsea Sadler of VHB.

The Fundraising Committee has built a long-term, sustainable program that is recognized throughout WTS International as a model for local chapter fundraising. Three levels of sponsorship allow for participation regardless of the size of the firm. A 15% discounts at each level is provided for WBE/MBE firms to encourage diversity and inclusion. Sponsor benefits range from corporate logos on the WTS-Boston webpage to tickets to specific annual event, depending upon sponsorship level.

Meanwhile, our chapter encouraged sponsors continued support of the WTS-Boston Scholarship Fund by making donations based on the sponsor level:

- Executive Sponsors - $500
- Associate Sponsors - $250
- Supporter Sponsors - $150

The Fundraising Committee has updated their sponsor longevity tracking database that is populated with records going back over a decade. While some companies have been acquired and the industry has experienced periods of recession and growth during that time, the Boston chapter of WTS has continued to experience strong support from sponsor firms.

The Fundraising Committee coordinates with several other WTS-Boston committees including Communications, Special Projects, and Programs to ensure that the chapter supporters receive their valuable benefits.

Golf Committee

Board Liaison – Marcia Kelly

Co-chairs – Kayla Sousa and Carmen Melendez

The 33rd Annual WTS-Boston Golf Outing, held at Stow Acres Country Club on Thursday, August 8, 2025, was a tremendous success! We were fortunate to have perfect weather—mid-70s and sunny—which made for an enjoyable day on the course. Players had a wonderful time reconnecting with colleagues, building new relationships, and celebrating the spirit of our WTS community.

From this year's outing, WTS-Boston raised just under $17,000 to support our Chapter's Scholarship Program, helping women pursue careers in transportation. We are incredibly grateful to all participants, sponsors, and volunteers who made this possible.

Earlier in the year, our *Learn to Golf* event—held in late spring—also saw a fantastic turnout. This introductory program welcomed new golfers, encouraged broader participation, and helped build excitement leading into the annual outing.



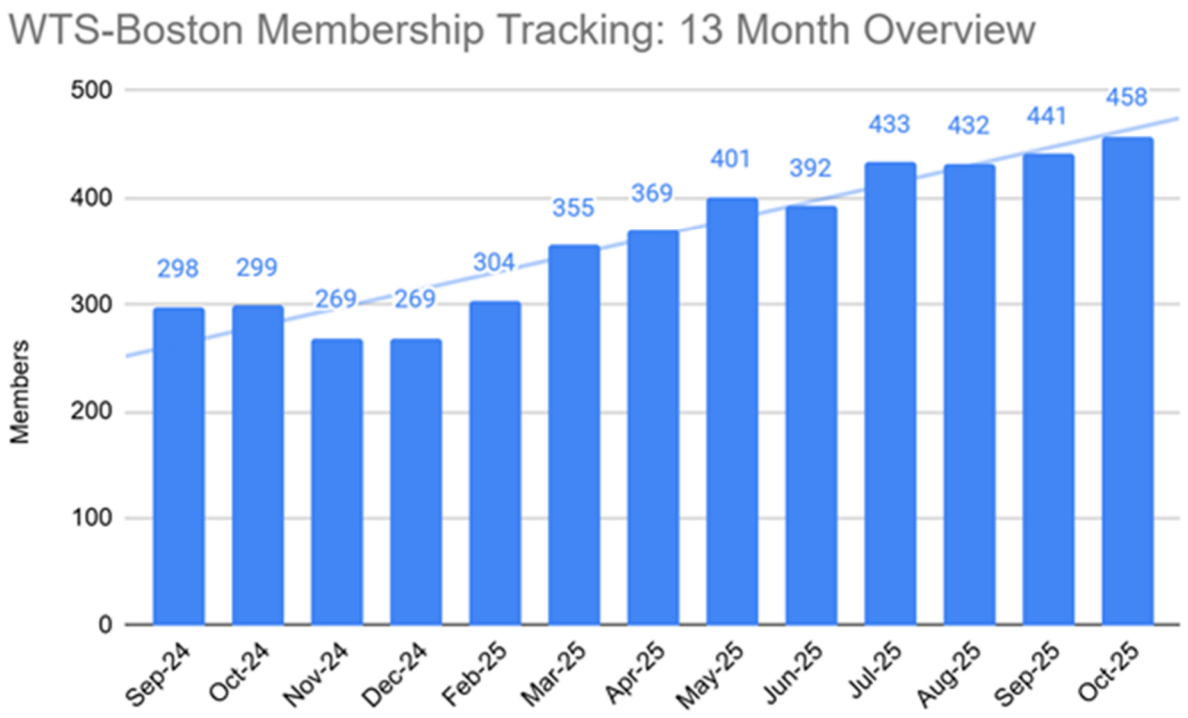
Membership Committee

Board Liaison – Kari Richards

Co-chairs – Alexandra Kleyman and Kaitlyn Prakash

In 2025, WTS-Boston grew substantially to become the largest chapter across WTS International! The committee's initiatives included both ongoing tasks as well as four events held in 2025. Ongoing tasks included bi-monthly renewal reminders for members with recent or imminent membership expiration dates, welcome emails for all new members, answering questions from members and connecting them with WTS International as necessary, and maintaining a public officials contact information list. In addition to the continual tasks throughout the year, the committee hosted three evening membership events, a WTS-Boston Membership Drive, and a free guided tour of the South Station public art project to connect prospective and existing chapter members.

