



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
Connecticut

# WTS CT Newsletter

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CHAPTER VISION: OFFER A WTS CHAPTER THAT PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS TO ITS MEMBERS IN THE AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CAREER SUPPORT, MENTORSHIP, AND STUDENT OUTREACH; OFFERS LEADERSHIP, EDUCATIONAL, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES; ADVANCES WOMEN IN THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY; AND STRIVES TO FUNCTION IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE MANNER, WITH INTEGRITY AND A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY.

# A Message From the President

September 2025

Greetings, everyone!

With summer behind us and fall ahead, it's the perfect time to pause and celebrate all that we've accomplished so far this year.

From the very beginning of the year, WTS Connecticut members have been on the move, from gathering in Washington, D.C. at the WTS International TRB Chair's Reception to attending the first-ever international annual conference in Toronto, Canada.

WTS CT is proud to have grown this year, with over 150 members and more than 40 volunteers actively serving on our committees! Our programming has included signature annual events as well as several exciting new initiatives, many of which are highlighted in this summer edition of our newsletter. WTS CT's mission to attract, sustain, connect, and advance women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry is clearly being lived through all efforts.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, I'm excited to keep the momentum going. We have a full calendar of events and programs focused on leadership, mentorship, student outreach, and networking. I want to express my sincere thanks to our incredible volunteers and industry partners, without their support, these essential programs would not be possible.

Whether you're looking to become a member, learn how to be a better ally, or volunteer at an upcoming event, I invite you to join us in continuing to make a positive impact in Connecticut's transportation industry. If you have ideas, questions, or simply want to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the WTS Connecticut leadership team.



Sincerely,

**Katherine Hedberg-Klose**

President  
WTS Connecticut

ADA Coordinating Engineer  
Connecticut Department of Transportation

## WTS CT Chair's Reception at TRB

On January 5, 2025, WTS CT members Katie Hedberg-Klose, Karen Kitsis, Erika Lindeberg and Rebecca Hall attended the WTSI Chair's Reception at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. 200 WTS partners, friends, and industry leaders gathered for a lively evening of conversation, connection and heard from inspiring speakers including Transportation Research Board 2025 Chief Leslie Richards and Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg.



January 5, 2025  
Fig & Olive,  
Washington, D.C.

## Holiday Social

WTS CT enjoyed celebrating the new year with refreshments and appetizers at Wood-N-Tap in Newington. The new 2025 board was introduced and thanked our now immediate past president, Lisa Slonus, for all her hard work the past year.



January 9, 2025  
Wood-n-Tap,  
Newington, CT

## CTDOT Career Development Day

CTDOT employees with three years or fewer work experience were invited to participate in a Career Development Day that included career counseling to attendees in a way that introduces all of what is available at CTDOT. WTS CT participated during the lunch and networking portion of the day where attendees met with the professional organizations and learned more about membership.



January 15, 2025  
CTDOT,  
Newington, CT

# STEM Night

At the WTS & CMAA annual STEM Night event, youth aged 7-13 were able to explore over a dozen hands-on exhibits related to transportation and construction. Participants also had the opportunity to have their photo taken while wearing a hard hat and vest.



February 20, 2025  
Cora J. Belden Library  
Rocky Hill, CT

Thank you to everyone who volunteered a table:

- AECOM
- ASCE-CSCE
- CDM Smith
- CTDOT
- Fuss & O'Neill
- HDR
- HNTB
- Jacobs
- M&J
- University of Hartford
- Weston & Sampson

“Great event to help inspire the next generation to consider a field in transportation”

## Member Spotlight



**Kylie  
Corriveau**  
CTDOT

**How long have you been a member of WTS?**

About six months

**What does a typical workday look like for you?**

Responding to emails, gathering information to update the Chief Engineer's Office, and lots of spreadsheets.

**What do you enjoy the most about being a WTS member?**

A sense of community, felt since day one. A

look into different personal and professional growth options.

**What's one thing you can't live without and why?**

I purchased an Oura Ring about a year ago. It has completely changed how I track my health and can even detect when I'm getting sick days before I even have symptoms!

**Do you have any influences —person, place, or experience—that sparked your interest in the field?**

I grew up around mechanics that influenced my perception of cars and the traveling world. In college I used that interest and environmental knowledge I was gaining, with the help of a few special professors, and focused on planning. Through my experiences in planning in college, I was led to the DOT!

**How do you enjoy your time outside the office?**

I enjoy traveling, making new recipes with my sourdough starter, and taking yoga classes!



