



## Communications for Recognition Awards Subcommittee

---

### Call for Nominations:

---

To: WTS Atlanta Chapter Membership

From: WTS Atlanta Recognition Awards Subcommittee Chair(s)

Subject: 2025 Recognition Awards Nominations Are Open Thru 7/24!

Date: June 1, 2026

All,

The 2026 Recognition Awards Program is open for nominations! We invite you, your colleagues, leaders, and friends to take this opportunity to spotlight a well-deserved individual, company or project. This year, there are six categories with a description of each category and criterion included here. Please take a moment to nominate an individual/ company/ project that you believe has contributed to WTS and the local transportation community. Nominees shall be notified and agree/accept being nominated.

**Nominations must be submitted by 5:00 PM Friday, July 24, 2026 to be considered.**

Nominations will be voted on by active members via electronic ballots (link provided by email).

Awardees must be willing to be WTS Atlanta members for at least a year, if not already a member.

The awards will be presented at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, scheduled for November 6, 2026.

Please note the following guidance:

- Nominated individuals/organizations cannot be nominated to receive an award already received within the last 5-year timeframe or received more than one award in the same year.
- The Governance Committee and/or Board must confirm/vet nominations to ensure criteria compliance prior to distributing the nomination list to membership.
- If a committee/board member or their respective company is nominated, he/she will be excluded from the committee/board approval process.

## 2026 Recognition Award Categories, Criteria, and Nomination Form Links:

- **Employer of the Year**: Recognizes a public, private, non-profit, or association employer for recruiting, retaining, and advancing women.
  - Employer of the Year ([here](#)) or: <https://forms.gle/CB5xwxtwezLskC9F8>
- **Honorable Ray LaHood Award (Man of the Year)**: Recognizes a man who is a leader in the transportation industry and has directly contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.
  - Honorable Ray LaHood ([here](#)) or <https://forms.gle/9ynEtrBGJJkrAurG8>
- **Innovative Transportation Solutions Award (New!)**: Recognizes a project or service that has supported one or more key community values, such as improved accessibility to services, employment, or other opportunities. The project or service should have also made a positive impact in the lives of its users.
  - Innovative Transportation Solutions Award ([here](#)) or: <https://forms.gle/ycXGJ1cxW7gWckCM7>
- **Member of the Year**: Recognizes a WTS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization.
  - ***Preferably, nominated by a Committee Chair/Board Director and preferably not a WTS board member.***
  - Member of the Year Nomination Form ([here](#)) or: <https://forms.gle/c8fpRaKi9HUR5xKi9>
- **Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award**: Recognizes 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.
  - Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award ([here](#)) or: <https://forms.gle/cagjMs5ZTjSn3fmw5>
- **Woman of the Year**: Honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.
  - Woman of the Year Nomination Form ([here](#)) or: <https://forms.gle/NXh5jbNsfMhqoQLc8>

**Nomination Submittal Requirements**: Please be concise and make note of maximum word count per question. Nominations must be submitted online prior to the deadline (5:00PM on 7/24/26). A PDF copy of the questions and criteria for each category are available upon request.

---

## **2026 NARRATIVE QUESTIONS FOR EACH CATEGORY**

---

### **Employer of the Year Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Summarize why the nominee deserves to win (max 300 words)
2. Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization supports WTS through memberships, sponsorships, and employee involvement at the local and international levels. (max 250 words)
3. Describe the organization's structure, including the number of women in executive and senior positions and those leading major initiatives. (max 250 words)
4. Describe the career development plans and succession programs in place for women to advance within the organization. (max 250 words)
5. Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization provides continuing education of its female employees through professional education, professional organizations, and professional development opportunities. (max 250 words)
6. Describe and provide example(s) of how the organization encourages female students to enter the transportation field by providing internship opportunities. (max 100 words)

### **Honorable Ray LaHood (Man of the Year) Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Summarize why the nominee deserves to win (max 300 words)
2. Describe 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 the organization (max 250 words)
3. Describe 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 the organization (max 250 words)
4. Describe how the nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry (max 250 words)

### **Innovative Transportation Solutions Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Summarize why the nominee deserves to win (max 300 words)

2. Describe the purpose of the transportation initiative, solution, project or policy and the number of women involved from initiation to completion. (max 250 words)
3. Identify the key elements of the project, and how female leadership successfully implemented those elements. (max 250 words)
4. Illustrate how female leadership successfully met and overcame challenges. (max 250 words)
5. Explain how the project achieved its purpose. (max 250 words)

### **Member of the Year Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Summarize why the nominee deserves to win (max 300 words)
2. Describe how the nominee has shown commitment to the goals and growth of WTS (max 250 words)
3. Describe how the nominee has promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry (max 250 words)
4. Describe how the nominee has revitalized or expanded the Chapter or any of its functions (max 250 words)

### **Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Describe how the nominee contributed significantly to promoting diversity, inclusion and multi-cultural awareness within their organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS. (max 300 words)
2. Describe how the nominee exhibited extraordinary efforts or initiatives in facilitating professional opportunities for women and minorities. (max 250 words)

### **Uncovering Our Legacy Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Please write a short paragraph describing why this person is deserving of the Uncovering Our Legacy Award. (use 300-500 words)

### **Woman of the Year Award – 2026 Narrative Questions**

1. Summarize why the nominee deserves to win (max 300 words)
2. Describe how she is a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry (max 250 words)
3. Describe how she has directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field (max 250 words)
4. Describe her career advancements and support of women in the industry that have advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation (max 250 words)