

Spring 2011

The quarterly newsletter for the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials

Meet Roosevelt Bradley, National Chair of the COMTO Board of Directors

Roosevelt Bradley is not a new face to the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), having been involved with the organization for more than 25 years. But



Roosevelt Bradley

Bradley has a new role in 2011 as chair of COMTO's Board of Directors. He brings to the role vast experience in and knowledge of

the transportation industry, having served as general manager of Miami-Dade Transit, the United States' 12th-largest transit system. Currently, he is senior vice president with the Allen Group, LLC, a consulting firm that provides guidance to clients nationwide regarding transportation system planning, development, construction and operations.

Recently, *Accelerate* sat down with Bradley to ask him about what his years with COMTO have taught him and his vision for the future.

Accelerate: What changes have you seen regarding minority participation since you first started working in the transportation industry 30 years ago?

Bradley: There's no question that a lot more minorities and women advance to the upper levels of management today than they did 30 years ago. And I can say that progress is a direct result of the work that COMTO has done. I've been involved with COMTO for more than 25 years, and the training and mentoring COMTO provides have prepared a lot of people for top-level management jobs.

Accelerate: Did COMTO's training and mentoring bolster your career path as well?

Bradley: Absolutely. When I got involved with COMTO in 1984, I was a supervisor at rail traffic control. I went to COMTO conferences and workshops and got the training and mentoring I needed. I learned how to write a resume, how to dress, how to interview — all of those things worked. Ultimately, I became general manager

of Miami-Dade Transit. I couldn't have gotten there without COMTO, and I know I'm not the only one. Now that I'm a small-business owner, I've benefited from COMTO's resources for small businesses. I was able to launch my manufacturing and consulting businesses in large part because of the training and opportunities COMTO provides for small businesses and the connections it brings to large businesses.

Accelerate: What primary issues are facing minorities and women in the industry?

Bradley: Well, those doing the hiring can no longer say that we don't have the experience, knowledge and training to do the work. It's just not true. We're here and we're qualified. Instead, some will say things like, "Well, we'd hire you, but you won't bring the type of synergy we're looking for" — you know, they'll use those words that no one really knows what they mean, but everyone uses anyway. The reality is, as far as we've come, minorities and women are often overlooked for jobs that they're qualified for. That has to change, and that's what COMTO is committed to changing.

Accelerate: What are the most pressing issues facing COMTO?

Bradley: Right now, our biggest issue is growth — the need to continue growing and the question of how we do that in a way that is strategic rather than reactive. There are large

populations of individuals and organizations that we haven't yet reached, and there are other types of training and services that we can provide to our members. The COMTO staff and board are looking at how we can increase our bandwidth so we reach those audiences and provide those services, taking advantage of opportunities in ways that are fiscally responsible and ensure future expansion.

Accelerate: What roles will local chapters play in the organization as COMTO moves forward?

Bradley: The local chapters make COMTO what it is. They bring people in at the grassroots level and help prepare them to run transportation agencies throughout the country. And they get agency executives and local officials in their areas to become involved in COMTO. Plus, local chapters get students involved and award scholarships. We now have folks who are growing up in the transportation industry and are ready to become leaders — all because of the work local chapters are doing. The chapters make COMTO strong.

Accelerate: How do you think COMTO is best positioned to help Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs)?

Bradley: That's one of COMTO's biggest priorities: to make sure HUBs are included when big government contracts are awarded. Because of the networking COMTO facilitates, bigger companies are using HUBs more often, which in turn gives those HUBs the skills and experience they need to stretch their wings and become better

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National News

COMTO Selects SmithBucklin for Full-Service Management

The Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) recently announced that it had selected the Washington, D.C., office of SmithBucklin as its full-service association management company.

"We, members of the COMTO Board of Directors, are confident that SmithBucklin's people, their unparalleled expertise and their breadth of

resources will help us expand our reach and allow us to strengthen the positions of minorities in the transportation industry through training, education and professional development," said Roosevelt Bradley, COMTO national chair.

Added COMTO President/CEO Julie Cunningham: "COMTO has just completed an aggressive 2011-2015 strategic plan, and we strongly

believe that in order to reach our goals, this partnership with SmithBucklin is the right answer for us at the right time."

The COMTO headquarters has moved, and the new office location and contact information are as follows:

COMTO

2025 M Street, NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 367-1181

Fax: (202) 367-2181

E-mail: info@comto.org

Website: www.comto.org

SMITHBUCKLIN

Frequently Asked Questions regarding COMTO and SmithBucklin

1. Why did COMTO decide to engage the services of an association management company?

As the nation's only multi-modal advocacy organization for minority professionals and businesses in the transportation industry, COMTO's mission is to ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses and communities of color. In developing our 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, it became clear to the COMTO leadership that to meet our goals, we need to focus on improved efficiencies, staff productivity, customer satisfaction and membership growth and retention. To accomplish this, we require an increased depth of staff knowledge and skills in all areas of association management, including operational oversight, membership services, event services management, marketing and branding, Web services, publishing, education and programs and financial management. This wide range of services can most cost effectively and best be provided by partnering with an association management company.

2. Can you describe the process by which the new management company was selected?

The leadership identified what the "future COMTO" should look like based on the organization's strategic goals as outlined in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. The first step was then to conduct an organizational assessment of the current operations. The results of this assessment helped us to determine that an association management com-

pany would provide the best mix of staffing resources and cost efficiencies for the organization.

After a review of various options, we selected SmithBucklin to serve as the organization's new management firm. SmithBucklin was established in 1949, serves more than 320 client organizations, and specializes in all phases of association activity, including executive management, member and chapter administration, event services management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and certification, government relations and financial management.

3. How will this affect COMTO's current staff, vendors and consultants?

President/CEO Julie Cunningham and student intern Mariah Stanley have remained with COMTO and joined the new staff team in SmithBucklin's Washington, D.C., offices. On behalf of the board of directors, we would like to thank our previous staff, vendors and consultants, all of whom have served us well and provided a solid foundation on which we can build. We greatly appreciate the professional support and leadership they are providing us.

