

# Connector **WTS**

*news from WTS-DC*

*Advancing Women in Transportation  
Washington, DC Chapter*

*March 18, 2013 Volume 1*



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Contributors to this issue include Avital Barnea, USDOT; Lindsay Brown, AASHTO; Tricia Harr, USDOT, and Andrea Stone, Dynamic Pro Inc. (DPI). Cover photography, design and layout by Lindsay Brown.

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## Get Involved!

### Have Any News You'd Like to Share?

New job, promotion, work anniversary? Pass your PE, AIA, or AICP exam? Any weddings or births? Let us know! Email our editor. ([tricia.harr@dot.gov](mailto:tricia.harr@dot.gov))

We also encourage all of our WTS-DC Chapter members to find us on LinkedIn.

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A Special "Thank You" to Parsons Brinckerhoff for their monetary contribution towards the WTS-DC Chapter's printing needs and the use of their conference room for our monthly board meetings. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Our 2013 Sponsors



# A Message from the President



WTS-DC Chapter President  
Andrea Stone, Dynamic Pro Inc.

Dear WTS-DC Chapter members and friends,

This year marks thirty-five years of existence for the DC Chapter of WTS. Since our founding, WTS has dedicated itself to transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women.

WTS creates exceptional experiences for members through professional development, mentoring, and programs that provide a space for discussion of intellectual leadership in the transportation community. We strongly believe that all transportation professionals should have an opportunity to reach their full potential.

It's a wonderful time to be in the transportation field. WTS-DC, its members, and sponsors have the privilege of making a monumental difference in the lives of many individuals. Many have contributed to providing scholarships to young professionals, providing mentoring opportunities, professional development for junior to mid-level professionals, and making a deep resource pool available for Federal and private organizations in the field.

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## The perfect occasion to open WTS' 2013 activities was our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

The event featured a panel discussion by national transportation leaders on "Transportation at a Crossroads: Building for the 21st Century," the annual recognition awards, and a gala reception where our members – current and former, were joined

by US DOT Secretary LaHood and more than 15 modal administrators and senior executives from all DOT modes.

The panel discussion was moderated by Deb Miller, US Senate, and included Polly Trottenberg, US DOT Undersecretary for Policy; Janet Kavinoky, US Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director for Transportation & Infrastructure; and Joyce Rose, President & CEO of Operation Lifesaver Inc. The panel provided an ideal environment to examine the need for funding, accountability, and performance, as well as the ability to increase public awareness of transportation challenges and opportunities. Some of my takeaways follow:

- Information technology will undoubtedly continue to enable transportation and DOT will continue to focus on information rather than just data
- The importance of MAP-21 is not to be underestimated; as MAP-21 presents some initial challenges, it enables our country to continue building the transportation system needed by the US
- Accountability is in high demand -- when more funding is available to state and local governments, more accountability is expected in return; the many open questions regarding a potential increase of more formula-based funding



35th Anniversary event photography by Yuriy Zahvoyskyy

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

and less discretionary spending and the future of some grant programs will provide fruitful areas of exploration at future WTS-DC programs in the coming months.

The panelists were asked to provide their predictions for the legacy of the administration in the next four years. They included:

- Mentoring programs and other opportunities to grow the next generation of transportation leaders will be an area of focus in the coming years
- DOT is attracting talented people, including millennials, who are particularly engaged in making a contribution but will require guidance
- Air Traffic Control will be modernized
- Opportunities to connect transportation efforts and policy to the US export goals will be a key goal of the Obama administration

Many significant challenges and opportunities were discussed. For me, the highlight of the evening was witnessing the impressive commitment of senior DOT officials who have been making it



The panel discussed “Transportation at a Crossroads: Building for the 21st Century” at the WTS-DC 35th Anniversary Celebration. From left: Deb Miller, Senior Consultant with Cambridge Systematics, Inc.; Polly Trotenberg, USDOT Under Secretary for Policy; Janet Kavinoky, US Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director for Transportation & Infrastructure; and Joyce Rose, President & CEO of Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

their legacy to have more opportunities for women and young professionals in transportation.

We are honored to have the privilege to serve the WTS-DC chapter, and encourage you to participate in our committees and become an active member. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued support.