**Mikaela  
Marcotullio**  
CTDOT

**How long have you been a member of WTS?**

A year

**What does a typical workday look like for you?**

It could be meetings with project teams and document review, or field visits to evaluate the customer experience of using our state's transit systems. I am always learning something new at DOT and the environment here is so dynamic that my day-to-day can vary quite a lot.

**What do you enjoy the most about being a WTS member?**

Having access to a professional organization full of women who uplift me, push me to be better, have advice for me, and lead by example.

**What's one thing you can't live without and why?**

Other people. My reason to be is enjoying the company and stories of my fellow humans.

**Do you have any influences —person, place, or experience—that sparked your interest in the field?**

Growing up along the Metro-North Harlem line I learned the power of public transit from a young age. Later on, living as a young person without a car in several major cities really solidified how disempowering it can be to not have access to reliable transportation. I knew there was work to be done and I wanted to understand what barriers existed to enhancing public transit in the places I lived.

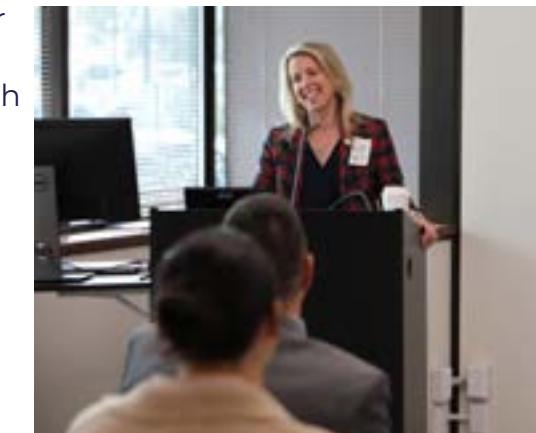
**How do you enjoy your time outside the office?**

I train Muay Thai nearly everyday and I love to cook.

## Annual Legislative Event with CACT

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) and WTS CT recently hosted their Annual Legislative Meeting. The event featured insightful remarks from Garrett Eucalitto, CTDOT Commissioner; Senator Christine Cohen, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee; and Steven DeMichele, CEO and General Manager of GBT. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with key transportation leaders and discuss priorities shaping Connecticut's transit future.

February 25, 2025  
CTDOT  
Newington, CT



# ANNUAL AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

**Honorary Members:** Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, State of Connecticut and Shari Pratt, CTDOT



## Employer of the Year: AECOM



AECOM received Employer of the Year award, recognizing the leadership of women in transportation across our local and Northeast region. Senior Vice President Christie Baker, P.E., who leads Northeast Transportation within the U.S. East and LATAM Region, accepted the award and shared insight into AECOM's support of memberships, sponsorships, employee involvement, and the advancement of women into executive and senior leadership positions.



**Woman of the Year:** Eileen Ego, CTDOT



"Now is NOT the time for you to let your work speak for itself."  
- Eileen Ego

**Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership:**  
CTDOT Diversity Council



Annual Awards highlighted many outstanding women and girls by honoring them with awards, scholarships, and honorary memberships. We heard amazing speeches to inspire those in attendance and recognized our mentor program mentors and mentees as well as our chapter volunteers in honor of National Volunteer Month!



**Innovative Transportation Solution Award:**  
Widening of I-95 NB Exit 27A to  
Route 8 NB, WSP



**Member of the Year:**  
Caroline Cianni,  
CDM Smith



**Scholarship Recipients:** Madelyn Kelly, Emilia Wypasek, Ava LaRosa, Rickelle White, Haimanti Bala, Mikaela Marcotullio

# WTS International Annual Conference

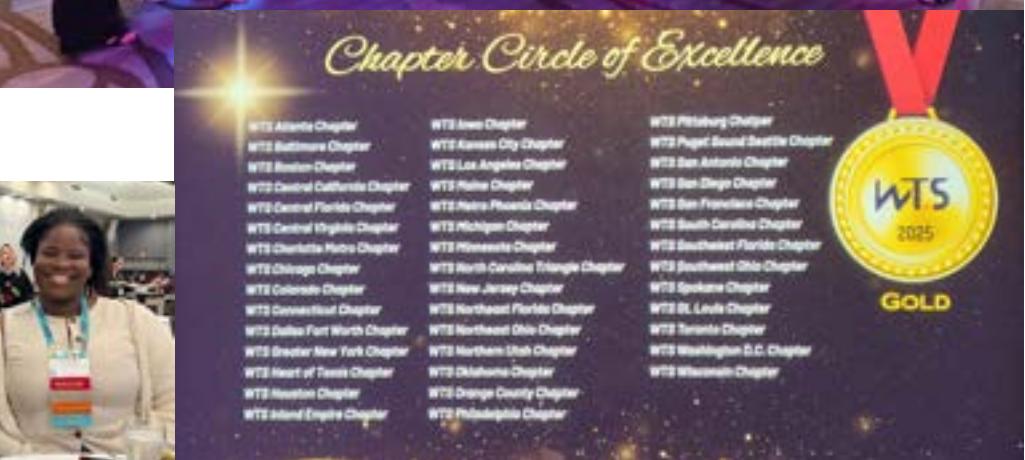
WTS Connecticut was proudly represented at the 2025 WTS International Annual Conference, MOSAIC: Mobility and Momentum in Toronto, with an incredible 23 members in attendance! This conference marked the first ever WTS International Annual Conference hosted internationally in Canada!

