

Advancing women Advancing transportation

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter
- April/May/June Luncheons
- Lattes & Leadership
- 20th Annual Gala

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Tonia Norman

Retired TxDOT

VICE PRESIDENT

Laura Friello, PE

Project Manager Garver

SECRETARY

Adeliza Ramirez, PE

Engineer Volkert

TREASURER

Seles Johnson, PE

Senior Transportation Engineer Atkins

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ashley Williams

Research Administrator CTR/UT Austin

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR Cheryl Goodgame

Senior Marketing Coordinator Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc.







Page 1 | Vol 2



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings and happy summer to everyone in the WTS Heart of Texas community!

We have had some great experiences together this year, with more still to come.

In May, several WTS Heart of Texas Chapter board members and others from the chapter traveled to the Crescent City to experience the culture and community of New Orleans and join our transportation partners at the WTS International Conference. We connected with each other and with more than 1,200 other participants in celebrating the people, projects, and potential of our industry. I am happy to announce that the Heart of Texas Chapter once again achieved Gold Circle of Excellence status at International – the highest recognition category available!

Make plans now to join WTS International for the 2025 conference, to be held May 7-9 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada!

The Heart of Texas Chapter has enjoyed several great program luncheon presentations in the past few months. They included an update from TxDOT's Caroline Mays on the department's many transportation planning efforts in April, a panel discussion in May on navigating workforce challenges from the staff of Workforce Solutions Capital Area, and our recent June luncheon presentation from TxDOT's Erika Kemp on innovative corridors testing the use of emerging technology and autonomous freight.

Hopefully, you were able to join us on April 26th for the 20th Annual WTS Heart of Texas Foundation Scholarship and Awards Gala, held at the Austin Hyatt Regency. This was our largest event in the chapter's history. Check out the rest of the newsletter for highlights, profiles of our scholarship and award winners, and photos of the fun time we had. Thank you to everyone who made a generous contribution to help us raise funds for the chapter's scholarship fund. We couldn't do it without you!

We have hosted two Lattes & Leadership events so far this year, with more to come over the summer. In May, we had the chance to chat with Bonnie Sherman with TxDOT's Public Transportation Division. This month, the group gathered to hear from HNTB's Summer Lawton about her career insights. Please plan to join us for upcoming Lattes and Leadership coffee chats in July and August and hear from other women leaders in our transportation community. Details and registration information will be in your inbox soon.

You'll also have the opportunity to gather for a member networking event in July. And we are making plans for the annual Member Only event honoring our Corporate and Agency Partners in August. Stay tuned for details on those upcoming events.

COMMITTEE **CHAIRS**

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Patty Trujillo, PE, MCE

Senior Engineer **Atkins**

GALA CHAIR

Antionette Roberts

Project and Office Administrator **DKS** Associates

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Pooja Patel, PE, LGPP

Civil Engineer Kimley-Horn

MENTORING CHAIR

Marwa Ayad

Senior Project Manager VRX Global

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Christen Eschberger, PE

Project Director **HNTB**

Shadi Hakimi, P.E.

Transportation Engineer STV

PROGRAMS CHAIR

Andrea Bryant, PE

Associate and Transportation Design Team Lead Freese & Nichols

RECOGNITIONS CHAIR

Karla Madriles-Ortiz

Transportation Design Engineer Freese & Nichols

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Jackie Sartor

Business Development Director Foresight Planning & Engineering

SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS **Brittani Kaim**

VP, Dir. of Comm. & Public Involvement

Stephen Johnson, PE

Project Manager, Central Texas Transportation Leader Garver

STUDENT LIAISON CO-CHAIRS

<u>Madelyn Krieger, EIT</u>

Engineer

Freese & Nichols

Max Hoffman, AICP

Planner II HNTB Corp.