Membership Statistics as of November 6, 2025



Membership Events

New Member Orientation – April 16, 2025



WTS Boston hosted an enthusiastic group of new members at the annual new member orientation event held at Jacobs.

The evening provided a warm welcome and a valuable opportunity for newcomers to connect with current members and learn more about the chapter's vibrant community and impactful initiatives. Attendees were greeted by members and co-chairs of each WTS-Boston Committee, who shared an overview of the organization's mission to advance women in the transportation industry.

The evening highlighted the numerous benefits of WTS membership, including opportunities for professional development through workshops and seminars, networking events with industry leaders, and access to mentorship programs. New members actively engaged in discussions, sharing their diverse backgrounds and aspirations within the transportation sector.

The new member orientation served as an inspiring introduction to the WTS community, and we look forward to the fresh perspectives and energy these individuals will bring to our chapter. Welcome aboard!

Membership Mixer – June 24, 2025

The WTS-Boston Membership Committee turned up the heat, literally, at our annual summer Membership Mixer on June 24th at Tia's Waterfront. Even with Boston hitting a record-breaking 100 degrees that didn't stop members from showing up to celebrate, connect, and kick off the summer season together.



With cold drinks in hand and harbor views all around, potential, new and returning members shared laughs over appetizers and tested their storytelling skills with a fun round of "two truths and a lie." It was the perfect way to discover surprising facts about each other and spark new conversations.

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the heat and made it a night to remember. We are already looking forward to seeing you at next year's mixer!

Tour of the Public Art Project – August 13, 2025

In 2025, the Membership Committee hosted a free lunchtime event, “WTS-Boston's Mermaids, Mosaics, and Movement: A Guided Tour of WTS-Boston's South Station Public Art Project.” Participants met in Dewey Square and were provided with a short presentation by Lisa Brothers and Hyun-A Park on the history and meaning behind WTS-Boston’s “Network” public art project. Afterwards, attendees were invited to view the mural within the South Station headhouse. Many attendees expressed their admiration of the subtle details incorporated into the mural, which engages viewers to understand women’s role in transportation. After the program, participants continued networking on the greenway and enjoyed the opportunity to connect outdoors on a warm summer day.





Membership Celebration – November 5, 2025

Finally, our annual Membership Celebration, held on November 5, 2025, at Carrie Nation, was a huge success! The event was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the dedication of our current members while warmly welcoming the newest additions to the WTS-Boston community. The evening was filled with lively networking, giving long-time members and newcomers the chance to forge new connections. Everyone enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere over drinks and delicious light bites.We also took the chance to give back to those who help our community grow. We held a raffle to recognize members who successfully referred new colleagues, awarding fun WTS-branded prizes like notebooks and phone stands. The event reinforced the sense of shared purpose within our organization. Thank you again to everyone



who joined us and helped make the night memorable—we look forward to continuing to build a stronger, more vibrant community with you in the year ahead.

Mentoring Committee

Board Liaison – Marcia Kelly

Co-chairs - Estey Masten (HDR) and Francisca Heming (MassDOT)

In 2025, the WTS-Boston Mentoring Committee developed programming that supported mentoring at all career levels through Formal Mentoring, Management Networking Roundtable, Emerging Professional, and Emerging Leader programs. The committee also collaborated with Transportation Youth, Membership Mixer.

2025 Formal Mentoring Program
Estey Masten (HDR) and Shravanthi Gopalam-Naranyanan (Boston Region MPO) co-chaired the WTS-Boston Formal Mentoring program in 2025.

The Committee successfully administered the Formal Mentoring Program from January to June 2025. Involvement included both one-on-one time with 23 mentor-mentee pairs and group professional development events open to all program participants. Like the previous year, the committee matched the mentor-mentee pairs after the kickoff speed networking event in January 2025. The program's overall objective is to provide the opportunity for rising professionals to access more experienced professionals in the industry, allowing them to gain insights that could have a lasting and tangible effect on their careers. Mentors also benefit by helping to cultivate the growth of a future leader in transportation, learning together with their mentee, building long-term relationships, and giving back to an industry that has supported them in their careers.

Throughout the 2025 program, participants remained engaged, and the program received positive feedback throughout. The 2026 call for applications recently closed and we will have a competitive program next year, with only 10 mentors and 10 mentees accepted. The programming will include monthly in-person mentoring events.

2025 Emerging Professionals (EP) and Emerging Leaders (EL) Program

Francisca Heming, Maria Firan and Cassandra Kelly were the EP and EL liaisons for 2025.