There were 11 WTS CT featured speakers during the conference including Carla Tillery from IMEG (formerly FHI Studio), CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Ecalitto, CTDOT Deputy Commissioner and WTSI Board Member Karen Kitsis, and others from CTDOT including, Shannon Burnham, Mikaela Marcotullio, Samantha Savidou, Katie Hedberg, Obe Aye-Addo, Dylia Turley, Tricia Chastanet and Nicholas Rougeau.

During the WTS International Gala WTS CT was recognized as a Gold Chapter designation for Circle of Excellence! This status designation is testament to all of our volunteers, members and sponsors' hard work and dedication to WTS CT and our mission for advancing women & advancing transportation.



WTS CT Reunion with Susan Baillargeon, Leadership Chair 2017-2019



May 5-9, 2025  
Toronto, ON

## Trivia Night

WTS CT teamed up with the Connecticut chapter of ITE for trivia and craft beers. Trivia masters Carl Duesler (CDM Smith) and Matt Skelly (Fuss & O'Neill) stumped the minds of most with their wide variety of topics and some transportation-related questions. The top teams took home coveted prizes.

February 27, 2025  
Thomas Hooker at Colt Hartford, CT



"It was eye opening to learn about the unconscious bias and micro-aggressions that people are faced with to be more inclusive for the future."

## Inclusive Leadership: DEI Series

In March, the Membership & Diversity Committee hosted a virtual session with Kenya Rutland of KJR Consulting on Inclusive Leadership. In this engaging session, we explored our organization's business case for leaning into inclusion and gained insights into aligning our leadership shadow with the actions and behaviors that demonstrate commitment to supporting ALL members. We also explored six traits of inclusive leaders that encourage a healthy workplace culture. It was a great session and we left with awareness and insight into our personal roles in achieving inclusion at our organizations.

## Membership Hike

May 4, 2025  
Gillette Castle State Park  
East Haddam, CT



Our spring hike was exploring the forest surrounding Gillette Castle in East Haddam! The day began with a hiking equipment demonstration and leadership moment to learn about backpacking stoves and a system to teach someone how to perform a task. We followed the path of a former hobby railroad built by former mansion's owner walking through a tunnel, across a trestle and down to the bank of the Connecticut River.

## Women Take Flight

WTS CT participated in the annual Women Take Flight event at the New England Air Museum on Saturday March 8th. Our chapter helped kids make their own Slider Glider and test it on a runway for the chance to win a candy bar. Over 50 kids visited our table

March 8, 2025  
NE Air Museum,  
Windsor Locks, CT



## DEI Leadership Program



## DBE-SBE Leadership Program



WTS-CT's first Small, Minority, and Disadvantaged Business Leadership Roundtable. This event highlighted the women behind the work: Shelli Orosz and Meg Yetishefsky (CT DAS), Debra Goss and Shari Pratt (CT DOT), Deepa Vaswani (BES, Inc.), and Amber Saleh (RHS Consulting). Our DAS and DOT Reps provided overviews of both programs and provided answers for our audience members who were applying for any of the programs presented. Our consultants shared success stories of being involved with both programs as minority businesses and the benefits for joining.

May 28, 2025  
CTDOT,  
Newington, CT

"Very informative session, I came in with minimal understanding but learned a lot about these programs that the state of CT offers"

April 30, 2025  
CTDOT,  
Newington, CT

"Kenya is very engaging and he is a dynamic speaker"

In this interactive workshop, "The Work is the Work: How to Continue to be an Inclusive Leader in Today's Shifting World," facilitator Kenya Rutland guided attendees through key principles of inclusive leadership. Participants explored real-world challenges, identified systemic barriers, and gained practical tools to lead with authenticity, equity, and impact in a rapidly evolving workplace.

## Mentor Program 2024 Closeout Meeting

April 2, 2025  
Denovelli's,  
Rocky Hill, CT

The dinner was held to celebrate the success of the mentorship program and thank the Mentors and Mentees who participated in the program. As part of the program closeout, we facilitated a survey and discussions to gain feedback and learn what the participants would like to see out of future programs.



