Advancing women
Advancing transportation
› Washington DC

2025 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, *InfraStrategies*	Shelley Wynne, *Dewberry*	May ElKhattab. *Clark Construction*	Regis Stinson, *WSP*	Katie Kraft, *Thompson Coburn LLP*

Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and Volunteers

Communications, Newsletter and Social Media

Chair
Morgan Bassford, *Epstein Creative*
Deputy Chair
Katie Masetti, *Mead & Hunt*

Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship

Chairs
Shelley Johnson, *Epstein Creative*
Dawn Amore, *Volanno*
Volunteers
Cherie Gibson, *HNTB*

POWER

Chair
Audra Bandy, *Program Management Senior Executive*
Deputy Co-Chairs
Tiffany Batac, *KPMG*
Amanda Roberts, *Avid Core*
Volunteers
Melanie Flores, *Assedo Consulting*
Tammy Jones, *TMaree Solutions*
Robyn Jackson Wells, *AtkinsRéalis*
Brandey Rodgers, *Solara Infrastructure Development*
Tina Williams, *FHWA*
Mudgha Tipnis, *WSP*
Jessica Brunson, *STC*
Kendall Myers, *AECOM*

Holiday Party

Co-Chairs
Amanda Sink, *NVTC*
Chetna Sinha, *TYLin*
Volunteers
Anjuli Tapia, *RK&K*

Legislative

Chair
Honey Shor-Posner, *HNTB*
Deputy Chair
Jillian Kinder, *APTA*
Volunteers
Brianne Eby-Stockert, *Northeast Corridor Commission*
Laura Luo, *AECOM*
Steven Lamour, *Lumenor Consulting Group*
Maria Buccieri, *Amtrak*
Brandey Rodgers, *Solara Infrastructure Development*
Kate Roetzer, *Foursquare ITP*

Membership

Chair
Laura MacNeil, *DDOT*
Deputy Chair
Poonam Patel, *Kimley-Horn of DC*
Volunteers
Kristi Clough, *Mott MacDonald*

Mentoring

Co-Chairs
Ruochang Huang, *WMATA*
Roxanne Feige, *AtkinsRéalis*

Professional Development

Chair
Lindsey Robertson Lentz, *Evans Consulting*
Volunteers
Victoria Karolenko, *FRA*
Nicole Waldheim, *Fehr & Peers*
Kat Ritzmann, *Gorove Slade*
Nadiya Kutishcheva, *Foursquare ITP*

Program Logistics

Co-Chairs
Laura Duke, *Foursquare ITP*
Adriana Valentina Farias, *George Mason University*
Volunteers
Ellie McCurdy, *WMATA*
Erin Hill, *HNTB*
Kristi Clough, *Mott MacDonald*
Hoda Hallaji, *George Mason University*
Safoura Safari, *University of Maryland*

Recognitions

Chair
Jamie Rosen, *WMATA*
Deputy Chair
Edith Tapia, *WSP*
Volunteers
Dhvani Patel, *DDOT*
Niloo Parvinashtiani, *Iteris*

Scholarship and Fundraising

Chair
Alanna McKeeman, *Foursquare ITP*
Deputy Chair
Deepika Fields, *RS&H*
Volunteers
Bethel Kefyalew, *DRPT*
Katie Masetti, *Mead & Hunt*
Regis Stinson, *WSP USA*
Sarah Morgan, *CPCS*

Transportation YOU

Chair
Melanie Flores, *Assedo Consulting*
Volunteers
Kyla D'Sa, *Kimley-Horn of DC*
Morgan Berger, *American Geotechnical and Environmental Services*
Polly Hanson, *APTA*
Circe Torruellas, *Jacobs*
Neha Ramanna, *Carollo Engineers*
Jessica Allen, *HDR*
Brandon Buckner, *FHWA*
Xiaoyu 'Skye' Guo, *DDOT*
Tammy Jones, *TMaree Solutions*
Victoria Karolenko, *FRA*
Sarah Morgan, *CPCS*
Heather Haney, *WMATA*

Advisors

Avital Barnea, *LA Metro*

Neela Babu, *MDOT*

Adrienne Ameel, *Kimley-Horn of DC*

Jamie Rennert, *Federal Railroad Administration*

Susan Gygi, *WSP*

Brittney Gick, *Texas A&M Transportation Institute*

WTS-DC 2025-2026 Corporate Members

Thank you to the WTS-DC 2025-2026 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,

As we look back at WTS-DC's 2025 accomplishments, the dedication of all Board members, volunteers, advisors, corporate sponsors and friends of the chapter truly stands out. As we navigated unexpected and challenging times, everyone rallied to make this year one of strength and success. And I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed this year.

Throughout the year, we offered opportunities for meaningful conversations and personal and professional growth. These included our POWER committee's first event in March, E*mpowering Excellence: Building a Community of Support and Success*, and sessions offered by the Professional Development committee on *Signature Strengths*, *Defining Leadership Style*, *Navigating Conflict* and *Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout*.

Connections with fellow WTS members and with industry leaders are a core mission of our chapter. This year, we continued our coffee chat series with Laura Mason, WTS-DC's 2024 Woman of the Year, and Davey Kim. We also heard from our 2024 Honorable Ray LaHood awardee and former FHWA Administrator, Shailen Batt. And our annual membership event and spring and fall bike tours provided time for members to connect with each other.

The DC region is growing and our chapter featured local leaders at our recurring events, including our ever-popular cocktails with WMATA General Manager Randy Clarke and conversation with VDOT leaders in Northern Virginia.

WTS-DC provides programming at all career levels, from future transportation professionals involved in our Transportation YOU program and partnership with the Girl Scouts, to our Executive Women's Roundtable, which offers leaders ways to connect and learn from each other. Our mentoring program continues to grow, and I want to thank all the mentors for taking the time to participate in the program and support the professional growth of emerging leaders.

Our chapter is part of the broader international network under WTS-International, and we were excited to send members to the annual conference in Toronto, the first conference outside of the U.S., as well as to chapter leadership training. Our chapter

retains the Gold Circle of Excellence Award, a sign of the long-lasting commitment of our many volunteers and members.

We closed 2025 with our annual Holiday Party on December 2 at the National Press Club, a larger venue than previous years. Over 300 attendees gathered to celebrate our amazing scholarship winners, thanks to a record year for fundraising, and our industry award winners. It was a fitting way to celebrate the end of a year when our chapter grew our number of corporate members and our membership roster.

As I close my term as WTS chapter president, I want to once more thank everyone who contributed to the success of the organization. We are in a strong position to continue advancing women and transportation in the DC region and beyond, and I cannot wait to see what 2026 holds!

Sincerely,

Sophie Guiny
2025 WTS-DC Chapter President

Treasurer's Report

Table 1 - Operations Budget as of January 31, 2026

Revenues	Actual 2025
Holiday Party Revenues	$26,410
Corporate Relations and Program Sponsorship	$60,524
POWER Committee	$2,323
Membership Committee Revenues	$10,081
Professional Development Committee Revenues	$795
Recognition Committee Revenues	$588
Special Programs Revenues	$19,074
Total Revenues	**$119,775**

Expenses	Actual 2025
Holiday Party Expenses	$45,953
Communications/Outreach Expenses	$2,041
Administrative Expenses	$6,059
POWER Committee Expenses	$2,860
Membership Committee Expenses + WTS-I membership dues	$11,387
Professional Development Committee Expenses	$1,702
Program Logistics Committee Expenses	$523
Mentoring Committee Expenses	$497
Recognitions Committee Expenses	$1,552
Transportation YOU Committee Expenses	$383
Special Program Expenses	$15,753
2025 WTS International Conference and Leadership Training Expenses	$9,290
Total Expenses	**$97,999**

Table 2 - 2025 Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	January 1, 2025	January 31, 2026
Cash Balance:	$273,972.72	$293,905.27
Ending Balance	**$273,972.72**	**$293,905.27**

Table 3 - 2025 WTS-DC Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Fund	Balance
Starting Balance	$52,024
Total Amount Raised	$26,598.47
2024 Corporate Member 10% Allocation*	$0
2025 Sponsored Named Scholarships**	$22,500
Additional Contributions (Individual and Company)***	$4,098.47
Total Amount Distributed****	$41,000.00
Ending Balance	**$37,622.47**

**2025 Corporate memberships were deposited in December 2024 and do not show in 2025.*
***2025 Sponsored Named Scholarships amount does not include Named Scholarship money received outside of Year 2025. For example, there are Named Scholarships funds that were committed / received in previous years for future years with payments received in 2026.*
****Includes 2024 and 2025 Scholarship tree donation.*
*****Includes 2025 Scholarship recipients ($37,000) and two 2024 scholarship recipients ($4,000).*

Executive Board

The WTS-DC Executive Board is comprised of five members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. In 2025, the officers serving on the board were:

- President: Sophie Guiny
- Vice President: Shelley Wynne
- Treasurer: May ElKhattab
- Secretary: Regis Stinson
- 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, May ElKhattab 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, Regis Stinson 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 2025, WTS-DC board meetings were held on the following dates:

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

The Chapter continued to hold the majority of its 2025 meetings virtually, via Zoom. 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.