The Mentoring Committee had a very busy year with the addition of the Emerging Leaders Program (EL). The Board voted to adopt the Emerging Leaders Program as a permanent program at the September 2025 Board meeting. The Board also approved a maximum of 3 ELs and 3 EPs for the program each year. This is a great accomplishment this year for the Mentoring Committee and a reflection on the success of the program.

All EPs and ELs have been extremely engaged and involved in the organization making the 2025-year program very successful.

The Emerging Leaders Program was created to provide a platform for women in the transportation industry with five (5) to ten (10) years of experience. This program captures the gap between the Emerging Professionals (which require no more than 5 years of experience) and the Management Networking Roundtable aimed toward more experienced professionals.

The goal of both programs is to provide a platform for continuous development in the transportation industry where new or experienced professionals have the opportunity of enhancing leadership skills, expanding knowledge of the industry, and/or building a network of professional connections

The EPs selected for 2025 were Paola Benavente, Senior Analyst Capital Program and Planning, MBTA, Luana Huang, Program Coordinator Capital Program, MBTA and Eileen Ong, Civil Engineer I, Asset Management-MassDOT.

Each EP chose a WTS Boston Committee and were actively participating in their respective committees. This year they had active participation in the Mentoring Committee, Professional Development, and Fundraising.

The ELs selected were Maria Briones, Storm Water Manager Unit Supervisor, Boston-MassDOT; Robin Hunter, Environmental Analyst II, District 2-MassDOT and Alexandra Campos-Castillo, Resident Engineer, District 1-MassDOT. This was also a very active and engaged group, leading activities and events participating in the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Professional Development Committee. They also collaborate on the Transportation Youth event.

Both groups reported their activities to the group and to the liaisons at their one-to-one monthly meetings and shared with the group bi-monthly meetings. Each EP and EL were assigned an Advisor from the WTS Board or other WTS leaders and met individually to set goals for their respective program and to help EPs and ELs navigate the WTS structure.

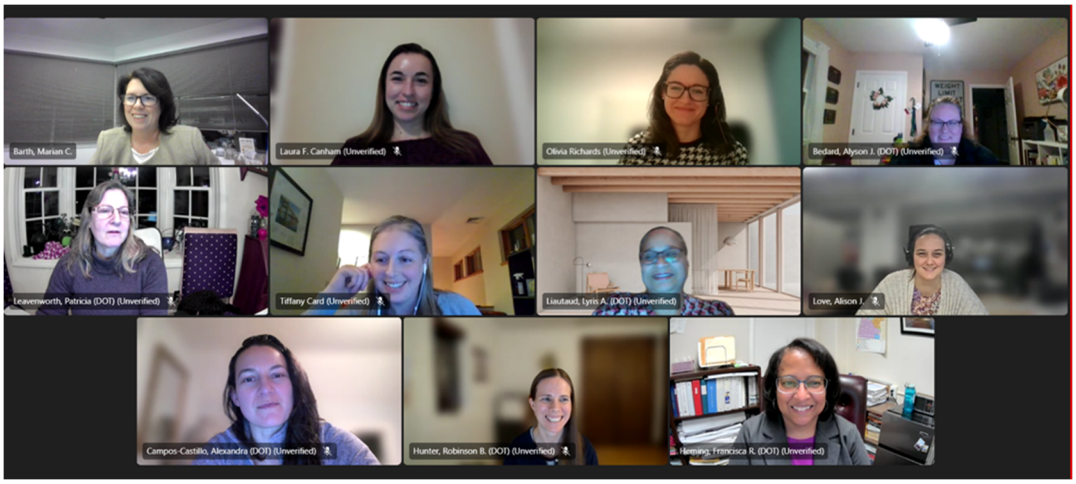
Special thanks to the Advisors for their time and dedication. EPs advisors were Laura Canham, Jackie Carver and Ali Matson. The ELs advisors were Anna Barry, Kari Richards, and Loretta Girard Doughty.

Through the process of connecting to advisors, the EPs and ELs attended WTS events, virtual and in person. Both groups attended WTS Board meetings and reported on their progress, providing insights of their experience with their respective Program and future engagement in the organization. An article reflecting their experience in the program is expected to be published in late December 2025.






2025 Management Networking Roundtable



The committee held 2 MNR in 2025, one virtual and the second **hybrid.**

On January 16, 2025, WTS Boston Mentoring committee held their virtual Management Networking Roundtable event. The event drew 12 professionals representing managers from MassDOT, MBTA and the consulting community. The discussion was moderated by Marian Barth, STV and Lyris Liautaud, MassDOT, who guided the group through various insights on Project Management methodologies, best practices, getting started, and problem solving. The attendees gained valuable perspectives on how to approach planning, tackle challenges, and foster teamwork. The group asked questions and shared their own experiences.

September 9, WTS-Boston held its biannual Management Networking Roundtable titled "Navigating Uncertainty". The event drew 18 professionals representing MassDOT, MBTA and the private industry. The discussion was moderated by Kathleen Campbell, President & CEO of CDW Consultants, Inc. (https://www.cdwconsultants.com/). Kathy led an interactive session that guided attendees through the current business climate of complexity, ambiguity, volatility, and uncertainty to arrive at tangible, concrete steps participants could take to arrive at adaptability and resilience. Attendees left with valuable perspectives on how to harness their own personal skills in this process.