Always,

Andrea Stone

President WTS- DC Chapter

Tickets to the panel discussion and award ceremony sold out. The cocktail reception was held immediately afterwards two floors above in the Keck Center.

US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood gave a speech at the reception. See page 12 for the Farewell to LaHood article.



### Call for Applications



#### **Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) Implementation –**

AASHTO and FHWA are pleased to announce that the application process for projects is now open for the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2). SHRP2 uses innovative technologies to deliver more efficient, cost-effective programs that help meet today's complex transportation challenges. **Applications are due by March 22, 2013.**

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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#### **Upcoming events include:**

- March 27, 2013: Breakfast Discussion with Amtrak President and CEO - Members-Only
- Early April 2013: Legislative Forum
- April 1, 2013: WTS-DC Board meeting
- May 6, 2013: WTS-DC Board meeting
- June 3, 2013: WTS-DC Board meeting

**Register Now – Breakfast Discussion with Amtrak President and Ceo Joe Boardman on March 27th, 2013, 8:00-9:30 a.m.**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Register now for a members-only discussion with Amtrak President and CEO and former FRA Administrator Joe Boardman. Meet in the Amtrak Board Room and learn more about organizational, cultural, and leadership change from the CEO's perspective as America's passenger railroad implements sweeping changes to its business structure and prepares itself for a new era.

#### **Mark Your Calendars: WTS-DC Legislative Forum in early April 2013.**

The WTS-DC Legislative Forum is an opportunity for members to hear directly from key staff on the House and Senate authorization and appropriations committees on updates and the outlook for the committees' agendas. This year promises to be an interesting session, as appropriators deal with the effects of the sequester and tough budget caps, and authorizers address the review of rail legislation and early work on the next surface transportation authorization.

The Forum will be held in early April during the congressional recess. Our invited guests will be majority and minority staff from the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee and the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as the Senate committees responsible for transportation, including Environment and Public Works; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Commerce, Science and Transportation, Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security; and the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

## Diversity Discussion

on women and minorities beating the odds in the District's construction industry

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On the evening of February 13th, at the office of McKissack & McKissack near McPherson Square, 25 women convened for a lively and then attentive discussion on diversity in D.C.'s construction and engineering industries, and how S.T.E.M. initiatives at Cardozo Senior High School's TransTech Academy are helping to further diversity.

Lisa Anders, LEED AP- Vice President of Business Development, of project management firm McKissack & McKissack (<http://www.mckissackdc.com/about.aspx>) spoke about her experience as Senior Project Manager for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

**But her mother said  
'Go to school and  
be a great engineer  
...Being a woman  
is a plus'**

Michelle Pourciau- Vice President of Transportation, discussed McKissack & McKissack's support of the TransTech Academy at Cardozo High School.

A video (<http://vimeopro.com/blueskyfilmscreative/mckissack-and-mckissack>) was shown in which CEO and Chairwoman Deryl McKissack highlighted the history of her family's company, which dates back five generations and is an outgrowth of the oldest minority-owned architecture/engineering firm in the United States, beginning with Deryl's great-great grandfather, a slave named Moses McKissack, who learned the building trade from his overseer.

Three generations later, Deryl's father

had daughters and told them to go to college and marry men who could take over the family business, but her mother said "Go to school and be a great engineer.... Being a woman is a plus." So in addition to overcoming racial barriers, Deryl McKissack's firm has also managed to triumph as a women-owned business in the Construction industry, despite starting up with only \$1,000 in 1990. Their notable projects now include the U.S. Treasury building, the White House Complex, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Nationals Ball Park, as well as projects in Chicago and transportation rail systems in Los Angeles.

After the video Lisa Anders described McKissack & McKissack's role as the design and management team for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

When asked what was the most challenging aspect of this project, Anders replied, "Managing all the interested parties." Work included architecture; landscape architecture; geotechnical; stormwater management and sediment control; roadway realignment; presentations to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Planning Commis-



Lisa Anders explaining her work with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial/ Diversity event photography by Chincie Mouton

## RECENT EVENTS



Captions clockwise from left: Monique Polydras, Director - Operations at ANG-ARAI, with TransTech Coordinator Emma L. Stephens; TransTech Director Shirley McCall and Michelle Pourciau; WTS-DC Chapter President Andrea Stone with Michelle Pourciau and Lisa Anders

sion and National Park Service; subsurface investigation; and hazardous materials testing.