2025 Annual Meeting

The WTS-DC 2025 annual meeting was held at the start of our November 2025 board meeting. The primary business of the annual meeting was to vote on the WTS-DC 2024 Annual Report and the meeting minutes from the 2024 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 2024 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 2025, the Executive Board presented a slate of candidates for those four positions for 2026. 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 2026:

- President: Shelley Wynne
- Vice President: Regis Stinson
- Treasurer: May ElKhattab
- Secretary: Katie Masetti

Sophie Guiny will serve as Immediate Past President in 2026.

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 2025.

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

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 X, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The committee is also responsible for publishing the WTS-DC newsletter, which includes a president's message, summaries of recent events, corporate member spotlights, and other articles written by members.

In 2025, Morgan Bassford (Epstein Creative Group), as Chair, and Katie Masetti (Mead & Hunt), as Deputy Chair, led the Communications, Newsletter, and Social Media Committee with support from the WTS-DC Executive Board. The committee managed the chapter's Constant Contact email lists and produced all e-blasts throughout the year. They also oversaw the development and publication of one e-newsletter, 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.

Analytics are as follows (as of December 31, 2025):

- Total social media posts: 273
- Total social media impressions: 54,717
- Posts shared: 137
- Posts reactions and likes: 1,434
- Posts links clicks: 6,352
- Average social media post engagement: 6.01%

- Total social media followers: 1,823
- LinkedIn followers grew by 30%
- Total e-blasts: 56
- E-blast open rate: 39%
- E-blast click rate: 5%
- Average # of e-blast recipients: 867
- Total newsletters: 1

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 Group), as Chair, Dawn Amore (Volanno) as Co-Chair, and dedicated volunteer Cherie Gibson (HNTB).

For the 2025–2026 program year, the committee secured $62,000 in corporate memberships. This success included the addition of five new corporate members: Mott MacDonald, Hill International, Avid Core, C3M, and MTBMA.

In addition, the committee introduced and formalized in-kind Public Agency Partnerships, recognizing agencies that contribute critical non-monetary support such as meeting space, programming participation, and event resources. These partnerships strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors while expanding WTS-DC's visibility and reach.

The committee also led high-impact sponsorship efforts, securing $14,500 in total program and event support, including $7,500 for Cocktails & Conversation with WMATA General Manager Randy Clarke and $7,000 for the WTS-DC Holiday Party, both signature events for the chapter.

These accomplishments exceeded the committee's stated goals to:

- 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

By expanding membership, introducing new partnership models, and increasing sponsorship revenue, the committee has positioned WTS-DC for continued momentum and an even stronger year ahead.

Tables 4 and 5 highlight the 2025–2026 Corporate Membership offerings and the current roster of corporate and agency partners.

Table 4 - 2025-2026 Corporate Membership Offerings

Benefits	Gold $3,500	Silver $2,000	Bronze $1,000	Public Sector Agency	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	2	1	1	1	1
Corporate spotlight article in Chapter newsletter	X				

Table 5 - 2025-2026 Corporate Members by Membership Type (as of 2/8/2026)

Organization	Membership Type	Fee
DDOT	Agency Partner	In Kind
MWAA	Agency Partner	In Kind
NVTA	Agency Partner	In Kind
AASHTO	GOLD	$3,500
APTA	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
AECOM	SILVER	$2,000
AtkinsRéalis	SILVER	$2,000
Burns Engineering	SILVER	$2,000
Hill International	SILVER	$2,000
Kimley-Horn	SILVER	$2,000
Thompson Coburn LLP	SILVER	$2,000
Mead & Hunt	SILVER	$2,000
Mott Macdonald	SILVER	$2,000
VHB	SILVER	$2,000
WRA	SILVER	$2,000
WSP USA	SILVER	$2,000
ATCS	BRONZE	$1,000
C3M	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
Avid Core	W/MDBE/SWaM	$500
Epstein Creative Group	W/MDBE/SWaM	$500
ITA (Idletime Advertising)	W/MDBE/SWaM	$500
PrimECS	W/MDBE/SWaM	$500
Volanno	W/MDBE/SWaM	$500
TOTAL		**$62,000**

POWER (Providing Opportunities for Womens' Excellence and Recognition) Committee

The POWER 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 POWER 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.

The POWER Committee was led by Audra Bandy (Program Management Senior Executive) as Chair, Tiffany Batac (KPMG LLP) as Deputy Co-Chair, Amanda Roberts (Avid Core) as Deputy Co-Chair, and volunteers Melanie Flores (Assedo Consulting), Tammy Jones (TMaree Solutions), Cher Griffith Taylor (Parsons Corporation), Robyn Jackson Wells (AtkinsRéalis), Brandey Rodgers (Solara Infrastructure Development), Tina Williams (FHWA), Mugdha Tipnis (WSP USA), Jessica Brunson (STV), and Kendall Myers (AECOM).

At the beginning of 2025, the POWER Committee agreed to house the Glass Ceiling Task Force. The original WTS-DC Glass Ceiling Task Force was formed in 2014 and undertook a baseline study to measure gender diversity and the status of women in the local transportation industry. This study was intended to be the first installment of a multi-year effort. After much preparation by Tiffany, whose experience with this study was invaluable, a kick-off meeting was held on April 21st. A committee of dedicated volunteers was prepared to work on the study for the next couple of years. Unfortunately, due to the change in political climate, the executive board announced that the task force would be postponing its efforts.

The newly formed POWER Committee started preparing for a late February / early March event in Fall of 2024. The goal was to build a space within WTS-DC where genuine connection and belonging could flourish. This event was titled: *Empowering Excellence: Building a Community of Support and Success*. Choosing the location was an intentional process. The committee wanted a space that was not connected to a consulting firm or industry business, so that attendees could feel less confined and be open to speak freely. The event was held on March 3rd at Bus Boys and Poets, at the 2021 14th Street NW location in Washington, DC.

The event was presented in 2 phases. The first was a moderated panel discussion, and the second was small group discussions. Due to the potentially sensitive nature

of the discussions, ground rules were established and the committee paid for two mental health specialists to be on-site.

Moderated by Jennifer Mitchell, Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning with Amtrak, the panel featured Yvonne Thelwell, PE, Deputy Chief Engineer with DDOT; Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer with Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; Shelley Johnson, Co-Owner and Director of Business Development, and Account Director with Epstein Creative Group; and Allison Cullin, Principal with Convey Public Policy.

Each speaker offered a unique perspective shaped by years of experience and the resilience required to thrive in a historically male-dominated field. Attendees were treated to candid stories of overcoming obstacles and cultivating mentorship, while creating a path for greater inclusivity in the transportation industry.



Following the panel, the conversation deepened through facilitated roundtable discussions, where attendees were encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences. These intimate discussions allowed participants to reflect on common challenges, celebrate shared successes, and build new professional and personal connections.

This sold-out event was an extraordinary opportunity to create a launching point for ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and mutual support. When so many professionals are looking for greater depth and connection, this was a time where those bonds could form. It served as a powerful reminder that when we come together to share, listen, and lift each other up,

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 2025, the Holiday Party Committee was led by Amanda Sink (NVTC) and Chetna Sinha (TYLin) as Co-Chairs, and volunteer Anjuli Tapia (RK&K).

