

Accelerate

Winter 2013

The quarterly newsletter for the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials



On November 6, 2012, President **Barack Obama** was declared the clear and decisive winner over Governor **Mitt Romney** in the presidential election.

So now what can we expect in terms of diversity and inclusion in transportation over the next four years?

COMTO President and Chief Executive Officer **Julie Cunningham** wrote this open letter to President Barack Obama.

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations on your re-election to the United States presidency. The Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) is prepared to continue working with your administration on transportation issues.

You may be aware of some of the successful work COMTO has done regarding job creation, workforce development and small business participation. As the administration looks for projects and models to “scale up” across the nation, I would recommend that the work of COMTO in the transportation industry is worthy of review and emulation.

Job Creation

You may be aware of the successful work COMTO has accomplished with state Departments of Transportation to increase minorities and women in the construction trades and to increase small business participation. The *Missouri Model* was in fact a collaboration between the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and COMTO. The long story made short, Mr. President, is that by utilizing a model developed by COMTO, MoDOT’s three-year Interstate 64 construction expansion project was budgeted at \$535 million. The project was completed three weeks ahead of schedule, \$11 million under budget and exceeded the federal goals for women and minorities in the hard had jobs and for small business participation — including the federal goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs).

At the beginning of your first term, Secretary **Ray LaHood** issued a letter to all U.S. governors which stated in part:

“Existing programs may not be sufficient to ensure the broadest possible participation in... projects, but I encourage you, along with your state and local leaders, to consider innovative approaches to these challenges.”

As a result of the success of the *Missouri Model*, COMTO also worked with the Federal Highway Administration to introduce COMTO’s process of community engagement and collaboration to other state DOTs (Arizona, Connecticut, Kentucky, Indiana and New York). Each of those states used components of the *Missouri Model* to enhance their efforts in job creation and small business participation and each has received relative success.

Workforce Development

Mr. President, as you know the exodus of baby-boomers from the workplace is presenting challenges in all industries — transportation notwithstanding. In terms of workforce development, part of the COMTO formula is very simple: identify, attract, and recruit the next generation of transportation professionals. You may be aware that we have successfully partnered with the US DOT/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to do just that. Each year since 2004, COMTO and the FTA have worked collaboratively to provide internships to college juniors and seniors through a program titled *Careers In Transportation for Youth (CITY)*. The CITY program has been very successful in bringing awareness to the good paying careers in transportation — an awareness that these bright young students may not have had without the program. Our challenge now is to ensure that once the students have “gotten the transportation bug” that we can effectively match them with organizations (government and private sector) that will hire them.

Also worthy of note is the work of COMTO chapters across the United States. Our local chapters award scholarships on the local level to students pursuing careers in the transportation industry — a collective total of over \$300,000 annually. Without a doubt the scholarship awards have served to recruit transportation next-gen.

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Letter to the President *(continued from page 1)*

Other Opportunities: Sustainable Communities, High Speed Rail and MAP 21

Sustainable Communities: Also during your first term, the administration created the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which ensures coordination among several federal agencies: the Department of Transportation (DOT), Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The inter-agency coordination has worked to break down siloes and ensure better and more effective communication among the agencies. I believe it is another model that should be scaled up across the U.S. and one that DOTs should be encouraged to model as they make decisions regarding land use and transportation.

High Speed Rail: Thank you and the administration for creating the very first plan for high-speed rail which proposes to connect major corridors including California and Midwest cities. I have had the opportunity to ride high speed rail in both Europe and Asia. If they can do it, so can we. However, I would encourage you to ensure that small business participation is the standard on these projects and not an option. As you know, rail has traditionally excluded minority and women owned business. The irony is that it is this very constituent of small business (minorities and women), who along with other small business, employ nearly 70% of the nation's workforce. Diversity and inclusion *must* replace "business as usual" among/between the good old boys in the heavy rail industry. A simple way to ensure this is to sign into law an Executive Order to ensure that the states place required goals in the request for proposals. Let's not leave this to chance.

MAP 21: Lastly, thank you Mr. President for signing into law (in June 2012) *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), which is the first multi-year transportation authorization enacted since 2005 and which funds transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014. But please ensure that the political powers that be are held accountable to diversity and inclusion. This legislation must provide real opportunity for job creation and small business participation on federally funded transportation projects, as well as hold states accountable as they receive these federal funds.