4. What will SmithBucklin do to help ensure a successful future for COMTO?

SmithBucklin has pledged to invest in the future of COMTO by implementing its proven methodology for helping associations grow. Known as the "Association Transformation Framework," this methodology uses a customizable three-step process that

creates new growth opportunities and stronger organizations.

5. How will this new partnership benefit COMTO members, and what changes can we expect to see in the near term?

COMTO has access to SmithBucklin's vast resource base to focus on achieving its goals of growing membership, improving organizational efficiency, ensuring operational continuity, and increasing advocacy efforts and local chapter development.

6. How will this change affect the COMTO brand and standing in the transportation industry?

As America's landscape changes, the COMTO brand continues to represent the voice of minority transportation professionals and businesses on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, state departments of transportation, public and private corporations and organizations nationwide. In the future, attention will be given to strengthening the brand among COMTO networks to help COMTO grow in prominence and membership. Through this partnership with SmithBucklin:

- COMTO will be well-positioned for future growth;
- COMTO will continue to be viewed as the leading organization in the industry; and
- Julie Cunningham will have a team of association and branding professionals behind her to drive growth.

7. Is COMTO financially viable, or are there budget challenges?

We are fortunate to have a healthy finan-

cial position as well as a strong value proposition. The decision to move to a management company was made to better position COMTO to meet our strategic goals and to provide improved benefits and services to the membership.

8. Will SmithBucklin have a seat on the board of directors?

No. SmithBucklin will not have a seat on the board of directors. Our president and CEO will work with the board to recommend strategies and determine the best way to leverage the organization's resources to meet member needs.

9. How will the board of directors ensure a seamless transition from our former management structure to SmithBucklin?

The board has been working with SmithBucklin to develop a very detailed transition plan and calendar, with a list of deliverables and key dates. The SmithBucklin staff is committed to ensuring quality service to the membership during the transition process.

10. Is the new COMTO office location Metro-accessible?

Yes. The office is near both the Red Line Metro (exit at Dupont Circle Station) and the Blue Line Metro (exit at Farragut West Station). The office is at 2025 M Street, between 20th and 21st Streets.

11. What is the cost/benefit of hiring SmithBucklin as a management company?

The management fees charged by SmithBucklin provide significant savings over COMTO's prior costs of operations.

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COMTO Board Approves John M. Lewis Jr. as 10th Voting Member

During its January meeting, the COMTO Board of Directors unanimously approved John Lewis as member-at-large to the board. The COMTO

National Bylaws state the board must



John M. Lewis Jr.

have no fewer than 10 voting members, and the number of voting members was at nine after the resignation of **Ricky Smith** late last year.

Lewis was recently hired as the chief executive officer for the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX). He started the job on Dec. 1, 2010, and brings to the COMTO board more than 15 years of experience in the transportation industry. He previously served as

the CEO for the Greater Richmond Transit Commission (GRTC). He also spent four years as director of rail operations and director of bus operations at the Mass Transit Administration (MTA) for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). Lewis worked as MDOT director of special projects, office of planning and capital programs; state legislative director, office of policy and governmental affairs; and as a legislative correspondent for U.S. **Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski** (D-Md.) The Baltimore native also played football and earned his bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in economics from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

"I look forward to serving and working with the board of directors to move this outstanding organization forward," Lewis said.

Added **Roosevelt Bradley**, COMTO national chair: "John is a valuable addition to the COMTO board, and we look forward to his expertise and his leadership as we continue advancing COMTO as the premier advocacy organization in the transportation industry."

The board also approved **Robert Prince** as the 1st vice chair to the board of directors – a position that was left vacant when Roosevelt Bradley became national chair. Prince had been serving as secretary/treasurer. **Warren Montague**, who was serving as member at-large, was approved to fill the position of secretary/treasurer.

The voting members of the board are:

- Executive Committee: Roosevelt Bradley, chair; Robert Prince,

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FTA Funds Next Class of CITY Program Interns

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is once again funding the Careers In Transportation For Youth (CITY) Program. COMTO's Atlanta, Colorado, Dallas, and District of Columbia Chapters will serve as hosts for the interns. The program began in 2004 and is funded by the FTA Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation, which is headed by **Vincent Valdes**, associate administrator.

The program's purpose is to attract the best and brightest minority youth talent to the public transportation industry. The internship program supports the FTA initiative to promote public transportation career opportunities among minority college students. This initiative will orient students to the public transportation industry by providing internships and mentoring at transportation agencies, private transportation-related consulting firms, transportation service providers, manufacturers, and suppliers. The internship program also advances COMTO's strategic goal to "work with educational entities, government, and affiliate partners to provide timely training and educational programs specific to the current and future requirements of the employers in the transportation industry."

Renee Edwards, COMTO Dallas chapter president and Council of Presidents representative on the National Board of Directors, said, "This is a significant opportunity to participate in the development and mentorship of our young and talented students. The satisfaction of observing them gain practical experience and maturing professionally is the tangible evidence that should encourage all seasoned transportation professionals to reach back, embrace, and nurture our future professionals. We are extremely excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with the 2011 CITY participants in a very meaningful and productive way."

AECOM Matches Funds for ENO-COMTO Robert Prince Scholarship

Since the 1800s, African Americans have played influential roles in shaping the United States transportation industry. Horace King, an architect, engineer and bridge builder, constructed many bridges in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The works of Archibald Alexander, a design and construction engineer, included designing the Tidal Basin Bridge and the Whitehurst Freeway in Washington, D.C.

Today, African Americans and minority groups from varied ethnic backgrounds continue to be recognized for their contributions to the transportation profession through COMTO, which creates new career opportunities for minority transportation professionals in the U.S. through education, training and development programs.

COMTO launched a scholarship program last year in the name of AECOM's **Robert Prince**, vice president of transit, for his dedication to the growth and development of emerging leaders in the industry. The Robert Prince Scholarship, which provides tuition

support totaling \$3,300 each year for an eligible candidate to attend Eno's Center for Transportation Leadership's Transit Executive Seminar, will be matched by AECOM, a premier sponsor of COMTO, in 2011.

