

### 2008 Project of the Year: ODOT Solar Highway Project

Each year WTS Portland Chapter reviews applications and selects a project of the year. Seldom do we see projects as transformative as this year's selection, the Oregon Department of Transportation's Solar Highway Project.

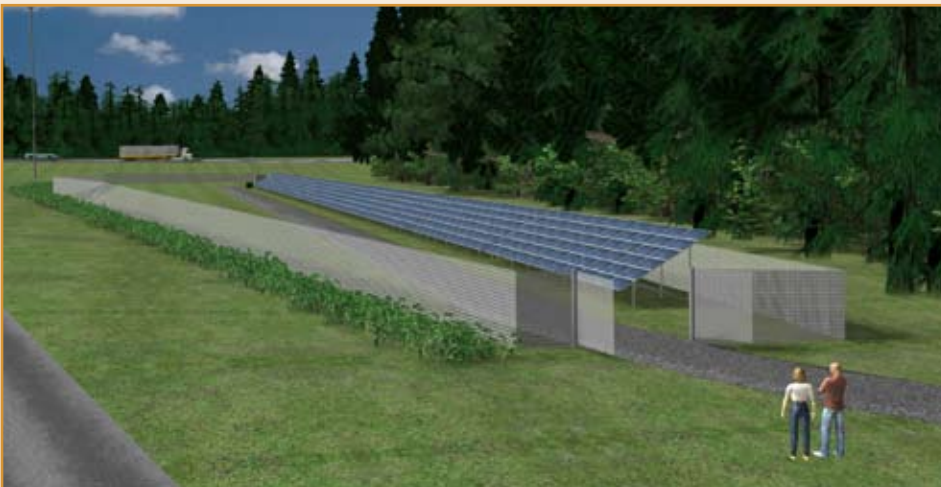
The brain child of Allison Hamilton, of ODOT's Innovative Partnerships Program, this project is the first in the nation to install solar panels to provide electricity for freeway light-

ing. The pilot project is located near the intersection of I-5 and I-205, and offsets ODOT's use of the power grid by about 28% at this location. This groundbreaking project is the first of its type in the US. It has captured the interest of the County and has propelled Oregon as a national leader for innovative sustainable technology, garnering international recognition as well.

The project is the first in the nation

to use net-metering and enables the use of the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credits (BETC) providing potential saving to ODOT. Creative partnerships for funding and maintenance of the project were developed and ODOT is moving forward with identifying locations in their right of way for more solar facilities.

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### WTS Portland Holiday Event

Join us December 10, 2008

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Aqua Riva Restaurant SW Hamilton Court. Portland, OR 97239

Members - \$40, Non members - \$50, Students \$15

Live music from the Ellen Vanderslice Jazz quartet and Christmas ships!

## 2008 Project of the Year: ODOT Solar Highway Project, cont'd

*continued from page 1*

The WTS Portland Chapter Project of the Year Committee was presented with a number of excellent nominations for the 2008 WTS Project of the Year making the decision process challenging. Committee members Lynn Bailey, Deena Platman, Dee-Ann Sandberg, Deborah Redman Ellen Vanderslice, and KC Cooper (Chair) rated each project against a set of nine criteria before coming up with the final selection.

In addition to the winner, other submissions included the TriMet Commuter Rail, Sauvie Island Bridge Replacement Project, Oleson Road Improvement Project, Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail SDEIS, and the ODOT Road User Fee project.

The WTS Portland Chapter looks forward to honoring the Solar Highway Project at our Holiday Awards Event on December 10, 2008 at Aqua Riva Restaurant. In addition to the Project of the Year Award, you can Swing to the sassy sound of the Ellen Vanderslice Jazz Quar-

tet, featuring the vocal styling of WTS Portland's own Ellen Vanderslice, with Jim Schlauch on piano, Pat Fitzgerald on upright bass, and the unstoppable Alvin Hall on percussion. This year's event will be held at the Aqua Riva Restaurant, 0455 SW Hamilton Court, Portland, OR 97239. AquaRiva is situated on the Willamette, and in addition to Ellen's smooth sounds, we'll be treated to the annual Portland tradition of the Christmas Ships as they pass in front of the restaurant. Cost is \$40 for members, \$50 non-members and \$15 for students.



**WTS offers programs, events and other learning opportunities that are relevant, topical and progressive.**

*WTS Portland would like to welcome our newest members!*

- Dena Horton, Project Manager, Normandeau Associates
- Katherine Prew, Planner Angelo Planning Group
- Kirstin Gunderson, Environmental Planner, Wannamaker Consulting
- Kate Bodane, Mason, Bruce & Girard
- Kristie Gladhill, Graduate Research Asst., Portland State University
- Mary O'Brien
- Jennifer Baehman, Engineering Associate, DKS
- Aaron Deas, Government Affairs Analyst, TriMet

## *From Our President...*

### **Matt Hastie**

Greetings and good wishes as we enter the holiday season, with Halloween just behind us and Thanksgiving on its way. This is also a great time to celebrate our wonderful organization. That includes an outstanding WTS Board, generous corporate and individual sponsors, a great group of members, and a diverse set of programs and activities.