Conclusion

Mr. President, I am hopeful that your second term will continue to ensure the embracing of ideas and initiatives which will make for a robust and sustainable transportation industry which is inclusive of all. As stated in the beginning of my letter, COMTO looks forward to working with your administration. Thank you. And again, congratulations.



Warm regards,

Julie Cunningham
President & Chief Executive Officer
Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials

COMTO is a 501c3, nonpartisan organization ■

COMTO Career Center

New Search Features for Our Members

If you haven't been to the Career Center lately, here are some of the latest features that are now available on the COMTO Website.

- Members have the ability to search through all postings, as well as all resumes, listed on the website.
- Members can subscribe to postings so they receive an update anytime there is a change to that posting.
- Members and non-members can post job listings for 30 days. The posting fee for members is \$250.00 (\$350.00, non-members).
- Members can search using several different criteria, including department, salary, location, and position.

To view the most recent listings, please visit:
<https://comto.site-ym.com/networking/>

Black History



Garrett Augustus Morgan, Sr.

(March 4, 1877– August 27, 1963) was an African-American inventor. His most notable creations were a type of respiratory protective hood, a traffic signal, and a hair-straightening preparation. He is renowned for a heroic rescue in 1917 at Lake Erie in which he

used his hood to save workers trapped in a tunnel system filled with fumes, after other rescue attempts had failed. He is credited as the first African American in Cleveland, Ohio, to own an automobile.



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APTA Leadership

A Conversation with Flora Castillo, APTA Chair



When **Flora M. Castillo** was named the new Chair of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) this past October, she made history by becoming the association's first Latina chair since its founding more than a century ago.

This is big news not only for APTA, but for the transportation industry as a whole, illustrating once again the increased role of minorities in high-profile leadership positions.

Castillo immigrated to the United States as a teenager with her family from El Salvador and knows from experience the importance of public transportation in working families' lives. "Public transit was something that my family depended on in El Salvador and the United States," Castillo told the audience at APTA's annual meeting in Seattle in October. "I know firsthand the value of public transportation and how important it is to those who need it most."

Castillo serves on the NJ TRANSIT Board of Directors. Appointed by the governor in 1999, she has been reappointed by three governors since.

It was her experience on that board, she said in a recent interview with COMTO, that made her realize "the tremendous impact that public transit has on people's lives and their ability to be independent and to get ahead, whether it is by taking the bus to a medical appointment or going to college by train, or taking both a bus and train to get to work and conduct life's daily business."

But as the first Latina to serve on the NJ TRANSIT Board, Castillo also realized how important diversity is at the decision-making level. "I have such a sense of pride being the first Latina chair because this tells people who look like me that this is an industry that has a place for them and other minorities across the country," she said. "They can see our industry as somewhere they can follow their dreams and fulfill their passions."

Castillo's position is about a lot more than just being a positive role model. The transportation industry, she notes, faces significant challenges, particularly in terms of funding for critical infrastructure needs. "If there was a silver lining from Hurricane Sandy," she said, "it was that when New Jersey, New York and parts of Connecticut ground to a halt because public transit facilities were devastated by the storm, citizens and elected officials realized just how vital public transit is to the economy of our communities, our states and our nation."

In light of that, one of her initiatives this year as APTA chair is beginning the process for authorization of MAP-21, which funds surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The bill doesn't expire until September 2014, but Castillo has already appointed an authorization task force to begin work on it.

Another initiative Castillo has spearheaded is raising awareness among public transit customers about how public transit improves mobility and access to critical health services. In addition to her role on the NJ TRANSIT Board, Castillo has a 20-year career in managed health care and Medicaid. She plans to use this experience to reach out to organizations in the field to promote awareness of exactly how public transit can help people.

Additionally, Castillo points to the need for the development of the next generation of public transportation workers and leaders. "We must act quickly and swiftly in educating, mentoring, and coaching individuals from diverse backgrounds to become future leaders and employees of our industry. Part of this effort includes working with COMTO. Our most important job is to identify, recruit, and mentor individuals to consider a job in transportation." ■

"Flora Castillo's appointment as APTA Chair is historic. Her work in transportation personifies why minorities and women must have a place at the table."
Julie Cunningham,
COMTO President & CEO

Pam Boswell – Making It Happen



For those who have attended meetings of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) during the past 13 years, have you ever wondered who has been responsible for the overall program planning and coordination of these meetings, making sure that they are informative and appealing, and arranging for the distinguished and diverse speakers from across the country? Beginning her career at APTA in January 1999, **Pamela L. Boswell**, APTA's Vice President for Program Management and Educational Services, has

overseen and directed program management, educational services and workforce development for APTA members.