TRANSPORTATION YOU CHAIRS

<u>Ashley Martinez, PE, LGPP</u>

Kimley-Horn

Civil Engineer

Kelly Rees, PE

Kimley-Horn

Transportation Engineer

The programming feature for our chapter in September is the annual Professional Development Seminar. This year's event will offer several hours of continuing education credits with sessions focused on the tools and technology needed for the transportation workforce. Speakers will highlight both technical and soft skills that will help us advance our careers and work together to achieve the region's transportation project delivery goals. The professional development committee is finalizing the panels, but mark your calendars now for this annual event, scheduled for Friday, September 20th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Maggiano's at the Domain. Watch your inbox for more information and the opportunity to register in the coming weeks.

As you can see, the chapter committees are busy working to provide you with varied, interesting, and relevant offerings each month. Be sure to visit the chapter website at https://wtsinternationa.org/ chapters/heart-texas, take a look at our many different committees, reach out, and get involved. Our committees are always looking for new members and innovative ideas. And, if anyone is not yet a member of WTS, I encourage you to join this amazing organization. Information on how to join can be found at https://www. wtsinternational.org/mission/membership.

If you have any questions about WTS or the HOT Chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone else on our board. I hope to see you all at one of our next events.

Stay cool and safe out there as you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best regards,

APRIL LUNCHEON

Caroline Mays, Director of Planning and Modal Programs of TxDOT



TxDOT's Director of Planning and Modal Programs, Caroline Mays, joined our April luncheon to discuss TxDOT's long-range planning processes and review how the various longrange modal planning efforts work together to advance TxDOT's statewide goals. Caroline kicked off a fantastic presentation with her signature engaging

speaking style, sharing that TxDOT couldn't do what they do without the community represented at WTS events and shared that "It takes all of us to deliver for Texas." She continued by acknowledging the great pressure everyone working in infrastructure in Texas is under and her belief in the importance of taking the opportunity to thank each other for the great work we are doing.

continued









APRIL LUNCHEON CONTINUED









As an introduction to her role at TxDOT, she explained that she'd only been in the newly created Director of Planning and Modal Programs role for two years, adding that the agency created the position to integrate five divisions - Aviation, Maritime, Public Transportation, Rail and Transportation Planning and Programming – together.

She shared a slide that summarized how different planning efforts fit together, starting from the bottom of the pyramid-like graphic with advisory committee, stakeholder and public engagement and cross-cutting people and goods movement plans at the base. These base functions feed into multimodal people and goods movement plans, which feed into the

Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP). At the top of the pyramid were the 10-year Unified Transportation Plan, the 4-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the Agency Strategic Plan, which is the operational plan for the agency. These top-level plans drive TxDOT.

Of the many planning documents at TxDOT, Mays highlighted the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan, the Statewide Active Transportation Plan and the Texas Freight Mobility Plan, which she shared "was her baby" upon joining the organization.

In addition, she mentioned the Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan, the Texas Airport System Plan, the Texas Statewide Rail Plan and the overall corridor planning efforts underway at TxDOT.

Before diving into the details of *Connecting Texas 2050*, the current iteration of the SLRTP, she briefly touched on multiple other plans that address topics like safety and emerging technology. In detailing the process used to develop the SLRTP, she shared that the SLRTP contains the vision and goals for the state that are critical for integration into all other planning efforts at TxDOT.

MAY LUNCHEON

Workforce Solutions Panel: Navigating Workforce Challenges

May's luncheon included a panel from Workforce Solutions (WFS) to discuss the many resources WFS has to offer employers, from employee training to workforce development. The panel included Tamara Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Garza, Director of Mobility Industry Partnerships and Courtney Chavez, Senior Vice President of Equity and Community Partnerships.



Based on the WFS labor and demand forecast, an estimated 4,000+ labor placement will be needed to support mobility and infrastructure needs in Central Texas. WFS has created Industry Sector Partnerships as a proven, employer-led workforce development strategy. Industry-specific executives within the Austin labor market work together to influence alignment around common solutions with awareness, training, hiring and upskilling. Current partnerships include Mobility + Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Technology and Healthcare. These Working Groups have brought together approximately

230 employment partners that meet on a bi-weekly basis to discuss potential solutions for finding and developing local talent.