We've had another great start to our lunch program season this year. We're happy to be in a new venue at the Governor Hotel with Jakes Catering providing our meals, and we look forward to a long-lasting partnership with them. We've gotten lots of good feedback about our new home and have been very happy with the quality of the service and food, not to mention the great speakers we've lined up. Our September kickoff program provided an inspirational look at an extremely comprehensive program by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to inspect and repair critical bridges throughout the state in response to the Minneapolis bridge collapse. Our second speaker reminded us of the transportation issues we all eventually deal with as we age, as well as the options and programs for addressing them. In November we focused on freight issues in the Portland-Vancouver metro area, which are vital to our region's economic health, something particularly important given the current economic climate. Our aim is to bring you a variety of speakers and programs related to project, political and technical topics. Our fall programs have been a great example of doing just that.



Fall also has been a good season for our professional development programs. We kicked off another season of mentoring in October, matching 11 pairs of mentors and protégés. The program will last approximately six months and provide participants with a lot of flexibility in how they meet their mentoring objectives. We also started another series of professional development sessions with a program on Interchange Area Management Planning presented by Terry Cole of the Oregon Department of Transportation. We had a great turnout for this very informative event. In addition, we expect to provide continuing education credits for members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) for this and other future professional development activities. We also are providing forms to make it easier for members of the Institute of Transportation Engineering to obtain similar credits for WTS events. Look for more professional development events in January and February of the coming year.

Our Fundraising Committee and corporate donors have been busy this fall, too. Our third annual corporate fundraising campaign has already exceeded this year's goal of raising

\$20,000! Individuals also contributed approximately \$2,000 directly to our scholarship fund at this year's annual Spring Awards event. Corporate donations also help pay for local scholarships, improve the quality and reduce the cost of our events and programs, and give us the ability to create a long-term stable source of scholarship funding.

And of course, we couldn't keep our organization running without our volunteers, particularly our wonderful Board. We're in the process of filling next year's slate of Board members and look forward to bringing on a number of fresh faces and perspectives. Keep an eye out for the new slate via e-mail which we'll need your help to approve this month. At the same time, we're losing some long-time Board members who have provided us with outstanding service, including Laura Jackson, Julia Kuhn, Shayna Rehberg, Scott Richman, Lani Tribbett and Tara Weidner. I can't say enough about how much I've appreciated their efforts on behalf of our chapter. Luckily they all promise to remain active in WTS so we won't really be saying goodbye to any of them. And this is the last newsletter I have the privilege of writing as chapter President. Of course you can't get rid of me that easily as I'll remain on the Board as Immediate Past President. And luckily I'll be turning over the reins to a great incoming board President, Margaret Middleton. I'm thankful for the opportunity to continue to work with such a dedicated group of people and with an organization that has such a big impact in Portland's transportation world.

As always, thank you for your support and participation in making our chapter such a success! We hope to see you at a WTS event soon!

### **It's Time to Vote**

We know you just did that but now it's time for a really important election – your WTS Chapter 2009 Board. You should have recently received

an e-mail asking you to review and approve our proposed slate of new Board members for the coming year. It's very important that our members approve our Board. In fact, our

Chapter Bylaws require it. So please make sure you help us serve you and the rest of the Chapter by responding to that e-mail. Thanks for voting!

## WTS Luncheon Series 2008-2009

We have enjoyed great attendance and positive response at our new venue, The Governor Hotel, and our luncheon presenters are covering a broad range of transportation-related topics. Laura Amundson, PE, Project Manager with Parsons Brinkerhoff, kicked off our luncheon series in September with an overview of perhaps the most impressive state program of bridge inspection and repair that this country has seen. The extent and speed of the inspection and repair program was spurred by the Minneapolis bridge collapse. In October, Kate Hunter-Zaworski, PhD, OSU Professor, shared with us a special understanding of accommodating aging drivers in our vehicles and on our roads, and of transitioning those

drivers - often our friends and family members - to other means of transportation. In November, Metro Councilor Rod Park and industry leader Monica Isbell joined us to discuss the challenges and opportunities for regional freight planning.

After a break in December, the WTS luncheon series will resume in January. Among the candidates for speakers and topics in 2009 are members of the state Global Warming Commission, the Governor's Transportation Plan, Columbia River Pilots Captains Anne McIntyre and Deborah Dempsey, the Oregon's Public Health Institute - Healthy Eating Active Living program, and Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Stay tuned!

## WTS Portland Mentoring Program Kicks Off!!

The 2008 WTS Portland Chapter Mentoring Program began with a Meet and Match program on Monday, September 29th at the Multnomah County Hawthorne Building. The event provided an opportunity for several young transportation professionals to meet and begin initial conversations about career goals and mentoring needs with potential mentors. After the event, eleven pairs of protégés and mentors were matched based on their career interests and their experiences at the Mentorship Meet and Match program.

