Adele Hall
President, WTS Minnesota

WTS-MN is off to a terrific start in 2023 thanks to our members and energetic board. I am thrilled to announce that in January the City of Saint Paul joined Metro Transit, MnDOT, and Washington County as a public partner to WTS-MN. City of Saint Paul employees can now take advantage of this partnership via the following benefits:

- Employees of partner agencies register for all WTS-MN events at the member price.
- Agency employees may apply for grants to attend trainings.
- Partner agencies receive two complimentary registrations to both the holiday party and scholarships and recognitions event.
- The agency is positively recognized as a partner WTS-MN’s channels.

The benefit of public partnerships to WTS-MN is felt every time a member of these organizations brings their energy, time, knowledge, and skills to the WTS community. If public partnership sounds like a good fit for your agency, please contact Carrie Desmond, WTS-MN Development Chair.

A benefit to WTS-MN membership in general, as well as our partner agencies, is the opportunity to apply for a WTS-MN grant to attend the WTS National Conference! This year’s conference will be held in Atlanta May 10-12 and if past years are any indication, will offer an excellent mix of technical and leadership learning and lots of networking opportunities. If you’re interested please watch for the conference grant application in your inbox in March.

Onward to spring!
Adele
Greetings from the 2023 WTS MN Board!

We’re happy to serve our members to advance the inclusion & participation of women in the transportation industry! Our 2023 Board members are:

**President:**
Adele Hall, SRF

**Vice President:**
Lisa Elliott, Metro Transit

**Past President:**
Lyssa Leitner, Washington County

**Treasurer:**
Eden Rogers, Washington County

**Secretary:**
Rachel Haase, Kimley-Horn

**Development Director:**
Jackie Dylla, KLI

**Membership Director:**
Catherine Judd, HDR

**Programs Co-Directors:**
Erin Jordan, SEH
Karen Scheffing, MnDOT

**Marketing Director:**
Maddie Garces, SRF

**Scholarships & Recognitions Director:**
Emily Bowen, Kimley-Horn

**Sustainability Chair:**
Lauren Lynch, AECOM

**Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chairs:**
Jennifer Wiltgen, MnDOT
Emma Lucken, Ramsey County

**Development Chair:**
Carrie Desmond, Metro Transit

**Membership Chair:**
Nicole Bitzan, SRF

**Special Event Co-Chairs:**
Alicia Valenti, SRF
Daniel Baxter, Michael Baker

**Mentoring Co-Chairs:**
Ashley Morello, Hennepin County
Caroline Miller, HDR
Michelle Kahl, Kismet Engineering

**Programs Co-Chairs:**
Allie Futhey, Isthmus Engineering
Dany Maloney, HDR

**Marketing Chairs**
Social Media- Kate Hvizdos, SRF
Website- Sara Allen, Washington County

**Transportation YOU Co-Chairs:**
Melissa Duhn, Braun Intertec
Laura Melcher, WSB

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Angie Bolstad, Stantec

**Regional Board Representative**
Sara Pflaum, MnDOT
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH PANEL: THE WOMEN WHO ARE MAKING HISTORY TODAY

On Tuesday, February 28th, the WTS-MN Diversity and Inclusion Committee presented a panel discussion among African American women leaders in Minnesota transportation. The panelists discussed where the transportation sector is now, where it is going, and opportunities for entrepreneurs, all while recognizing and celebrating contributions and accomplishments by African American women in transportation.

The event hosted more than 40 attendees and was held at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, which has been dedicated to “improving the quality of life in our community by providing access to critical human services; fostering and promoting African American heritage, personal growth, self-sufficiency, and self-determination; and developing community leadership.” The Center has been serving the community with these goals for 94 years.

Panelists included:

**Kim Collins** - MnDOT Deputy Commissioner
**Toni Carter** - Former Ramsey County Commissioner
**Tekia Jefferson** - Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)
**Della Young** - CEO of Young Environmental Consulting Group
**Edna McKenzie** - Owner and CEO of Midwest Select Contracting

The event was moderated by Gloria Jeff, Livability Director at MnDOT. Stay tuned for a longer piece on the discussion in the next newsletter.
January Program – Navigating Your Transportation Career Panel

The 2023 programs started off on a great note as our programs committee hosted a virtual panel discussion with five leaders in the transportation industry. These leaders represented their work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The panelists included Abdullahi Abdulle, MnDOT Equity Planner; Anjali Bains, Lead Director of the Energy Access and Equity team at Fresh Energy; Becca Hughes, Senior Transportation Planner at Stantec; Katie Toghramadjian, president and founder of Isthmus Engineering; and HunWen Westman, traffic engineer at the City of St. Paul.