MAY LUNCHEON CONTINUED







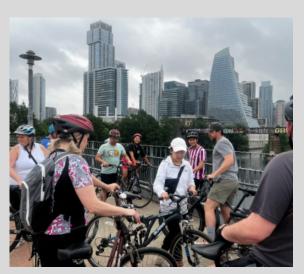
WFS leads in the development of a diverse Central Texas Mobility Industry workforce, united in its commitment to align and collaborate on leveraging resources for the benefit of the whole community. With the investment in transformational regional infrastructure, we can address affordability challenges by creating family-supporting jobs and sustainable career pathways, while improving regional mobility. Austin Community College in coordination with WFS has been approved to create a new "Infrastructure Academy" to train a skilled workforce. WFS will lead the design of the academy and the delivery of training.

MAY BIKE AND BRUNCH

Bike tour of the Barton Springs Road Safety Pilot Project



The joint WTS HOT Chapter – Captial Area Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (CASITE) Bike and Brunch took place the morning of May 4th. The event included a bicycle and walking tour, led by Cody Stone with the City of Austin, to highlight pedestrian-bicycle improvement projects recently completed.



The group began the tour at the Seaholm District and crossed Lady Bird Lake via the Pfluger Pedestrian bridge. The one-hour tour showcased the Barton Springs Road safety pilot project, which is a 12-month pilot project that began in fall 2023 with the goal of improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety on Barton Springs Road between Stratford Drive and South Lamar Boulevard. This project eliminated one lane of vehicular traffic in the area to provide wider on-street bike lanes and larger buffers between pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The group also biked through Zilker Park, using recently installed concrete shared use paths, and they witnessed first-hand the importance of bicycle safety improvements at intersections, traveling through the soon-to-be improved South Lamar Boulevard-Barton Springs Road intersection. The tour ended with brunch back at the Sand Beach

Park picnic tables in the Seaholm District, where participants enjoyed breakfast tacos and snacks courtesy of the two groups.

MAY LATTES & LEADERSHIP

Bonnie Sherman, AICP

Bonnie Sherman, AICP, the Planning and Program Development Director in TxDOT's Public Transportation Division, discussed her career path, with a focus on alternative modes of transportation. Bonnie is working to advance walking, biking and transit as viable options in communities across Texas. She plays a key role in advancing a number of





statewide efforts, including active transportation and transit plans, non-motorized count program, modernizing active transportation design, transportation alternatives, and bicycle tourism trails.









Lattes and Leadership is a free event that provides an opportunity to meet with a Central Texas woman leader in an informal setting. There is no pre-set format. Lattes and Leadership was developed to function as a round table with the goal of interacting in a relaxed environment and learning from the speaker about issues such as leadership, career goal setting, lessons learned along the way, navigating the transportation world, and life coaching type elements.

July 24, 2024

Sharmila Mukherjee, AICP, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategic Planning and Development Officer at CapMetro



Sharmila is a transit executive and industry leader with over two decades of progressive urban transportation planning and project management experience in the private and public sectors. At CapMetro, she leads service planning, short-and long-range planning, ridership analytics, regional transportation coordination, transit-oriented development, and federal discretionary grants strategy and delivery, and offers one of the guiding voices in Project Connect, Austin's high-capacity transit system expansion program. Before joining CapMetro, Sharmila held leadership positions at an international engineering and infrastructure consulting firm.

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E 38 1/2 Street, Austin, TX 78722 Cost: This is a free event. Please register as seating is limited to 25 people.

August 21, 2024

Anna Martin, Assistant Director with the City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department



Anna is an Assistant Director with the City's Transportation and Public Works Department overseeing a portfolio that includes Transportation Engineering, Active Transportation and Street Design, and Project Delivery. She brings over 20 years of experience in both the public and private sector. Her teams are focused on delivering active mobility and safety improvements approved by voters in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 Mobility Bonds, totaling over \$1 billion, and the development of Project Connect and the IH-35 Capital Expressway Project.

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Location: Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport Blvd, Ste. 725, Austin, TX 78752

Cost: This is a free event. Please register as seating is limited to 25 people.

