



## Transportation Mini-Series

September 24, 2026

### Event Information:

#### Topics:

- » ConneCTed Conversations: Connecting Transportation Professionals Across New England
- » ConneCTing through Innovative Project Solutions
- » ConneCTing through the Industry
- » ConneCTing with our State and Municipal Partners
- » ConneCTing with our Community through Hands-On Demonstrations
- » ConneCTing with Regional Leadership: Shaping the Future of Transportation

#### Date & Time:

Thursday, September 24, 2026

8:00 am - 5:30 pm

#### Location:

Double Tree Hilton Hotel  
42 Century Drive  
Bristol, Connecticut 06010



### Event Moderator:

Kristen Anderson Levesque

CTDOT, WTS CT Co-Chair Events Committee

## Track 2 – ConneCTing through the Industry

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### Session II

#### What Got Us Here Will Not Get Us There:

#### *Future Strategies for Women's Workplace Success*

Historically, women have faced numerous barriers to workforce advancement. While significant progress has been made, with more women reaching upper organizational levels, much work remains. Balancing personal commitments with careers continues to be a challenge, though there is now greater sharing of domestic responsibilities. Blending work and life continues to evolve and can present new barriers to advancement.

This panel will explore the new challenges women face and strategies to overcome them. Featuring women who have ascended to the highest levels in their fields, the discussion will cover their experiences, industry changes, and anticipated future challenges.

Key questions include: How do we make space for others and avoid being bystanders? How do we leverage failure to create success? How can we create a personal “board of directors” for our development and that of others in our network? How do we step out of our comfort zone and take risks that will set us and others on the path to success? Join us to learn what it takes to reach the next level in your career

#### **Presenters:**

- » Marilyn Zenko, Terracon, Moderator
- » Erika Lindeberg, Jacobs
- » Janet Keiser, Terracon
- » Tracy Fogarty, CTDOT



**Marilyn Zenko, F.SAME, Terracon Consultants, Inc.**

Marilyn Zenko is a Principal for Terracon Consultants, Inc. She has been with Terracon for over 13 years and is recognized for building strong client relationships, advancing strategic growth initiatives, and fostering collaboration across teams to achieve business success.

Through her leadership, she helps connect clients with solutions that support Terracon's commitment to technical excellence and outstanding services. Developing programs and mentoring staff are what fuels her passion in empowering others to grow in their respective fields.

A dedicated leader outside of Terracon, Marilyn is an active member and Fellow for the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) where she recently completed her term as President for the Philadelphia Post. Developing People is one of SAME's Strategic Goals which she embodies through her commitment to STEM outreach efforts serving on the national SAME scene as Chair-Elect for the K-12 STEM Outreach Community of Interest (COI) and Past Chair for the College Outreach COI. Her involvement with SAME reflects her passion for supporting engineering and environmental professionals while mentoring others and advancing industry collaboration.



**Erika Lindeberg, PE, PTOE, RSP1, Jacobs**

Erika Lindeberg is a Senior Project Manager and Traffic and Safety Engineering Group Lead at Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. Within the transportation group, Erika leads the Traffic Engineering and Highway Safety team for the northeast. She manages multiple highway safety engineering projects and is the lead traffic engineer on various projects including large scale major highway interchange reconstruction from New Jersey to Maine. She also performs quality assurance, business development and staff hiring and mentoring. Prior to joining Jacobs in 2022, she worked for 28 years at the Connecticut Department of Transportation including her last five years as Principal Engineer in the Division of Traffic Engineering.

She is a licensed Professional Engineer and has earned certifications as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) and Roadway Safety Professional (RSP1). Erika currently holds several positions in professional engineering organizations including secretary of the WTS Connecticut chapter; treasurer of the ITE Connecticut section; Chairperson of the Regulatory/Warning technical committee for the NCUTCD (National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices); and a member of the TRB (Transportation Research Board) Pedestrian committee. Erika also volunteers to assist a senior civil engineering design team at UCONN.