TEDTalk

The Mentoring Committee didn’t hold a formal TEDTalk event this year. However brainstormed topics and speakers for 2026

Professional Development Committee

Board Liaison - Laura Canham

Co-chairs - Sarah Kasanovich & Sasha Vinton

In 2025, the Professional Development Committee hosted three events, with all three in a virtual format.

April 29th, 2025 – Virtual Book Club

The Women in Transportation (WTS) Boston Chapter continued its 2025 Professional Development Series with a Virtual Book Club event centered on Confessions of a Recovering Engineer by Charles Marohn. The event brought together a cross-section of transportation professionals for a lively and reflective conversation on the book's bold critique of conventional engineering practices and its call for community-centered change. The Book Club was facilitated by the two MassDOT Program Managers who manage the Safety & Intersection Programs, Kayla Sousa and Phoebe Whitwell. Attendees joined via Zoom, where Kayla kicked off the evening with introductions. The conversation began with a series of interactive polls developed by Phoebe using Mentimeter, helping ground the discussion in participant experience and perspective. Kayla and Phoebe then led a discussion with a combination of prepared questions and organic discussion. The group represented a range of professional backgrounds—civil engineers, planners, and bridge specialists—bringing diverse insights to the discussion. Most participants had at least started the book, and many shared that it challenged their thinking and reframed how they see their work. Attendees reflected on local examples of overbuilt infrastructure and shared how some of their projects are beginning to move away from car-centric standards. The Springfield, MA case study resonated with many, bringing home the real-world consequences of flawed design and limited community engagement. While opinions varied on some of the book's stronger assertions, attendees agreed on the value of Marohn's call for humility, reform, and people-first transportation planning. Many noted that the book challenged them to consider the why behind their designs—not just the how. The event closed with open-ended questions and resource sharing, including links to the Strong Towns podcast, the free audiobook, and supplemental reading. WTS-Boston extends its thanks to all attendees for their thoughtful contributions and commitment to building more equitable, human-centered infrastructure. This session was a meaningful reminder that transforming transportation starts with critical conversations—and courageous professionals willing to do the work.

May 21, 2025 - Resume Building Virtual Workshop

WTS-Boston Professional Development Committee presents a virtual workshop – Resume Building hosted by Amanda Barlow. The workshop was designed specifically for employees in the transportation sector looking to enhance their job search skills and create impactful resumes that stand out. This workshop was led by Amanda Barlow, a seasoned transportation and human services professional with a wealth of experience in both the transit industry and workforce development. This workshop was packed with valuable tips and strategies for navigating the often-

challenging job search process, especially for those affected by recent layoffs or terminations. Amanda shared her extensive knowledge on building a standout resume, tailored specifically for the transportation sector. Participants learned actionable methods to make their resumes compelling, emphasizing their unique skills and experience while addressing the nuances of an ever-evolving job market. This event was geared for anyone in the transportation sector looking to revamp their resume, gain new skills for the job search, and stay competitive in a dynamic industry. Whether you're looking to shift roles, re-enter the workforce, or simply refine your resume for the next career move, this workshop provided the tools and insights to succeed.

July 16, 2025 - Virtual Workshop Event - Social Media & Interview Skills

WTS-Boston Professional Development Committee presents a virtual workshop - Social Media & Interview Skills - Strengthen your Professional Voice hosted by Amanda Barlow. The presentation by Amanda Barlow on "Social Media and Interview Skills" focused on ideas for expanding our network, stepping out of our comfort zone to build new connections, and some practical and effective interview techniques. The presentation is part two that the committee is putting on to support professional development and to support WTS members, strengthening and broadening their skills to level up work, navigating change, and exploring new professional opportunities. Amanda started by reminding us of the commitment to ourselves. A commitment to build our confidence and develop our professional identity. To do that, we need to be using the resources that are available to us, and WTS is an amazing association with extensive resources. It isn't about the pace if you continue to put one foot in front of the other to grow both personally and professionally. And that is what we are doing every time we take the time for presentations like this one. We learn and we add tools to our tool kit, to continue growing and not standing still.

Programs Committee

Board Liaison – Kari Richards

Co-chairs – Julie Goldberg and Lisa Juan

The Programs Committee hosted six luncheon seminars and an in-person tour over the summer. After selling out 4 of our 6 luncheons, the Committee investigated new venues and recommended using the Wyndham Boston Beacon Hill Hotel for 2026 luncheons. A summary of our 2025 events and programs is provided below.

February 6, 2025 – February Luncheon Seminar: "Bridges in a Transportation Network"



Sarah Bergman, WTS-Boston President, welcomed over 200 guests at the fully booked event.