Promoted to her current position in 2001, she manages APTA's major meetings, conferences, and specialty workshops/seminars; educational programs to address transit management, board policy and technology issues within the industry; leadership development programs; and web-based educational services.

Bob Prince, COMTO's Chairman and Vice President, AECOM, stated, "Pam is the behind-the-scenes person who makes it happen. She is one of the most committed individuals I've met within the public transportation industry. She always puts her heart and soul into everything she does."

One of Boswell's major successes is her direction of **Leadership APTA**, the premier professional development program designed to develop and support the next generation of APTA leaders and the public transportation industry. More than 350 transportation professionals have graduated from this prestigious program since it was initiated in 1997, and several of the graduates have risen to top executive positions within the industry. "It is truly gratifying to me to see the impact that Leadership APTA has had on the many professionals

that have gone through the program," Boswell shared. "And I am particularly pleased that the program has always focused on a diverse group of participants. Graduates of the program have done extremely well in their careers within the industry."

Joseph Alexander, President, The Alexander Group, former APTA Chair, and long-time member of the Leadership APTA Committee since the inception of the program 15 years ago, stated, "Pam has done a wonderful job over the years directing and working with her excellent Leadership APTA team. Her overall focus, leadership and commitment to the program have been the keys to its outstanding success."

Boswell's responsibilities at APTA have also included the oversight of the American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF), the charitable affiliate of APTA whose mission is to increase and retain the number of young professionals entering the transit field as a career by providing scholarships to deserving students — the future leaders within the industry. The APTF has awarded more than 100 scholarships.

Boswell has 27 years of experience in the public transportation industry. She is also an alumnus of the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan and Ford Foundations. Boswell has been selected for numerous awards, including the "Educator" Award from the Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter of COMTO in 2006, and was recognized by Metro Magazine in 2010 as one of eight women having made a major impact on the transportation industry.

Boswell's presence is felt throughout the public transportation industry. "Some leaders are out front," Boswell said. "As for me, I choose to be a servant leader—someone who can make it happen behind the scenes. Someone who can achieve results by focusing on the needs of my colleagues and those they serve. That is what servant leadership is all about, and it's the role I've embraced throughout my career." ■

COMTO National

COMTO CEO Receives Award from Central Jersey Community Development Corporation

The Central Jersey Community Development Corporation (CJCDC) hosted a Corporate Recognition Breakfast on December 14, in New Brunswick, N.J., for those who have made significant contributions to the community. Among the honorees, **Julie Cunningham**, COMTO President and Chief Executive Officer, was the recipient of the *National Empowerment Award* which acknowledged her commitment to community and diversity. **Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.**, Chairman and CEO of CJCDC, presented the award, which was unanimously decided upon by the CJCDC Board of Directors. COMTO Board Members **Warren Montague** and **Emile Williams** attended the event as did **Paul Larousse**, Executive Director of the National Transit Institute. ■



(L-R) Paul Larousse, Emile Williams, Julie Cunningham, Dr. DeForest Soaries, and Warren Montague.

Julie Cunningham Interviewed by the American Association of Airport Executives

COMTO President/CEO **Julie Cunningham** was interviewed at the offices of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). The interview was a great opportunity for COMTO to receive higher visibility among industry leaders and to continue strengthening COMTO's relationship with the AAAE and the aviation community. ■

Black History



Granville T. Woods (1865–1910) In 1887 Granville Woods patented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, which allowed communications between train stations and moving trains. In 1888 he developed a system for overhead electric conducting lines.

Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)

TCRP Ambassador: Ramond Robinson



"It's easy to do work you believe in," says **Ramond Robinson**, Chief Development Officer for Chatham Area Transit in Savannah, GA. A strong advocate of mass transit, Robinson is also a Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Ambassador, a role he'd wanted for a long time and one that he enjoys.

