PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Adele Hall
President, WTS Minnesota

I had the pleasure of attending my first-ever WTS National Conference this May in Atlanta and I heartily recommend it to all of you. The conference was nearly 100 percent women so it was quite unique among my professional experiences. If you identify as a woman, you may find it heartening, as I did, to be in the company of so many other women transportation professionals, most of whom are very invested in WTS. If you identify as a man, consider attending this conference. There’s no better way to show allyship than to show up and you can be certain that you’ll stand out! (In a good way!) Next year’s conference is in New Orleans May 8-10, 2024 and WTS-Minnesota offers subsidies to members who wish to attend. Don’t miss it!

If WTS has had positive power in your career, consider bringing your energy and ideas to a board position in 2024! Please visit the WTS-MN website for information on the board positions and process for joining. Feel free to reach out to me with questions: ahall@srfconsulting.com.

Happy Summer!
Adele

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

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WHY HNTB SUPPORTS WTS-MN:
WTS provides HNTB a platform for learning about professional opportunities, access to technical education, expertise and top leaders in the industry, all while focusing on diversity and inclusion and offering growth opportunities to women within the transportation industry.

At HNTB, we have made a corporate commitment to the advancement of environmental and community sustainability. In all our projects we are attentive to understand the effects of our work on environmental sustainability – from the paper we use in our documentation through design and project implementation.

Kimley-Horn

Expect More. Experience Better.

MN OFFICE: Twin Cities and Rochester

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OFFERED:
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WHY KIMLEY HORN SUPPORTS WTS-MN:
Since 2012 Kimley Horn has supported WTS Minnesota for their outstanding professional development, leadership, and educational opportunities afforded to our employees and this region by our local chapter. Developing leaders in the work place, awarding scholarships, and mentoring programs like Transportation YOU, we see our investment in WTS growing tomorrow’s transportation leaders. WTS provides tools and networking opportunities to connect and build a strong community working towards the advancement of women in the transportation industry.
DEI Update:

It’s been a busy summer for the WTS DEI Committee and members have been working hard on our Strategic Plan and Land Acknowledgement Action Plan!

Stay tuned for the upcoming Bdote Workshop Invite set for September 15th sponsored by the Land Acknowledgement Subcommittee. WTS Minnesota, in partnership with APA and ASCE Minnesota Chapters, will be offering this event to members. The DEI Committee is excited about this event as the first of an event series outlined in our Land Acknowledgement Action Plan.

Additionally, members of the Land Acknowledgement Subcommittee have been invited to speak at the WTS Midwest Regional Conference (September 17th-19th in Chicago) about their efforts and to present the Land Acknowledgement Action Plan. Panelists include:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liz Morice</td>
<td>Kimley-Horn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Cho</td>
<td>Stantec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle LaGarde</td>
<td>Braun Intertec</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wiltgen</td>
<td>MnDOT</td>
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Please congratulate our panelists if you see them at an event!

The regularly occurring DEI Committee Meetings have been rescheduled to the first Wednesday of the month from 8am-9am. Please reach out to Emma Lucken (emma.lucken@co.ramsey.mn.us) or Jennifer Wiltgen (jennifer.wiltgen@state.mn.us) if you would like to be added to the calendar invite.

MnDOT Gender and Travel Study

The Role of Gender Identity in Travel Behavior

Ensuring the transportation system does not disproportionately impact underserved or underrepresented communities requires an accurate understanding of the needs and experiences of these communities. Previous research on gender and travel has largely defined gender as binary—female and male—which overlooks travel needs and experiences of non-binary people. New insight into the impacts of gender identity on travel behaviors and experience will support MnDOT’s efforts to advance transportation equity.

Nearly 300 participants representing a diverse group in terms of gender, geography and other social characteristics kept travel diaries on a smartphone app for two weeks. Participants recorded the purpose of their trips and the emotions—positive and negative—they experienced during the trips, and answered questions about gender identity, participation in daily activities and household tasks. Data from the travel diaries demonstrate that gender identity interacts with other individual characteristics such as race, employment status and family role in shaping experiences with the transportation system. Read the full report and findings summary here.
June Program: Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project Presentation and Tour

Meeting at Hennepin County’s Hosmer Library, Erin Jordan (SEH) presented alongside Maria Wardoku (Alta Planning + Design) on how communities can plan and implement successful Safe Routes to School Demonstration projects – emphasizing the need for strong collaboration between stakeholders and not being scared to try new things to create safer systems for children to walk and bike to school. A “walking school bus” was lead to the nearby MnDOT SRTS Demonstration project at Minneapolis Green Central Elementary School, showing off the temporary raised crosswalk, two-way bikeway, and curb extension features along E 34th St (extending between Clinton Ave and Park Ave). A great project example that is building a safer connection to the school, adjacent bikeways, and other key destinations in the area.

July Program: Joint Summer Social with MSES, WTS, ITS-MN, and NCITE at the Saints Game!

Take us out to the ball game! With nearly 200 attendees, our WTS members and friends had a great opportunity to socialize with MSES, ITS-MN, and NCITE at the July 25 Saints baseball game. It was a hot night on the field and the home team’s bats were even hotter with the Saints bringing in a 14 – 7 win. Thanks to all the members and friends who helped make this event possible!