March 5, 2025  
CTDOT,  
Newington, CT

## CTDOT Open House

WTS CT celebrated Women's History Month at CTDOT Headquarters. Each committee shared updates for what their focus is and how new members can get involved and volunteer. CTDOT's Deputy Commissioner Karen Kitsis and Bureau of Policy and Planning Chief Kim Lesay, both members of the WTS CT Advisory Council, spoke on behalf of the Department's commitment to supporting women and diversity in the transportation industry. CTDOT was the first state DOT to become a partner in WTS International's State Level international partnership program and continues to support WTS.

"Why ride alone when you can be on board with WTS? Membership is your express ticket to connections, leadership and impact!"

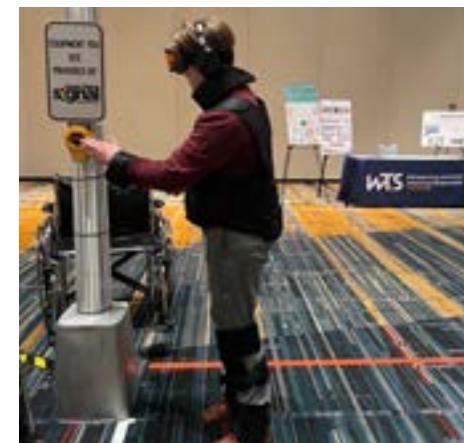


## Virtual High School Panel with CTDOT

On March 20th, WTS CT and CTDOT held a virtual panel session to introduce high school students to careers in transportation engineering. Students got to hear from 5 panels across various disciplines about their careers. At the end of the program there was an opportunity for students to ask questions about careers and college options.

# AASHTO Spring Meeting

May 12-15, 2025  
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT



The 2025 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Spring Meeting provided transportation leaders the opportunity to collaborate on some of the biggest issues facing the industry today and tomorrow. Experts from all over the country gathered for sessions that highlighted topics on the top of mind for state departments of transportation and partner agencies. CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto serves as AASHTO President this term and organized the "Centering Safety" exhibit, titled ConneCTing Today for a Safer Tomorrow: Incorporating Innovation, Safety, and Empathy into Transportation where WTS Connecticut played a leading role in organizing the space.

The immersive exhibit was created in collaboration with CTDOT, MassDOT, UConn T2 Center, Ocean State Signal, and MXT Reality featuring the Empathy at the Intersection experience. The initiative puts transportation professionals into customers' shoes to experience the street through the perspective of vulnerable users and operators. By immersing participants in the real-world experiences of drivers and vulnerable road users, including people with disabilities, older adults, and pedestrians as well as employees driving fleet vehicles such as plow trucks and buses, the exhibit fosters deeper empathy and awareness among transportation professionals.

Thanks to the support of exhibit sponsors including CDM Smith, ADACC, ASCE/CSCE, HNTB, HDR, CMAA, COMTO, ITE, and ITS!

## Leadership Life Coaching Session

June 4, 2025  
Virtual

"It was appreciated how much time and effort the instructor put into educating us on the power of rest"

The Leadership Committee hosted a transformative 90-minute workshop led by Lauren St. Germain, Founder of LSG Coaching, focused on the often-overlooked but essential practice of rest. Designed to support personal well-being and effective leadership, the session guided participants through a thoughtful exploration of their own relationship with rest.

Throughout the interactive session, attendees examined the challenges of resting in the midst of demanding schedules and learned practical techniques for achieving deeper, more restorative rest. Lauren provided actionable strategies and encouraged each participant to develop a personalized plan for incorporating intentional rest into their daily lives.

The workshop offered a refreshing perspective on how rest is not only a personal necessity but also a leadership skill that supports clarity, resilience, and sustainable performance. Participants left the session equipped with tools to rest more effectively—and lead more mindfully.

# Thank You to Our Corporate Partners

Thank you to WTS International's Pinnacle & Strategic Partners:

HNTB, AECOM, HDR, Jacobs, & WSP

WTS International's State Level International Partnership:



Thank You to our 2025 WTS CT Partner Program Sponsors.  
We appreciate your continued support!

HARTFORD LEVEL



CONSTITUTION LEVEL



MOUNTAIN LAUREL LEVEL



WHITE OAK LEVEL





## Upcoming Events:

### 2025

September 10 - Summer Social  
September 16 - Leadership & Mentorship Program  
October 5 - Membership Hike  
November 12 - Leadership Book Club #2  
December 1 - Annual Award Nomination Due

### 2026

January 7 - New Year Social  
March 26 - Annual Awards & Scholarship Banquet



<https://linktr.ee/wtsconnecticut>