The 2025 WTS-DC Annual Holiday Party was held for the first time at the historic National Press Club in Washington, DC on December 2nd, 2025. The event welcomed over 400 transportation professionals from across the DMV, making it the largest Holiday Party in the Chapter's history. The event was beautifully decorated, with holiday décor, lights, and music filling the room. The evening began with opening remarks from WTS-DC Chapter President Sophie Guiny, who recognized the Chapter's corporate sponsors, volunteer board members, and advisors whose leadership and support made the event possible. She also recognized the event sponsors, whose contributions totalled $8,000. Special acknowledgement was given to honored guests including WTS International Board Chair Bridgette Beato, WTS International CEO and Executive Director Malika Reed Wilkins, WTS Foundation Board Vice Chair Odessa Phillip, and Maryland Acting Transportation Secretary Samantha Biddle.



In an effort to modernize and reduce printing waste, the Chapter introduced one-sheet flyers with QR codes in place of the multipage program and uploaded all scholarship and awardee bios to the WTS-DC website allowing attendees to access materials digitally. Throughout the evening, guests contributed to the Scholarship Fund, with additional excitement generated by an executive coaching giveaway for donors

made possible through the generous support of Jamie Rennert, Founder and Principal of Mabledon Place Coaching and Consulting, LLC, a woman-owned career coaching and leadership consulting firm.

Paul Comfort, Executive Director of the North American Transit Alliance, was then welcomed to the stage to present 13 scholarship award winners. Throughout the evening, guests contributed toward the Scholarship Tree, with additional excitement generated by an executive coaching giveaway for donors made possible through the generous support of Jamie Rennert, Founder and Principal of Mabledon Place Coaching and Consulting, LLC, a woman-owned career coaching and leadership consulting firm. The night concluded by raising $1,150 for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. This support, made possible by the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee, ensures WTS-DC can continue empowering women through education and advancing the next generation of female transportation leaders.

Following the scholarship awards presentation, WTS International CEO and Executive Director Malika Reed Wilkins was welcomed to the stage to present the Chapter's recognition awards.

- WTS-DC Member of the Year Award: Morgan Bassford, Co-Owner, Epstein Creative Group
- WTS-DC Woman of the Year Award: Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
- WTS-DC Honorable Ray LaHood Award: Randy Clarke, GM and CEO of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- WTS-DC Employer of the Year Award: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- WTS-DC Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award: Oluseyi Olugbenle, Acting Director of Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- WTS-DC Innovative Transportation Solutions Award: FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations, led by Guidehouse

These awardees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the transportation industry, their advancement of women and diversity in the profession, and their continued support of WTS-DC. Overall, the evening brought together the region's transportation community to celebrate another year of advancing women in

transportation. It could not have been made possible without the dedication and hard work of the WTS-DC Board Members and volunteers.



Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee was led by Honey Shor-Posner (HNTB) as Chair, Jillian Kinder (APTA) as Deputy Chair, and volunteers Brianne Eby-Stockert (Northeast Corridor Commission), Laura Luo (AECOM), Steven Lamour (Lumenor Consulting Group), Maria Buccieri (Amtrak), Brandey Rodgers (Solara Infrastructure Development), and Kate Roetzer (Foursquare ITP).

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.

The committee held meetings to discuss possible events and articles. The committee encountered hesitancy among federal officials to engage with the organization in 2025 due to the change in political climate. Upon reflection, the committee decided that an event incorporating industry perspectives on reauthorization priorities would be the most appealing to WTS membership. The committee has invited panelists from ARTBA, AASHTO, and the Intermodal Association of North America. The committee looked to conduct the panel with WGR in early 2026.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for maintaining up-to-date membership records, 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 of DC) as Deputy Chair with support from committee volunteer Kristi Clough (Mott MacDonald).

In 2025, 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 Coburn's office in Downtown DC on June 5th, catered by Sugar Rim Catering and attended by WTS members. The Committee then provided a newsletter article about the event for the WTS-DC newsletter.

Committee members navigated the new WTS-I membership report process and identified that membership trends didn't line up. So we reached out and met with WTS-I staff in May to better understand the data and identify the correct fields and formulas to work with to distill active members for the WTS-DC Chapter.

The Membership Committee also explored new tasks and roles, including writing up a Member Spotlight article to highlight active members and show the range of members within the organization. Other tasks that the Committee continues to explore are developing recruitment and retention materials to share with members,

and developing partnerships with other committee members to encourage event attendance and networking.

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) and Roxanne Feige (AtkinsRéalis) as Co-Chairs.

The Mentoring Committee had 38 participants forming 19 mentor-mentee pairs in 2025. The program kicked off on April 23 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 *Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout* with Meghan Slipka as the speaker. The committee also held two happy hours to allow for informal networking.

The mentoring program partnered with the professional development committee to host two events. One on *Defining Your Leadership Presence* and the second, *Navigating Conflict*. Lindsey Robertson was the speaker and provided worksheets, and interactive sessions for participants to experience to practice learned skills.

The check-in event was hosted virtually on August 27. Mentors and mentees logged on to different sessions. Each group had an opportunity to share how their pairing was going and provide advice and tips for others.

The first happy hour was hosted in Arlington at Tupelo Honey and former WTS DC president and mentor Neela Babu hosted a networking activity for all participants. The final happy hour of the program was hosted on November 12th at Scarlet Oak in Navy Yard. Sophie Guiny, the chapter president, gave a short presentation of the DC 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

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.

In 2024, Lindsey Robertson Lentz (Evans Consulting) served as the Chair of the Professional Development Committee with support from volunteers Victoria Karolenko (FRA), Nicole Waldheim (Fehr & Peers), and Kat Ritzmann (Gorove Slade). Jeff Parker (WSP USA), Regis Stinson (WSP USA), and Nadiya Kutishchev (Foursquare ITP) supported the bike tours. In 2025, the Professional Development Committee organized events to foster collaboration, innovation, and career development.

The Professional Development Committee advanced the WTS-DC mission this year by offering inclusive, skills-focused programs that supported member growth and strengthened the chapter community. With an emphasis on connection, confidence, and career development, the committee delivered workshops and activities that crossed the professional spectrum – from emerging professional to CEO.



The year kicked off with the Signature Spring Workshop, where participants explored their natural talents through the CliftonStrengths assessment. Guided by Lindsey, attendees discovered their top strengths and learned how the 34 strengths themes influence workplace performance. Activities encouraged members to understand how they work best and apply those insights intentionally in their careers. The workshop combined self-reflection with practical application, giving participants tools to lead and collaborate more effectively.

Building on this foundation, the committee partnered with the Mentoring Committee to deliver three dynamic leadership development sessions. The first, *Defining Leadership Style*, invited members to explore the values and experiences

that shape how they lead. Participants gained clarity on their leadership identity and how to align their actions with the type of leader they aspire to be. Next, in *Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout*, Executive Coach Meghan Slipka introduced participants to six key energy domains and shared strategies for recognizing stress patterns and maintaining resilience. The session was engaging, insightful, and full of practical techniques for staying balanced in demanding work environments. Completing the series, *Navigating Conflict* provided members with hands-on tools to approach challenging interpersonal situations with confidence. Lindsey guided participants through diagnosing conflict, understanding what is within their control, and practicing negotiation skills that support constructive communication.

The committee also amplified its community impact by partnering with the Transportation YOU Committee on the "Passport to Transportation Careers" workshop for 4th–5th grade Girl Scouts. Through rotating activity stations and a fun passport experience, the event introduced young girls to transportation careers and sparked early interest in STEM fields. The program also established a repeatable model for future youth engagement.

Looking ahead, the Professional Development Committee will continue expanding collaborative programming, introducing fresh leadership topics, and strengthening pathways for the chapter community. The committee remains energized and committed to empowering members and shaping future leaders in the transportation industry.



The committee also organized two bike tours: On October 4th, WTS-DC and COMTO-DC held a joint bike tour through Prince George's County, Maryland and On May 17th, WTS-DC, COMTO DC, APA-DC, and YPT-DC teamed up for a joint bike tour through Alexandria, VA, exploring the city's growing bike infrastructure.

Program Logistics Committee

The Program Logistics Committee 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) and Adriana Valentina Farias (George Mason University) as Committee Co-Chairs as well as Ellie McCurdy as Deputy Chair. The committee was supported by volunteers Erin Hill (HNTB), Kristi Clough (Mott MacDonald), Hoda Hallaji (George Mason University), and Safoura Safari (University of Maryland).