Sarah then introduced the moderator, Alyson Bedard, P.E., State Bridge Preservation Engineer, and the panelists: Alexander K. Bardow, P.E., State Bridge Engineer; Matthew Weidele, P.E., State Bridge Ratings & Overload Engineer; Hanan Fouad, P.E., State Hydraulics Engineer; and Kelsey Munns, P.E., Associate Bridge Preservation Engineer. The panelists provided insights on updates and changes to bridge inspection policies, including traffic railings, hydraulic analyses, and load ratings. They clarified aspects of the bridge manual, like the purpose of pre-25% process reports, and discussed modifications for mobility and safety upgrades, as well as upcoming changes to posting signs.

The audience participated actively, asking about fundamental bridge concepts and were advised to utilize the National Highway Institute (NHI) training for bridge inspection basics, which offers free online courses to review the fundamentals. The session fostered an engaging and thoughtful dialogue with the panelists, demonstrating a keen interest in the evolving standards and improvements in bridge inspection and design.

March 13, 2025 – March Luncheon Seminar: "Rail Renaissance: Strategies for Growth in Rail"

Sarah Bergman, WTS-Boston President, welcomed 200 guests at the fully booked event and introduced Amtrak Executive Vice President Jennifer Mitchell and MassDOT Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger to discuss Rail Renaissance: Strategies for Growth in Rail.



They shared a vision for rail growth, including how New England's state-supported routes complement the Northeast Corridor, and how partnerships support increasing service levels over time while balancing infrastructure, fleet, labor, and various right-of-way owner and operator considerations.

Jennifer described Amtrak as "America's Railroad," which served over 4 million riders in Massachusetts last year. She outlined the largest capital program in Amtrak's history, and shared updates on exciting service expansions nationwide.

Meredith shared the vision for intercity rail in Massachusetts and outlined the unique and important role intercity rail plays in the Commonwealth. She emphasized that "nothing can happen without a really collaborative relationship" with key stakeholders.

During the question-and-answer period, Jennifer and Meredith fielded questions about the future of environmental review for intercity rail projects, the importance of intercity rail for rural communities, and the connection between intercity rail and affordable housing.

April 8, 2025 – April Luncheon Seminar: "Celebrating 45 Years of Trailblazing Women in Transportation"

The WTS-Boston Chapter held its April Luncheon Seminar on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the UMass Club in Boston.

Sarah Bergman, WTS-Boston President, welcomed 190 guests at the fully booked event. Before introducing our speakers, she acknowledged and thanked our corporate sponsors. Thanks to the efforts of our members, leadership, and sponsors, Boston was announced as the largest and one of the most influential chapters in the overall WTS-International Organization.



Sarah then introduced Anna Barry (HNTB) as the moderator and the four panelists, Mary Jane O'Meara (HNTB), Anne Aylward USDOT Volpe, retired), Dorri Raposa (HDR, retired), and Lisa Brothers (Nitsch Engineering). Sarah also introduced WTS-I Chair Bridgette Beato (Lumenor Consulting), former WTS-I Chair Maggie Walsh (HDR), WTS-I Director Karen Kitsis (CTDOT), and WTS-I Director Alexa Gangemi (HNTB) as attendees. Bridgette shared her gratitude and respect for WTS-Boston's former leadership, stating their resilience and dedication has left a powerful legacy in Boston and beyond.

The panelists, which included Past-Presidents and Directors of the WTS-Boston Chapter, shared their experiences, pivotal moments in their careers, and takeaways as trailblazing women in the transportation industry. WTS, standing for Women's Transportation Seminar, was intentionally named at its creation because women were largely discouraged from participating in professional associations unless the activities were deemed educational in the form of seminars. Similar to the founding members, the panelists supported one another and advanced their careers through WTS connections. Over the 45 years since the Chapter's creation, these trailblazing women transformed the transportation industry into a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable one.

Also celebrated was the impactful, decade-long Public Art Project commissioned by WTS-Boston, in partnership with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The Public Art Project features a mosaic titled "Network" at the entrance to Boston’s South Station to celebrate the contributions of women to transportation and references the greater Boston transportation network. It also references the hidden work of women represented by almost invisible, surveying mermaids.

July 29, 2025 – Summer Tour – Logan International Airfield Tour



The WTS-Boston Chapter, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), hosted a highly anticipated Summer Tour of Boston Logan International Airport's airfield on Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Sarah Dennechuk from Massport, and a former WTS Boston President (2019-2020), warmly welcomed attendees to the sold-out event. The tour commenced with attendee check-in at the Logan Office Center, followed by transportation to the Boston Logan International Airport Operations Center. At the Operations Center, Tammy Carter, Assistant Director, Aviation Operation introduced participants to the complexities of airfield operations and learned about the unique challenges faced daily by Boston Logan International Airport.

The tour continued as attendees boarded an airfield bus, guided by Massport operations staff. The first stop was Runway 14-32, temporarily closed which allowed attendees to disembark and explore

the surroundings. This stop provided fascinating insights, including the fact that building heights in the flight path are regulated to ensure clearance by the largest aircraft with only one working engine. The group had the opportunity to ask questions and take group photos in this rare setting.

