THE WTS MOSAIC
MOBILITY + MOMENTUM
WTS CONFERENCE 2025 TORONTO

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

2025 WTS International Annual Conference Program

Below is a look at the 2025 Conference Agenda. Please note all programming will take place in Eastern Standard Time. Information listed is subject to change.

TUESDAY, MAY 6 - PRE-CONFERENCE

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	**Registration (Coat Check)**
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Facilitated Tours (all tours depart from The Westin main lobby)- Sponsored by CIMA+, DIALOG Design, Hitachi Rail Canada, Kimley-Horn, PowerOn Energy Solutions, TXM Consult**
12:00 PM – 3:30 PM	**Executive Women's Roundtable (EWR) Lunch & Meeting- Sponsored by WSP (Invitation Only)**
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	**Professional Development Session- Sponsored by AECOM (Pier 4) (Pre-Registration Required)**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	**Facilitated Tours (all tours depart from The Westin main lobby)- Sponsored by CIMA+, DIALOG Design, Hitachi Rail Canada, Kimley-Horn, PowerOn Energy Solutions, TXM Consult**
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	**Chapter Leader Reception (Regatta)**
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	**Signature Leadership Alumni Event (Marine)**
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	**EWR and Women Business Owner Roundtable (WBORT) Reception (Invitation Only)**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 - DAY 1

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	**Registration (Coat Check)**
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	**Women Business Owner Roundtable & Lunch- Sponsored by WSP (Regatta, Pre-Registration Required)**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 - DAY 1 CONTINUED

8:00 AM – 10:45 AM	**Mini Chapter Leadership Summit with Continental Breakfast (Harbour B, Pre-Registration Required)**
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Facilitated Tours (all tours depart from The Westin main lobby)- Sponsored by CIMA+, DIALOG Design, Hitachi Rail Canada, Kimley-Horn, PowerOn Energy Solutions, TXM Consult**
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	**BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **Bridging Paths and Connectivity across Multi-Modal Transportation (Harbour C)** *Helen McSwain, Janice R. Thomas, Priya Jain, Lucy Andre* **Investments & Innovations Driving Mode Shift in North America (Pier 2)** *Mariah Morales, Galiane Yergeau, Anna Lynn Smith* **Measuring Complete Streets: Custom tools to Measure Multimodal Access (Pier 3)** *Neelima Ghanta, Zhibo Zhang, Allysha Lorber, Jenya Abramovich* **Full Speed Ahead: Engaging, Training and Retaining the Future Generation of Professionals in Transportation (Pier 5)** *Charlotte Weber, Paula Hammond, Valerie Santos, Liz Walker, Leslie Richards* **Tools for Advancing Gender-Responsive Planning, Operations, and Evaluation at Transit Agencies (Pier 9)** *Mira Patel, Meghna Khanna, Emily Grisé, Mary Rose Fissinger*
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Plenary: Women in Transportation- A Global Perspective (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, Denise Bower, Cassaundra Rouse, Francesca Santella*
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **Transforming Seattle's Waterfront and Honoring our Indigenous History (Harbour A)** *Angela Brady, Barbara Lee, Therese Casper* **A Portrait of Modern Leadership: Visionary Female Leaders and their Approach to Successful Teambuilding (Harbour C)** *Lisa Santoro, Sanchita Banerjee-Jimenez, Madeleine McDonnell, Katie Theis, Odessa Phillip* **Gender, Mobility, and Accessibility: Addressing Transportation Equity for Persons with Disabilities and Unhoused Women in Sub-Saharan Africa (Pier 3)** *Shibabaw Nigatu Addis, Samrawit Adugna Berara, Maru Sisay Kasse*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 - DAY 1 CONTINUED

