Advancing women
Advancing transportation
› Atlanta

Cast Your Vote! 2025 Recognition Awards Ballot

2025 NOMINEES BY AWARD CATEGORY

Employer of the Year Award – 2025 Nominees

1. Lumenor Consulting Group

Lumenor Consulting Group is a woman-led firm deeply committed to advancing gender equity in the transportation industry through leadership, advocacy, and intentional action. With women comprising 67% of its workforce and holding key executive and senior roles, Lumenor fosters a culture of mentorship, visibility, and opportunity. The firm actively supports WTS through leadership roles, chapter engagement, and the Bridgette Beato Leadership Legacy Scholarship. Lumenor staff are actively involved in four WTS chapters: Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and North Carolina Triangle, serving in chapter leadership and committee roles, and sponsoring annual events and chapter programs. Career development at Lumenor is personalized and strategic, with women regularly leading internal initiatives and client projects. Through internships, professional development, and a values-driven approach, Lumenor creates meaningful pathways for women to thrive and lead.

2. STV Inc.

STV Incorporated is a dedicated advocate for advancing women in transportation through inclusive leadership, structured career development, and deep engagement with WTS. Women hold key roles across the organization—from executive leadership to project management—driving innovation and shaping strategic direction. STV supports professional growth through mentorship, succession planning, and access to industry development programs, while also investing in future talent through internships and university outreach. The firm's active participation in WTS at both local and national levels, including sponsorships and employee involvement, reflects its commitment to gender equity and industry impact. In Atlanta, the firm sponsors key WTS events such as the Annual Gala, Leadership Breakfast, and Transportation YOU activities. Several employees have served on WTS Atlanta committees and helped plan programming that aligns with the chapter's mission. Through intentional practices and a culture of empowerment, STV fosters an environment where women thrive professionally.

3. AtkinsRealis

AtkinsRéalis is a globally recognized engineering and nuclear services firm committed to building a more inclusive and sustainable future through innovation, leadership, and community impact. With a strong presence in Georgia and deep engagement with WTS International, the company champions

gender equity by investing in women at all career stages through mentorship, flexible work options, and award-winning development programs. Women hold key leadership roles across business units and the U.S. executive team, reflecting a culture of empowerment and representation. AtkinsRéalis actively supports STEM education through its foundation, contributes to WTS chapters nationwide, and fosters professional growth through extensive training, sponsorships, and employee resource groups. AtkinsRéalis women have served in board leadership with the WTS Atlanta Chapter for over a decade in addition to countless committee volunteer hours on key committees like the Annual Luncheon Committee and the Transportation YOU Program Committee to the Mentor-Protégé Program Committee and more. Their intentional focus on diversity, leadership, and social impact makes them a driving force in shaping the future of transportation and infrastructure.

4. HNTB Corporation

HNTB is an employee-owned infrastructure solutions firm dedicated to advancing women in transportation through recruitment, career development, and leadership promotion. Women at HNTB play vital roles across engineering, planning, communications, and executive leadership, contributing locally to major projects for clients like GDOT, MARTA, and the City of Atlanta. The firm maintains a strong partnership with WTS International, serving as the sole Pinnacle Corporate Sponsor and supporting employee involvement at all levels, including leadership roles and mentorship programs. Locally, almost 30 employees, including both women and men, are members of WTS. Iris Ortiz currently serves as the WTS Atlanta Chapter President, and many others are chairing committees or serving as committee volunteers locally. HNTB fosters a culture of inclusion through flexible work arrangements, professional development resources, and active engagement with diversity organizations. Women lead key departments and initiatives locally and nationally, and the firm's robust internship and career planning programs ensure continued growth and representation.