The monument was carved by Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin, who was ultimately chosen for his artistic merit. The monument's "Stone of Hope" emerges from a "Mountain of Despair," but is not yet completely carved because Dr. King's vision has not yet been fully realized. Therefore, the M.L.K. Memorial project will continue into the future.

Michelle Pourciau spoke on S.T.E.M. initiatives at the TransTech Academy (<http://transtechacademy.com/>). She informed the group that the Transportation and Technology Academy of Cardozo Senior High School was established in 1991 as the first transportation studies academy in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It has a direct impact on fostering diversity in the transportation community. The Academy combines a high quality education with specialized career pathways, projects, field experiences, mentorships and internships which emphasize S.T.E.M..

Pourciau invited TransTech facilitators Shirley McCall and Emma L. Stephens and two students named Queen and Samantha to speak about their experiences. Samantha's mother is a graduate

of the program and encouraged her to apply. It offers scholarship opportunities for post-secondary education. Over 85% of the program's participants go to college. Many TransTech alumni now work at USDOT.

Through the Industry Partners Consortium, (<http://transtechacademy.com/about/partners.htm?>) McKissack & McKissack hosts Architecture Day, during which students learn about architecture histories and styles before spending the afternoon getting hands-on experience with a specific type of architecture, from landscape to building.

"We were happy to host the event," Pourciau said. "I think people enjoyed it and there was a lot of comradery."



### Strategic Planning Session

The WTS-DC ladies casted their vote and set aims for 2013

The WTS-DC chapter hosted its annual strategic planning session on Saturday, January 26th at the Hall of the States in downtown Washington, DC. With excellent participation, more than 35 professionals representing federal, local, and private sectors discussed high level priorities and identified and prioritized potential activities for the upcoming year. Representation from WTS International and participation of the three immediate past board members made possible a discussion of challenges and opportunities for improvement for the chapter.

This session provided the DC chapter with an opportunity to **meet the new committee chairs**. The chapter has new chairs for 9 out of 11 active committees. Each committee chair introduced herself and exciting new committee goals for the year.

Using Decision Lens, (<http://www.decisionlens.com/>) a tool for group decision-making, the team agreed that the most important chapter-wide goals are to continue providing value to different segments of WTS membership, enhance coop-



eration with other organizations in the transportation sector, continue engaging previous WTS members and attract new active members. In 2013 raising funds for professional development and programs will be a priority, as well as raising funds for scholarships.

The group agreed that WTS will continue producing high-value programs to provide an open space to discuss important transportation issues, challenges, and opportunities. Professional development activities and mentoring will continue to take place and provide assistance to those professionals that are transitioning to mid-level or executive-level positions. New collaboration between the newsletter,

communications and social media committees will enable the DC chapter to concentrate on continually notifying members and WTS friends of activities and networking opportunities. Membership activities will revolve around re-engaging with previous members as well as attracting new members.

And now the hard work begins! After setting these strategic priorities the group will concentrate on defining the specific activities that will be built around these goals and targets. At the February 4th board meeting the chairs presented refined committee plans, including the Programs committee's calendar of activities for the year.



The 2013 DC chapter board with Michael Castrilli of Decision Lens/  
Planning Session photography by Lindsay Brown

# Accelerating Transportation Delivery

An Overview of MAP-21 from the Federal Highway Administration

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As many of you already know, the latest piece of transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), was signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. It is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005 and funds transportation programs totaling more than \$105 billion for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. MAP-21 is slightly different from past transportation bills because it is a two-year bill, as opposed to a five-year or longer bill. This means MAP-21 will expire in Summer 2014, and another transportation bill is already underway on the Hill.

For the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), MAP-21 sets the course for future transportation investment through core goals and objectives, such as strengthening America's highways by expanding the National Highway System; supporting economic development through increased TIFIA funding; supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) safety agenda by continuing the Highway Safety Improvement Program; and accelerating the project delivery process by streamlining environmental provisions associ-

ated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

To acquaint FHWA's partners and the public with the new provisions, informational webinars were held last fall. They covered a wide variety of topics from implementation to financing to performance measures. The webinars are posted on FHWA's web site and can be accessed any time at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/webinars.cfm>.