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (continued)	**Transforming Transit: Modernizing Bus Fare Technology for a Better Customer Experience (Pier 4)** *Taruna Tayal, Mikaela Marcotullio, Samantha Savvidou, Annalise Czerny, Maddie Maddox* **Empowering Young Professionals through Mentorship and Exchange (Pier 5)** *Karen Chapman, Tammy Smith, Bridget Burke, Alison Conway, Rachel Beer* **Mega Events: Maximizing Value and Legacy for Host Cities (Pier 7&8)** *Deborah Dagang, Andrea Lendak, Elizabeth Vieweg, Linda Lee*
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	**Corporate Partner Forum with Lunch (Invitation Only)**
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	**Lunch on Own**
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	**Opening Welcome (Metropolitan Ballroom)**
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	**Plenary: Starting Strong- Shaping the Future of Transportation - Sponsored by RS&H (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Bridgette Beato, Randy Clarke, Leanne Redden, Leslie Richards, Sarah Wells, Veronica McBeth*
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	**Break**
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	**BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **A Decade of Adaptation and Resilience: Community Engagement for New York City's East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (Harbour A)** *Thu-Loan Dinh, Molly Bourne, Nicolette Leung, Desiree Gazzo* **Steering the Future: Exploring the Future of Autonomous Vehicles (Harbour B)** *Elise Feldspausch, Tara Olds, Katelyn Magney-Miller, Janet Duthie* **Authentic Leadership: Walking in Your Own Shoes (Harbour C)** *Caroline Mays, Monali Shah* **Bridging the Gap: Strengthening the DBE Ecosystem in Transportation (Pier 3)** *Em Hall, Joy M. Lanham, Alexis Serrano Castro, Jane Wilberding, Ally Brisbin* **Accelerating Diversity: The Strategic Impact of a Women's Network in the Transportation Industry (Pier 4)** *Doreen McCall, Karen Muro, Kristine Shuller, Janice Clea, Shanna Baranko*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 - DAY 1 CONTINUED

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM (continued)	**Growing Intercity Passenger Rail (Pier 5)** *Julie White, Christina Watson, Diane Cowin, Karen Kitsis*
	Driving the Opportunity for Diverse and Inclusive Leadership in Fast-Growing Organizations while Building Transit and Infrastructure at an Accelerated Pace(Pier 7&8) *Heather MacDonald, Karen Woo, Fay Pittman, Katia Rizkallah, Renata Kuprinskiene*
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	**BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **Women Leading the Evolution of BRT in Canada (Harbour A)** *Nico Malfara, Liza Sheppard, Maria Espinosa, Carol Ogilvie*
	Breaking Barriers in Transit: The Game-Changing Impact of Progressive Design-Builds (Harbour B) *Vivian Yu, Pippa Higgins, Nour Alsoori, Samantha Cesario, Julia Murnaghan*
	BINGO! Don't Chance Your Path to Impact (Harbour C) *Amy Livingston, Shannon Burnham, Kelly Moore*
	Charting New Waters: Expanding Ferry Services for a Resilient Future (Pier 3) *Jean Banker, Danielle Elkins, Patty Rubstello*
	Driving the Future: Navigating Zero-Emission Transitions with Innovation and Insight (Pier 4) *Faye Farahmand, Lauren Skiver, Maricela Cordova, Michelle Jones, Erin Cooke*
	Maximizing Your Potential: Linear or Zig-zag Path – It's Your Choice (Pier 5) *Kathleen Matson, Kristina Boardman, Angela Adams, Samantha Hacker*
	Empowering Women at the TTC: A Toolkit (Pier 7&8) *Sarah Currie, Shabnum Durrani, Kirsten Watson, Shakira Naraine, Hayley Waldman*
	Rebuilding Together: Innovative Partnerships for Connection (Pier 9) *Ericka Warren, Megan Channell, Renee Raduenz, Keith Baker, Micah Greenberg*
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	**Welcome Reception with Exhibitors & Poster Presenters - Sponsored by WSP (Frontenac Ballroom)**
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	**Blue Ribbon Reception - Sponsored by Jacobs (Invitation Only)**