The remainder of the tour took place on the bus, which traveled the airport perimeter via the access road. Participants witnessed airplanes taking off and landing, saw active construction projects, and explored cargo and infield areas. Highlights included the fire and rescue training area, life flight operations, and the North Service Area Optimization Project. This initiative aims to consolidate support facilities, enhance logistics, and implement sustainability goals to achieve Net Zero Emissions. Attendees also learned about the coordination necessary between the port and airport when accommodating cruise ships, whose flight paths originally based on the sailing of the USS Constitution now must be adjusted for newer, larger vessels.

The tour concluded with lunch and networking at the Logan Office Center. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from Luciana Burdi (Massport, WTS-Boston 2025 Woman of the Year), share their favorite parts of the tour, and ask questions about airport projects. Thank you to the Massachusetts Port Authority and Boston's Logan International Airport for this opportunity.

September 16, 2025 – September Luncheon Seminar: "Conversations with Women in Aviation"



The WTS-Boston Chapter kicked off the fall season in style with its September Luncheon Seminar, held Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the UMass Club in Boston. More than 150 members and guests gathered for an inspiring afternoon of networking, learning, and leadership stories centered on women in aviation.

The event's keynote conversation, moderated by Laurie Cullen of the USDOT's Building America Bureau, featured two distinguished panelists: Sharon Williams of Massport and Denise Garcia of MassDOT Aeronautics. Laurie set the tone with an engaging discussion about career pathways, diversity, and mentorship in aviation. Each panelist shared a deeply personal journey that underscored the power of persistence and passion in breaking barriers.

Laurie began her career at Massport, where she was surrounded by women—a rare experience in aviation at the time. She later realized just how unique that environment had been as she moved through the industry. Sharon earned her pilot's license as a teenager and spent 36 years as a commercial pilot before shifting her focus to airport management. Denise started her aviation career at age 17, joining the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft maintenance technician—a path that ultimately led to her current role as Deputy Administrator with MassDOT.

The panelists spoke candidly about the challenges they've faced, the mentors who guided them, and the evolving opportunities that make aviation such a dynamic field. A common message echoed throughout the conversation: There is a place for everyone in aviation.

October 15, 2024 – October Luncheon Seminar: "Navigating Municipal Transportation"
On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, the WTS-Boston Chapter hosted its October Luncheon Seminar, Navigating Municipal Transportation, at the UMass Club in Boston. The event brought together professionals from across the public and private sectors for a lively discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing municipal transportation today.



The session featured a panel discussion moderated by Cassandra Gascon (MassDOT) with four distinguished municipal transportation leaders: Brooke McKenna, City of Cambridge;
Lisa Chandler, City of Beverly; Julia Campbell, City of Boston; and Brad Rawson, City of Somerville.

Together, the panelists reflected on how the municipal transportation landscape has evolved in recent years. They highlighted growing interest in active transportation projects, the increasing accessibility of design resources, and innovative approaches to collaborating with consultants to meet shifting transportation needs.

The conversation also explored how municipal teams can sustain motivation and manage workloads in the face of limited staffing and resources. Panelists shared thoughtful insights on avoiding burnout, including staying mission-driven, celebrating small wins, standardizing design and operational processes, and investing in leadership development.



December 10, 2025 – December Luncheon Seminar and Annual Meeting: Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins, CEO and Executive Director of WTS International
On Wednesday, December 10th, the WTS Boston Programs Committee will host our Annual Meeting and December Luncheon Seminar. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Malika Reed Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of WTS International. As the newly appointed leader of a global organization dedicated to advancing women in transportation, Dr. Wilkins will share her vision for the future of WTS and the industry—aiming to

“build on the momentum of the organization, elevate new voices, and deepen our collective impact across communities and generations.”

Scholarships and Awards Committee

Board Liaison – Allison Sweeney

Co-chairs – Adina Alpert and Heather Moulton

The Scholarships and Awards Committee had another great year of recognizing those in our community who have or who will have a great impact on the transportation industry.

2025 WTS-Boston Award Winners

- **Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award:** Amy Getchell and Liz Williams, MassDOT Statewide District Equity Initiative
- **Innovative Transportation Solutions Award:** Massport Infrastructure Condition Assessment (MICA)
- **Honorable Ray LaHood Award:** Thomas DiPaolo, MassDOT
- **Employer of the Year Award:** SMK Services, Inc.
- **Member of the Year Award:** Victoria Palek, Arcadis
- **Woman of the Year Award:** Luciana Burdi, Massport

2025 WTS-Boston Scholarship Winners

We received many applications for undergraduate and graduate scholarships, with highly motivated and qualified individuals from a diversity of universities and fields of study. The decision-making process is always very difficult and this year was no different.

- **Transportation YOU High School Scholarship**; Addison Collins, Tyngsboro High School
- **Jacquelyn R. Smith Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship;** Xinyi Looi, Northeastern University
- **Ann M. Hershfang Graduate Scholarship;** Aanchal Chopra, Harvard Graduate School of Design
- **Mary Jane O'Meara Member Graduate Scholarship;** Angelina Caggiano, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Special Projects Committee

Board Liaison – Ali Mattson
Co-chairs – Katherine Patch and Judith Gibson-Okunieff

New Years Reception



The Boston Chapter held its Annual New Year's Reception in person on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the Boston Courtyard Marriott Downtown. As a direct result of our members, leadership, and sponsors, Boston continues to be one of the largest and most influential chapters in the overall WTS International organization.