FHWA also prepared Question and Answer sheets, as well as fact sheets covering different sections of MAP-21. More recently, different program offices have been issuing guidance to Division Offices and State DOTs regarding implementation of MAP-21. Rulemakings have also been published in the Federal Register for public review and comments.

To learn more and stay informed about FHWA's implementation of MAP-21, please visit the web site at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>.



President Obama signed MAP-21 on July 6, 2012. Photo courtesy Whitehouse.gov.

# Every Day Counts II

An Innovative FHWA Program Aimed at Improving  
the Project Delivery Process

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The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced the second round of Every Day Counts (EDC II) initiatives in July 2012. The program “is designed to identify and deploy innovation aimed at reducing the time it takes to deliver highway projects, enhance safety, and protect the environment.” The program focuses on several core areas of the transportation delivery process (bridges; construction; operations; pavement; planning/environment; and safety) and within those core areas are specific initiatives aimed at implementing new delivery approaches and practices.

The Every Day Counts program began in 2006 with 14 initiatives, ranging from diverse topics like adaptive signal control to warm asphalt mix. The second round of initiatives includes 13 initiatives with topic areas such as 3D engineered models for construction and implementing quality environmental documentation. A few of the EDC I initiatives have continued into EDC II based on popularity and the results they have achieved in the field: accelerated bridge construction (geosynthetic reinforced soil-integrated bridge system and pre-fabricated bridge elements and systems); construction manager/general contractor; design build; and programmatic agreements.

The new EDC II initiatives were introduced to FHWA Division offices, State DOTs, and other partners last fall through a series of initia-

tive-specific webinars. A first round of summits for FHWA leadership were held throughout the country last fall, followed by more in-depth workshops geared towards field practitioners. A second round of “virtual” (i.e., online webconferencing) summits have been scheduled for April 2013 for the remaining EDC II initiatives. The virtual summits will present an opportunity for Division offices, State DOTs, and their partners to learn more about the different initiatives and discuss and decide on approaches they can use in implementing the initiatives.

FHWA also has a comprehensive website dedicated to the EDC program at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts>, which includes information on the upcoming Spring 2013 Summits and weblinks to prior EDC webinars, presentations, and videos.

Accelerated bridge construction. Photo courtesy of TexasFreeway.com



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## FTA Finalizes Changes to the New Starts Program

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The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) unveiled a streamlined approach for administering its primary capital public transportation program for expanding transit systems. The New Starts/Small Starts program, one of the largest competitive grant programs in the U.S. government, funds roughly half the cost of new and extended light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and ferry systems built in the United States.

The new approach was published in the Federal Register on January 9, 2013, (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-09/pdf/2012-31540.pdf>) along with a Notice of Availability of Proposed New Starts and Small Starts Policy Guidance with information on how to submit comments (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-09/pdf/2012-31539.pdf>). FTA's related Proposed New Starts and Small Starts Policy Guidance is available separately at (<http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/NewStartsPolicyGuidance.pdf>).

Four key changes are being made to the New Starts/Small Starts program:

- FTA is adopting a simpler, more straightforward approach for measuring a proposed project's cost-effectiveness. FTA will no longer require communities to compare a proposed project's travel time savings against a hypothetical alternative project. Instead, FTA will look at the estimated cost to construct the project communities intend to build compared against a rigorously analyzed estimate for the number of passengers the project will serve.
- FTA is expanding the range of environmental benefits used to evaluate proposed projects. In addition to taking into account the Environmental Protection Agency's regional air quality designations, FTA will also look at the dollar value of the anticipated benefits to human health, energy use, air quality (such as changes in

total greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants) and safety (such as reductions in accidents and fatalities).

- FTA is adding new economic development factors to its ratings process. FTA currently looks at local plans and policies already in place to encourage economic development and how well they're working in a given area. Going forward, a broader set of economic impacts will be included, such as whether local plans and policies maintain or increase affordable housing.

- FTA is streamlining the project evaluation process by reducing regulations and red tape. FTA will allow project sponsors to forgo a detailed analysis of benefits that are unnecessary to justify a project. For example, projects that receive a sufficient rating on benefits calculations will not be required to do an analysis to forecast benefits out to some future year. Similarly, FTA is developing methods that can be used to estimate benefits using simple approaches.