"His rare combination of intelligence, compassion, experience, and humility made Robert Prince an especially easy choice," said COMTO President and CEO **Julie Cunningham**. "COMTO is fortunate to have had him as a contributing member for more than 20 years, and we know we will be able to lean on his counsel for many years to come."

Prince has demonstrated a commitment to the education of the transit workforce in his roles as a leader in the public and private sectors of the transportation industry, in his volunteer commitment to youth in Boston, and as board member of COMTO and the American Public Transportation Foundation. He has been a key faculty member for the Eno's Center for Transportation Leadership's Transit Executive Seminar since its inception, giving lessons to more than 200 senior-level transit executives.



Pictured (from left) are **Robert Prince**, vice president of transit, AECOM; **Julie Cunningham**, president and CEO, COMTO; and **Joe Pulicare**, executive vice president of transportation, AECOM.

"I find teaching cathartic," said Prince. "I try to focus on what I did wrong in my career, because I think that's where the best lessons are learned."

Said **Joe Pulicare**, AECOM's North America executive vice president of transportation: "We are pleased to continue our support of COMTO and its vision of seeing 'diverse faces of America equally reflected in all levels of the transportation industry' through the Robert Prince Scholarship and other opportunities. COMTO's vision is shared by AECOM's diversity philosophy, in which we foster a diverse and inclusive business environment to achieve long-term goals." ■

National News *(continued)*

MTA Approves Cuts to L.A.-area Bus Service

The Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently voted to make extensive cuts to bus service in the largest overhaul of the system in more than a decade, said a report by the *Los Angeles Times*.

In addition to a 12 percent reduction in bus service, nine bus routes are to be eliminated in June and service for 11

routes will be reduced—meaning more passengers on each bus. According to the report, officials say the reductions are aimed at cutting costs and making the system more efficient, and there are also plans to enhance service on 12 lines. Those who protest the changes claim that the cuts will disproportionately affect those with low incomes and people of color. ■

U.S. Department of Transportation Launches Bridge Safety Initiative

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently launched a safety initiative to strengthen its oversight of bridges nationwide.

The new approach will allow the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to more clearly and easily identify bridge issues in each state. Previously, FHWA wrote an assessment of a particular state's bridge inspections based on the general review

of key inspection areas. The new initiative replaces this written statement with a grid displaying the inspection data for 23 specific key areas. These areas include elements like bridge load limits, degree of foundation scouring, and state inspection frequency. This approach allows greater consistency in FHWA state assessments, making it easier to identify potential safety challenges and evaluate state bridge safety compliance. ■

Federal Government Dedicated to Honolulu Commuter Rail Project

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently stated that the federal government will stay committed to Honolulu's planned \$5.5 billion commuter rail project, reported AP.

LaHood affirmed that President Barack Obama is interested in setting aside \$1.6 billion in federal funds for the rail system, which will give Hawaii residents the opportunity to work building a model transit program. ■

HUB Connection

LaHood Expands DBE Program to Help Small Businesses

U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood** recently announced a final rulemaking that will help economically and socially disadvantaged businesses take advantage of opportunities to participate in federally funded highway, transit, and airport projects. The final rule, issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), will also hold states and local agencies more accountable for including disadvantaged businesses in their transportation plans.

"When we help small businesses, we're helping to get the economy going," said LaHood. "This rule will help small and disadvantaged businesses get a fair shot at participating in state and local transportation projects."

The DOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program helps small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals compete for government contracts. The DOT also requires state and local transportation agencies to establish goals for DBE participation.

The DOT's new rulemaking will require greater accountability from state and local transportation agencies for including disadvantaged businesses in their spending plans. Those that fail to meet established goals for DBE participation will be required to evaluate why the goals were not met and offer a plan to help meet the goal in the future.

In addition, the final rule will adjust the personal net worth limit for DBE

owners for inflation from the present \$750,000 to \$1.32 million. The current limit was set in 1989 and had not been adjusted since.

The DOT's rulemaking also will add provisions to ensure that prime contractors fulfill commitments to use DBE subcontractors. State and local agencies will be required to monitor each contract to make sure prime contractors are fulfilling their obligations and do not dismiss DBE subcontractors without good cause. The rule also requires state and local agencies to create a plan for improving the use of small businesses, including DBEs.

Another major change under the rulemaking will reduce burdens on small businesses seeking DBE certification in more than one state. As a result of the rulemaking, all states will be required to accept DBE certifications obtained in other states, unless the state finds good cause not to accept it. The rule establishes a process for resolving issues with respect to eligibility raised by states concerning out-of-state firms.

The DOT anticipates issuing a proposed rulemaking to make changes in its regulation for airport concession DBEs paralleling those in the final regulation.

The U.S. DOT's final rule to improve the DBE Program recently appeared on the Federal Register's Electronic Public Inspection Desk. For the full Federal Register notice, visit <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2011/2011-1531.pdf>. ■

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- 1st vice chair; **Lester Woods Jr.**, 2nd vice chair; Warren Montague, secretary/treasurer; and **Shirley DeLibero**, immediate past chair.
- Members-At-Large - **Frank T. Martin**, **Cheryl McKissack** and **John Lewis Jr.**
 - Council of Presidents (COP) Representatives: **Aida Douglas**, **Renee Edwards** and **Venkat**

Subramanian (alternate COP representative)

Board advisors are **MaryAnn Collier**, Diversity Advisory Council; **Debbie Wilson**, Historically Underutilized Business Advisory Council; **Debra Underwood**, Academic Advisory Council; **Brad Mims**, Legislative Advisory Council; and **Ghassan Salameh**, Corporate Advisory Council. ■

COMTO USA

North Carolina Chapter

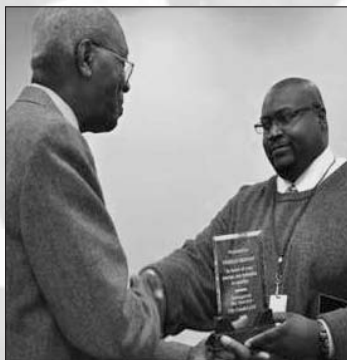
The North Carolina Chapter of COMTO and the city of Charlotte hosted the Annual Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day for students at high schools within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. The day was full of knowledge and inspiration as 51 students shadowed 25 job professionals in the various positions in transportation with the city of Charlotte.