Sarah Bergman, WTS-Boston President, welcomed all 300+ guests to the first WTS-Boston event in 2025. Before she welcomed our distinguished guests, she acknowledged and thanked our corporate sponsors and the 2025 chapter leadership team. Without their support of WTS-Boston and our mission, Boston would not be as successful a chapter as we are, and we are truly grateful for this.

WTS-Boston was delighted to host and celebrate the new Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Massachusetts Port Authority, Rich Davey! With humor and wit, Rich provided updates about Massport's accomplishments and plans for the coming year. It was an incredible evening and we thank all those who were able to attend in person to congratulate Rich on his new appointment. Congratulations, Rich!

2025 Annual Awards and Scholarship Celebration



The Annual WTS Awards and Scholarship Banquet was held on June 12, 2025, at the Royal Sonesta Boston in Cambridge, MA. The event had a great turn out where the attendees celebrated and recognized those in our community who have or who will have a great impact on the transportation industry. See Scholarships and Awards Committee for a list of winners.

WTS-Boston Leadership Forum



WTS-Boston held the annual Leadership Forum on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Boston Courtyard Marriott Downtown. The Leadership Forum brings together the chapter's sponsors, chapter leaders, and invited public officials to celebrate the presentation of the Leadership Award. The WTS-Boston Leadership Award is given each year to a woman who has made significant contributions to the transportation industry and whose work reflects the mission and values of WTS. In 2025, the award was presented to Abbie Goodman, the Executive Director of ACEC/MA.

Sarah Bergman, WTS-Boston President, opened the event by welcoming all attendees and thanking our corporate sponsors and chapter leadership.

Abbie took the stage, thanking the chapter for honoring her with the award. Abbie then took time to thank those who have supported her throughout her career, including her husband, Larry Shind, a local jazz DJ on GBH. With humor and grace, Abbie also took time to call the industry to action, emphasizing the importance of appropriate contracting mechanisms, and sharing the work she has done with others, such as contributing to the book "Climate Change and the Built Environment" with Patricia B. Gary and Lisa L. Churchill.

In keeping with Abbie's personal request, she was recognized with a printed certificate instead of the traditional glass award. Abbie shared in advance that she preferred a simple certificate so the chapter could avoid the cost of a plaque or direct those funds to the WTS-Boston scholarship program. We honored her wishes, and we appreciate her thoughtfulness toward supporting future scholarship recipients.

Student Chapter Committee

Board Liaison – Allison Sweeney

Co-chairs - Leah Grodstein and Hannah LaFleur

In 2025, the WTS Student Chapter Committee worked hard to support and foster relationships with the students who will be the future of the transportation industry. The Committee supports three formal chapters, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Harvard University, Northeastern University, and one school in their initial steps, University of Massachusetts Lowell. Throughout the year, the Student Chapter Committee and its volunteers have worked closely with each university to conduct meaningful events and help spread awareness of the WTS organization on campus.



At UMass Amherst, the Connections Program continued, connecting students and professionals in the industry. This was supported through hosting a ”Speed Networking” event in the Spring of 2025 at the Amherst Campus. This event allowed students and professionals to meet in person to enable better relationships. For 2026, the committee plans to work with students who are interested in specific projects around the Boston area to teach them about the challenges that can occur throughout the planning, design, and construction phases.

In the last year, UMass Lowell has found a dedicated faculty sponsor and student to spearhead the creation of a formal chapter. The student member has taken it upon herself to join various classes to talk about WTS and find additional members.

The Harvard University Student Chapter had another successful year as a formal chapter. They had a successful leadership transition between Spring 2025 and Fall 2025, with all three new student leaders actively working to grow club membership and plan events. Some event highlights have been Cambridge area bike tours led by Jeff Rosenblum at the beginning of both semesters, a tour of the Kendall Square headhouse focused on Transit Oriented Development, and a walking tour of Chinatown where students learned about how highway planning affected Boston’s communities. These events were popular among students and introduced future transportation professionals to local projects, relevant history, and professionals in the industry. The Harvard WTS chapter was also able to send four students to the Moving Together conference in October.



After multiple years of membership growth and successful student-led events, Northeastern University became the newest official WTS Boston Student Chapter in 2025! The chapter also brought on Heather Hume as their faculty advisor and put on numerous events in 2025. Some highlights include a resume review workshop, tours of the Boylston St bike lanes and an MBTA bus maintenance facility, the second annual W-Tea-S alumni networking event, and numerous speaker events. Members of the Northeastern WTS group once again volunteered at the Transportation YOU summit in October, and over ten Northeastern students attended the Moving Together conference at the end of October. We also have a new Faculty Liaison, Heather Hume from Northeastern.