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### **The New Starts/Small Starts program funds roughly half the cost of new and extended light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and ferry systems built in the United States.**

Additional interim guidance on New Starts/Small Starts will be forthcoming to address provisions affected by the enactment of the legislation on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

Source: FTA Press Release, January 2013

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### A Farewell Thank You to U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood

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On January 29, 2013, U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood announced he will not be serving a second term as DOT Secretary in the Obama Administration.

Secretary LaHood has been a central supporter of women in the transportation industry and closer to home, a vital figure to the Washington DC Chapter of WTS. Secretary LaHood's tenure in the Obama Administration was noted for increased safety improvements in many transportation modes and the Distracted Driving Initiative; improved efficiencies in the transportation delivery process with the passage of MAP-21 and the FAA reauthorization; sustained support for the High-Speed Rail program; and increased transportation funding through the TIGER program.

He was selected as the first recipient of the WTS International Navigator Award in February 2013. The award "was created by WTS International to recognize the achievements of an individual or organization for extraordinary efforts to attract, retain, and advance women in the transportation industry."

Secretary LaHood has shown his support to the WTS DC chapter by attending many chapter events, and most recently, by speaking at the WTS 35th Anniversary gala last December. The WTS

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**Secretary LaHood has shown his support to the WTS DC chapter by attending many chapter events**



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood spoke at the WTS-DC 35th Anniversary event at the Keck Center, December 10, 2012.

Board and its members thank Secretary LaHood for his service to the country and the transportation industry and his personal generosity to the WTS DC chapter.

For additional articles on the Secretary's departure, please see the links below.

- <http://thehill.com/blogs/transportation-report/1095-other/280271-women-in-transportation-group-thanks-laood-for-dot-work> (Link to The Hill's Keith Laing article used with permission).
- <https://www.wtsinternational.org/wts-supporter-transportation-secretary-ray-la-hood-to-step-down/>
- <https://www.wtsinternational.org/transportation-secretary-ray-la-hood-named-wts-navigator/>

As of press time, a new DOT secretary had not been named.

The WTS-DC chapter is now up to 169 members! Welcome to our newest members:



Shira Bergstein, U.S. Department of Transportation - OST  
Ramona Burns, WMATA  
Meredith Howell, U.S. Department of Transportation - OIG  
Mojisola Jimoh, WMATA  
Patricia Komara, Atkins  
James Murray, Jacobs  
Emily Norton, U.S. Department of Transportation - OIG  
Cheryl Openshaw, U.S. Department of Transportation - FTA  
Eileen Wentland, U.S. Department of Transportation – FAA

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Celebrate all the great women you know

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The origins of Women's History Month date back to the first International Women's Day in 1911
- Congress passed the first resolution in 1981 for "Women's History Week" but it was not until 1987 that March was official designated as Women's History Month
- The United Kingdom and Australia also celebrate women (March 8) as does Canada (October 18)
- March 3rd marked the 100th anniversary of suffragists marching on Washington for the right to vote
- This year's theme is Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Events will be held throughout March at places like the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian to celebrate
- You can take this quiz to test your WHM knowledge

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/test.php>

For more information, check out <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/index.html> and <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>

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## Get Involved!

Have Any News You'd

Like to Share?

Know a member we should feature in the Member Spotlight? Let us know! **Submissions due May 31** for the Summer newsletter

Email our editor:  
[tricia.harr@dot.gov](mailto:tricia.harr@dot.gov)

### Karen Hedlund

Q & A with the Deputy Administrator of the Federal  
Railway Administration Karen Hedlund

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1. Please tell us a little about yourself and how you got involved in transportation?

I was born in Chicago, and commuted to school from the South Side to the North Side on the Illinois Central Electric commuter trains and the "L", an experience that gave me a lot of first-hand experience of how transit can help make a great city. I studied Government at Harvard and law at Georgetown, then went to work for a big Chicago firm doing public finance. Later my practice evolved into "project financing" -- the issuance of bonds secured with future project revenues. This approach enhanced the ability of governments to enter into public-private partnerships ("PPPs") attracting private investment in highways, rail systems, airports and ports.