"The Garrett A. Morgan experience was definitely an eye-opening one for me

and my shadow," said **Jennifer Duru**, neighborhood and business service specialist with the city of Charlotte. "This was a great opportunity for city employees to explain to a different audience how local government can influence communities and receive insight from people we're to serve in the future."

To cap off the amazing day, state and local elected officials addressed the students with positive feedback to carry them into their futures. In closing, the chapter was able to give awards to and hear speeches from **Furman Bridges** and **Willie Miller**. Bridges was one of the original eight African American city operators hired in 1962. In addition, Miller, the first African American city supervisor whom Bridges trained in 1966, was on hand.

Bridges and Miller gave the students interesting points of view on how things have changed over the years. Bridges also was honored for being a trailblazer in transportation. ■



COMTO North Carolina Chapter President **Ramond Robinson** and **Furman Bridges**

Austin Chapter

The Austin Chapter of COMTO held its 4th Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Feb. 24, awarding nearly \$3,000 in scholarships. The scholarship winners were Michael Carvalho, Fidel Estrada IV, Inez Evans and John-Michael Cortez. The luncheon keynote speaker was Frank Fernandez, MPO appointee to the Capital Metro Board of Directors. ■



Detroit Chapter

COMTO Detroit Chapter members are excited in 2011 as the city of Detroit recently has seen the arrival and advent of several noteworthy transportation projects.

In fall 2010, the city of Detroit received funding from a federal stimulus bill combined with contributions from the private sector of approximately \$125 million to construct a light-rail line that could eventually extend from Hart Plaza through the heart of Detroit to Eight Mile Road near the state fairgrounds — a total of 9.3 miles.

"Building this light-rail system will create jobs for this great American city, and it will stimulate long-term economic growth by attracting investment to downtown Detroit and the New Center area," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood**.

Additionally, as part of a federal U.S. Department of Transportation \$8 billion stimulus investment, the city of Detroit, along with the states of Indiana and Illinois, will receive \$244 million to update 300 miles of track to accommodate a high-speed rail system.

According to the department, existing stations will be renovated in the Michigan cities of Troy and Battle Creek, and a new station will be constructed in downtown Dearborn adjacent to the Henry Ford Museum. In the long run, the goal would be to double the number of daily round trips between Detroit and Chicago and increase speeds to 110 mph. The section of rail between Kalamazoo, Mich., and New Buffalo, Mich., can already support speeds of up to 95 mph.

"Through the Recovery Act, we are making the largest investment in infrastructure since the Interstate Highway System was created, putting Americans to work rebuilding our roads, bridges, and waterways for the future," President **Barack Obama** said. "That investment is how we can break ground across the country, putting people to work building high-speed rail lines, because there's no reason why Europe or China should have the fastest trains when we can build them right here in America."

Clearly, Detroit is poised to become one of the most mobilized cities in America.

Another announcement that excited COMTO Detroit Chapter members came through the first State of the State address by Michigan Gov. **Rick Snyder**. He spoke of the urgency in constructing a new bridge span from Canada to Detroit. Construction and post-construction jobs related to the project could exceed 10,000 and promote ancillary entrepreneurial opportunities. The impetus in creating this new span was the increased level of international trade and commerce between the United States. Thus, it is now more important than ever before for the COMTO Detroit Chapter to raise its profile and partner with local, state, and national entities to ensure that COMTO is a recognized force in creating opportunities and leveling the playing field for those who represent our communities.

The COMTO Detroit Chapter welcomes your ideas and input as we move forward together. For more information, contact Chapter President **Terrence M. Hicks** at (313) 605-1789. ■

Submit Your Chapter News

Do you have COMTO Chapter-related news and photos worthy of inclusion in a future issue of *Accelerate*? We encourage your contributions to COMTO's flagship publication! E-mail Publisher Julie Cunningham at jcunningham@comto.org or Editor John Delavan at jdelavan@comto.org to submit your information.

Diversity in Motion

Tatem Receives Award from Association of Black Engineers

Edwin E. "Ed" Tatem recently received a Special Recognition award at the Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) 2011 Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference. Tatum and other special BEYA honorees were judged to be qualified for recognition based on accomplishments that distinguished them beyond their individual disciplines. Tatem's honor was recognition of high merit, broad impact on people and many disciplines and value to the society as a whole. A committee made



Edwin E. "Ed" Tatem

up deans of historically black colleges and universities nominated the honored individuals.

Tatem is president of Parsons Brinckerhoff Michigan in Detroit and vice president for PB Americas. As an engineer, Tatem has worked for the Road Commission of Macomb County, as well as the Michigan Department of Transportation, where his concentration has been in bridges, road design and construction.

Tatem received his master's of science in civil engineering from Wayne State University and received his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Pratt Institute in New York.

Tatem continued on page 7

COMTO President Receives "Top Vet" Honor

COMTO President and Chief Executive Officer **Julie Cunningham** recently was honored as a "Top Vet" by Veterans Advantage, a national program that partners with corporations that want to do their part to honor and thank all who serve the United States.

Cunningham, a veteran of the U.S. Army and a successful businesswoman, says public service is "icing on the cake" and that she serves proudly as the chief executive of COMTO.

"It [military service] was just what I needed at the time," she told Veterans Advantage in an exclusive interview. "The discipline has served me well in my professional career. It makes you always want to do things with the spirit of excellence."

Under her current 10-year leadership of COMTO, Cunningham has emerged as a leading advocate for jobs in transit, port authorities, airports, highways, rail and small businesses in the public sector. And ever since serving on President Obama's transition team for the Department of Transportation, her vision has broadened.

"Transportation, I believe, is the best vehicle for job creation in the country," she told Veterans Advantage. "You think about bridges, roads and airport expansion, high-speed rail, that's all jobs – jobs for individuals and contracts for small businesses."