SAVE THE DATE NETWORKING EVENT









20TH ANNUAL GALA

The 20th Annual Transportation Scholarship and Awards Gala was held on April 26, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Austin. We once again broke our attendance record by hosting 500 members of the transportation industry to celebrate our eight scholarship and six chapter award winners. Thank you to all who joined us at the event and for the generosity of our donors!



WTS HOT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

HELENE M. OVERLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Na Yoon Heo University of Texas at Austin

Na Yoon Heo is a graduate student at UT Austin, studying transportation in the Civil Engineering department, and is also a public official in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) of South Korea. Throughout her career, she has focused on shaping policies to improve transportation. This has been technically and politically

challenging, requiring accurate feasibility analyses and effective stakeholder coordination.

As a woman engineer, she has strived to be a role model for her colleagues, to break barriers, and to support women in engineering. Studying at UT and connecting with colleagues through WTS has been a fortunate experience that has given her confidence and vision in leading the transportation field. Looking ahead, she aims to contribute to global policies and strategies by working in international organizations such as the ITF, World Bank, or UN ESCAP. This WTS scholarship is a meaningful milestone in her journey, enhancing her confidence and expanding her network and perspective.

WTS HOT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



20th Gala





JANNET WALKER-FORD LEADERSHIP LEGACY FOR GRADUATES



Zahra Maktabi University of Texas at Austin

Zahra Maktabi is a master's student in Transportation Engineering at the UT-Austin's

Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering. Zahra holds an M.S. in Structural Engineering and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from her country, Iran. She is a

Graduate Research Assistant advised by Dr. Randy B. Machemehl. Her research is focused on freight transportation, particularly route assignments for heavy-loading trucks in the Austin district. Her work can provide the information needed to prioritize proactive pavement maintenance for more effective use of tax dollars. Another project she is working on involves assessing the performance of different video detection products, specifically emphasizing safety analysis for vulnerable users by identifying near misses, red light runners, and other safety issues. She is also involved in WTS, ITE, and ITS student chapters.

Beyond her academic pursuits, she has passionately advocated for women's rights within three villages near her hometown. Actively involved in raising awareness, her focus has been empowering young girls to assert their rights and pursue education.

She enjoys cooking and spending time with her family and friends in her free time. Exploring Austin's nature with her puppy is another passion of hers.

WTS HEART OF TEXAS FOUNDATION GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Angela Haddad
University of Texas at Austin

Angela is a Ph.D. candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UT-Austin, specializing in Transportation Engineering and Econometrics. Before her doctoral studies, she completed her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering at the American University of Beirut.

As a Graduate Research Assistant at UT Austin, Angela engages in multidisciplinary research that integrates engineering, data science, and social justice principles. Since 2021, she has been involved in cutting-edge work encompassing advanced statistical and econometric modeling, transportation equity, pedestrian safety, automated pedestrian detection technologies, and analysis of consumer choice behaviors.

Angela's contributions to research include publications in top-tier journals and presentations at prestigious transportation-focused conferences.

SHARON D BANKS MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Sarah Chu University of Texas at Austin

Sarah Chu is a sophomore from Austin, Texas, studying civil engineering at UT-Austin. She wants to contribute to the sustainability of the transportation industry and hopes to serve on leadership in a civil engineering company to empower women and people of color to take on leadership roles.

Her interest in civil engineering began in a high school class, and she was able to join the ACE program, which connected her to mentors and WTS. She has had the opportunity to intern with Halff on Public Works and with TxDOT's Materials and Tests Division in past summers and is looking forward to continuing to learn. Above all, Sarah enjoys giving back to the Austin community through her service organization and pouring into the next generation of engineers and leaders

continued



WTS HOT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



20th Gala





MOLITORIS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP



Busra Dokmen
University of Texas at Austin

Busra Dokmen is a sophomore at UT-Austin studying environmental engineering and business.

She is passionate about sustainability and finding ways to serve her community through engineering.

TRANSPORTATION YOU SCHOLARSHIP



Varshini Loganathan Westwood High School

Varshini Loganathan is a senior at Westwood High School and will double major in computer science and biomedical engineering at Rice University in the fall. This scholarship will allow her to pursue her education with the support of WTS, which aims to advance women in the transportation field.