The committee provided logistical support for all events hosted by WTS-DC that required tickets in 2025. 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 2025 Events (excludes Mentoring Program events, Transportation YOU programs, and Board meetings)

Date	Event	Description	Format	Number of Registrants
3/3	Empowering Excellence: Building a Community of Support and Success	Open Event	In-person	62
3/21	Coffee Chat with Laura Mason, EVP of Capital Delivery at Amtrak	Members Only	In-person	28
5/1	Signature Strengths Workshop	Open Event	In-person	9
5/17	Joint WTS-DC / COMTO DC / YPT-DC / APA TPC-DC Alexandria Bike Tour	Joint Event	In-person	18
5/22	Coffee Chat with Davey Kim, SVP and Principal at WSP	Members Only	In-person	17
6/5	WTS-DC Membership Happy Hour	Members Only	In-person	44

Date	Event	Description	Format	Number of Registrants
6/27	Executive Women's Roundtable: Leading Through Change	Invitation Only	In-person	15
9/3	Annual VDOT Event - Engineering the Future: Smart, Sustainable, Resilient Transportation	Open Event	In-person	57
9/24	Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout with the WTS-DC Mentoring Committee	Open Event	In-person	21
10/4	Joint WTS-DC / COMTO DC Prince George's County Bike Tour	Joint Event	In-person	11
10/8	Cocktails and Conversation with WMATA GM and CEO	Open Event	In-person	120
10/21	Shailen Bhatt's Career Journey	Open Event	In-person	42
11/6	Executive Women's Roundtable: How to Advance Women	Invitation Only	In-person	33
12/2	WTS-DC 2025 Holiday Party	Open Event	In-person	413

Recognitions Committee

The Recognitions Committee responsibilities include to foster a culture of appreciation and excellence within the organization by developing a recognition program with an award selection criterion that is transparent, handling the solicitation and evaluation of nominations, and coordinating the presentation of the awards. The Committee also often seeks to do other events featuring previous award recipients.

The 2025 Recognitions Committee was led by Jamie Rosen (WMATA) as Chair and Edith Tapia (WSP) as Deputy Chair. The committee was supported by volunteers Dhvani Patel (DDOT) and Niloo Parvinashtiani (Iteris, Inc).

The Recognitions Committee is responsible for handling the Chapter's solicitation, nomination, evaluation, and certification of its annual awards. In 2025, the Recognitions Committee solicited nominations for six (6) award categories. The nomination and selection process maintained the previously established expedited timeline to allow for more holiday party planning time after the selection of the award recipients. The Committee surpassed its goal of at least 2 nominees in every category, with a total of 19 unique nominees and a total of 22 nominations. The Committee then organized a selection panel to review the nominees and select a recipient in each category. The Committee 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, order the awards, and address other party logistics. The recipients of all six awards attended the holiday party where they were presented with the awards. After the holiday party, the Committee prepared and submitted the forms to nominate all six DC recipients for the annual WTS-I Recognition awards.

Our 2025 recipients included:

- WTS-DC Member of the Year Award: Morgan Bassford, Co-Owner, Epstein Creative Group
- WTS-DC Woman of the Year Award: Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
- WTS-DC Honorable Ray LaHood Award: Randy Clarke, GM and CEO of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- WTS-DC Employer of the Year Award: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- WTS-DC Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award: Oluseyi Olugbenle, Acting Director of Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- WTS-DC Innovative Transportation Solutions Award: FAA’s Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations, led by Guidehouse

At the 2026 WTS International Annual Conference in LA, Randy Clarke was named the Honorable Ray LaHood Award recipient by WTS International.

The committee also achieved its goal to have additional engagement with previous award recipients by hosting a coffee chat with Laura Mason, 2024 WTS-DC Woman of the Year.



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 2025, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee was chaired by Alanna McKeeman (Foursquare ITP). Deepika Fields (RS&H) served as Deputy Chair, Bethel Kefyalew (DRPT), Katie Masetti (Mead & Hunt), Regis Stinson (WSP USA), and Sarah Morgan (CPCS) supported the committee as volunteers.

The Scholarship and Fundraising Committee had another great year. We awarded $30,000 in named scholarships – a record! – from eleven generous sponsor organizations. After a highly competitive application review process, the selection panel selected to award scholarships totaling $37,000 to a group of fourteen deserving women. At the WTS-DC 2025 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 almost $1,000 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 2025 scholarship recipients much success as they complete their education

and embark on what we are confident will be impactful careers in the transportation industry.

Kelly Lige, who was awarded a 2025 WTS-DC $3,000 undergraduate student scholarship, was selected from an extremely competitive field to receive the WTS-I Foundation's Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship in the amount of $5,000. Additionally, Lidya Woldeyesus, who was awarded a 2025 WTS-DC $500 and WSP $2,500 scholarship in the Graduate student category was selected as recipient of the WTS-I Strategic Partner Scholarship sponsored by WSP.



Transportation YOU Committee

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.

The Transportation YOU committee was led by Melanie Flores (Assedo Consulting) as Chair. Brandon Buckner (FHWA and Cardozo High School Liaison), Kyla D'Sa (Kimley-Horn and Cardozo High School Liaison), Polly Hanson (APTA and McKinley Tech High School / Girl Scout Liaison), Circe Torrullas (Jacobs and Boy / Girl Scouts Liaison), Neha Ramanna (Carollo Engineers and Dunbar HS liaison), Jessica Allen (HDR and goDCgo Transportation All Stars Program liaison / Dunbar HS liaison), Morgan Berger (American Geotechnical & Environmental Services, Inc. and McKinley Tech HS / Girl Scouts liaison), Xiaoyu "Skye" Guo (DDOT), Tammy Jones (TMaree Solutions), Victoria Karolenko (FRA), Sarah Morgan (CPCS) and Heather Haney (WMATA) provided invaluable support as committee volunteers.

The WTS DC Transportation (TYOU) Committee launched 2025 with energy, creativity, and a strong commitment to inspiring the next generation of transportation professionals. Through hands-on interactive learning opportunities and engaging discussions, students in Washington D.C. have explored engineering concepts, career paths, and real-world transportation systems.

Engineering Week at Dunbar High School

In February, TYOU partnered with American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) to bring an exciting Engineering Week event at Dunbar High School's NAF Academy of Engineering. During the 10th grade Principles of Engineering class, students learned about bridge designs in the DMV region, followed by an interactive engineering challenge. The classroom split into five teams, each led by a student 'Project Manager,' to build model bridges using toothpicks and marshmallows. Each material had a cost assigned, giving students insight into the importance of budget management and design efficiency. Bridges were judged based on cost and strength, and after the initial test, teams got a chance to improve their designs - and by the second round, every team built a stronger bridge without raising costs!

Navigating Your Career Journey Session at Cardozo High School

In March, TYOU led an interactive session with students at Cardozo High School focused on career journeys, professional etiquette, and building transferable skills. Students discussed how to stay flexible and resilient in changing environments and learned about 'guardrails' - the official and unofficial rules of professional spaces. The session emphasized how to navigate professional environments while showing up authentically and was well received by both students and teachers.

Streetcar Field Trip with McKinley Tech High School

In March, TYOU partnered with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to host a field trip at the DC Streetcar Car Barn Training Center for students from McKinley Technology High School. The visit involved a deep dive into DC's electric streetcar system - from historic roots to present-day operations. RATP DEV staff led a tour of the LEED Gold-certified facility, walking students through how streetcars are maintained, operated, and controlled. At the end of the field trip, students expressed interest in electrical engineering and enjoyed learning about how sustainable transit systems shape our communities.

Sustainable Transportation Presentation at goDCgo Transportation All Stars Program

In March, TYOU had the incredible opportunity to connect with students part of DDOT goDCdo Transportation All Stars program through a virtual presentation focused on sustainable transportation careers. During the presentation, students learned about the diversity of the transportation industry with careers related to engineering, policy, planning, communications, and operations at various education and experience levels.

TYOU also shared valuable WTS scholarships and professional development opportunities, such as the WTS Capital Summit, designed for students to explore transportation careers.