THURSDAY, MAY 8 - DAY 2

7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	**Registration (Coat Check)**
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	**Breakfast (Metropolitan Ballroom)**
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	**Plenary: Upward- Advancing Women at U.S. State DOTs (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Secretary Gia Biagi, Secretary Kristina Boardman, Secretary Shanté Hastings, Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, Karen Kitsis*
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	**Keynote: Women, Worth & Wealth: Closing the Gap Between Self-Worth & Net Worth – Sponsored by HNTB (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Leisse Wilcox*
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	**Mix N' Mingle with Exhibitors & Poster Presenters- Sponsored by Transdev (Frontenac Ballroom)**
11:15 AM –12:15 PM	**WTS Talks: 10-15 minute dynamic talks (Pier 2)** **Improving Subway Accessibility: A Dynamic Approach Stephanie Berrios** **Transforming Connectivity: Insights and Best Practices from the Gordie Howe International Bridge Emily Brown** **The Artist-in-Residence Program in Transit: Enhancing Community and Equity in the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Mila Buzhinskaya** **Designing the Port Lands Bridges in Toronto Navan Chawla**
11:15 AM –12:15 PM	**BRAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **Men Empowering Women (The Quay)** *Randy Clarke, Garrett Eucalitto, Paul Skoutelas, Bridgette Beato* **Building Connections: Navigating Stakeholder Collaboration in CDOT's Mobility Hub Projects (Harbour A)** *Mary Duke, Nyssa Beach, Jiovanna Toppi* **Real Talk: Lessons on Advancing Transportation from Public-Private Sector Champions (Harbour B)** *Angela Berry Roberson, Monica Backmon, Shalonda Baldwin* *BRT: Bold Routes for (Career) Transformation (Harbour C)* *Lyssa Leitner, Morgan Abbott, Lucy Chen, Sara Hage, Lisa Wall* **Tackling today's Transportation Challenges in Multi-Agency and Multi-Stakeholder Environments (Pier 3)** *Lisa Salsberg, Marcy Burchfield, Theresa Carr, Shelby Powell, Assumpta Cerda*

THURSDAY, MAY 8 - DAY 2 CONTINUED

11:15 AM –12:15 PM (continued)	**From Attraction to Advancement: Shaping Sustainable Talent Pipelines in Transportation (Pier 4)** *Gina Horner, Michaela Ward, Erin Courtney, Joe Watson, Andrea Lunn* **Unleashing Superpowers: The Unique Strengths and Challenges of Neurodivergent Women in the Workplace (Pier 5)** *Karen Good, Kara Swanson, Rachel Ackerman, Katie Walker, Nicole Peavey* **Building Thriving Communities through Transformative Transportation Initiatives (Pier 6)** *Najdi Kirby, April Rai, Jill Cahoon, Keith Baker, MaryKate Ryan* **Building Smarter: Innovative Solutions for Reducing Construction-Induced Congestion (Pier 7&8)** *Angela Clayton, Jennifer Graham Harkness, Meghan Mulligan, Malvika Rudra*
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM	**Lunch on Own**
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM	**Student Session with Lunch (Regatta)**
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	**BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS** **All 'Eyes' on Infrastructure Opportunities: Inspire, Innovate, Impact (Harbour A)** *Emily Gallo, Odessa Phillip, Terri Slaughter, Karen Kitsis* **When Women Lead: How Regional Planning Organizations Are Changing the Landscape of America (Harbour B)** *Malika Reed Wilkins, Anna Roach, Aileen Boucle, Leanne Redden* **Global Institute of Asset Management – Women in Asset Management – Case Study City of Toronto – City-wide Asset Management (Harbour C)** *Vanessa Chau, Annette Kopec, Shameeza Gomez, Chandra Brown, Pengcheng Ge* **Paying It Forward: Generational Mentorship in Action (Pier 3)** *Nneoma Ugwu, Renée Hamilton, Monica Backmon, Cynthia Porter Johnson, Loren Hill* **What Got Us Here Will Not Get Us There: Future Strategies for Women's Workplace Success (Pier 4)** *Janet Keiser, M. Gayle Packer, Alanna Strohecker, Carla D. Tillery, Dana Hecht*

THURSDAY, MAY 8 - DAY 2 CONTINUED

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM (continued)

Getting Past Cruising Altitude (Pier 5)
Maya Caron, Myrka Manzo, Lisa Newman-Wise, Lisa Salsberg, Kathleen Henderson

Collaborating Across Space and Time: Implementing Successful Leadership in Mega Projects (Pier 6)
Gillian Blake, Virginia Borkoski, Karla Avis-Birch, Karen Freund, Claire Rose

Women at the Helm: Leadership in the REM Project's Development Phases (Pier 7&8)
Noémie Brière-Marquez, Charlotte Cyr, Maryam Darvish, Masson Hatch, Safaa Azammam