"This is about showing how valuable mass transit is. It's also about sharing experiences with other professionals and showing all the tools TCRP

has to offer," he said. "This is work I honestly believe in and research that I've used before."

Ambassadors travel across the country attending various national, regional, state, and local conferences. They are charged with helping their industry peers understand the full scope of TCRP sponsored research—the latest developments in advanced technologies, innovative management techniques and best operating practices. Robinson is one of 18 TCRP Ambassadors.

At a recent conference in Utah, the focus was on rail, but as a TCRP Ambassador, Robinson notes the questions he received were on a wide range of transportation issues, such as ride sharing and bus stop enhancements. There was also a large contingent of international transportation professionals who rely on TCRP research materials.

With a geographic and environmental science background, Robinson previously worked as a planner for Charlotte Area Transit in North Carolina, where he developed transit services for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area and provided technical support to various city departments for short and long-term capital investment projects.

In his new job with Chatham Area Transit, which provides transportation in Savannah's metropolitan area, Robinson oversees paratransit service planning, grant administration, marketing, legislative agendas and more.

TCRP is a joint effort between the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). COMTO manages the Ambassador Program.

TCRP Ambassadors generally serve for two years. However, the application process is year round. To learn more about the TCRP Ambassador Program and/or to apply, please contact COMTO National at tcrp@comto.org. TCRP research products, such

as reports, syntheses and legal research digests, are available online as well as in hard copy. There is no cost involved to request or download reports.

Search and download at <http://www.tcrponline.org/>. ■

"There are so many different facets to transportation, I just love it."

Ramond Robinson

Celebrating Women who move the nation

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
J.W. Marriott in Washington, DC



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that women-owned businesses in the United States employ 40% more people than the top three employers (McDonald's, IBM, and Walmart) combined?

That's just one of the statistics from the American Express OPEN State of Women-Owned Businesses Report.

In total, 7.7 million people are employed by women-owned businesses in the United States, which is a 9% increase over the past 15 years. However, that equates to just **6% of total employment.**

COMTO Announces 2013 Celebrating Women Who Move The Nation Honorees

In recognition of Women's History Month, eleven women representing a full-range of transportation disciplines will be honored at the annual **Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation** awards breakfast scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at the J.W. Marriott in Washington, DC

The announcement of the honorees was made by event sponsor, the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), a Washington, DC-based forum of senior-level transportation executives. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Norman Mineta** is the honorary chairman of the event. Mineta is the longest serving Secretary of Transportation. *Tickets for this event can be purchased through the COMTO website at: <http://www.comto.org>*

Freshman U.S. Representative **Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), an Iraq war veteran, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Rep. Duckworth distinguishes herself as a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter pilot. She suffered severe combat wounds, losing both her legs and damaging her right arm. Duckworth was the first female double amputee from the war and was awarded the Purple Heart for her combat injuries. She previously served as assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and as the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additional Honorees and the Sectors They Represent Include:

Gina Adams

Senior Vice President–Government Affairs at FedEx for the Private Sector

Rosemarie Andolino

Commissioner at the Chicago Department of Aviation for the Aviation Sector

Anne Canby

President of the Surface Transportation Policy Partnership for Advocacy Sector

Gloria Jeff

Former Associate Director of the Transportation Operations Administration at the Washington, DC Department of Transportation for the Highway Sector

Joan McDonald

Commissioner for the State of New York Department of Transportation for the State Government Sector

Helen Dale

Special Assistant and Strategic Coordinator to the Director of Human Resources at the Maryland Transportation Authority will receive the *Shirley DeLibero Award*

Cheryl McKissack Daniel

President and CEO at McKissack & McKissack Co-Honoree for the Private Sector

Deryl McKissack

Board Chairwoman at McKissack & McKissack of Washington, DC Co-Honoree for the Private Sector

Therese McMillan

Deputy Administrator at the Federal Transit Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Federal Government Sector

"This year's honorees are truly world class leaders and represent the various modes of transportation. They are all extraordinary visionaries and role models in an industry where women are still noticeably underrepresented in the executive ranks. COMTO is proud to honor each of them."

Julie Cunningham

COMTO President & CEO

Diversity in Motion

Celia Blue



Celia Blue was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Transportation in 2012.