2. Are there any individuals or mentors who have had a positive influence in your life and career?

I was blessed with great teachers in grade and high school who really pushed me, and at Harvard College some of the brightest lights of that era, including Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Richard Neustadt, who wrote the book on the Presidency. My section man for his course was a brilliant and funny young grad student named Barney Frank. As my primary extra-curricular distraction I worked in the newsroom of the university radio station alongside a noted future newsman named Chris Wallace. I was at Georgetown Law during the Watergate proceedings that some of our faculty was involved in. But I will ever be thankful for the lawyers who mentored me, so critically important since I was part of the first big wave of women lawyers and we needed a lot of help and encouragement.

3. What inspires you professionally? How have you overcome any challenges or adversities you faced along the way in your career?

I faced a number of bumps on the road, and had

a special terror of new jobs, especially involving things I had never done before. But somehow, with the great support of colleagues and my family I persevered. Never be afraid to learn something new, especially during turbulent economic times. I was long comforted by something Pope John XXXIII once said: "God never closes a door without opening a window."

4. How has the transportation industry changed over the course of your career, in particular for women?

Over the years I've seen huge changes in the transportation industry - from the growth of PPPs, to the re-emergence of rail as a critical transportation alternative. The biggest challenge today of course is adequate and sustainable funding. Notwithstanding our economic problems we cannot stop investing in the future. If Abraham Lincoln could launch the transcontinental railroad in the middle of the civil war, surely we can find a way to ensure that our children and grandchildren's lives aren't beleaguered by congestion, energy shortages and declining air quality.

5. What do you like most about WTS?

My boss, Secretary Ray LaHood likes to note that "Women really run this Department." The leadership of WTS is one of the reasons.

6. Do you have other hobbies or interests that you enjoy pursuing outside of the office?

One of the downsides of working in the transportation industry is that your life involves taking a lot of planes, trains and automobiles. So I like to kick back when I can on a bike path, ski slope or golf course. I also have a passion for opera, because it's so passionate! And my boys Alex and Erik make all of it worthwhile.



# The South Capitol Street Corridor

The South Capitol Street Corridor Project is a multi-modal project spearheaded by the District Department of Transportation and is one of seven transportation projects included in the District's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI). AWI is a 30-year development effort spearheaded by DDOT and supported by 19 local and federal agencies. It focuses on projects in District of Columbia Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8. The projects stretch from the Tidal Basin to the District's northeast border with Maryland and are valued at \$10 billion.

Seven transportation projects are included in the AWI and include:

- 11th Street Bridge
- Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
- Barney Circle-Southeast Boulevard
- M Street SE-SW Transportation Study
- Parkside Pedestrian Bridge
- Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues
- South Capitol Street Corridor

The South Capitol Street Corridor Project is a \$905 million project aimed at improving pedestrian and vehicular safety, increasing community accessibility, and supporting economic development. It includes replacing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge with a new six-lane bridge and recreating South Capitol Street into a six-lane urban boulevard.

Other key elements of the project include creating a new traffic oval west of the Anacostia River by the Nationals Ballpark; creating a new traffic circle east of the Anacostia River; rebuilding the Suitland Parkway/I-295 Interchange; adding traffic improvements at Howard Road and Firth Sterling Avenue; increasing bicycle and pedestrian improvements; and improving drainage and storm water management throughout the corridor.

The Project has achieved quite a few noteworthy milestones over the past few years:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Signed – March 2011
- Record of Decision (ROD) Signed – Pending
- Began Preliminary Engineering – January 2012
- Began Land Acquisition Process – January 2012
- Issue Request for Qualifications for Contractors – Early 2013

The Project has been divided into five segments (which will be delivered in two phases) in order to manage costs and minimize construction impacts. Phase 1 includes replacing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (Segment 1) and constructing a new interchange at Suitland Parkway/I-295 (Segment 2). It is anticipated DDOT will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) within the next several months for design-build construction of Phase 1, with an anticipated completion date of 2018.

Source: [www.anacostiawaterfront.org](http://www.anacostiawaterfront.org);  
South Capitol Street Fact Sheet and Industry Day Presentation



## WTS BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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[Click on a name to view headshot and bio](#)

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# Connector **WTS**

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