One Size Does Not Fit All: Career and Personal Growth at Different Stages of the Journey (Pier 9)
Tammy Smith, Katie Pelly, Yasaman Shahtaheri, Pavani Perera, Anca Popa

1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

WTS Talks: 10-15 minute dynamic talks (Pier 2)
Elevate Your Influence: Mastering the Art of Managing Up
Jennifer Turnbow

STEP Up for Pedestrians
Lauren Blackburn

Proposing Shared Mobility Solutions for Non-Urban Areas with Emphasis on Toll Roads
Homa Fartash

Advancing Transportation through Accessibility: CTDOT's Approach to ADA Training
Katherine Hedberg

Driving Sustainable Mobility: EV Infrastructure Expansion in Alaska's Interior
Jeffrey Kupko

Recovering from Bad Meetings
Lyssa Leitner

A Modernization Journey from Parking to Mobility - How TPA Is Reimagining How Toronto Moves
Aviva Levy

Bertram Multiuse Overpass in Kelowna, BC
Ivy Yi Liang

THURSDAY, MAY 8 - DAY 2 CONTINUED

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM (continued)

BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS

Dispatch from the Frontlines of Climate Resilience and Recovery: Leadership Strategies and Lessons Learned (Harbour A)
Christa Cassidy, Ashley Haire, Heather Repenning, Michelle Marx, Angela Wong

Leveraging Technology for Multimodal Transportation Systems: Innovation, Equity, and Resiliency (Harbour B)
Brittany Israel, Keiva Rodriques, Laura Beall, Keisha Pickett Boyd, Julie White

How Agencies and Partners Can Support and Promote Small Businesses in the Current Environment (Harbour C)
Marcia Shapiro, Bridgette Beato, Elizabeth Solis-Camp, Joy Lanham

Transit at the Intersections of Gender and Race - a Tale of Four Cities (Pier 3)
Brooke Belman, Catherine Thibault, Gwen McCullough, Lorina Hoxha

What I Wish I Knew Before Taking the Job (Pier 4)
Kimberly Slaughter, Karen Alm, Raquel Olivier, Monica Backmon, Janet Gonzalez Tudor, Diane Kenneally

Building the Next Generation of Rail (Pier 5)
Gwyn Okorie, Beverly Scott, Tami Wolownik, Tracy MacPhee

A Seat with a View: Marketing & Executing Transportation for Tourism (Pier 6)
Jennifer Price, Beth Dendis, Veronique Hakim

Being a Leader Without Being at the Top – Mastering the art of managing up, down and across (Pier 7&8)
Saloni Shah, Kirsten Watson, Sarah Currie, Edna Cuvin, Sumeeta Kapur

Reimaging Mobility: Transformation Infrastructure with Innovation, Equity, and Climate Resilience (Pier 9)
James Yu, Charissa Iogna, Patricia Pearsall-Mills, Danielle Wiley

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM

Break

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS

Leaders for Change: Walking the Talk (Harbour C)
Mairy Hernandez, Corina Moore, Diane Kenneally, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano

Partnerships that Connect Communities (Pier 4)
Shannon Simonds, Joanne Parker, Bill Gamlen, Michael Cornfield

THURSDAY, MAY 8 - DAY 2 CONTINUED

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM (continued)	**Career Mosaics: Championing Resilience, Involvement, and Self-Advocacy (Pier 5)** *Miranda Smeck, Bryce Coffey, Fatemeh Sefid, Obesebea Aye-Addo, Katherine Hedberg*
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	**Transportation Leadership Family Feud - Transportation Diva Style (Pier 6)** *Melissa Batula, Paula Hammond, Shanté Hastings, Leslie Richards, Alexa Gangemi, Victoria Sheehan*
	WTS Talks: 10-15 minute dynamic talks (Pier 2) **Emerging Trends in Canadian Transportation Asset Management: Insights from Benchmarking and Industry Practice Donghui Lu**
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	**We almost shut down our Chapter but now we're Bigger than Ever! Sarah Binkowski**
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	**Transitioning from College to the Workforce Kayla VanPortfliet**
	Pre-Gala Reception (Metropolitan Ballroom West)
	Gala (Metropolitan Ballroom Centre and East)