Exploring Career Paths with National Capital Region Girl Scouts

In October, the WTS DC Chapter's Transportation YOU (TYOU) Committee, in partnership with the Professional Development Committee, hosted an Exploring Career Paths with Women in Transportation Seminar for Girl Scouts from the National Capital Region. The event took place at the American Public Transportation

Association headquarters in downtown Washington, DC. Ten third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Girl Scouts participated in a hands-on experience designed to introduce them to careers across the transportation industry. Volunteers from the WTS DC Chapter led interactive stations using a 'Transportation Passport' for Girl Scouts to rotate through activities such as aviation bingo, transit technology logo matching, bus route planning, rail infrastructure building, transportation financing, and marketing campaign design. Each station demonstrated how different careers contribute to keeping transportation systems running safely and efficiently. The event concluded with each Girl Scout receiving a commemorative badge, WMATA-themed swag, and a certificate of completion. This inaugural collaboration between the WTS DC Chapter and the National Capital Region Girl Scouts was a great success, and TYOU looks forward to growing this partnership in the future.

Events Throughout the Year

Empowering Excellence: Building a Community of Support and Success

On March 3rd, transportation professionals and community members gathered for WTS-DC's first event of the 2025: "Empowering Excellence: Building a Community of Support and Success". This dynamic program, consisting of a panel discussion, followed by panel-led small group discussions, brought together a powerhouse panel of local women leaders in the transportation industry to share their career journeys, personal insights, and lessons they learned that propelled their professional careers.

Moderated by Jennifer Mitchell, Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning with Amtrak, the panel featured Yvonne Thelwell, PE, Deputy Chief Engineer with DDOT; Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer with Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; Shelley Johnson, Co-Owner and Director of Business Development, and Account Director with Epstein Creative Group; and Allison Cullin, Principal with Convey Public Policy.

Each speaker offered a unique perspective shaped by years of experience and the resilience required to thrive in a historically male-dominated field. Attendees were treated to candid stories of overcoming obstacles and cultivating mentorship, while creating a path for greater inclusivity in the transportation industry.

Following the panel, the conversation deepened through facilitated roundtable discussions, where attendees were encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences. These intimate discussions allowed participants to reflect on common challenges, celebrate shared successes, and build new professional and personal connections.

This sold-out event was an extraordinary opportunity to create a launching point for ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and mutual support. When so many professionals are looking for greater depth and connection, this was a time where those bonds could form. It served as a powerful reminder that when we come together to share, listen, and lift each other up,

Coffee Chat with Laura Mason, EVP of Capital Delivery at Amtrak

On the early morning of March 21st, 2025, the coffee chat with Laura Mason, WTS-DC Woman of the Year, took place in the board room of Amtrak's corporate headquarters in Washington, DC. The WTS-DC chapter president, Sophie Guiny, moderated the lively and inspirational conversation.



Laura Mason is Executive Vice President (EVP), Capital Delivery, serving in this role since January 2022. Laura leads an organization focused on developing and executing all non-recurring and non-Information Technology capital projects, which together allow Amtrak to deliver high-quality service to its customers. Focus areas include fleet acquisitions and facility expansions and upgrades, major stations programs, infrastructure projects — including the Gateway Program — and major third-party projects. With over $50 billion of critical infrastructure, facility and fleet investments in planning and development, Laura leads Amtrak’s efforts to turn its ambitious plans into reality.

Through the questions asked during the coffee chat, Laura reminisced about her early years in the transportation industry and how she went from working as a

contractor and then transitioning to the asset owner side. She enjoys her current role and values her past experiences as a woman in transportation to lead others and notes that having worked with customers during difficult times has been very humbling and motivating.

Some key takeaways and insights from Laura include:

- Diverse teams, with members of different backgrounds and experiences, deliver better outcomes thanks to a wide variety of ideas.
- When trusted with more responsibility by leaders, believe that you are capable of that and more
- Speaking the same language isn't the same as meaning the same thing, so practice. Rephrase things back to clarify and ask questions when things don't make sense
- Understand your audience's motivation when dealing with customers, clients, contractors and owners. Do your research!
- Public recognition of what you'd like to see more will bring more of it.
- Leaders don't get easy jobs but leading them entails providing them with information and context necessary to deliver potential desirable outcomes.
- Practice and choose how to respond to industry's stereotypes against women.

Laura's hobbies are downhill skiing and traveling, but most recently she has been enjoying yoga and boxing. Traveling abroad has given her a different perspective on life, which has served her well with her career in the transportation industry.

WTS-DC thanks Amtrak for their hospitality and the opportunity to spend some time with Laura Mason in such an intimate setting.

Signature Strengths Workshop

On May 1, the WTS-DC Chapter's Professional Development Committee hosted the Signature Strengths Workshop, an engaging session designed to help participants uncover and harness their unique talents through the CliftonStrengths assessment.

Facilitated by Lindsey Robertson Lentz, Senior Principal at Evans Consulting, the workshop guided attendees through a journey of self-discovery and professional

growth. Participants began by completing the Gallup CliftonStrengths assessment—a tool that identifies an individual's strengths from 34 distinct themes.

The session featured a comprehensive overview of the CliftonStrengths framework, helping participants understand the science behind their results and how these strengths influence performance, communication, and collaboration. Through interactive activities, attendees explored how to apply their strengths in personal and professional settings, enhancing their leadership skills and fostering more effective teamwork.

One of the workshop's highlights was the collaborative exercises, which encouraged participants to recognize and appreciate the diverse strengths of others. These activities not only deepened individual insights but also promoted a culture of mutual respect and synergy—core values of the WTS-DC community.

Joint WTS-DC, COMTO DC, APA-DC, and YPT-DC Alexandria Bike Tour

On May 17th, WTS-DC, COMTO DC, APA-DC, and YPT-DC teamed up for a joint bike tour through Alexandria, VA, exploring the city's growing bike infrastructure. Led by Bryan Hayes from the City of Alexandria, the ride highlighted recent improvements, upcoming plans, and the city's focus on safer, more accessible biking.



Starting at Potomac Yard Metro, the group rode through Old Town, across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and along the scenic Mount Vernon Trail. Bryan pointed out new facilities like the contraflow bike lane on Glendale Avenue and shared how public feedback has shaped the city's plans—from improved signage to etiquette reminders along the trail.

Along the way, the group passed historic landmarks and paused to discuss the intersection of transportation,

community, and equity. The event was a chance to learn, connect, and see infrastructure in action—on two wheels.

Coffee Chat with Davey Kim, SVP and Principal at WSP

On May 22nd, WTS-DC hosted a coffee chat with Davey Kim, former Secretary of Transportation for California and SVP and Principal for National Transportation Policy and Multimodal Strategy at WSP. In an open and inspiring conversation, Davey reflected on his career journey, the importance of connections, and the power of representation.



He shared how his appointment as California's Transportation Secretary came not from a traditional application, but through long-standing relationships and a reputation built over time. "Every major role I've had came through connections," he noted, underscoring the importance of cultivating meaningful professional networks.

Davey also introduced the origins of AALM—Asian American Leadership and Mobility—a growing initiative aimed at creating space for Asian American professionals in transportation to support one another, share stories, and grow into leadership roles. Representation, he emphasized, isn't just about being seen; it's about building pathways for others to rise.

Candid and thoughtful, Davey spoke honestly about the challenges of leadership and the importance of staying grounded. WTS-DC thanks him for his time, wisdom, and commitment to shaping a more inclusive future for our industry.

WTS-DC Membership Happy Hour

Under clear skies on a downtown DC rooftop, members of Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) – DC gathered for a relaxed and memorable summer happy hour. With incredible views of the city, the event offered a refreshing change of pace, focusing on strengthening relationships within the organization. Thanks to Thompson and Coburn and our Past President, Katie Kraft, for hosting this June 5th Membership Recognition event.

This gathering was all about the people who make WTS-DC thrive. Members enjoyed a casual, low-key atmosphere that encouraged meaningful conversations, reconnections with familiar faces, and the chance to welcome new members into the fold. The evening earned rave reviews—not just for the company, but for the food, which was a standout hit. Friendly Sugar Rim staff helped create a welcoming environment, making it easy for attendees to unwind and engage.

Thank you to the Program Logistics committee, Communications committee, and the Executive Board for helping facilitate such a successful event.

Executive Women's Roundtable: Leading Through Change

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.