**Janet Keiser, PE, PTOE, Terracon**

Janet Keiser is a nationally recognized transportation and infrastructure professional with more than 30 years of experience leading complex, multi agency programs and shaping strategic direction for major engineering organizations. As Vice President and National Business Sector Director at Terracon, she oversees the firm's

Transportation & Infrastructure portfolio, guiding national strategy, growth initiatives, and operational performance across divisions and service lines. Known for her ability to unite multidisciplinary teams and drive enterprise level outcomes, Janet has built a career at the intersection of technical excellence, strategic leadership, and client partnership. She is a trusted advisor to state and regional transportation agencies and a champion for elevating organizational capability through mentorship, collaboration, and inclusive leadership practices. A long standing advocate for advancing women in transportation, Janet has held numerous leadership roles within WTS at both the chapter and international levels, contributing to programs, scholarships, and industry engagement efforts. Her commitment to developing future leaders extends across the organizations she serves, where she is recognized for cultivating talent and creating pathways for growth.

Janet is a licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer with degrees from The Cooper Union and Texas A&M University. Her contributions to the profession have been recognized through multiple awards, including ASCE Central New Jersey's Engineer of the Year.



### **Tracy Fogarty, PE, CTDOT**

Tracy Fogarty is a Principal Engineer at the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) in the Division of Traffic Engineering, where she leads the Traffic Project Design Unit. With over 30 years of service in Traffic Operations and Traffic Project Design, she strives to motivate staff and promote collaboration in improving safety, enhancing traffic operations, and

modernizing Connecticut's transportation infrastructure.

For a wide range of statewide construction projects, Tracy leads engineers in the design and review of traffic engineering elements including signs, pavement markings, traffic signals, temporary traffic control, and traffic analyses. She also guides staff responsible for administering the specific service sign program, sign asset management, and railway highway grade crossing improvement projects. She and her team develop state guidelines, detail sheets, and specifications that support consistency in the state and compliance with Federal requirements.

An advocate for on the job training and knowledge sharing, Tracy supports CTDOT's summer engineer and engineering intern programs. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Connecticut, serves on CTDOT committees, and participates in national professional organizations including the AASHTO Committee on Traffic Engineering and the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

## Track 2 – ConneCTing through the Industry

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### Session III

## Inspiring the Future of Transportation

This session will be a panel discussion about inspiring the next generation of transportation professionals. The session will include discussion of how current transportation professionals can help recruit the next generation.

#### Presenters:

- » Erika Lindeberg, CTDOT, WTS CT Secretary, Moderator
- » Katherine Yale, PE, CTDOT
- » Brenda Zhou, PE, PhD, Central Connecticut State University
- » Carrie Titolo, CTDOT
- » Sam Zagorski, Jacobs
- » Mary McCarthy, T2 Center



**Erika Lindeberg, PE, PTOE, RSP1, Jacobs**

Erika Lindeberg is a Senior Project Manager and Traffic and Safety Engineering Group Lead at Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. Within the transportation group, Erika leads the Traffic Engineering and Highway Safety team for the northeast. She manages multiple highway safety engineering projects and is the lead traffic engineer on various projects including large scale major highway interchange reconstruction from New Jersey to Maine. She also performs quality assurance, business development and staff hiring and mentoring. Prior to

joining Jacobs in 2022, she worked for 28 years at the Connecticut Department of Transportation including her last five years as Principal Engineer in the Division of Traffic Engineering.

She is a licensed Professional Engineer and has earned certifications as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) and Roadway Safety Professional (RSP1). Erika currently holds several positions in professional engineering organizations including secretary of the WTS Connecticut chapter; treasurer of the ITE Connecticut section; Chairperson of the Regulatory/Warning technical committee for the NCUTCD (National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices); and a member of the TRB (Transportation Research Board) Pedestrian committee. Erika also volunteers to assist a senior civil engineering design team at UCONN.



**Katherine Yale, PE, CTDOT**

Katherine serves as the chair of the Student Outreach and Scholarship committee for WTS Connecticut, where she works with other volunteers to plan programs to introduce K-12 students to careers in transportation as well as run the Chapter's annual scholarship program and organize fundraisers to raise funds for the scholarship program. Katherine works as a Project Engineer at CTDOT in the State Highway

Design Unit, leading a group of design engineers as they work on complex roadway design projects. Outside of work, Katherine enjoys baking, collecting seashells, and volunteering with 4-H.