Read the entire story at www.veteransadvantage.com/cms/content/top-vet-julie-cunningham. ■

Diversity Leader Watts to Retire from Oregon's TriMet

Bruce Watts, senior director of TriMet's (the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon) Diversity and Transit Equity department, recently announced his intention to retire



Bruce Watts

from the department in March. Watts, 62, helped found the United States' first diversity and transit equity department and has been its director for the past 11 years.

According to a report in Oregon's *Daily Journal of Commerce*, Watts is most proud of how he facilitated community involvement in several TriMet rail and transit projects. One of the efforts he's most proud of – and his first for the agency – was for the north-south light-rail project in the late 1990s, he said.

TriMet wanted to build the north side of the line through an impoverished, mostly black neighborhood. After the agency encountered resistance, **Fred Hansen**, who was TriMet's director at

the time, asked Watts to help bring the community into the project.

"It was tough in that area, around the Interstate Corridor," Watts told the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. "There were a lot of hotels that did business by the hour rather than the day. TriMet asked me how to get a program going there, and I said, 'What's TriMet done for my community other than hire bus drivers?'"

But after a few months, Hansen persuaded Watts that he could make a greater impact by joining the effort.

"Historically, minority contractors had not done well in the state of Oregon, especially African American companies – and this project was going through the heart of our community," Watts told the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. "I was still on the fence, but then Fred said, 'You've been an activist on the outside pushing. Are you ready to be on the inside working for an agent of change?' I said, 'Ooh. You got me.'"

Read the entire story at <http://djcoregon.com/news/2011/02/24/watts-diversity-leader-to-retire-from-trimet/>. ■

COMTO Chapter Leader to Participate in Mission to Asia

Roma J. McKenzie-Campbell, president of COMTO's Boston chapter, recently was chosen to participate in the 2011 spring mission on "Sustainable Public Transportation –



Roma J. McKenzie-Campbell

Environmentally Friendly Mobility." The group will be meeting with public transport agencies and organizations in Ahmedabad and New Delhi, India;

and Guangzhou, Hangzhou; and Shanghai, China. She will be part of a

team of managers and leaders representing diverse areas of expertise in transit agencies of various sizes and modes throughout the United States.

The International Transit Studies Program is sponsored by the Transportation Research Board's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), which is funded by the Federal Transit Administration. TCRP is administered by the National Academies, acting through its Transportation Research Board and in cooperation with the Transit Development Corporation (the educational and research arm of the American Public Transportation Association) and the Federal Transit Administration. ■

TCRP Program

TCRP Program Thrives, Seeks New Ambassadors

The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) was developed in 1998 as a joint effort involving several organizations, including the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The program's purpose is to develop a cadre of talented industry professionals, who serve as "Ambassadors," with the requisite knowledge, technical skills and abilities to enhance the understanding, acceptance and utilization of TCRP-sponsored research products.

The Ambassadors assist transit providers in exploring the latest developments in advanced technologies, innovative management techniques, and best operating practices as investigated by TCRP. They educate transit properties on the TCRP research process and how their transit professionals can participate. They also serve TCRP as a primary source of information on research efforts being conducted by transit properties and the successes, failures and challenges of implementing TCRP and other transit research in the field.

Up to 16 individuals serve as TCRP Ambassadors. Of those, six to nine individuals are selected in order to provide overlapping terms. Ambassadors are

selected annually from a pool of applicants composed of a panel of representatives from the transportation industry, including COMTO, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the FTA, APTA, the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), the National Transit Institute (NTI) and others.

Nominations are accepted by COMTO year-round. A nominee should have practical transit field experience and currently work for U.S. transit agencies, government transit agencies at the state, regional and local levels, transit educational institutions, transit industry organizations or private firms that provide goods and services to the transit industry.

For more information on the TCRP Ambassador Program and/or to request a visit from a TCRP Ambassador, contact COMTO at (202) 367-1181. You can also download the TCRP Ambassador Nomination Form at www.comto.org/news-tcrp.php. Nomination applications may be submitted to:

COMTO

Attn: TCRP Ambassador Program
2025 M Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Tatem also has served as a member of the Governor's Transition Team for Transportation, the Governors Construction Code Commission, the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, the County Road Association of Michigan, the Wayne State University Traffic Advisory Team, the Macomb Community College Technical Advisory Team and several other groups. He also serves as community liaison for the Ambassador Bridge Gateway Project with Parsons Brinckerhoff and the Michigan Department of Transportation. ■

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Tatem is an engineering manager with PB experienced in transit, bridge, highway design and construction. His primary areas of responsibility encompass engineering, project management, marketing, and operations. He is proficient in planning, directing, organizing, budget management and design and performance evaluations, and he is highly skilled in contract negotiations with consultants, contractors and clients. He has been responsible for developing design concepts, supervising plan production, office team building, client relations, budgeting, schedules, forecasting, performances evaluations and resource management.



Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Ambassadors (As of March 2011)

India Birdsong

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
567 W. Lake St.
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 681-4219
ibirdsong@transitchicago.com

Lisa J. Collins

Delaware Transit Corporation
119 Lower Beach St.
Suite 100
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Roberto Galvez

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COMTO Plans 40th Annual Conference

Please join us in Philadelphia July 16-19, 2011, for the 40th Annual Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) National Meeting and Training Conference.

This event brings together the industry's top executives, including transit board members, chief executive officers, senior staff and management personnel to network and discuss issues of critical importance to the industry. Be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with these important stakeholders.

This year's conference features a comprehensive program offering numerous educational and networking opportunities. Join us for:

- Plenary sessions with two noted speakers: CNN political analyst Donna Brazile and Joseph C. Szabo, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Technical tours that take you behind the scenes of Philadelphia's transportation industry. This year's tours include the Multi-Modal Transportation and Maintenance Operations at SEPTA's 69th Street Transportation Center, as well as SEPTA's Control Center Operations.
- A variety of educational sessions

- Networking events, such as the Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Connection and the Industry Awards and Recognition Banquet, offering you valuable opportunities to connect with your colleagues.

To attend, register online now at: <http://www.comto.org/members/index.php/events-current?id=243>.