Annual VDOT Event - Engineering the Future: Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Transportation

On Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025, WTS-DC held the WTS-DC and VDOT Annual event, Engineering the Future: Smart, Sustainable, Resilient Transportation. Attendees learned about the future of transportation in Northern Virginia from VDOT's Management Team and Leaders:

- Michelle Shropshire, PE, DBIA, Megaprojects Director
- Dipali Parel, PE, Senior Engineer Structure and Bridge
- Lauren Mollerup, PE, Assistant District Administrator/District Maintenance Engineer
- Amy McElwain, Innovation Technology Program Manager at VDOT Office of Strategic Innovations
- Mark Gibney, PE, PMP, DBIA, NOVA District Design-Build Section Manager



The meeting was kicked off by opening remarks from Nick Roper, PE, Deputy District Engineer. He welcomed attendees and introduced the VDOT panelists. Michelle Shropshire, PE, DBIA presented on the Northern Virginia Regional Express Lanes Network and the 495 Southside Express Lanes Study. Mark Gibney, PE, PMP, DBIA

presented on the first Progressive Design-Build project in Virginia, the I-95 Exit 160 Interchange at Route 123 (Gordon Boulevard). This project provides safety and operational improvements at the interchange in Prince William County, Virginia. Lauren Mollerup, PE, manages maintenance and operations for the VDOT Northern Virginia District. VDOT maintenance includes roadways and bridges, ancillary structures, guardrails, potholes, sweeping, mowing, litter pick-up, signs, sound walls, equipment, and emergency response. Dipali Patel, PE discussed how VDOT brings innovation to bridge projects with advanced inspection technology through the use of drones. Amy McElwain discussed the new GoMyWayVA app, an app that rewards your commute in and around Northern Virginia using real-time traffic data and user travel patterns. GoMyWayVA delivers commute options for faster, cheaper or greener travel plus perks you can redeem for gift cards and local deals.

Following each panelists' presentation was an extensive Q&A discussion led by Cerasela Cristei, PhD, PE, PMP, PTOE. Lauren Mollerup, PE stated that family, specifically her dad, influenced her career in transportation through his work on the Springfield interchange and 495 Express Lanes. Amy McElwain grew up in Taiwan and took her college exam with an interest in solving problems, eventually leading her into the transportation management program. Michelle Shropshire, PE, DBIA was asked what her greatest challenge was thus far in her transportation career. Michelle stated that there is a need to keep up with the evolving technology in the industry and that being a female in transportation, specifically construction, comes with a unique set of challenges. Dipali Patel, PE noted that bridge rehab projects require teamwork and extensive public meetings. With lessons learned, Mark Gibney, PE, PMP, DBIA discussed the importance of making time for the people you care for and setting boundaries as time goes quickly. The session concluded with a group photo of the panelists and attendees. Thank you to VDOT and ATCS for their in-kind sponsorship of this event!

Managing Stress to Avoid Burnout - WTS-DC Mentoring Program

On September 24th, the WTS-DC Chapter with the WTS-DC Mentoring Program hosted an event with Mehgan Slipka, Leadership & Executive Coach, for an engaging workshop designed to help you harness your personal energy to manage stress and maintain balance. This workshop offered tools to build energy awareness, identify stressors, and apply strategies for balance and resilience in your work. Through an exploration of six key energy domains, attendees gained insights into unique

energetic presence, identified personal stressors, and developed strategies to stay grounded and resilient. Attendees walked away with practical tools to shift energy and tools on how to apply these concepts in professional life.

WTS-DC & COMTO DC Fall Bike Tour in Prince George's County, MD

On October 4th, WTS-DC and COMTO-DC held a joint bike tour through Prince George's County, Maryland. The group explored key segments of the Northeast Branch Trail—one of the earliest parts of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System—and learned about its role in connecting communities along the river. Along the route, we visited two notable historic landmarks: the College Park Airport and the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail, both important pieces of the region's transportation history. We were joined by:

- Meg Young, Deputy Director of Active Transportation and Micromobility, Office of Environment and Sustainable Transportation, MDOT
- Erv Beckett, Chief, Highway & Bridge Design Division, Prince George's County DPW&T
- Rene Lord-Attivor, Chief Engineer, Prince George's County DPIE
- Bob Patton, Trail Development Program Manager, Prince George's County Parks

who shared updates on trail projects, maintenance efforts, and plans to improve regional access and connectivity.



Hearing directly from these officials gave the group a clearer understanding of the ongoing work behind the county's trail network, including improvements along the Northeast Branch and its connections to the Anacostia River Trail and other nearby routes. Their insights were truly appreciated, and we thank each of them for taking the time to join the ride. A big thank-you also goes to Jeff Parker for organizing the tour and bringing everyone together for a great day on the trails.

Conversation and Cocktails with WMATA GM/CEO Randy Clarke

On October 8th, members and friends of WTS-DC gathered together at Hotel Monaco in DC 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 fourth 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 and customer satisfaction is at its peak. Thanks to Mr. Clarke's remarks and a diverse guest list, the evening offered the ideal combination of social interaction and professional connection.

Shailen Bhatt's Career Journey

On October 22nd, 2025, WTS-DC 2024 Honorable Ray LaHood Awardee, former Federal Highway Administrator and current US Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at AtkinsRealis, Shailen Bhatt, shared his career journey and lessons learned along the way. From being appointed in his last position, differences in working in the public sector and now working for a private company, and where transportation technology is headed, Shailen shared advice on leadership and mentorship with event attendees.



Maryland Department of Transportation Acting Secretary Samantha J. Biddle moderated the conversation. Samantha J. Biddle started serving as Acting Transportation Secretary in August 2025. Previously she served as Deputy Transportation Secretary since 2023. Acting Secretary Biddle

has spent nearly two decades in the transportation industry, serving in both the public and private sector. She currently leads the successful management of the Maryland Department of Transportation's Secretary's Office and six transportation modes spanning transit, highways, airport, port, tolling and motor vehicle services. Acting Secretary Biddle also guides the Department in enhancing safety, prioritizing reliable and sustainable travel across the state's extensive transportation system and driving Maryland's economy. Acting Secretary Biddle is a proud supporter of WTS; she is a Director-at-Large for the Baltimore Chapter, serves as a mentor in their Young Professionals Program and was named WTS Baltimore's Woman of the Year in 2024.

WTS-DC Girl Scouts Event: Exploring Career Paths

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, the WTS DC Chapter's Transportation YOU committee, in collaboration with the Professional Development Committee, hosted the Exploring Career Paths with Women in Transportation seminar for Girl Scouts from the National Capital Region. The event took place at the American Public Transportation Association headquarters, at 1300 I Street NW, Washington, DC.



Ten enthusiastic third, fourth, and fifth grade Girl Scouts—some with WTS DC Chapter moms—participated in a series of engaging activities designed to introduce them to careers in the transportation industry. Volunteers Victoria Karolenko, Lindsey Robertson Lentz, Brandon Buckner, Jessica Allen, Roxanne Feige, and Polly Hanson led interactive stations representing various transportation modes and professions. Each scout received a "Transportation Passport" upon arrival and rotated through stations that included aviation bingo, transit technology logo matching, bus route planning, rail infrastructure building, transportation financing, and marketing campaign design. Scouts earned stamps or stickers at each station and learned about the diverse roles that keep our transportation systems moving. At the conclusion of the event, each Girl Scout received a specially designed badge to recognize the knowledge they gained and the hands-on work they completed throughout the session.

In addition, participants took home WMATA-themed swag and a certificate of completion to commemorate their experience. This inaugural collaboration between

the WTS DC Chapter and the Girl Scouts was a resounding success, and we're excited about the potential to make this an annual tradition.

Executive Women's Roundtable: How to Advance Women



On November 6, WTS-DC hosted an in-person Executive Women's Roundtable (EWR) to discuss the topic, "How to Advance Women." The transportation industry is still predominantly dominated by men, especially in leadership roles at many organizations. As women who have reached an executive level, the experiences of the attendees exemplify what it takes for women to build their careers and share how they were able to promote themselves to succeed in this industry. This session provided the attendees the opportunity to interact with one another, reflect on their career journeys, and discuss ways to continue to share knowledge and work together to advance the next generation of women in transportation.

There were four rounds of questions and participants were placed in groups of 5-6 people for 15 minutes at a time to discuss a given question. Groups were shuffled each round to allow attendees to meet new people and hear differing experiences and views. The questions posed in the four rounds were:

- What are some of the less-discussed, subtle barriers you feel might be impacting women from reaching the highest levels of leadership, and what's a small, tangible step we can take to dismantle one of them?
- What specific leadership competencies might be underappreciated or overlooked when it comes to advancing women in transportation? How can we highlight and value those skills?
- What's one double-standard you've personally witnessed or experienced, and what was your strategy for navigating or challenging it?
- Think about the young women you mentor or work with. What's the single most pressing concern they've shared with you about their career path? What

can we do to make sure that the next generation can avoid some of the hurdles you have had to face?