**Brenda Zhou, PE, PhD, CCSU**

Dr. Bin (Brenda) Zhou is a Professor and the Civil Engineering Program Coordinator at Central Connecticut State University (Central) and a PE in the State of Connecticut. She earned her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009. Her area of expertise is transportation planning and engineering, with a focus on quantitative analysis and modeling techniques.

In recent years, Dr. Zhou has dedicated herself to STEM outreach initiatives that promote STEM education among youth. In collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), WTS Connecticut, and private industry partners, she implemented the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI), which was renamed the Connecticut Summer Transportation Institute (CSTI) in 2025. The outreach programs aim to strengthen high school students' STEM skills, increase their awareness of career opportunities in the transportation industry, and encourage them to pursue transportation-related academic pathways. She has also contributed to other similar projects and serves as a faculty advisor for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student clubs at Central.

In 2018, Dr. Zhou initiated community-engaged capstone projects in Central's Civil Engineering Program through the design, construction, and donation of timber pedestrian bridges to local communities. To date, these student-led projects have resulted in the successful completion of eight timber bridges, providing students with valuable experiential learning opportunities while strengthening partnerships between Central and surrounding communities.



### **Carrie Titolo, CTDOT**

Carrie is a Special Advisor to the Commissioner for Strategic Partnerships and Projects at CTDOT, serving as a key liaison across the agency to drive action on priority projects, workforce development initiatives and strengthen relationships with community organizations and educational institutions. She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from UConn. Prior to joining state service, Carrie worked as a communications professional in the nonprofit sector with extensive experience in public relations, brand strategy, fundraising and crisis communications. In her free time, Carrie enjoys cooking, baking and reading. She is an avid runner and loves spending time with her husband and nine-year-old twin boys.



### **Sam Zagorski, Jacobs**

Sam is a 2026 Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) graduate and an Engineer in Training with Jacobs who is passionate about traffic engineering and safety. While attending CCSU, Sam was the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter President from 2024 to 2026.

Sam was a nontraditional student who originally graduated with an Anthropology B.A. in 2016 and returned to school at 29 specifically to become a transportation engineer.



**Mary McCarthy, Executive Director, UCONN (T2) Center**

Mary is the Executive Director of the CT Training and Technical Assistance Center at UConn and has been with the Center for 25 years. She is responsible for the strategic direction and day-to-day management of T2 Center efforts in providing professional development and technical assistance to Connecticut's state and municipal transportation community. She is passionate about supporting the incredible crews working to improve the safety and efficiency of Connecticut's transportation system and proud to lead the team of incredible professionals doing this important work.

## Track 2 – ConneCTing through the Industry

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### Session IV

#### Turn Communication into Influence

Expertise alone doesn't create influence; communication does. This high-impact, tactical session equips women with practical tools to elevate how they show up, speak up, and get heard, focusing not on speaking more, but on speaking in ways that drive decisions, impact, and career growth.

Participants will begin by identifying and eliminating the specific verbal and nonverbal habits that quietly undercut their credibility in professional settings. The session then moves into the application of high-impact language shifts that signal authority and decisiveness, while teaching attendees how to use strategic communication timing and positioning to increase their visibility and ownership of ideas.

Furthermore, participants will learn to recover gracefully from common influence-robbing moments using specific, practiced scripts.

#### **Presenters:**

- » Kenya Rutland, KJR Consulting, LLC
- » Heather Axelrad, CTDOT



**Kenya Rutland, Principal and Chief Enthusiasm Officer, KJR Consulting LLC**

Kenya is a passionate and trustworthy consultant who increase the confidence, motivation, and performance of others. He is a persuasive facilitative leader who uses his keen business acumen to build commitment and accountability among staff at all levels of any organization. Kenya has 24 years of experience delivering results-oriented consulting and facilitation to a diverse client portfolio. He holds certifications in various learning and organizational development topics and continues to supplement those through his commitment to lifelong learning. He is also an avid golfer and die-hard fan of the Yankees, 49ers, and Lakers.