Thank you to WSP, Ashley McLain, and J.C Schmeil for your sponsorship of our two Friends of WTS Scholarships this year.



FRIENDS OF WTS SCHOLARSHIP

Ananya Arora Anderson High School

Ananya Arora is a senior at Anderson High School majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a possible minor in Business and Public Policy at UT-Austin on a pre-med track.

She aspires to change the interface of healthcare as we know it today by improving accessibility to preventative medical care around the world. This would be a stepping stone to tackling the global health challenges that are being seen at an accelerating pace and becoming the voice for those marginalized.

With previous experience as part of the Austin Youth Climate Equity Council, she has seen the necessity of mitigating the negative health impacts of the lack of greenspaces and inadequate public transportation to improve communities' well-being.

This WTS Scholarship will help Ananya to collaborate with public health experts, urban planners, and architects to boost public transit accessibility that optimizes transit routes and facilities and facilitates constant connections between the entirety of a city and greenspaces.



FRIENDS OF WTS SCHOLARSHIP

Joyce You Incoming freshman at Texas A&M University

Joyce You is an incoming freshman at Texas A&M University, where she will be majoring in General Engineering. She plans to follow the Computer Science track and aspires to become an algorithm engineer.

In high school, Joyce was highly involved in volunteer work and fencing. She volunteered frequently with the Austin Humane Society and was an active member of her high school's PALS program. She plans on joining Texas A&M's fencing club.

HOT CHAPTER AWARDS







Innovative Transportation Solutions Award



HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD AWARD (MAN OF THE YEAR)



Garver

Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award



20th Gala

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

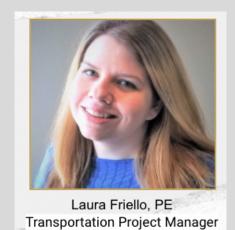


Marisabel Ramthun, PE Regional Business Development Leader HNTB

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Garver



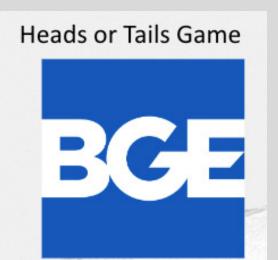
HOT CHAPTER GALA SPONSORS













Step & Repeat

360 Video

Photo Booth









High Roller Casino Tables

CDM
Smith

HOT CHAPTER GALA SPONSORS









Auction Donors

Adeliza Ramirez Andrea Bryant Antionette Roberts

Ashley Martinez

Ashley Williams

Austin Bouldering Project

Birds Barbershop Blanton Museum Book People

Bowl High Five Brass Ovaries

Brittani Kaim

Cabo Bob's

Capital Cruises

Ceramic Canister Set Cheryl Goodgame

Christen Eschberger

Chuy's Class Axe Cornucopia

Crux Climbing Center

Delucca Gaucho Pizza and

Wine

El Dorado

Fiesta Winery

Great Room Escape
Hip Hounds and Jackie

Sartor

i3 Event Marketing

Jackie Sartor

Kalahari

Karla Madriles-Ortiz

Kelly Rees

Kelly Wynne Beach Bag

Lady Bird Johnson

Wildflower Center

Laura Friello

Lisa Loftus-Otway

Madelyn Krieger

Marwa Ayad

Masa y Mas

Michael Weaver

Mister Car Wash

Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

Nothing Bundt Cakes
Paramount Theater

Patricia Trujillo

Pinthouse Pizza

Pooja Patel

Queen of To Do

Robin Jackson Photography

Rowing Dock ATX

Sandra L Moreno

Seles Johnson

Six Flags Over Texas

Stephen Johnson

Still Austin

The League Kitchen &

Tavern

Tonia Norman

Total Wine & More

Twin Liquors

Uchi

Viva Day Spa

Water 2 Wine

William Chris Vineyards

WTS Past Presidents



HOT CHAPTER GALA PICTURES







For more pictures visit the album link here: https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/heart-texas/photo-gallery

















CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT







Abril Matyek, PE, Transportation Planner, CDM Smith

CDM Smith



Abril Matysek, PE joined CDM Smith in 2017 after earning a degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. Since then, she has gained local and national experience which spans a wide array of traffic engineering, transportation planning and traffic and toll revenue forecasting projects. Her technical skills include extensive knowledge in conducting traffic analysis including traffic simulation analysis for freeways, tolled facilities and arterial networks. Beyond her impressive technical skills, Abril actively mentors junior staff, engages in professional development, and attends monthly WTS luncheons to foster meaningful connections with peers. She also assisted in organizing the mentorship program for the WTS HOT Chapter in 2018 and participated as a mentee in 2019. CDM Smith values and supports WTS initiatives for the networking, professional development resources and support for women in the transportation industry. This commitment not only aligns with CDM Smith core values but also promotes innovation in the transportation industry.

Pooja Patel, PE, Civil Engineer, Kimley-Horn



Starting her journey with Kimley-Horn in January 2020, Pooja Patel brings over a decade of experience in designing and delivering infrastructure projects for public agencies across the DFW and Austin area. As a proud native of Dallas, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Engineering

in Infrastructure Systems and Management from the University of Texas at Arlington. Pooja has excelled in her role as a Project Manager and designer, working on multimodal and urban roadway improvement projects throughout Central Texas and TxDOT districts, including the pivotal Corridor Mobility Program projects in the City of Austin. Her exceptional skills and the support she receives from Kimley-Horn has provided her the opportunity to expand her expertise and make a significant impact on the Austin Light Rail project.

Beyond her professional achievements, Pooja is deeply passionate about advancing transportation growth and creating opportunities for women in the

industry. Currently serving as the WTS HOT Chapter Membership Chair, she is dedicated to broadening access to the development and advancement for women across the field. Pooja also took the initiative to establish the Diversity & Inclusion group at Kimley-Horn in 2020, further demonstrating her commitment to fostering an inclusive and diverse work environment. Additionally, she actively participates in the Women at Kimley-Horn and Kimley-Horn Asian & Pacific Island (KHAPI) Employee Resource Groups, emphasizing her dedication to promoting diversity and supporting her fellow colleagues.

Kimley-Horn recognizes the importance of having its employees participate in WTS to help women in practice obtain tools of success and strengthen their careers in the transportation industry. We are proud to have 75+ staff members in WTS chapters around the country who are actively attending conferences and special events, receiving WTS awards and scholarships, and networking with their fellow WTS peers.

Introduced in early 2015, "LIFT" (Lasting Impact for Tomorrow) is Kimley-Horn's initiative to recruit, develop, and retain women in engineering and planning at Kimley-Horn, increasing the number of successful women consultants, and helping its women reach their full potential. This initiative also provides a way for women in the firm to communicate with one another and discuss how they handle the growing pains of work-life balance. Whether you are newly married, a new mom, or struggling with the transitions from school to work, this initiative empowers women, supports them, and celebrates their achievements.

continued



CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT







Benesch



Benesch, a Gold Corporate Partner for the chapter, has successfully promoted a diverse and inclusive culture. This is exemplified in the company's leadership, where 40% of the corporate team are women leaders. The Austin office continues to advance women in the industry with our up-and-coming leaders: Maryam Mihandoust, Lauren Bauer, and Catarina Schiff.



Ricardo Zamarripa, Texas Transportation Group Manager, Benesch

WTS Heart of Texas Chapter Member Ricardo Zamarripa is the Texas Transportation Group Manager for Benesch out of the Austin office, which he opened in 2022. He has over 25 years of experience in transportation engineering, project management, sales, and operations. Ricardo has been recognized for his contributions to WTS as a 2015 Ray LaHood (Man of the Year) Award nominee. He has served or remains active in the Scholarships, Programs, and Gala committees.