Note that early-bird registration rates expire at midnight Eastern Standard Time on April 29, 2011. ■



Pictured (from left) are Joseph Casey, General Manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), host agency for COMTO's 40th National Meeting & Training Conference, and Warren Montague, COMTO National Board Secretary/Treasurer and 2011 Conference Chair.

Additional Conference Planning Information

HOTEL

The conference will take place at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel in Center City, Philadelphia. The discounted group rate is \$165 per night, plus tax. The reservation cut-off date is June 22, 2011.

Loews Philadelphia Hotel

1200 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Make your reservations at <http://www.loewshotels.com/en/Philadelphia-Hotel/GroupPages/COMTO> or by calling (866) LOEWS-WB.

The group code is **COM711**.

TRAVEL BY AIR

American Airlines – For up to 5 percent off the lowest published fares, go to www.aa.com/group and enter **GMT05** in the offer code box when searching for your flights to and from Philadelphia.

TRAVEL BY TRAIN

Amtrak offers a 10 percent discount off the best available rail fare to Philadelphia from July 12-23, 2011.

To book your reservation, call Amtrak at (800) 872-7245 or contact your travel agent. Conventions cannot be booked online. Be sure to refer to Convention Fare Code **X16E-912** when making your reservation. This offer is not valid on the Auto Train and Acela service. Fare is valid on Amtrak Regional for all departures seven days a week, except for holiday blackouts. Offer valid with Sleepers, Business Class or First Class seats with payment of the full applicable accommodation charges.

TRAVEL BY CAR

For car rental, make reservations by calling Avis at (888) 754-8878 or by visiting this link:

https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitializer?&AWD_NUMBER=G027999.

The group discount number **G027999** is designed to shop the best available rates, includes unlimited mileage and is available from seven days before to seven days after the event.

Featured Speakers



Michael Blake
Associate Director,
White House Office of
Public Engagement,
and Deputy Associate
Director, Office of
Intergovernmental
Affairs



Donna Brazile
CNN Political Analyst



Marc Morial
President, National
Urban League



Janet Murguía
President and Chief
Executive Officer,
National Council of
La Raza
(invited, not yet
confirmed)



Brandon Neal
Office of Small and
Disadvantaged
Business Utilization



Joseph Szabo
Administrator,
Federal Railroad
Administration,
U.S. Department of
Transportation



The Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller
Senior Pastor, Enon
Tabernacle Baptist
Church, Philadelphia

COMTO 2011 National Conference | Philadelphia | July 16-19, 2011
Loews Hotel | 1200 Market Street | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE *(times/speakers subject to change, all times Eastern)*

Saturday, July 16

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Committee Meetings

- Membership Committee
- Program Planning Committee
- Scholarship Subcommittee
- Youth Symposium Subcommittee

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Garrett A. Morgan Youth Symposium

Featuring Michael Blake, associate director, White House Office of Public Engagement, and deputy associate director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Council of Presidents National Update and Training

12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Council of Presidents Meeting - Chapter Reports

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Registration

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

New Officers Training

Sunday, July 17

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall - Decorator Set-up

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration

8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Advisory Council Meetings

- Academic Advisory Council
- HUB Advisory Council
- Legislative Advisory Council

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall - Exhibitor Move-In

3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

COMTO Is ... New Members Orientation

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Monday, July 18

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Legislative Breakfast

Featuring Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session

Featuring Donna Brazile, CNN political analyst

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting

11:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Power Hour (Box Lunch)

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

HUB Connection

Tuesday, July 19

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

General Membership Meeting and Officers Training

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration

8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Plenary Session

Featuring Joseph C. Szabo, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

12:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Scholarship/Awards Luncheon

Featuring the Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, senior pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Board of Directors Reception

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Industry Awards and Recognition Banquet

Bradley from page 1

competitors. COMTO strongly encourages our partners to support HUBs — to bring them on and help them to be successful. Again, I know this firsthand. I wouldn't have been able to start my own manufacturing and consulting businesses three years ago without COMTO's help. COMTO provided me with the resources and mentoring that made it possible.

Accelerate: What message does COMTO need to convey to national and state legislators to ensure more inclusivity?

Bradley: Transportation moves communities — and I'm not just talking about transit. I'm talking about transportation on the land, air, and sea. They're all intertwined, and they all are critical to the health of a community. It took a bad economy to wake some folks up and make them understand

that the one thing strong communities have in common is a good transportation system. That's why governments at the state and federal levels have to be committed to continually improving all modes of transportation. Part of making it better is ensuring that those running the agencies are reflective of the communities they serve. COMTO plays a huge role in that.

Accelerate: What do you hope to see COMTO achieve under your leadership?

Bradley: I want to continue to build our membership. I also want to make sure that we have a dedicated source of funding. But mostly, I want to make sure that, throughout the transportation industry, when leaders look for professionals to run intermodal transportation systems, they'll look to COMTO. ■

SmithBucklin from page 2

Also, by partnering with SmithBucklin, more of our dollars than ever before will be spent on developing and delivering value. The COMTO leadership will be able to focus energies and expertise on strategy, objectives, member value, and strategic alliances. Paired with the operational expertise that SmithBucklin offers, we will be well-positioned for the future.

12. Is there a formal agreement between SmithBucklin and COMTO?

Yes. It includes provisions to protect both COMTO and SmithBucklin, including strict financial accountability on both sides, detailed scope of service on which the budget is built, insurance coverage, annual headquarters review, detailed service charges for the new headquarters team, and a 180-day termination clause.

13. How will SmithBucklin's performance be evaluated?

In reviewing the various staffing alternatives available to us, our leadership was very impressed with SmithBucklin's "Client Stewardship" principle. Part of this principle involves a pledge to become deeply vested in our vision, purpose, goals, values and long-term success. Additionally, SmithBucklin has developed a comprehensive annual service assessment for all of their client organizations.

14. If I have more questions or comments, whom do I call?

Please feel free to contact **Julie Cunningham**, COMTO president/CEO, at jcunningham@comto.org or (202) 367-1181. ■



Welcome New Members

COMTO welcomes members who joined the association between Sept. 1, 2010, and March 10, 2011.