**Heather Axelrad, CTDOT**

Heather Axelrad is a seasoned instructor with over 20 years of experience in leadership development, curriculum design, and coaching across Connecticut state government. Currently serving as the Curriculum Manager for the CTDOT Office of Staff Development, she oversees agency-wide supervisory training and leadership programs, following 16 years as a Pretrial Services Supervisor and instructor with the Judicial Branch. Backgrounded in clinical counseling with a master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, Heather is passionate about professional growth, actively supports the WTS mission of advancing women in transportation, and enjoys traveling, concerts, and spending time with loved ones outside of work

## **Track 2 – ConneCTing through the Industry**

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### **Session V**

## **Four Generations, One Transportation Industry**

Today's transportation workforce spans four working generations and many teams feel the friction: different communication styles, feedback expectations, definitions of "professionalism," and assumptions about work ethic or technology use. This interactive session moves beyond stereotypes to focus on practical, inclusive strategies that help us all connect, collaborate, and thrive across generations while supporting WTS's mission to advance women's careers and strengthen the transportation industry.

Opening with a quick "generation snapshot" (Boomer, Gen X, Millennial, Gen Z): what each group often values at work, how they prefer to communicate, and what they need from leaders and teammates. Then participants will apply the ACORN approach (Accommodate differences, Create workplace choices, Operate flexibly, Respect, Nourish retention) to real-world scenarios drawn from transportation workplaces, like feedback frequency, meeting tech etiquette, and schedule/urgency misalignment.

Attendees will leave with a simple "connection toolkit," including how to begin a conversation for cross-generational one-on-ones and strategies for setting team communication norms.

The goal: help transportation professionals build stronger teams, improve retention, and create more equitable access to opportunity across career stages and life experiences.

**Presenters:**

- » Caroline Cianni, CDM Smith, Moderator
- » Marissa Pfaffinger, PE, CTDOT
- » Shawna Bartkus, GM2
- » Laura Francis, SCRCOG
- » Margaret Johnston, CDM Smith

**Caroline Cianni, CDM Smith, Moderator**

Caroline Cianni is a Lead Marketing Writer and Proposal Specialist with CDM Smith, specializing in mega pursuits, strategic positioning, and win strategy development for complex transportation and infrastructure projects across the country. She is also an expert in designing and delivering high-impact presentations and client interviews, coaching teams to communicate effectively, connect with audiences, and perform their best in critical pursuit situations. Based in East Hartford, Connecticut, Caroline is an active member of WTS Connecticut and is passionate about professional development, mentorship, and advancing collaboration across the transportation industry. She was honored to receive WTS CT's 2024 Member of the Year award. Outside of her role at CDM Smith she enjoys playing golf, being outside with her kids, solving cold cases, and everything from the 90s.



### **Marissa Pfaffinger, PE, CTDOT**

Marissa Pfaffinger, PE, is a Principal Engineer with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), serving in the Project Development Unit within the Division of Highway Design. In this role, she helps lead the development of transportation projects from concept through initiation, with a focus on improving the safety, mobility, and functionality of Connecticut's transportation network. Marissa has represented CTDOT at the AASHTO Leadership Institute and has previously joined WTS CT at TMS as a panelist. She is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has built her career in transportation engineering and public-sector project development. Marissa is passionate about public service and transportation and brings a valuable perspective on building a career, contributing to a changing industry, and working across generations in the transportation workforce. Outside of work Marissa enjoys being outside - playing golf and skiing.



### **Laura Francis, SCRCOG**

Laura Francis serves as the Executive Director of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG), leading regional planning, transportation, and intergovernmental initiatives that support more than half a million residents across south-central Connecticut, including the City of New Haven.

With over 30 years of public service experience, she has a distinguished record of improving governmental operations, advancing major infrastructure and

sustainability projects, and forging effective partnerships across municipal, state, and federal levels. Laura has championed major regional collaborations in government administration, transportation planning, public safety, emergency management, and environmental stewardship. She has served on numerous state and regional boards—often in leadership roles—including Connecticut Municipal Development Authority, Sustainable CT, the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the Council of Small Towns (COST), the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM), the DEMHS Region 2 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC), and the South Central Workforce Alliance CEO Board.