In this upcoming year, the Student Chapter Committee will continue supporting UMass Lowell on formalizing their Chapters. In addition, the Committee will continue to work closely with the well-established Chapters at UMass Amherst, Harvard, and Northeastern. In 2026, the Committee and its volunteers look forward to continuing to forge connections with local universities and support our future leaders in the field.

Transportation YOU

Board Liaison - Laura Canham

Co-chairs - Sarah Kim and Heather Audet

The Transportation YOU Committee participated in the following six in-person events: Burlington High School Career Fair (February 4th), BPS STEM Fair (March 8th), WPS STEAM Night (April 15th), Girl Scouts STEM Festival (May 3rd), BPS STEAMfest (May 31st), and the Cambridge Science Festival (September 21st). During most of these events, the Committee developed a Seismic Shake-Up activity, where the goal is to have students test which structures can withstand a simulated earthquake using a shake table. The Committee capped the year by hosting its Transportation YOU STEM Summit during Massachusetts STEM week (October 18th) at Higgins Middle School in Peabody.

Career Fair at Burlington High School

The career fair at Burlington High School was the first event of the year. Sarah Kim and Heather Audet attended and handed out Transportation YOU and WTS giveaways to the students that stopped by our table. The high schoolers looking to go into transportation were interested in the organization and the upcoming TYOU Summit.

BPS STEM Fair at Reggie Lewis Center

The Committee led the Seismic Shake-Up activity for students before and after their science projects were judged. We handed out Transportation YOU and WTS giveaways to the students that stopped by our table. The Committee was represented by four volunteers. Volunteers were able to walk around the judging room and learn more about the student projects.

Girl Scout STEM Festival; WPS Explore STEAM Night; & BPS STEAMfest

- Girl Scout STEM Festival @ Girl Scout Campground - Waltham, MA
- Explore STEAM Night @ Wakefield Public Schools
- BPS STEAMfest @ Madison Park Technical Vocational High School

The Seismic Shake Table activity was used at each of these events, and we handed out Transportation YOU and WTS giveaways to the attendees. These were very successful events with a handful of volunteers at each, and many students enjoyed the workshops.

Cambridge Science Festival

The Cambridge Science Carnival is held each year at the MIT Museum/Kendall Open Space. The Seismic Shake Table activity was used, and we handed out Transportation YOU and WTS giveaways to the attendees that worked on a structure. There were 3 very busy volunteers at this event. The 2025 Carnival had over 20,000 attendees. We ran out of supplies and had to shut down our activity about 45 minutes early.

Transportation YOU Boston STEM Summit at Higgins Middle School

The committee ended the year with the eighth annual Transportation YOU Boston STEM Summit, which was held again at the new Higgins Middle School in Peabody, MA on October 18th. Planning for the event began earlier in the spring with a call for workshop volunteers in the summer. We had 80 students register and 50 attend the event.





The Summit ran from 10:00 AM
to 2:30 PM, kicking off the day with an opening address by committee co-chair Sarah Kim. The day included workshops hosted by five transportation firms covering a wide range of topics including transportation planning, engineering, geotechnical engineering, and structural engineering. Additionally, Northeastern University students and WTS-Rhode Island participated as volunteers. After lunch, students had a chance to complete mini-activities, such as city transportation planning and cut and cover tunnel simulations with cake. It was a fun-filled day that wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers and enthusiastic students! We'd like to thank Peabody Public Schools for graciously allowing us to host the Summit at their new middle school, and the following firms for providing expo activities and workshops: FPA, Geocomp, VHB, Suffolk, Stantec, and AECOM.

WTS International, Northeast Regional Council

Vice Chair and Boston Representative - Lori Chicoyne

"Impact of Regions: WTS International chapters are the association's most important local delivery channel. By developing and organizing into regions, the bandwidth of WTS chapters is expanded."
WTS International

The Northeast Regional Council (NERC) is a leadership body that connects and supports WTS chapters across the northern U.S. and Canada, advancing women in transportation through collaboration, networking, and regional initiatives.

There are six region councils that include one representative from each chapter in the region. WTS-Boston is part of the Northeast Region, with the Boston representative, Lori Chicoyne from Affinity Business Development serving as a liaison between the Boston Chapter and International organization to help facilitate communication, ideas, and progress. Lori is the current Vice Chair for the Northeast Regional Council and as such, also serves on the WTS International Advisory Board.

The Northeast Region meets monthly and includes the greatest number of Chapters out of all the Regions, eighteen in total. Following are the WTS Chapters included in the Northeast Region: Baltimore, Boston, Central Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Greater New York, Maine, Montreal (Canada), New Hampshire, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rhode Island, Southwest Ontario (Canada), Toronto (Canada), Vermont, Washington DC, West Virginia.

Each year that the WTS International Conference is not held in the Northeast, NERC holds a Northeast Regional Conference. The 2026 theme scheduled for February—"Navigating the Northeast Women at the Helm of Transportation Innovation"—celebrates the leadership, creativity and collaboration of women shaping the future of transportation.

An in-person meeting is held at each WTS International Conference bringing the regional leaders together to share innovative ideas and lessons learned.