

ABOUT COMTO

Founded in 1971 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) was created to provide a forum for minority professionals in the transportation industry.

Mission

COMTO's mission is to ensure opportunities in the transportation industry for minority participation and advancement, through advocacy, training, and professional development.

Vision

COMTO will serve as an advocate for minority inclusion in all aspects of the transportation industry.

Membership

COMTO has 32 chapters throughout the United States. Members include individuals, transportation agencies, academic institutions, private sector corporations, non-profit organizations, and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) across the United States, representing industry professionals at all levels within all modes of the transportation industry.

For more information on membership, please contact Rovaughn Graham at 773.870.6996 or via email at membership@comtochicago.org.



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN TRANSIT

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

RTA AND COMTO
CHICAGO WELCOME
THE STUDENTS OF

CURIE METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL

JOHN HANCOCK COLLEGE
PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

NORTH-GRAND HIGH SCHOOL



WOMEN IN TRANSIT



Agenda:

- 10:00 – 10:15AM: Eunice Escobar
Welcome Remarks
- 10:15 – 10:30AM: Leanne Redden
Introductions
- 10:30 – 11:30AM: Women in Transportation Panel
- 11:30 – 11:40AM: Q & A Session
- 11:40 – 11:45AM: Closing Remarks
- 11:45 – 12:45PM: Lunch
- 12:45PM: Adjourn

Moderator: Leanne Redden

Executive Director, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

The RTA is the unit of local government charged with regional financial oversight, funding, and transit planning for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace Bus and ADA Paratransit. The agency manages a regional transit operating budget of nearly \$3 billion with assets of approximately \$160 billion and a \$5 billion five-year capital program. Before joining the RTA, Redden was Chief of Planning for the Illinois Tollway and Director of Transportation for the Village of Schaumburg. Redden was instrumental in developing Strategic Long Range Planning initiatives for the region's transit system and was a key player in the state's 2008 Funding Reform Legislation. Redden was named 2015 "Woman of the Year" by the Chicago chapter of Women in Transportation and is a COMTO 2016 "Woman Who Moves the Nation." To learn about more about the RTA, follow the agency blog, Ride On, and Executive Director Redden on Twitter @LReddenRTA.



Panelist: Bea Reyna-Hickey

Chief Financial Officer/ Senior Deputy Executive Director of Finance, Innovation and Technology (FIT), RTA

Reyna-Hickey oversees a \$4.8 billion combined operating and capital annual regional transit operating budget and all financial operations for the Authority. Prior to joining the RTA in September, 2012, Reyna-Hickey has served the public in a variety of progressively responsible positions at the City of Chicago in the departments of Revenue/Finance, Aviation and Housing. Reyna-Hickey has a Master of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Public Service Administration from DePaul University.



Panelist: Janice R. Thomas

Senior Division Director, Office of Diversity & Civil Rights, Metra

Thomas was named the Senior Division Director of the Office of Diversity & Civil Rights in August 2016. In this role, she is responsible for administrative oversight and management of EEO/diversity initiatives and business diversity and civil rights. She served as the Senior Director of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights since December 2010. She strives to achieve Metra's goal of inclusion throughout the organization.



Panelist: Allison Noback

Deputy General Counsel, RTA

As RTA counsel, Noback provides guidance regarding the public bidding process and public contracting. She also negotiates a wide range of contracts and intergovernmental agreements and oversees programs such as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. Prior to joining the RTA in 2012, Noback served as a Chief Attorney in the Corporate and Litigation Group at the Chicago Transit Authority where she worked on numerous high profile procurements and lawsuits. In 2017, Noback was selected to participate in the Women in Transportation Executive Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.



Panelist: Harvind Kaur Singh

Executive Vice President, SINGH & Associates

Harvind joined SINGH & Associates in 1999 and manages all aspects of SINGH's business development and project operations with an emphasis on firm growth and development. Harvind has spearheaded growing the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) department, expanding the firm's presence throughout the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. Harvind is a strong advocate for bolstering diversity within the industry and is actively engaged with organizations across the country. She is a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program.



Panelist: Patricia Thomas-Miller

Vice-President of Bus Operations, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)

Thomas-Miller has over 30 years of experience in the transportation industry and is responsible for providing safe, clean, on-time, courteous, and efficient service and oversees over 4,000 employees. She began her career as a summer student and worked her way up through the ranks. Over the years, Thomas-Miller has represented CTA for various Training Programs offered by the Transportation Safety Institute on Bus Collision Investigations and OEMC's Weapons of Mass Destruction. Thomas-Miller holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Administration from Chicago State University.



Panelist: Cruz Bernal-Albano, P.E., CDT

Senior Project Manager, Globetrotters Engineering Corporation

Cruz has 30 years of experience in the transportation industry in the area of project management, construction management and design of both highway and railroad projects. At Globetrotters, Cruz produces project management oversight reports on five Metra construction projects on behalf of the RTA, provides technical writing for business development proposals and assists in exploring new markets. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and Wisconsin and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University.