Honorable Ray LaHood (Man of the Year) Award – 2025 Nominees

1. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator at Georgia Department of Transportation

Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator at the Georgia Department of Transportation, has dedicated over 31 years to advancing environmental stewardship, inclusive leadership, and public service in Georgia's transportation sector. Renowned for his collaborative spirit and mentorship, Eric has fostered a culture of innovation and inclusion, with women comprising 56% of his office and holding half of its upper management roles. He has championed equity by creating leadership pathways for women and collaborating with female leaders across internal and external initiatives. Eric's pioneering work in tribal consultation and cultural resource preservation has earned national recognition, including efforts to protect African American heritage sites and develop inclusive public engagement strategies. His leadership has shaped state and national environmental policy, earning

numerous awards for historic preservation and public involvement. Eric's legacy reflects a deep commitment to community, sustainability, and empowering future leaders.

2. John Hibbard, Deputy Chief Engineer at Georgia Department of Transportation

John Hibbard, Deputy Chief Engineer at the Georgia Department of Transportation, is a nationally recognized leader whose nearly 40-year career has driven innovation in traffic operations, intelligent transportation systems, and digital infrastructure. His strategic vision has advanced statewide initiatives in broadband deployment, connected mobility, and alternative fuel programs, positioning Georgia as a leader in transportation technology. Beyond his technical achievements, John is a dedicated mentor and advocate for inclusion, consistently championing the advancement of women and minorities through intentional leadership, project opportunities, and professional development. His active involvement in national organizations like TRB, NCUTCD, and AASHTO has amplified underrepresented voices and fostered industry-wide growth. Honored with multiple prestigious awards, John exemplifies visionary leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to shaping a more equitable and connected transportation future.

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award – 2025 Nominees

1. MARTA Rapid Southlake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

The Rapid Southlake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project marks Clayton County's first high-capacity transit initiative, connecting Southlake Mall to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Spearheaded by women leaders from MARTA and VHB, including Carrie Rocha and Audra Rojek, the project advanced to 30% design in under 18 months—an impressive feat given its complexity. The team navigated environmental documentation, federal compliance, stakeholder coordination, and grant application processes to secure environmental clearance and position the project for federal funding. Key contributors such as Jenny Wang, Allison Bell, Stephanie Roberts, and Chandler Herring led critical components ranging from transit-oriented development to engineering design. Their leadership and collaboration helped fulfill MARTA's Connect Clayton initiative, bringing transformative transit solutions closer to reality for Clayton County.

2. Georgia Department of Transportation's Connected Vehicle (V2X) Roadmap

The Georgia Department of Transportation's Connected Vehicle (V2X) Roadmap is a transformative, forward-looking plan that positions Georgia as a national leader in transportation innovation. Spearheaded by GDOT's Victoria Coulter, P.E., and supported by a team of female leaders from GDOT and HNTB, the roadmap outlines a ten-year strategy to deploy V2X infrastructure across more than 6,500 intersections statewide. It integrates emergency and freight signal priority systems, leverages federal grants, and introduces tools for RSU health monitoring and automated device

enrollment. The roadmap reflects GDOT's commitment to safety, mobility, and sustainability, offering a scalable model for connected infrastructure and real-time data exchange. Through visionary leadership and strategic collaboration, the initiative sets a precedent for inclusive excellence and modernized transportation across Georgia.

3. Atlanta Downtown Improvement District (ADID) - The Stitch Project

The Stitch is a transformative infrastructure project led by the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District that aims to reconnect divided neighborhoods by capping a 0.75-mile stretch of I-75/85 with a 17-acre civic park. Designed to restore walkability, equity, and access in downtown Atlanta, the initiative integrates affordable housing, multimodal transportation, and public space. What sets the Stitch apart is its deep and sustained female leadership across every phase—from strategic planning and civic coordination to engineering, design, and community engagement. Leaders like Jennifer Ball, Claudia Bilotto, and a multidisciplinary team of women have guided the project from concept to implementation, overcoming complex challenges and embedding public input into every decision. With Phase 1 design underway and a dedicated funding district generating millions annually, the Stitch exemplifies inclusive, visionary urban planning and sets a new standard for civic infrastructure.

4. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) - Ramp 6 North Gate Expansion project

Tanita Toatong is a seasoned aviation infrastructure leader whose exceptional management of the $81 million Ramp 6 North Gate Expansion project at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport exemplifies innovation, collaboration, and strategic excellence. With 25 years of experience and key certifications, Tanita led a diverse, cross-functional team—many of them women—through complex scheduling, stakeholder engagement, and risk management to deliver three new gates, restrooms, and concessions on time and at full capacity. Her inclusive leadership style fostered consensus and problem-solving, while her commitment to safety, sustainability, and technological advancement ensured the project's success and minimized impacts to the concurrent $1.3 billion Concourse D Widening effort.

5. Pond & Company - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Lauren Schramm and Alexa Banke led a groundbreaking initiative to integrate artificial intelligence into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, transforming public engagement for a Georgia DOT roundabout project in Milledgeville. As project manager and assistant project manager, they developed a custom ChatGPT tool that provided mobile-friendly, bilingual, and accessible responses to public inquiries, simplifying complex environmental documentation. Their leadership overcame regulatory, technical, and accessibility challenges, ensuring compliance with Title VI and

Section 508 while promoting equity and transparency. The project won national recognition from the U.S. DOT and inspired further innovation through the launch of ChatGPTQ. Their visionary work sets a new standard for inclusive, tech-driven public involvement in transportation planning.

Member of the Year Award – 2025 Nominees

1. Nicole Neeley, Alternative Contracting Procurement Delivery Manager at HNTB

Nicole Neeley, Alternative Contracting Procurement Delivery Manager at HNTB, has over 21 years in the transportation industry, progressing from design engineer at GDOT to her current leadership role. Since joining WTS Atlanta in 2017, she has served in numerous capacities, notably chairing the Scholarship and Awards Luncheon—the chapter's largest annual event—where she manages over 20 volunteers and coordinates with multiple stakeholders to ensure flawless execution. Nicole has also made significant contributions to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, revamping the WTS/COMTO DBE event to a successful career-fair format, and leading the most profitable silent auction in recent years. Beyond WTS, she promotes STEM careers for minority women, engages with the Atlanta University Center Consortium's Dual Degree Engineering Program to foster student involvement in WTS, and mentors interns, encouraging their participation in industry events and student chapters. Her leadership consistently strengthens processes, maximizes impact, and ensures smooth succession for future leaders.

2. Bianca George, Project Manager at Corporate Environmental Risk Management (CERM)

Bianca George, current Secretary of WTS Atlanta and Project Manager at Corporate Environmental Risk Management (CERM), is recognized for her dedication to advancing women in transportation and inspiring future industry leaders. Since first volunteering on WTS Atlanta's 40th Anniversary Committee in 2022, where she helped plan the Past Presidents breakfast, Bianca has served two board terms as Secretary (2023–2026), leading all digital marketing efforts that have significantly boosted program participation and member engagement. With nearly 20 years in the A/E industry, she also supports CERM's Job Shadow Program, exposing students to transportation careers, and has been honored with CERM's Pinnacle Award and selection for the ACEC Engineering Leadership Academy. Bianca actively promotes WTS within her professional network, recruiting and mentoring new members, and consistently executes her responsibilities with operational excellence, strengthening the chapter's brand, programs, and impact.

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award – 2025 Nominees

1. Nykita Hurt, Program Manager Diversity at HNTB

Nykita Hurt, Program Manager at HNTB, is a transformative leader with an unwavering commitment to equity, inclusion, and community empowerment. With a career rooted in advocacy, she has

secured over eighty contracts for minority-owned businesses, guided inclusive workforce strategies, and championed DBE and SBE goals on major transportation projects. Beyond her professional impact, Nykita founded The Isaiah James Foundation, mentors youth, supports survivors of human trafficking, and volunteers with organizations like Meals on Wheels and St. Jude's. Her leadership extends to WTS, COMTO, and the Atlanta Business League, where she uplifts women and minorities with empathy and purpose. Nykita embodies the legacy of Rosa Parks through courageous action and heartfelt service, making lasting change in both her industry and community.