April Sandoval, Senior Project Manager, Benesch

WTS Heart of Texas Chapter Member April Sandoval is a Senior Project Manager in the Benesch Austin office with 17 years of highway and roadway planning and design experience. April has been an active member of the HOT chapter her entire transportation engineering career. Eight of those years, she served on the chapter board in various leadership roles— UT Student Liaison (2010-2011), Treasurer (2011-2014), and Programs Chair (2014-2018). Additionally, she has served as a mentor in the 2012 WTS TransportationYOU and the 2021 HOT Mentorship Program. "I am grateful for the incredible leadership and networking opportunities WTS offers. I have found a supportive professional community that continues to empower and inspire me."





Burns & McDonnell

Founded in 1898, Burns & McDonnell is an integrated engineering firm. Specializing in strategic planning, innovative design, comprehensive environmental services, and construction, their Transportation Team provides integrated services to state agencies, municipalities, and private sector partners across Texas. Meet just a few of the women that are leading Burns & McDonnell's transportation portfolio in Central Texas:

STRATEGIC PLANNING | Sarah Bagwell-Rudy, PMP & Lexi Elio, ENV SP

Sarah leads transportation planning and policy projects and serves as the firm's Gulf Coast Port & Maritime lead. As a public affairs and policy specialist, she brings experience serving as a chief of staff in the Texas Senate and as the Planning & Strategy Director for TxDOT's Maritime Division. Through her career, she has been key in shaping transportation and port/maritime policy and informing statewide freight and long-range transportation plans.

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT







Lexi brings strategic communications and transportation policy experience at the local, state, and federal level. She has worked closely with Texas municipalities and port/maritime clients nationwide to plan, position, and secure millions in federal funding for critical infrastructure projects. Lexi previously worked for the Colorado Legislature and Texas Legislative Budget Board, helping agencies align decision-making with data.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN | Kristen Kooiman, PE, Emily Zalewski, EIT & Whitney Hicks

Kristen is a section manager within Burns & McDonnell's Austin-based transportation team. She has worked on some of the firm's largest infrastructure projects, including complex \$500+ million design-build efforts. Experienced in all aspects of geometric design, Kristen also manages a team of 10 roadway and structural engineers to successfully deliver local municipal and TxDOT programs.

Emily joined Burns & McDonnell as an Assistant Civil Engineer, specializing in municipal roadway design. She brings hands-on experience with USACE, TxDOT, and other major transportation, infrastructure, and environmental agencies, and is passionate about advanced mobility and using data to enhance roadway safety.

Whitney, a recent graduate from the University of Texas at Austin, is the newest member of Burns & McDonnell's Transportation Team in Austin. She is actively engaged in numerous industry organizations, including the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and is applying her problem-solving skills to build the future of roadway design.

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | Shari Cannon-Mackey, CEP, ENV SP & Brandy Harris

Shari has extensive experience navigating the NEPA process for all modes of transportation projects across the US. Throughout her 34-year career, she has led teams to identify needs, evaluate alternatives, and obtain federal and state agency approvals and permits for complex transportation and infrastructure projects across 28 states. Recently Shari led Burns & McDonnell's environmental team in delivering the fastest EIS in Texas State history (TxDOT Spur 399 EIS).

Brandy is a lead historian and principal investigator, leading historic resource assessment and archival research projects for local, state, federal, and private sector clients. She not only plays in important role in leading archival and archaeological research efforts to preserve Texas' cultural history, but is also instrumental in helping clients navigate environmental regulations to get their projects in the ground on budget and on schedule.



2024 Upcoming

events

July 7/24 Lattes & Leadership with

Sharmila Mukherjee with CapMetro

Aug 8/21 Lattes & Leadership with

Anna Martin with the City of Austin TBD CP/AP Members Only Event

Sept 9/20 Professional Development

Seminar

Oct 10/7-12 WTS Signature Leadership

Training

10/16 Monthly Luncheon

Nov 11/14-15 WTS International

Leadership Conference

11/20 Monthly Luncheon

WTS HOT Chapter

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



September 20, 2024 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

For more information, contact our Professional Development Chair, Christen Eschberger at profdev@wtshotchapter.org





2024 Corporate / Agency Partnership

AECOM











SIGARVER FOR HNTB Jacobs

























-SILVER



























































-AGENCY PARTNERS