Individuals, Listed by Chapter

Arizona

Mary A. Ellis

At-Large

Bruce Ahern
Yusuf Ahmad
William J. Deville
Christopher Jarrett
Twila Mouttet
Samuel Odom Jr.

Atlanta

Sanquinetta Dover
The Rev. Osbourne Hurst
Nezetta Tubaya

Austin

The Rev. Inez Evans

Boston

Celia Blue
Junie Celestin
Bernard Hicks
Eddie Jenkins
John R. Jenkins
Alan L. Johnson
Jacqueline Osorio

Central Florida

Willis K.C. Bowick
P.E. Derek Burke
Al Burns
Brian M. Butler
Damaris Cordova
Regina Dixon
Lisa Harris
David O. Kornegay
Thomas S. Kornegay
Daniel Marti
Brenda Nichols
Brindley Pieters
Jim L. Ricks
Melissa Smiley

Chicago

Maysoon Abedelal

Cleveland

Quartez Lewis

Colorado State

Marion Chassion
David Genova
Kathleen Gonzalez
Dan Heilig
D. Austin Jenkins
Gerald Johnson
Tanya Johnson
Brian Knapp
Malgorzata Kung

Columbus

Naquetta Ricks

Dallas

Suku Banerjee
DeTorsha Brunson
Dorothy Cheatham
Enrique Garcia
Jerry Haynes
Daphne Johnson
Ben Miller
Larry G. Redden
Hattie Wayne
H. Ron White

Delaware

Akeem Cherry
Tremica Cherry
Carla Elliott
Brijea Hackett
Semia Hackett
Terrance Hester
Keesha Wilson
Tierra Wilson

Detroit

Carla Brown
Ralph Metcalf

Houston

Tiffany Bolufemi
Ray Gutierrez

Theodore Lawrence

Emma Mendoza
Tammie Parran
LaNese Rogers
Keith Sanders
Sofia V. Simien

Jacksonville

Cathy S. Hussain
Marguerite S. Williams

Maryland

Jacqueline L. Bell
Arthur I. Brown Jr.
Gregory Butler
Lewis Clopton
Bhuvan Eshwar
John Habicht
Timothy Harrison
Rina Russ

Miami

Joy W. Ayers
Franklin A. Brown
Kelly Cooper
Wanda Emery
Ernel Foster
Sabrina Golden
Fredricka Green
Elizabeth Harrell
Marisha Hawkins
Dwayne T. Holloway
Marvis Hopper
Richard D. Ingram
Thesea L. Ingram
Lisa Jones
Harpal S. Kapoor
Tanessa Lane
Wanda Logan
William P. Pollock Sr.
Sylvain Sara
Lakeisha Terrell
Ramona Tomlin
Jose M. Villarmarzo

New Jersey

Kyrra Hana Mosley

New York

Dwayne Williams

Northern California

Shalonda Baldwin
Beth Barner
Mario Carroll
Eliazar Chacha
Josue Chavarin
Shavonnee Clark
Summer Clark
Warren Cole
RoseMary Covington
The Rev. Marlon Dixon
Diana Dorinson
LaDell Erby
Denisee Gonzalez
Jesus Gonzalez
Christopher Hill
Chelsey Kamson
Dana Lang
Reginald Mason
LaShay Morris
Erica Odukoya
Onyinye Okwandu
David Rojas
Barbara Scott
Delane Sims
The Hon. Mark Williams
Thomas Wong

Oregon/SW Washington

Rachel Jackson
Paul Martinez

Philadelphia

Sahar Bivins-Abdullah
Janet Blythe
Joseph Bonaduce
Jennifer Bullock
Constance Carty
Janet Coker
Alif Edwards
Julian Emerson
Kiara Gant

Denzel Golden

Denise Goren
Marilyn Jamison
Ishmael Kamara
William Maignan
Terrell A. Matthews
Betsy Modayil
Mathew Modayil
Michelle Norman
Abosede Ogunmofun
Princess Owusu
Neil Patel
Krista Pohl
Miya Robinson
Jasmine Ross
Gwendolyn Shaffer
David Waller
Quiana Waters

San Antonio

April V. Alcorta
Stephanie B. Bell
Tremell E. Brown
David H. Carroll
Kimberly R. Carter
Sylvia M. Chavez
Sandy Coleman
Eddie Cruz
Yogi P. Cruz
Joann Darby
Theodore C. Fondreaux
Mark Franklin
Andre O. Fulton
Sergio M. Gonzalez
Desmona M. Hazel
Laura Hollingsworth
Brigitte L. Johnson
Deborah Llanas
Tania Ramos
Rita Reyes
Shirlene Shears
James Taylor
Andre Trasue
William Vardano
Jesse D. Velasquez
Peter Vives

Southern California

Cheryl D. Brown
Joseph C. Jenkins
Stephanie Wiggins

St. Louis

April Brown
Kendall Davidson

Washington, DC

Tony Dorsey
Starleetah Gaddis-Parker
Cherie Gibson
Kyle Graham
David Harris Jr.
Amrita Hill
Shelley Johnson

Corporate Members

Bowman Engineering & Consulting Inc.
Dallas, TX

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Members

Gilmore Construction Corporation
Denver, CO

Grant Capital Management
Columbia, MD

Yerba Buena Engineering
San Francisco, CA

Transportation Systems
Birmingham Airport Authority
Birmingham, AL

MTC Safe
Oakland, CA

Your COMTO Chapters

Below is a list of COMTO's 39 chapters. Chapter presidents are listed for most chapters, with a few chapters currently missing presidents pending elections, and several chapters inactive at this time. We thank the chapter presidents listed for their service to COMTO and their chapter members.