### **Shawna Bartkus, GM2**

Shawna Bartkus is a Vice President and Director of Marketing at GM2 Associates, Inc., bringing more than 25 years of A/E/C industry experience. She leads the firm's marketing and business development efforts and has played a key role in securing major projects and expanding GM2 into new markets. As Vice President, Shawna works closely with GM2's leadership team to support strategic growth, strengthen internal processes, and advance the firm's culture. An active industry leader, Shawna is a former President of WTS Connecticut and has served on the State Board of the ACE Mentor Program of Connecticut. She established WTS Connecticut's Mentor and Scholarship Programs and helped launch its Transportation Mini-Series, now in its 20th year. Shawna's leadership mantra is simple: it's all about people. She believes strong relationships, collaboration, and investing in others are the foundation for successful projects, organizations, and careers.



### **Margaret Johnston, CDM Smith**

Maggie Johnston is a Transportation Engineer II for CDM Smith with 1 year of full-time experience. She focuses on highway and roadway design, which can range from drafting conceptual ideas, pavement preservations, or even cost estimations. She joined CDM Smith because of their emphasis on sustainable and resilient solutions within their projects.

As a CDM Smith employee, she incorporates innovation and project-based learning into her work to ensure it's delivered on a fast-paced timeline without lacking quality. When she's not working, you'll find her playing rugby for the local women's team, The Hartford Wild Roses. She is looking forward to being a new member of WTS to better support women in transportation, while also benefitting from the professional growth, connections, and opportunities that WTS provides.

## Track 2 – ConneCTing through the Industry

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### Session VI

#### Professional Organizations:

#### *The Pipeline to ConneCTing the Next Generation of Transportation Professionals*

Professional organizations play a critical role in developing the current and future workforce, fostering industry collaboration, and creating opportunities for professional development and growth. As the transportation industry faces workforce shortages and an evolving talent landscape, professional organizations are increasingly serving as the pipeline for ConneCTing the next generation of transportation professionals to meaningful careers, leadership opportunities, and industry networks. This session will explore how organizations can work together to strengthen the transportation industry through coordinated outreach, member engagement, and leadership development initiatives.

Leaders from WTS-CT, COMTO-CT, CT-ITE, ACEC-CT, CSCE-YMG, CMAA-CT and NAATSHO are invited to share successful approaches for attracting and retaining members, engaging young professionals, and building pathways for students and emerging professionals to enter, advance, and thrive in the industry. Panelists will showcase programs, events, committees, mentorship opportunities, networking initiatives, and other strategies that have successfully increased engagement and participation within their organizations. Through examples from real-world activities and events, attendees will gain insight into how these efforts contribute to a stronger, more diverse, and sustainable professional community.

In addition to highlighting best practices, the session will provide attendees with a better understanding of the value professional organizations bring to individual career growth from the early career stage and the transportation industry as a whole. Participants will learn how active involvement in professional organizations can expand professional networks, develop leadership skills, create mentorship opportunities, and open doors to career advancement.

A key outcome of the session will be an opportunity to extend the conversation beyond the panel and conference. The organizations represented will have an opportunity to identify new or extend current opportunities for collaboration with each other to maximize resources, expand outreach efforts, and deliver greater value to the industry. By sharing ideas, resources, and successful approaches, the panel will encourage continued collaboration and connection among professional organizations beyond the conference.

### **Presenters:**

- » Obesebea Aye-Addo, CTDOT, Moderator
- » Dr. Tamara Smith, AECOM, COMTO President
- » Sandeep Aysola, PMP, PTP, RSP1, CT-ITE
- » Kevin Hussain, AI Engineers, ACEC-CT
- » Arianna Antonucci, CTDOT, CSCE-YMG
- » Karina Massey, PE, CCM, Jacobs, CMAA-CT
- » Katherine Hedberg-Klose, CTDOT, WTS President
- » Brian Hurlock, CTDOT, NAATSHO Vice President



**Obesebea Aye-Addo, CTDOT, Moderator**

Obesebea N. Aye-Addo is a Transportation Engineer with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), Division of Traffic Engineering, where she has 10 years of experience in traffic operations and transportation engineering. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering and is currently pursuing her Professional Engineer (PE) licensure.