FRIDAY, MAY 9 - DAY 3

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM	**Registration (Coat Check)**
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	**Continental Breakfast (Metropolitan Ballroom)**
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	**Plenary: Connecting the Future- Emerging Trends in Infrastructure- Sponsored by AECOM (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Erin Slayton, Karla Avis-Birch, Angela Clayton, Marsha Anderson Bomar, John D. Gamble*
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**Plenary: Beyond the Conference - Moving Forward with Purpose and Impact (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Bridgette Beato, Renée Amilcar, Garrett Eucalitto, Bruce Macgregor, Janice R. Thomas*
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM (Please note: sessions originally scheduled to begin at 9:45 AM)	**WTS Talks: 10-15 minute dynamic talks (Pier 2)** **Confronting the Sexist City Eunice Wong**
	There's Just No Quiet in Vegas Aileen Pastor
	Integrating Hydrogen Technologies in Transportation: Comparative Approaches for Decarbonizing Multi-Jurisdictional Transit Systems Krishani Teeluck

FRIDAY, MAY 9 - DAY 3 CONTINUED

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM (continued

Generation VZ: Empowering Young Leaders for a Vision Zero Future Yeojin Kim
Managing Money to Remove Career Limits Katherin Kortum

Redefining Transportation Operations and Maintenance: A Professional Capacity Building Program for the Changing Landscape of Public Works Careers Susan Baillargeon

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM (Please note: sessions originally scheduled to begin at 9:45 AM)

BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS
Engagement Strategy to Determine Public Transit Service Barriers of People in Highly Economically Distressed Communities (Harbour A)
Maribeth Feke, Natoya Walker-Minor, Sabrina Colon, Amy Yost

Enhancing Quality of Life & Equity: Sound Transit's Federal Way Link Extension Project from Planning through Construction (Harbour B)
Carrie Oshiro, Yuki Seda-Kane, Beth Blair

Leading with Purpose (Harbour C)
Naomi Schellenberg, Dylia Turley, Nicholas Rougeau

Why Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are Critical to the Industry, as People are the Most Critical Asset! (Pier 3)
Vanessa Chau, Laura McNeice, Richard Wong, Usha Elyatamby, Pengcheng Ge

Igniting Allyship to Empower Diversity and Women in Transportation – Voices from Executive Leaders (Pier 4)
Corina Moore, Jennifer Gray, Rick McLellan, Fiona Blondin

The Powerful Benefits of Employee Resource Groups (Pier 5)
Dawn Kruger, Karima Hashmani, Teresa Muti, Angela Gibson

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM (Please note: sessions originally scheduled to begin at 10:45 AM)

BREAKOUT PANEL SESSIONS
Navigating Legal Challenges in Transportation Projects: Strategies for Dispute Avoidance and Resolution (Harbour A)
Jade Cohen, Zey Emir, Marie-Eve Jean McMillian, Sarah Jampole

Leveraging Data for More Equitable Community Transportation Outcomes (Harbour B)
Sara Radil, Janel Veile, Shea Saladee

The Power of Collaboration: Three Women Leaders Share Their Stories of Career Success and Female Empowerment in the AEC Industry (Harbour C)
Keli Wylie, Suzanne Peyton, Laura Nick, Debra Johnson

FRIDAY, MAY 9 - DAY 3 CONTINUED

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM (continued) (Please note: sessions originally scheduled to begin at 10:45 AM)	**Advancing Gender-Inclusive Mobility for Equitable Urban Transportation (Pier 3)** *Ana Francisca de la Mor, Luigi Barraza Cardenas, Mariajose Zacarias, Marissa Ezpinosa* **Building Bridges of Support in the Steel City (Pier 4)** *Patty Rubstello, Lauren Doyle, Leila Bouabdellaoui, Catherine Larson* **Accelerating Careers: Young Professionals Shaping the Road Ahead (Pier 5)** *Janet Yeow, April Trevett, Cedric Jackson, Rachel Grano, Benjamin Adelberg*
12:15 PM – 2:30 PM	**Lunch Buffet** **State of the Association, Chapter Recognition, Conference Hand-Off (Metropolitan Ballroom)** *Bridgette Beato*
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	**Facilitated Tours (all tours depart from The Westin main lobby)- Sponsored by CIMA+, DIALOG Design, Hitachi Rail Canada, Kimley-Horn, PowerOn Energy Solutions, TXM Consult**