Panelists shared their thoughts with the attendees on the transportation profession, navigating equity challenges, achieving professional goals, building a supportive professional community, setting health career habits, and what they’re most excited about for the future of transportation!

February Program – Joint ACEC/WTS-MN Program: Politics in Engineering Panel

On the evening of Thursday, February 9, the WTS-MN Programs joined together with ACEC/MN Emerging Professionals to co-host a Politics in Transportation Night at the Green Mill in St. Paul. The program hosted Senate Higher Education Chair Sen. Sandy Pappas and Assistant Senate Minority Leader Sen. John Jasinski to speak on infrastructure funding, how proposed legislation might affect the engineering industry, how to get involved with your local representatives, and issues that may be important at the Capitol this session.

The discussion was well-attended by members of both organizations! Thanks to those who came out to connect with legislators and other transportation professionals! A special thanks to Programs Committee member, Renee Raduenz, for her assistance organizing the event and co-moderating the discussion.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Dany Maloney

WTS MN is relaunching a Member Spotlight as a newsletter feature to share your stories on what being a WTS member means to you. This month's story features Dany Maloney, Project Manager at HDR and a WTS MN Programs Co-Chair. Read what Dany had to say about her membership below!

Hi! I am Dany Maloney. I am a project manager at HDR, Inc. and a new member of WTS Minnesota. I have built my career in engineering and project management for nearly 15 years with five of those years here in Minnesota. Prior to moving to Minnesota, I lived in Southern California and was an active board member of WTS Orange County. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my husband and three kids.

As a woman in the transportation industry, I take great pride in the work we accomplish collectively. I believe it is incredibly important that women support each other both personally and professionally. I feel WTS has the same values in the opportunities it offers for students, public sector employees and private sector employees. WTS shows students the vast number of opportunities there are in the transportation industry, and it allows public and private sector employees opportunities to grow their networks and career skills.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON THE MOVE

Sofia Puerto, PE, PhD in Michael Baker International’s Minneapolis office has been promoted to Bridge Project Manager. In this role she will manage bridge projects with a focus on applying evaluation and research methodologies.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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.
WTS International Scholarship Opportunity

WTS International is dedicated to supporting the next generation of transportation leaders through our annual scholarships, with funds raised through the WTS Foundation and our corporate Strategic Partners. Our corporate Strategic Partner Scholarships, sponsored by HDR, HNTB, and WSP, are awarded annually to students in undergraduate, trade, community college, and other academic institutions who are pursuing careers in transportation. These scholarships are based on the applicant’s specific career goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities and skills. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

More information and applications are available on the WTS International website — please submit by the deadline of **March 10, 2023**.

Upcoming Events

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| **What:** RTMC Tour and Happy Hour  
**Where:** MnDOT RTMC 1500 W County Rd B2 Roseville, MN 55113  
**When:** 4:00pm-6:00pm | **What:** WTSMN Scholarships and Recognitions Event  
**Where:** TBD  
**When:** Late afternoon | **What:** Trail Walk with Minneapolis Park Board  
**Where:** Meeting location TBD  
**When:** TBD |

Join us at MnDOT’s Regional Transportation System Management Center (RTMC) for a tour of their operations. The RTMC is where State Patrol, MnDOT Maintenance, and MnDOT Freeway Operations work together to quickly detect, respond to and remove incidents off of our freeway systems.

Happy Hour to follow (open to everyone) at High Pines Brewery.  
Register here!

WTS MN invites you to attend our annual Scholarships and Recognitions Luncheon. Keep an eye on your inbox for details on where and when you can join us this Spring to celebrate the accomplishments of our winners!

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s (MPRB) draft Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan was completed last Winter. Join WTS on a walking tour of Lake of the Isles to hear about the community input received and the Circulation and Access recommendations made by the project’s Community Advisory Committee.

Watch out for more details on when this even will take place and how you can sign up!
THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

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

ADVOCATE LEVEL PARTNERS

AECOM  HNTB  Stantec  HDR  WSB

ALLIANT  KLJ  BRAUN INTERTEC  SEH  SRF  WSP

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