2. VHB IDEAL, Employee Resource Group at VHB

VHB IDEAL, the Employee Resource Group at VHB, is a dynamic force for promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across the company. Through cultural education, community service, recruiting partnerships, and safe spaces for dialogue, VHB IDEAL fosters awareness and inclusiveness in all aspects of the workplace. Signature initiatives include the Unconscious Bias Awareness Program, Community Conversations, and strategic partnerships with HBCUs and diverse suppliers. The group also leads celebrations and educational programming around key cultural observances, such as PRIDE Month, Juneteenth, and Women's History Month. Recognized with multiple awards, including the WTS NC Triangle Diversity Leadership Award, VHB IDEAL exemplifies how employee-led efforts can drive meaningful change and build a more inclusive professional community.

3. Wendelin Parker, VP of Aviation Services at JAT Consulting Services, Inc.

Dr. Wendelin Parker, Vice President of Aviation Services at JAT Consulting Services, Inc., has made a transformative impact on the transportation industry by championing the financial health and success of small, minority-, and female-owned business enterprises. Through her leadership, she has implemented systems that ensure timely invoice payments—averaging within 14 days—helping subconsultants avoid cash flow disruptions that often threaten their operations. Her empathetic and strategic approach includes writing and updating Standard Operating Procedures, conducting pre-invoicing meetings, and managing complex invoicing processes to maintain compliance and accountability. Dr. Parker's work empowers disadvantaged businesses to remain competitive, grow sustainably, and invest in their communities, making her a powerful advocate for equity and inclusion in transportation.

4. RS&H

RS&H demonstrates a strong and strategic commitment to inclusion and belonging through its inclusion and belonging (I&B) Committee and employee-led resource groups (ERGs), including Ignite Women's Network, BUILT Black Network, and Prism LGBTQ+ Network. These ERGs foster professional development, community engagement, and cultural awareness through events and

initiatives such as heritage celebrations, fundraisers, and speaker series. RS&H's inclusive culture is further supported by intentional recruitment partnerships with HBCUs, women-only colleges, and minority-serving institutions, as well as active involvement in organizations like WTS and SWE. The firm's leadership reflects this commitment, with a 114% increase in women in senior roles since 2018 and women now serving in top executive positions. Together, these efforts create a workplace where diversity is celebrated and all individuals are empowered to thrive.

Woman of the Year Award – 2025 Nominees

1. **Tamae Partain, Global Business Area Program Manager - Mobility at Arcadis U.S., Inc.**

Tamae Partain, PMP, ENV SP, Global Business Area Program Manager at Arcadis, is a transformative leader in infrastructure and transportation with nearly 30 years of experience delivering sustainable, equitable, and community-focused projects nationwide. She has successfully managed multibillion-dollar ventures across highways, aviation, rail, and multimodal systems, securing over $190 million in funding in under 18 months to improve access for underserved communities. Renowned for her ability to merge technical excellence with social impact, Tamae has advanced climate resilience, public health, and equity in transportation while shaping national policy through initiatives like USDOT's Thriving Communities. A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, she actively mentors women and minorities, fosters workforce development, and champions representation through WTS, NAWIC, PMI, and programs like #IamRemarkable. Her career, marked by barrier-breaking achievements, strategic leadership, and unwavering advocacy, has inspired cultural change and opened doors for the next generation of women in transportation.

2. **Tracy Styf, Executive Director at Town Center Community**

Tracy Styf, Executive Director of the Town Center CID, is a visionary leader in Georgia's transportation industry who has secured over $130 million in external funding and manages millions in infrastructure investments to improve mobility, access, and livability. Known for transformative projects like the South Barrett Reliever, Skip Spann Connector, and Georgia's first CID-led bikeshare program, she blends innovation with community benefit, advancing EV infrastructure, freight strategies, trail networks, and multimodal connectivity. Tracy founded the Town Center Alliance to expand into greenspace, public art, and inclusive transportation access, and has embedded equity into procurement by prioritizing women- and minority-owned firms. A mentor and advocate, she leads an all-woman team, fosters professional growth, and inspires future leaders through speaking engagements and partnerships with schools and universities. Widely recognized for her impact, Tracy's leadership advances infrastructure, equity, and representation, making her a powerful force for change in Georgia's transportation landscape.