Blue is responsible for the Office of Performance Management and Innovation. She is tasked with assisting Secretary and CEO, **Richard Davey**, in building a culture of performance excellence, accountability and transparency while also building a culture of Innovation at MassDOT. MassDOT encompasses four

divisions; Rail and Transit, Highway, Registry of Motor Vehicles and Aeronautics, with approximately 10,000 employees. Prior to becoming Assistant Secretary, Blue served MassDOT and the Commonwealth in the position of Deputy Registrar for the Registry of Motor Vehicles. As one of the Registrar's senior advisors, Blue assisted in strategic planning, policy making decisions and implementation of various Registry initiatives. Blue was responsible for oversight of the RMV's customer service operations, with the duty of ensuring the achievement of MassDOT's overarching goal of providing exceptional service to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Blue is a member of the COMTO Boston Chapter and Chair of the Special Activities Committee.

Eddie Jenkins



Eddie Jenkins was promoted to Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in 2012.

Jenkins has served as the Director of Enforcement Services for the Registry of Motor Division (RMD) since July 2009. In this capacity, Jenkins has been responsible for overseeing the Office of Enforcement Services within the RMD, which works in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police Compliance Unit

on matters pertaining to driver license and vehicle related fraud cases, including those cases detected through the use of facial recognition technology. He also oversees the Ignition Interlock Department (IID), which is responsible for ensuring that over 4,000 repeat drunk drivers comply with the rules and regulations pertaining to the use of interlock devices as a condition of licensure. While serving as the Director, Jenkins has worked with the IID staff to develop conferences for all the device vendors that service Massachusetts customers to ensure they comply with the conditions of being an approved participant in the Massachusetts program. In addition, he has overseen the Court Records and Medical Affairs Departments. Jenkins is an active member of the COMTO Boston Chapter.

Maryanne Potts-Lewis



Awarded for her high performance, **Maryanne Potts-Lewis** has shown leadership in one of the most important components of transportation—customer assistance. The Delaware Transit Corporation's (DART First State) Customer Service Department recently instituted an employee recognition initiative recognizing the high productivity of Information Center Specialist team members.

The top call takers are acknowledged weekly for assisting the most customers. COMTO Delaware's Potts-Lewis has been announced as the top call taker for September 2012. She professionally assisted 6,742 callers with their fixed route transit needs.

Mariah Stanley



COMTO Student Intern **Mariah Stanley** recently graduated on January 8, 2013 from Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC. Just prior to her graduation, she accepted a position with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Stanley came to COMTO five years ago as a high school senior at Cardozo High School's TransTech Academy. COMTO President and CEO **Julie Cunningham** said, "Mariah is an astute young professional and will certainly be one to watch in the industry. She has a breadth of experience in the industry having not only worked at COMTO, but also at APTA and as an intern under the Federal Transit Administration/COMTO Careers In Transportation For Youth Program." **Shirley DeLiberio**, COMTO former national chair, added, "We are most proud of her academic success and of her impending success as a career professional. We know that APTA has hired a gem."

Stanley began work at APTA on December 17 as Educational Services Coordinator in the Program Management & Educational Services Department (PMES). She will support a range of member professional development, educational services, conferences and meetings, workforce development projects and programs, including the American Public Transportation Foundation. Stanley will provide key program management, coordination and support in developing and executing APTA's workforce development programs and initiatives, as well as provide program support and coordination in creating and updating the PMES Department's sections on APTA's website and the foundation website. ■

Black History



Elijah McCoy (1844–1929) McCoy was a mechanical engineer and inventor. His high quality industrial inventions (especially his steam engine lubricator) were the basis for the expression "the real McCoy," meaning the real, authentic, or high-quality thing. McCoy's first invention (1872) was a revolutionary way of lubricating steam engines without having to shut them down. This automatic lubricator saved an enormous amount of time and effort in transportation and in industrial production.

COMTO USA

Boston

COMTO Boston had a successful series of activities for COMTO WEEK, featuring brown bag lunch events every day except Friday, on which they concluded with membership and network events at the Acela Lounge at South Station. **Roma McKenzie-Campbell**, Chapter President, attended and enjoyed all the events. The activities included a Cabot Bus Garage (Host, **Susie Garcia**, Deputy Director, Operations and **Donalexander Goss**, First Vice President); Cleveland Circle (Host, **Lisa McDonnell**, Fundraising Chair); Registry of Motor Vehicles (Host, **Debbie West**, Program Chair); MassPort (Hosts, **Sandra Casey Buford**, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and **Celia Blue**, Assistant Secretary, MassDOT, Office of Performance Management and Innovation); State Transportation Building (Host, **Mary Fernandes**, AGM MBTA/MassDOT Supplier Diversity and Development Office and also on Friday: Membership and Networking event, (Hosts, **Prince Reid** and **Celia Blue**).