Arizona – Paul L. Garvin, *Don Todd Associates Inc.*

Atlanta – Joseph Erves, *Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority*

Austin – Aida Douglas, *Capital Metro Transit Authority*

Birmingham – Walter Howlett Jr., *A.G. Gaston Construction Co. Inc.*

Boston – Roma McKenzie-Campbell, *Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority*

Central Florida – Alison Hewitt, *Hillsborough Regional Transit Authority*

Chicago – Maria-Teresa Roman, *Chicago Transit Authority*

Cincinnati – Carole E. Senior, *SORTA/Metro*

Cleveland – Danielle Bennett, *Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority*

Colorado State – Walter Bemby, *LTK Engineering*

Columbus – Pending elections

Dallas – Renee Edwards, *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*

Dayton – Inactive

Delaware – Luther Wynder, *Delaware Transit Corporation*

Detroit – Terrance Hicks, *Michigan Department of Transportation*

Fort Lauderdale – Renee Matthews, *South Florida Regional Transportation Authority*

Fort Worth – Albert Johnson, *Fort Worth Transportation Authority*

Gary – Inactive

Hampton Roads – Pending elections

Houston – Kimberly Williams, *METRO-Houston*

Indiana – Bruce Curry, *Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation*

Jacksonville – James Warren Jr., *Jacksonville Transportation Authority*

Kansas City – A.J. Byrd, *Missouri Department of Transportation*

Maryland – Adrienne Barnes, *Department of Transportation, City of Baltimore*

Miami – Fitz McLymont, *Miami Dade Transit*

New Jersey – Pending elections

New York – James “Tony” Dandridge, *New York City Transit Authority*

North Carolina – Ramond Robinson, *Charlotte Area Transit System*

Northern California – Deborah Johnson, *San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency*

Northern Virginia – Inactive

Oregon/Southwest Washington – Debora Leopold Hutchins, *Tri County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon*

Philadelphia – Raynard Hughes, *Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority*

Pittsburgh – Inactive

San Antonio – James Coleman, *VIA Metropolitan Transit*

South Carolina – Ann August, *Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority*

Southern California – Kathie Allen, *Los Angeles County Metro Transit Authority*

St. Louis – Patricia Weekley, *Missouri Department of Transportation*

Utah – Edward Lewis Jr., *ISIS International Inc.*

Washington, DC – Venkat Subramanian, *Angarai*

COMTO Committees and Advisory Councils

The following individuals serve on vital COMTO Committees and Advisory Councils. We also thank them for their service.

Academic Advisory Council

Deborah Underwood, *Chair*
Wilson Brewer
Andre E. Petties

Bylaws Adhoc Committee

Loretta Kirk, *Chair*
Adrienne Barnes
Sylvia Castillo
Meshelle Howard

Conference Program Planning Committee

Renee Edwards, *Chair*
Tanya Adams
Patricia Gaudin
Greer Hill
Arthur Macklin
Jacqueline Muhammad
Michael Tolliver

Corporate Advisory Council

Ghassan Salameh, *Chair*
Adrienne Barnes
Debra F. Carter

Diversity Advisory Council

Mary Ann Collier, *Chair*
Helen Dale
Gwendolyn Fedrick
Patricia Gaudin
Chris Langmayer
Rochelle Smith
Venkat Subramanian
George Witherspoon

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Julie Cunningham
Shirley A. DeLibero
Aida Douglas
Renee Edwards
Frank Martin
Cheryl McKissack
Brad Mims
Warren Montague
Robert Prince
Venkat Subramanian
Bret Tyler
Deborah Underwood
Debbie Wilson
Lester Woods
Emille Williams

HUB Advisory Council

Debra Wilson, *Chair*
Judith Carmichael-Brown
Percy Dangerfield
Gwendolyn Fedrick
Al Gray
Hezekiah Harris
Ken Middleton
Bruce Watts

Industry Awards Subcommittee

Kathie Allen, *Chair*
Joseph Alexander
Adrienne Barnes
Dwight Brashear
Jacqueline Muhammad
Melissa Rolle-Scott
Michael Tolliver
Darryl Wade

Legislative Advisory Council

Brad Mims, *Chair*
Cornelius Henry
Cheryl McKissack
R.A. Plummer
Venkat Subramanian

Deborah Tamargo
Kimberly Williams

Membership Committee

Kendra Taylor, *Chair*
Aida Douglas
Carmen Garcia
Jacqueline Muhammad
Robert Prince
Terri Smith
Michael Tolliver
Kimberly Williams

Scholarship Subcommittee

Tracey Bessellieu, *Chair*
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Charles Cave
Annie Duran
Helen McSwain
Andre Petties
Melissa Rolle-Scott
Paralee Samson
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Thomas Wong

Strategic Planning Committee

Freddie Fuller, *Chair*

Tracey Bessellieu
William Copling
Meshelle Howard
Chris Langmayer
James Paige
Kalpama Patel
Will Scott

Succession Planning Advisory Council

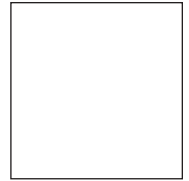
Shirley A. DeLibero, *Chair*
Adrienne Barnes
Chris Langmayer
Helen McSwain
Stephone Montgomery
James Paige

Youth Symposium Subcommittee

Raynard Hughes, *Chair*
Charles Cave
Traci Clark
Beverly Cole
Forrestine Coombs
Allison Greer
Jacqueline Muhammad
Paralee Samson
Rochelle Smith
Thomas Wong



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COMTO Vision Statement

To see the diverse faces of America equally reflected in all levels of the transportation industry.

COMTO Mission Statement

To ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses, and communities of color through advocacy, information sharing, training, educational and professional development.

COMTO Core Values

COMTO's core values are embodied in how we conduct business and how we interact with our stakeholders, including our members, customers, partners, and supporters. We affirm and are committed to the following core values: Advocacy, Diversity, Excellence, Inclusion, Innovation, Integrity, and Service.

COMTO Board of Directors

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Executive Officer
United Brake & Clutch
Service, LLC
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General Manager
AECOM
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2nd Vice Chair Lester Woods Jr.

External Civil Rights Director
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Transportation (MoDOT)
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Capital Metro Transit Authority
Austin, Texas

S. Renee Edwards

Technical Services Administrator
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)
Dallas, Texas

Venkat Subramanian

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Angarai International Inc.
Largo, Md.

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