TYOU Capitol Summit Recap

WTS Minnesota Chapter had the privilege of attending the WTS Capital Summit this summer with 2 mentees from Blaine High School. WTS International hosts this one-of-a-kind program to gather Transportation YOU mentor/mentees from across the country for a week of panels, leadership and team building, tours, and hands-on activities that showcase transportation careers. This year 27 high school mentees and 18 mentors were able to attend and hear from diverse professionals as well as visit the U.S. Department of Transportation, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Maryland Port Administration, Federal Highway Administration Turner-Fairbanks Research Center, Amtrak at Union Station, the Capital, and a Potomac River Boat ride. This is an incredible experience for the mentees to learn about the various careers available but to also make valuable connections with their peers across the nation and begin to establish their professional networks.
Interested in Getting Involved with WTS-MN?

Become a Member
WTS Minnesota is always looking for people to help our chapter provide high-quality programming, networking, and professional development opportunities for our members. Volunteering on a committee is a great way to get connected with other transportation professionals, and give back to the profession at the same time. You do not need to be a WTS member to get involved!

Check out the About section for reasons to become a WTS-MN member!

Volunteer with WTS-MN
We are growing as a chapter and have so many ways to get involved including, but not limited to: special program assistance, education outreach (school visits and tabling), mentorships, scholarship applications review, fundraising assistance. If you are interested in one of these roles or learning about other ways to get involved in other volunteer opportunities please contact our volunteer coordinator Angie Bolstad.

Join the board!
Take the next step in volunteering with the chapter and join the 2024 WTS-MN Board! There are several positions the we are actively recruiting for. More information on open positions and the application process are available online and on the next page.

Attend a WTS-hosted event or program
Joining members and non-members is a great way to get involved. There are several events and programs throughout the year hosted by the WTS-MN Chapter, our Central Region, and WTS-International. Upcoming events are listed below and be sure to watch for emails and check our events webpage for information on future events.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>What: 2024 WTS Board Recruitment Meeting and Happy Hour</td>
<td>Where: SRF St. Paul Office and Dual Citizen Brewery When: 4:30 - 6:00 and 6:30 - 8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>What: Bdote – Minnesota Humanities Center Tour</td>
<td>Where: TBD When: TBD</td>
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Are you interested in serving on the WTS Board but want to learn more about what it’s like and what roles are available? Join us for the August Board meeting (in-person at the SRF St. Paul office) followed by an informal gathering at Dual Citizen Brewery.

The WTS-MN DEI committee is partnering with ASCE and APA-MN to bring our members and friends this unique opportunity! Look for registration and tour information soon! Space is limited.

WTS Central Region invites you to an engaging lineup of programming from across the Midwest and beyond. Please reach out to centralregion@wtsinternational.org if you have any questions or would like to get involved!
Join the 2024 WTS Board!

The Board has a variety of positions that are elected and appointed. Below are short descriptions of all board positions. Applications will be accepted for all positions, however, we are actively recruiting for the following vacancies:

Vice President
Secretary
Development Director

Development Chair
Programs Director

Sustainability Chair
Mentor Chair (2 positions)

1. Fill out the nomination form.
2. Email the forms to Lisa Elliott by September 8, 2023.
3. A Nomination Committee will review all submissions and make recommendations. The nomination committee is made up of the Past-President, Vice-President, Advisory Board members, and members at-large.

If you’re interested in finding out more about any position, feel free to reach out to any current board members or attend the board recruitment event on August 16. You must be a member to fill these positions. If you’re not a member now, there is time to become a member!

Board Position Descriptions (Actively Recruiting)

Vice President - Assist the President in leading the chapter as needed. Prepare for taking over the President role the following year. Vice President usually takes on an initiative at the request of the President.

Secretary - Prepare meeting minutes for monthly chapter Board meetings and semi-annual Advisory Board meetings. Prepare the Annual Report. Check WTS Gmail account twice weekly.

Development Director - Recruit new partners and retain current public agency and corporate partners; create partnership request letters; create and maintain benefit listings by serving as partner manager; welcome new partners; initiate and facilitate appreciation programs to recognize partners.

Development Chair/Public Partnerships - Support the Development Director with a focus on growing and retaining public partners.

Programs Director (1 of 2) - Responsible for monthly programs. Coordinate volunteers, speakers to create the program. Coordinate logistics such as room reservations, food ordering, etc. Send event invitation to membership.

Programs Chair (1 of 2) - Assist programs directors with planning monthly programs. Primary responsibility includes monitoring the Programs Gmail account and assisting with social media posts and newsletter updates.

Sustainability Chair - Focus on aligning other efforts, events, and discussions by applying a Sustainability Lens. Review and update as needed the website materials that reflect the best practices of WTS-MN regarding sustainability. Assist with event planning efforts and where feasible bring awareness to sustainability related topics and speakers.

Mentor Program Chair (1 of 2) - Administer WTS-MN’s mentor program. Solicit mentor and mentee volunteers, match mentors and mentees, provide guidance to participants. Plan kick-off, closing, and one additional event for participants.
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Lesley Kandaras: WTS-MN is excited to share that Met Council made has selected Lesley Kandaras as permanent General Manager at Metro Transit. She is the first female to serve in this role. Congratulations, Lesley; we look forward to celebrating with you soon!

Karen Scheffing: has taken a new position as a Senior planner at Bolton & Menk.

Alicia Valenti: has started a new role- Senior BRT Project Coordinator at Metro Transit.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

We appreciate your support. You make all our programs, scholarships, and outreach possible!

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