Beyond her technical work, Obesebea is passionate about leadership, mentorship, professional development, and creating opportunities for the next generation. She currently serves as Secretary of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Connecticut Chapter, Co-Chair of the Leadership Committee for WTS-CT, and a member of the WTS-CT Mentorship Committee. Through these roles, she works to foster connections across the transportation industry, encourage emerging professionals to engage in leadership, and help build a stronger workforce.

Obesebea is particularly passionate about connecting people, creating pathways for professional growth, and giving back through mentorship and service. She believes that professional organizations play an important role in bridging the gap between today's transportation leaders and the next generation of professionals by providing opportunities to network, learn, lead, and make meaningful contributions to the industry.

As a moderator, Obesebea brings together her technical transportation experience, commitment to professional organizations, and passion for leadership and mentorship to help facilitate meaningful conversations and connections within the industry.



**Dr. Tamara Smith, AECOM, COMTO President**

Dr. Smith is an accomplished infrastructure and transportation professional with more than 24 years of experience in the industry. She serves as an Associate Vice President and Senior Project Manager at AECOM, where she supports complex transportation programs and initiatives across the region.

She is a member of the ACEC/CT Executive Board and chairs its Membership Engagement and Belonging Committee. She is also a member of WTS Connecticut Chapter and has served as a member of its Leadership Committee. In 2022, she received the WTS Connecticut Rosa Parks Leadership Award in recognition of her contributions to advancing equity, access, and opportunity within the transportation industry.

She is currently the President of COMTO Connecticut, where she has been involved for more than six years in several leadership capacities, including Treasurer, Vice President, Scholarship Committee Chair, and member of the Executive Board.

Through her involvement with professional organizations, Dr. Smith works to strengthen collaboration across the transportation industry, support students and emerging professionals, advance workforce development, and build stronger connections among public agencies, private-sector organizations, and industry partners.

She is a committed advocate for strengthening the transportation profession through mentorship, sponsorship, advocacy, and expanded access to opportunity.



**Sandeep Aysola, PMP, PTP, RSP1, CT-ITE**

Sandeep Aysola is an accomplished transportation professional with more than two decades of experience in transportation planning, traffic engineering, project management, and public-sector transportation operations. He has deep

expertise in project management and project delivery, including project planning and implementation, technical and operational management, legislative and governmental budgeting processes, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning.

Most recently, he served as the Director of Transportation, Traffic and Parking for the City of New Haven, CT, where he was responsible for overseeing the City's vast transportation, traffic, and parking functions. Prior to his tenure with the City, he worked in senior consulting positions, providing leadership on a wide range of infrastructure projects.

Mr. Aysola holds graduate degrees in Environmental Management from Yale University and Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Professional Transportation Planner (PTP), and Roadway Safety Professional (RSP1).

He has been actively involved with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the American Planning Association (APA), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Mr. Aysola currently serves as President of ITE Connecticut and as a Commissioner on the Board of the New Haven Parking Authority (NHPA). His previous professional leadership roles include serving on the Executive Committee of ITE's Transportation Safety Council, where he chaired the Vision Zero Standing Committee, as well as serving as a member of the TRB's Highway Capacity and Quality of Service (AHB 40) Subcommittee.



**Kevin Hussain, PE, AI Engineers, ACEC-CT**

As a Vice President at AI Engineers, Kevin Hussain supports our Digital Transformation, DEI&B, New Technology and Business Development for all our AEC Services. He's also the Project Manager for large infrastructure condition assessment projects in New York City, ensuring seamless operations and effective management of this vital department. With over 20 years of experience in project management, inspection, design, and

construction administration,

Kevin brings a wealth of expertise to his role. He has spearheaded the integration of innovative technologies such as UASs (Drones), 3D Laser Scanning, AR/VR, Mixed Reality concepts, and 3D Printing to enhance project efficiency and outcomes for numerous clients.