The attendees included women from the public and private sectors, and from non-profits/associations. Organizations ranged from academic organizations to construction contractors which allowed for a broad spectrum of experiences and an opportunity to build expansive camaraderie.

This was the second time the EWR used this type of format after feedback indicated participants enjoyed the opportunity to discuss important and timely topics.

WTS-DC thanks Emily Feenstra and Michelin for hosting us in their wonderful space!

Annual Holiday Party

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party was held at the National Press Club in DC on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025. With over 400 tickets sold, the Chapter welcomed many members, friends, and guests from throughout the transportation industry.

The evening began with opening remarks from WTS-DC Chapter President Sophie Guiny, who recognized the Chapter's corporate sponsors, volunteer board members, and advisors whose leadership and support made the event possible. She also recognized the event sponsors, whose contributions totalled $8,000. Special acknowledgement was given to honored guests including WTS International Board Chair Bridgette Beato, WTS International CEO and Executive Director Malika Reed Wilkins, WTS Foundation Board Vice Chair Odessa Phillip, and Maryland Acting Transportation Secretary Samantha Biddle.

Paul Comfort, Executive Director of the North American Transit Alliance, was then welcomed to the stage to present this year's 13 scholarship award winners. Throughout the evening, guests contributed toward the Scholarship Tree, with additional excitement generated by an executive coaching giveaway for donors made possible through the generous support of Jamie Rennert, Founder and Principal of Mabledon Place Coaching and Consulting, LLC, a woman-owned career coaching and leadership consulting firm. The night concluded by raising $1150 for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. This support, made possible by the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee, ensures WTS-DC can continue empowering women

through education and advancing the next generation of female transportation leaders.

Following the scholarship presentation, WTS International CEO and Executive Director Malika Reed Wilkins was welcomed to the stage to present the Chapter's recognition awards.

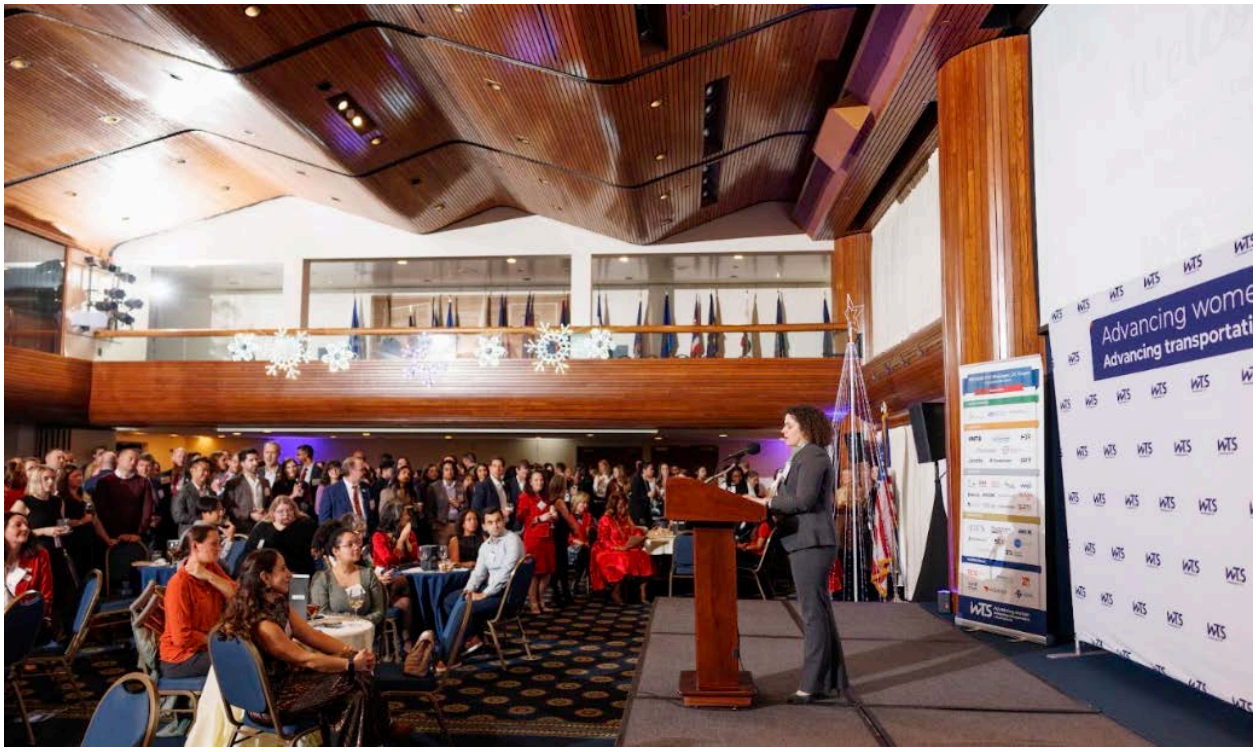
- WTS-DC Member of the Year Award: Morgan Bassford, Co-Owner, Epstein Creative Group
- WTS-DC Woman of the Year Award: Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
- WTS-DC Honorable Ray LaHood Award: Randy Clarke, GM and CEO of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- WTS-DC Employer of the Year Award: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- WTS-DC Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award: Oluseyi Olugbenle, Acting Director of Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- WTS-DC Innovative Transportation Solutions Award: FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations, led by Guidehouse

These awardees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the transportation industry, their advancement of women and diversity in the profession, and their continued support of WTS-DC. Overall, the evening brought together the region's transportation community to celebrate another year of advancing women in transportation. It could not have been made possible without the dedication and hard work of the WTS-DC Board Members and volunteers.

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. 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. 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.



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 2nd, 2025.

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 2025, WTS-DC honored **Oluseyi Olugbenle**, Prince George's County Acting Director in the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), with the Chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. Mrs. Oluseyi Olugbenle has oversight of over 450 employees spanning 6 offices. Oluseyi oversees and manages all County transit services including fixed-route, paratransit, micro-transit, shared mobility, planning, design and construction, fleet and facilities, as well as taxi operations. She also has oversight of the agency's Legislative and Policy team, Vision Zero Program, Human Resources Division, as well as other critical functions.

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

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

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

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

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

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 **FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations Project**, as the Chapter's 2025 recipient of the Innovative Transportation Solution Award. The FAA's Assessing Fatigue Risk in Air Traffic Operations project, led by Guidehouse, exemplifies innovative leadership in advancing aviation safety and workforce well-being. Tasked with addressing the complex challenge of air traffic controller fatigue, the team developed and implemented a comprehensive scientific report that identified 58 actionable opportunities that are now being implemented

nationwide. These opportunities include exploring new staffing models, implementing new operational practices, providing education and resources, recommending scheduling practice refinements, and equipping leaders with fatigue research and tools to make data-informed decisions.

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

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 **Randy Clarke**, WMATA GM and CEO, as WTS-DC's 2025 Honorable Ray LaHood Awardee. Randy Clarke, General Manager & CEO of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro), is a visionary leader dedicated to transforming America's Metro System. A daily customer, Clarke has been relentless in continuous improvements and delivering safe, frequent, and reliable service, which has led to consecutive years in ridership growth and recovery and APTA's 2025 designation of Transit Agency of the Year. He is focused on being fiscally responsible while working with the WMATA Board to deliver a balanced budget and reduce management costs. The Strategic Transformation Plan, Metro's guiding priorities, focuses on making Metro a world-class system today and for future generations.

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



Member of the Year 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 **Morgan Lyons**, Senior Communications Project Manager Epstein Creative Group, as WTS-DC's 2025 Member of the Year. Morgan Bassford is a strategic communications professional passionate about advancing public engagement in transportation, energy, and sustainability initiatives. As Senior Communications Project Manager at Epstein Creative Group, she leads

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

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

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 **Kate Mattice**, Executive Director for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, as the Chapter's 2025 Woman of the Year. Driven by a passion for public service, Kate Mattice has spent more than 30 years shaping policies that have improved quality of life in our region and across the country. From data analyst to policy director to deputy associate administrator to executive director, Kate's career has spanned the private sector, Capitol Hill, the Federal Transit Administration, and currently the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. Her dedication to using

storytelling to support policy changes while building strong organizations has yielded transformational outcomes. In leadership roles at FTA and now at NVTC, Kate has built teams that have launched innovative programs, provided instrumental guidance to policymakers, and fought for long-term sustainable funding for public transit.