At a reception this fall, COMTO Boston honored former Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) General Manager, **Robert H. Prince**, as newly elected National Chair of COMTO. A long standing board member of COMTO,



Prince will serve as chair for a two-year term. Mistress of Ceremony **Mary Fernandes** welcomed local and national transportation officials. There to recognize Bob's success and his commitment to the transportation industry, speakers included **Celia Blue**, Assistant Secretary, Office of Performance and Innovation, **Richard Davey**, Transportation Secretary, **Jonathan Davis**, Interim

General Manager of the MBTA, and **Shirley DeLibero**, Chair of National Advisory Board, COMTO. COMTO National President and Chief Executive Officer, **Julie Cunningham**, also reflected on the appointment, commenting that, "Bob brings to the table decades of transportation experience encompassed with a passion to continue COMTO's mission of membership recruitment and career development for minorities."

Chicago

The leadership of COMTO Chicago hosted a Strategic Planning Retreat, at the Catalyst Ranch, in Downtown Chicago. Attendees renewed their commitments for the year ahead as they received presentations by former and current committee leaders, an effort to pass the torch of Chapter knowledge from one team to another. Following a *Good to Great* chapter model evaluation, the retreat was highly successful and was an integral step in preparing chapter members for the 2012-2014 term.



Colorado



Members of COMTO Colorado met with **Julie Cunningham**, COMTO President and CEO, during their November meeting. Cunningham provided an update on 2013 national activities. Chapter President **Dan Pearsall** provided an overview of the chapter's progress on the Good-to-

Great activities. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from Kiewitt about upcoming small business opportunities on the I-225 Rail Line Project.

Delaware



COMTO Delaware had an exciting COMTO Week, with efforts that focused on their membership. Some memorable activities included events to support the National platform and local initiatives, such as the Careers in Transportation Day at Howard H.S. of Technology (Wilmington), where a team of COMTO members discussed various career opportunities in the multi-modes of transportation and great publicity and unity event that included chocolates that were distributed along with brochures to team members in the state. At the week's end, many COMTO members gathered at a Delaware Department of Transportation Networking Lunch in Dover.

The Delaware Chapter also was a sponsor of DART's Bus "Rodeo," an event put on by Supports DART First State Bus Operators and Maintenance Staff. Members of COMTO Delaware cheered on their fellow co-workers as they participated in a friendly competition of driving and safety skills. COMTO Delaware member **Renaldo Epps** placed 2nd in the 40-foot Bus Category.

Jacksonville

COMTO Jacksonville 2012 holiday party was held at The Sanctuary Walk Apartment complex on December 20. With generous donations, the chapter was able to bring holiday spirit to 69 children in the complex.





(L-R) Natalyn Lozano, Membership Chair; Terri Smith, President; James Warren, 1st Vice President; Alesia Gee, Secretary

Each child received a gift bag with at least three gifts designed for their age group. The party was enjoyable, the children were excited and several of the parents expressed their gratitude for what was done for their families. The chapter is looking forward to spreading more holiday spirit in 2013.

COMTO Jacksonville participated in the 11th Anniversary Commemoration at the Everbank Field Municipal Stadium on September 11. The Jacksonville Chapter partnered with

Congresswoman **Corrine Brown**, the Women of Color Cultural Foundation and other community partners in an effort to celebrate and honor those who lost their lives and as a tribute to the men and women who are still fighting the war.

COMTO Jacksonville held its 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon, an event which assisted the chapter's scholarship fundraising efforts. Thirty bowlers attended the event, enjoying activities that included raffle drawings and prizes awarded to the highest scoring female and male bowlers.

Kansas City

COMTO Kansas City held its annual holiday luncheon December 13. Twenty-four members and guests attended the event held at the Holiday Inn Garden Center, Kansas City, KS. In addition to the annual report, President **A. J. Byrd** discussed the chapter's growth and progress toward becoming a great chapter. Members took the opportunity to announce plans for Garrett A. Morgan Day to be held in February in conjunction with Black History Month, as well as plans for their 2013 scholarship program.