3. **Akyiaa Morrison, Vice President at 2MNEXT**

Akyiaa Morrison, PE, Vice President at 2MNEXT and Program Director for ATL-QA, is a transformative leader in transportation whose work blends technical excellence with deep commitment to people. She oversees quality assurance for multi-billion-dollar projects at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, implementing protocols that cut rework by over 30% and setting materials testing standards adopted across joint ventures. With a career spanning DOT pavement strategy, freight rail improvements, and nationally recognized QA innovations, she has influenced best practices regionally and nationally. An immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago, Morrison is a dedicated mentor, guiding women and underrepresented minorities—especially international engineers—through technical, cultural, and immigration challenges via one-on-one coaching and soft-skills workshops. She has inspired mentees to secure leadership roles on federally funded projects and engaged over 400 Title I students in STEM through hands-on programs. Her leadership builds both lasting infrastructure and empowered people, raising the standard for equity, excellence, and inclusion in transportation.

4. **Jannine Miller, Director of Planning at Georgia Department of Transportation & Executive Director of SRTA/GRTA/The ATL**

Jannine Miller, Executive Director of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL), and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), is a trailblazing leader with over two decades of experience advancing innovation, equity, and sustainability in Georgia's transportation sector. She also serves as GDOT's Director of Planning, guiding priorities for over $4 billion in annual investments and championing rural and underserved communities—evident in the record $26.5 million Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank allocation in 2025. A former Deputy Assistant Secretary at USDOT, Jannine shaped the National Freight Strategic Plan and advanced multimodal solutions nationwide. She has cultivated female leadership across engineering, finance, and operations, increased opportunities for women- and minority-owned firms, and served as a visible mentor through WTS, IBTTA's Women in Tolling, and industry panels. Her career, marked by barrier-breaking achievements and inclusive leadership, has elevated both the infrastructure landscape and the visibility of women in transportation.

5. **Adrienne Ayers, Assistant General Manager at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**

Adrienne Ayers, with over 27 years of professional experience—including 18 in aviation capital management—has established herself as a transformative leader in aviation, construction, and transportation. A native of Trinidad and Temple University architecture graduate, she has led high-profile projects across multiple airports, including Augusta Regional, JFK International, and the

Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, and now serves as Assistant General Manager for Planning and Development at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, overseeing billions in capital improvements under ATLNext. Renowned for her expertise in project delivery, strategic leadership, and fostering inclusive environments, Adrienne is a passionate advocate for advancing women in male-dominated industries, mentoring and sponsoring emerging leaders while breaking barriers as the first woman of color in several senior roles. Her dedication to diversity, empowerment, and innovation has earned her recognition, including the 2025 ATL Industry Day Leadership Award, cementing her role as a visionary shaping the future of aviation and paving the way for underrepresented professionals.

6. Bridgette Beato, Chief Executive Officer at Lumenor Consulting Group

Bridgette Beato, Founder and CEO of Lumenor Consulting Group and Chair of the WTS International Board of Directors, is a transformative leader whose career reflects a steadfast commitment to inclusion, equity, and strategic growth in the transportation industry. With decades of service spanning every level of WTS, she has led through times of change by fostering transparency, amplifying chapter voices, forging key national partnerships, and ensuring diverse perspectives shape the organization's future. Under her leadership, Lumenor has grown into a nationally recognized DBE-certified firm employing a workforce that is 70% women and/or minority professionals, while her advocacy has opened doors for underrepresented groups across the sector. Widely respected for her clarity, collaboration, and vision, Bridgette has advanced critical industry policies, including the USDOT DBE Final Rule, and achieved milestones such as the first-ever WTS International Conference in 2025 with record attendance. Through her mentorship, policy influence, and bridge-building between public and private sectors, she has empowered countless women and minority professionals, leaving a legacy defined by opportunity, progress, and impact.