Kevin's extensive experience includes project management and inspection of complex bridges across multiple states, including CT, NY, RI, MA, VA, and GA. His responsibilities encompass reviewing, preparing, and completing insurance compliance, subcontracts, inspections, CAD sketches, traffic control coordination, and expedited report processing. Kevin has been actively involved in all phases of bridge design projects, from schematic development to bid phase services, and possesses expertise in load rating, stormwater management, sewer design, and permitting.

His meticulous approach to construction administration ensures rigorous quality control, from shop drawing approval to as-built documentation. Kevin's strategic vision and proactive leadership in business development have also been instrumental in identifying and fostering strategic partnerships that drive AI Engineers' growth and success.



**Arianna Antonucci, CTDOT, CSCE-YMG**

Ariana Antonucci is a Civil Engineer in Facilities Design at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, focused with site design. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Ariana is actively involved in Connecticut's engineering community and currently serves as Past President of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Younger Members Group (CSCE YMG). During her time with YMG, she has worked to strengthen connections between the organization and ASCE student chapters throughout Connecticut, expand outreach to students and young professionals, and create opportunities for the next generation of engineers to become more engaged in the profession. She has also helped organize technical, professional development, networking, and social events that foster connections and encourage continued involvement in the engineering community.

Ariana also serves as Events Committee Co-Chair for WTS Connecticut, where she enjoys creating opportunities that connect students, young professionals, and industry members. She is passionate about building strong professional networks and creating pathways for the next generation of engineers to become active leaders in their organizations and communities.



**Karina Massey, PE, CCM, Jacobs, CMAA-CT**

Karina R. Massey, PE, CCM, is a Project Manager with Jacobs with nearly a decade of experience delivering transportation, infrastructure, water, and facility projects throughout Connecticut. She has served on the leadership team of the Connecticut Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) since 2019 and currently serves as Secretary.

Karina is a CMAA Emerging Leaders Program graduate and Distinguished Young Professional of the Year 2024. She is passionate about workforce development, mentorship, and creating opportunities for students and young professionals to engage in the engineering and construction industries.



**Katherine Hedberg-Klose, CTDOT, WTS President**

Katie Hedberg-Klose is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinating Engineer at the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), where she leads efforts to ensure ADA compliance in the public right-of-way and across CTDOT transportation facilities. She provides technical guidance and coordinates closely with other Connecticut agencies, municipalities, and the public to advance transportation access and mobility. At CTDOT, Katie serves on the Complete Streets Committee and Highway Standards Committee. She also serves on the state's Vision Zero Council as sub-committee co-chair and is a board member of the ADA Coalition of Connecticut.

Katie holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a minor in Architectural Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Before joining CTDOT, she worked in the private sector with a focus on traffic engineering and transportation planning. A dedicated leader in the transportation community, Katie currently serves as President of the WTS Connecticut Chapter and is a Past Chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Committee on Younger Members. Outside of work, Katie enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her husband and their three golden retrievers.



**Brian Hurlock, CTDOT, NAATSHO Vice President**

Brian Hurlock is a Safety Advisor with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Vice President of the National Association of Transportation Safety and Health Officials (NAATSHO), and a Strategic Advisor to the Employee Safety Network (ESN). He previously served as NAATSHO's Northeast Region 1 Director and was recently elected to serve as the organization's next President. Through these national leadership roles, Brian strengthens collaboration among federal and state transportation leaders and safety and health professionals while advancing initiatives focused on employee safety, professional engagement, and workforce development.

Brian brings more than 25 years of public safety experience to these roles, providing him with a practical, frontline perspective on emergency preparedness, incident response, employee protection, and organizational resilience. He is a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician, EMS-Instructor and holds numerous licenses and professional certifications across the emergency medical services and fire service fields.

Brian also contributes to national transportation research through his service on three National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) panels addressing serious injury and fatality data, behavior-based employee safety programs, and construction workforce conditions. His work at CTDOT encompasses occupational safety initiatives, employee training, emergency preparedness, peer support and mental health, work zone safety, and programs designed to strengthen employee protection and organizational readiness. Through his work with CTDOT, NAATSHO, AASHTO, FHWA, NCHRP, and other transportation partners, Brian is committed to advancing the safety profession, developing future leaders, and strengthening the pipeline for the next generation of transportation professionals.