Maryland

COMTO Maryland held its 2nd Annual Economic Development and Transportation Leadership Luncheon at the Engineers' Club at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion in Baltimore. At the meeting, the Chapter renewed its commitment to their core competencies: Diversity, partnering, and community outreach. It was a successful event for the Maryland Chapter.

Northern California

COMTO Northern California hosted its 8th Annual Holiday Dinner Dance & Scholarship and Industry Awards Program in December to celebrate their community as they helped those who needed their support. The COMTO holiday gala was a great opportunity to gather and enjoy the company of friends as they awarded scholarships to deserving students, a result of their annual fund-raising efforts. The event was both elegant and fun, while serving an important purpose. In the fall, COMTO Northern California hosted a Panel Discussion, "Bringing Transit Into the 21st Century," which focused on upcoming transit



projects, opportunities, funding needs, and tax initiatives to support these projects. **Steve Heminger** (Executive Director, MTC) served as moderator, and panelists included **Grace Crunican**, (BART General Manager), **David Armijo** (AC Transit GM), and **Art Dao** (Executive Director, Alameda County Transportation Commission).

Philadelphia

COMTO Philadelphia held their 7th Annual Adopt A Family Holiday Project, where families with school-age children provided the COMTO shoppers with a wish list of their favorite holiday toys, clothing and other treats. This year, 13 families benefited from the generosity of others. The chapter provided gifts to eight families. Gratitude goes to the following extended Chapter members and organizations who donated funds and did the shopping for the remaining five families: CH Planning Group, Edward Taylor Coombs Foundations, and Turner Construction. This event, along with their Thanksgiving Basket Drive (130 total), has proven to be an outstanding highlight of the season of giving and cheer for the local Philadelphia area.



San Antonio

Congressman **Lloyd Doggett**, U.S. Representative, Texas, 35th District, was guest speaker at COMTO San Antonio's Monthly General Membership Meeting in October. He provided COMTO members and guests a legislative update on the federally funded transportation projects in the San Antonio-Austin region.



(L-R) Sidney Smith, President, COMTO San Antonio; Congressman Lloyd Doggett, D-TX 35; Keith Parker, President and former CEO of VIA Metropolitan Transit

COMTO 2013 Calendar of Events

February

Month of February

Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day

Local Chapters Observance

Monday, February 18

National Office Closed

Presidents' Day

March

Tuesday, March 12

8:30 am – 10:30 am

A View from the Hill

Washington, DC

Tuesday, March 12

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

COMTO Leadership Team Meetings

(Board of Directors & Council of Presidents)

Washington, DC

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 am – 10:30 am

Celebrating Women Who

Move The Nation

Washington, DC

CEO Series: Part 2 *(Invitation Only)*

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Washington, DC

May

Monday, May 27

National Office Closed

Memorial Day

June

Friday, June 7

TIME TBD

Scholarship Awards Luncheon

Philadelphia, PA

July

Thursday, July 4

National Office Closed

Independence Day

Saturday, July 13 – Wednesday, July 17

COMTO's 42nd National

Meeting & Training Conference

Jacksonville, FL

August

Monday, August 5

Annual Golf Outing

Fort Washington, MD

September

Monday, September 2

National Office Closed

Labor Day

Thursday, September 19

COMTO/Congressional Black

Caucus Foundation (CBC)

Annual Braintrust

Walter E. Washington

Convention Center

Washington, DC

Friday, September 20

COMTO Leadership Team Meetings

(Board of Directors & Presidents Council)

The Beacon Hotel

Washington, DC

October

Monday, October 14

National Office Closed

Columbus Day

November

November

(Typically held during the first week of the month)

COMTO Week

Local Chapter Observance

Thursday and Friday,

November 28 – 29

National Office Closed

Thanksgiving

December

Wednesday, December 25

National Office Closed

Christmas Day

Black History



Andrew Beard (1849 – 1921) On November 27, 1897 Beard received a patent for the railroad car-coupler called the "Jenny Coupler." This device automatically joined train cars by allowing them to bump each other. He also developed the rotary engine in 1892 which eliminated the dangerous job of manually connecting train cars, in which a train worker's arms and legs could be crushed.