Participants will meet independently for six months and are encouraged

to attend WTS events together to strengthen the mentorship bonds. The WTS Portland Chapter will also be hosting two to three casual events for participants during the program and wrapping up with a celebration party in April. A special thank you to the volunteer mentors in this year's program: Frank Angelo, June Carlson, Julia Knudsen, Robin McArthur, Robin McCaffrey, Kirsten Pennington, Karen Schilling, Marcy Schwartz, Lynda Wannamaker, and Anita Yap!! If you are interested in being a mentor in next year's program, please contact Professional Development Chair, Shelley Holly, at [shelleyholly@comcast.net](mailto:shelleyholly@comcast.net).



### Members On The Move

Kirsten Pennington, AICP, recently joined CH2M HILL's Portland office as a project manager, transportation/land use planner, and sustainability leader. Kirsten returned to the Portland metro area after 4 years in CH2M HILL's Seattle office and several years in municipal government. Kirsten is a past president of the Puget Sound WTS chapter, is co-chair of the 2009 WTS International Conference being held in Seattle.

## The Oregon Environmental Council is pleased to present:

WTS encourages you to attend the workshop **Cutting Carbs - A Professional Development Workshop for Transportation Professionals on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.**

The workshop's goal is to enable planners, engineers, project managers and others to combat climate change within their spheres of influence.

When: Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 8:00 am to 4:30pm

Where: Doubletree Lloyd Center: 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, Oregon

What will you learn? How climate change and transportation legislation in Salem, Olympia and Washington, D.C. could impact your work. What tools you can use to measure or estimate GHGs from transportation projects. Which strategies can make the most cost-effective dent in GHGs. The workshop will explore the leading edge in these areas, hear from the innovators, and work on how you can make a difference.

To get all the details and to register for this exciting event, please visit [www.oeconline.org/cutting-carbs](http://www.oeconline.org/cutting-carbs)

From that site you can view a detailed agenda, read speaker bios, get information about the venue, and register!

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**WTS fosters professional development through a variety of training programs, stimulating lunch programs and other events.**

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## Educational Speaker Series IAMPs: What have we learned?

Nearly 40 transportation professionals gathered on Monday, November 3rd in a "classroom" at the Parametrix offices to hear Terry Cole of ODOT Region 2 discuss Interchange Area Management Plans (IAMPs). Mr. Cole provided a great overview of IAMPs, as well as a section on "lessons learned" from the many IAMPs he's worked on over the last few years. The presentation, as well as questions from the audience, provided a great discussion of

case studies, general issues and concerns transportation planners and engineers face as they develop IAMPs throughout the state of Oregon.

The next Professional Development Educational Speaker Event will be in late January; look for an announcement in your inbox soon. If you have ideas for topics or speakers you'd like to hear, please contact Professional Development Chair, Shelley Holly, at shelleholly@comcast.net.

## WTS 2008/09 Fundraising Update

This year's corporate fundraising efforts are winding down to a successful close. The committee has surpassed its goal of raising \$20,000 for WTS scholarships and supporting member programs/events. We are pleased to announce seven new sponsors: Alcantar & Associates, Crandall-Arambula, HW Lochner, Michael Minor & Associates, MW Consulting, Parisi & Associates, and WH Pacific. We are also pleased to announce five major sponsor upgrades including three firms (CH2M HILL, DEA, and HDR) donating at the Benefactor level – WTS Portland's highest level; Alta Planning + Design upgrading from Supporter to Patron level; and KPFF upgrading from Friend

to Supporter level. Other firms continuing their support of WTS include: Angelo Planning Group, DKS, Envirolssues, Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc., Howell Consulting, HNTB, JD White/Berger Abam, JLA, Kittelson, OTAK, Parametrix and PB.

Thanks to the two dozen firms who have committed to supporting WTS in 2009! Thanks also to the fundraising committee of Frank Angelo, June Carlson, Leslie Howell, Rick Kuehn, Julia Kuhn, Jay Lyman, Marcy Schwartz, Kay Van Sickel, and Mike Wert.

If you are interested in sponsoring WTS for the coming year, please contact Theresa Carr, fundraising chair, at [theresa.carr@ch2m.com](mailto:theresa.carr@ch2m.com).

## ASCE Request

The Engineering Challenge (OEC) is a local non-profit dedicated to providing the youth of Oregon positive engineering experiences through design and problem solving competitions. OEC coordinates and hosts a competition called Future City and ASCE is looking for volunteers to mentor student teams through the project and also judges for the day of the competition. Training will

be provided. ASCE is looking for volunteers from all over the state as there may be teams from cities outside of the Portland area. Mentors and judges do not need to be Engineers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

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# WTS Portland Board Roster – 2008

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