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

Scholarship Awards

Undergraduate Recipients 2025



Boeing Corporation & WTS-DC Scholarship ($3,000)
Nour Alashwal

Nour Alashwal is pursuing a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from George Mason University. She is actively involved in the Engineering and Computing Student Council, where she helps foster collaboration between students and faculty. Her leadership, academic dedication, and commitment to sustainable infrastructure reflect her goal of designing transportation systems that serve communities in need and create lasting impact.



WTS-DC Scholarship ($3,000)
Kelly Lige

Kelly Lige is pursuing a Bachelors in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Howard University. Through her ongoing internship at WSP USA, she has contributed to major infrastructure projects in Los Angeles and San Diego, applying her skills in drainage design and sustainable transit planning. As President of the Engineering Ambassadors, she leads K–12 outreach to inspire the next generation of equity-driven engineers.



North American Transit Alliance (NATA) Scholarship ($2,500)
Sophia Baumann

Sophia Baumann is pursuing a BSE in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a concentration in Transportation Engineering from Howard University. Sophia is also active in service and leadership, having volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and participated in student organizations. She has completed multiple internships, including with CO Architects and Clark Construction in Los Angeles, where she gained hands-on experience in construction management, submittals, and interdisciplinary coordination.



Nicole Nason Scholarship ($2,500)
Loor Elbedour

Loor Elbedour is pursuing a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Howard University. She is an outreach intern with the Society of Women Engineers, where she leads STEM workshops for K–12 girls, and is actively involved in team-based design projects and campus leadership. With plans to pursue a master's in project management, she aims to lead complex transportation projects that improve mobility both in the U.S. and in under-resourced regions like Syria.



WTS-DC Scholarship ($2,500)
Eden Lee

Eden Lee is pursuing a Bachelors in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. She is Vice President of the UMD International Student Council and has led orientation for international students, and is also a volunteer engineering instructor. She has worked as a research assistant in the university's concrete laboratory as well and is pursuing additional transportation courses above and beyond the requirements for her degree.

Graduate Recipients 2025



Transdev & WTS-DC Scholarship ($3,000)
Keunmin Cho

Keunmin Cho is pursuing a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. A committed leader and mentor, she has held multiple student leadership roles and organized outreach programs to introduce high school students and female graduate students to transportation engineering. She has presented research at national conferences, including the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting. Her long-term goal is to remain in academia as a professor and

researcher, advancing both equitable transportation systems and women's leadership in engineering.



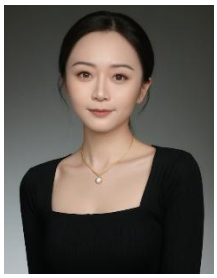
WSP & WTS-DC Scholarship ($3,000)
Lidya Woldeyesus

Lidya Woldeyesus is pursuing a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Georgetown University. As a first-generation Eritrean-American and graduate student, her work is rooted in a deep personal understanding of how mobility systems impact access to opportunity. Through her roles at WSP and Georgetown's Global Cities Initiative, she has contributed to projects addressing micromobility, pedestrian safety, and equitable campus development in Washington, D.C. She aspires to lead a planning practice centered on social and spatial justice, working across both U.S. and Sub-Saharan African contexts to build more resilient, inclusive transportation systems.



Anja Graves Memorial Scholarship ($2,500)
Sophie Boumsidia

Sophie Boumsidia is pursuing a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Georgetown University. With a background in political science and experience as a transportation and housing policy advisor to U.S. Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester, she brings a unique blend of policy expertise and planning insight to her work. Her research and leadership at Georgetown include organizing student-led initiatives, mentoring peers, and exploring the intersection of institutional development and transportation investment. She is passionate about advancing gender equity in the field and envisions a career in municipal planning that bridges global best practices with local impact.



Dewberry Scholarship ($2,500)
Niping Duan

Niping Duan is pursuing a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Maryland. Originally from Yunnan Province, China, her early experiences witnessing how roads shaped regional opportunity inspired her commitment to equitable and community-centered planning. As a Research Assistant at the Build America Center, she supports federally funded projects with local and tribal governments, translating technical research into actionable strategies. Her work bridges data science and public value, with a particular emphasis on elevating women's experiences in transportation systems and leadership.



HDR Scholarship ($2,500)
Homa Haghighi

Homa Haghighi is pursuing a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Structural Engineering from George Mason University. Through two internships with the FHWA Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, she contributed to large-scale testing of construction materials and techniques, and co-authored the Structural Design with Ultra-High-Performance Concrete report that was later incorporated into AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design specifications. She also teaches multiple undergraduate courses (Statics, Mechanics of Materials, Structural Steel and Reinforced Concrete Design), and mentors junior researchers.



Burns Engineering Scholarship ($2,500)
Fatemeh Janatabadi

Fatemeh Janatabadi is pursuing a Ph.D. in Earth System and Geoinformation Sciences from George Mason University. She is the author of 17 research publications and her work focuses on accessibility, resiliency, and equity Ms. Janatabadi has advanced transportation accessibility analysis by introducing a four-step analytical framework that allows urban planners to determine the most appropriate interventions that promote equality and social justice. She also served as a mentor for six high school students through the Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program, helping them learn how to use spatial data, transportation models, and GIS tools.



Jacobs Scholarship ($2,500)
Faeze Momeni Rad

Faeze Momeni Rad is pursuing a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering from the University of Maryland. Her work evaluates AI-enabled crosswalk technologies to improve mid-block safety and inform data-driven infrastructure decisions. She has also taught transportation engineering courses, mentored students through outreach programs, and served as a reviewer for leading transportation journals. Committed to bridging research and practice, she aims to lead efforts that prioritize vulnerable road users and promote equity in intelligent transportation systems.



Boeing Corporation Scholarship ($2,500)
Xiaorong Shan

Xiaorong Shan is pursuing a Ph.D. in Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering from George Mason University. Her NIH-funded research develops high-resolution exposure models to assess how automobile emissions contribute to diseases such as dementia and, in future work, breast cancer. She has published multiple peer-reviewed articles, presented at major international conferences, and served in leadership roles supporting women in STEM. Her long-term goal is to lead a research program that integrates transportation, environmental justice, and health equity to inform policy and protect vulnerable communities.



Kimley-Horn Scholarship ($2,500)
Huan Zhou

Huan Zhou is pursuing a Ph.D. concentrating in AI in Urban Infrastructure/Project Management from the University of Maryland. Her work includes developing AI models to assess pedestrian safety and pavement conditions using street-view imagery, with findings presented at the TRB Annual Meeting and City+ at the University of Oxford. She has contributed to federally funded transportation projects through the Build America Center, supporting local governments in securing over $6 million in grant funding. With a strong publication record and a commitment to mentorship and inclusive leadership, she aims to develop data-driven tools that support safer, more sustainable, and more equitable transportation systems.

Other Chapter Activities

WTS International Annual Conference

The 2025 WTS International Annual Conference made history as transportation professionals gathered in Toronto for the organization's first conference held outside the United States. Under the theme "The WTS Mosaic: Mobility + Momentum," over 1,000 professionals convened at the Westin Harbour Castle from May 7-9 to discuss critical work in advancing mobility, improving transportation access, and building momentum for the future of the industry.

The WTS-DC Chapter made a remarkable showing at this year's conference, with nearly 20 members in attendance representing our region's transportation leadership. Our chapter's impact was significant, with several members serving as panelists and speakers during key sessions throughout the event. The conference culminated in a prestigious recognition for our chapter at the Scholarships and Awards Gala, where WTS-DC was honored as a Gold Level chapter, highlighting our commitment to advancing women in transportation and our chapter's accomplishments over the past year. This year, WTS-DC continued its tradition of sending chapter members to the conference by sending four members: Morgan Bassford, Circe Torruellas, Audra Bandy, and Melanie Flores. What follows are their key observations, takeaways, and highlights from the Annual Conference.



WTS International Chapter Leadership Training

In November 2025, WTS-I held its Annual Leadership Training virtually with WTS-DC Chapter members May ElKhattab and Regis Stinson attending the training. The Annual Chapter Leadership Training 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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