Bessie Coleman (1892 – 1926) First African American Female Pilot. She earned her license on June 15, 1921 from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. She taught other black women to fly, gave lectures and performed at flying exhibitions.

COMTO 42nd National Meeting & Training Conference

**Expanding the Routes of Transportation:
Infrastructure Investment and Job Creation**

July 13-17, 2013

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, Florida

For travel information, visit www.comto.org



**Leaders meet in
Jacksonville to ensure
a successful COMTO
event this July!**

*Pictured left to right:
Robert H. Prince, Jr., COMTO National Chair, Vice President, AECOM,
Nathaniel Ford, CEO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority and
Alvin Brown, Jacksonville Mayor*



COMTO Board of Directors with The Honorable Corrine Brown (center left) and Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown (center right)

Welcome New Members

Corporate Members

ALL(n)1 Security Services, Inc.
J.F. Sato and Associates

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Members

Appdiction Studio

Non-Profits

Atlanta Regional Commission
NAMC Oregon

At Large

Stephanie Nellons-Paige

Individuals

Listed by Chapter

Atlanta

Lawrence Hough
Degas Wright

Austin

Ron Ledesma
Walter Muse
Nikita Rogers

Boston

Francis Burnett
Stan Burrows
Ron Consalvo
Phyllis Dunn
Herby Duverne
Howard Haywood
Lydia Rivera
Terrance Spencer
Marilyn Torre
Jacquelyn Wilkins

Central Florida

Chaz Smith

Chicago

Deborah Grant
Tavares Williams

Colorado

Karen Creamer
Darcie Ezell
Maristela Fountain
Jeffrey Knight
Jamie Price
Eric Rolle
Richard Romig
James Sato

Dallas

Ruth Dornier
Vonciel Jones Hill
Garvey Jean-Louis

Ft. Lauderdale

Deborah Whitehouse

Indiana

Christopher L. Barney
Patricia Castaneda
Ellis Woolridge

Jacksonville

Josephine Summa
Alphonso Wilson

Kansas City

Donnetta Cole
Esther Moten

Maryland

Belinda Coleman
Yvonne Hall
Robert Harrison
Carroll Hicks
Farid Khorsandian
Deborah Sharpless
Roger Small

Michigan

Sharmyn Elliott
Ruth Johnson

New York

Michelle Delpêche
Joseph Registre
Gautam Tooley

North Carolina

Aasim Johnson

Northern California

Timothy Brathwaite
Tammy Evans
Claudia Guadagne
Joe Wallace
Amelia Whittaker

Oregon/SW Washington

Emely Dela Rosa
Nina Jones

Philadelphia

Judith Burton
Eric Francis-Wright
Lynette Lievens
Kristian Linares
Brandon Miller
Monika Moo-Young
Fatima Mullins
Neal Patel
Morris William
Athena Yiantsos

San Antonio

Doris Martinez
Ivy Taylor

St. Louis

Victor Alao
Funmi Ojo

Southern California

Nicole Burton
La Tanya Robertson
Claire Reyes

Washington, DC

Chris Blake
Jose Bustamante
Karen Campblin
Jasmine Copeland
Lindsey Robertson
Corbin Skerrit

COMTO National Leadership

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Transit Business
Development Director
Vice President, AECOM
Boston, MA

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Chief Transportation Officer
Customized Community
Transportation
Southeastern Pennsylvania
Transportation Authority
Philadelphia, PA

2nd Vice Chair

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External Civil Rights Director
Missouri Department of
Transportation (MODOT)
Jefferson City, MO

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Orlando, FL

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President and CEO
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Dallas, TX

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Systems, Inc.
Arlington, VA

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Central Florida Regional
Transportation Authority
Orlando, FL

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DBE Officer/Director of Equal
Employment & Business
Opportunity Programs
VIA Metropolitan Transit
San Antonio, TX

Adiele Nwankwo, PhD

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Americas, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

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Dallas Area Rapid Transit
Dallas, TX

Emille Williams

Manager of Engineering
Southeastern Pennsylvania
Transportation Authority
Philadelphia, PA

Council of Presidents Representative Alternate

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Director of Rail Maintenance
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid
Transit Authority
Lithonia, GA

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Washington, DC

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Bowie, MD

Shirley DeLibero

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Lanham, MD



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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.