



COMTO Celebrates 50 Years of Moving the Nation!



Inside this Issue:

Hear from Mike Grdina,
Great Lakes Construction
Company - 3

Sponsorship
Opportunities - 4

2021 FORE Scholarship
Golf Outing - 6

Tara McDaniel Named
Interim COMTO CEO - 8

...AND MORE!

The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) is the leading national advocate for employment diversity, inclusion and contracting opportunities in the multi-modal, multi-billion-dollar transportation industry. Our mission is to eliminate barriers to maximum participation for minority individuals, veterans, people with disabilities and certified MWDBE businesses through leadership training, professional development, scholarship and internship funding, political advocacy, partnership building and networking opportunities.

COMTO National is celebrating 50 years in 2021! Various events and webinars will be held year long, extolling the rich history of COMTO, and celebrating minority success, innovation, and contributions in the transportation industry.

Letter from the President

Happy New Year!! 2021 is here and I can personally say it could not have happened quick enough. 2021 is a monumental year for the COMTO organization because we are celebrating our 50th anniversary. Fifty years is a huge achievement, and the Columbus chapter is ready to celebrate all the great things this organization has done for minorities in transportation, business, and our community. I can remember when I turned 50 years old, how enlightened I felt having reached the half-way point in my life and now I was headed into some of the best years to come. That is how I see the national organization and our local chapter, the COMTO Columbus chapter.



Quincy J. Howard
President, COMTO Columbus

We have achieved some notable accomplishments in just seven years since our reorganization. We have been recognized nationally 3 times over the last 7 years as an outstanding chapter with two of those years being back-to-back. We have awarded over \$65,000 in scholarships to deserving young people who decided to pursue a career in Transportation or a STEM field. We have also volunteered over 1000 hours in the community, giving back to those who society has ignored and our next generation of kids who have a bright future ahead of them. These are all good things, but I know COMTO Columbus can do so much more. Why do I know this? I know it because of all the outstanding members who have joined and have continued to commit to our chapter in the last few years. These individuals saw the impact we were having across Central Ohio and wanted to not only be a part of it, but increase it even more. To those members, I thank you for all you do. Our corporate partners have increased, our membership has increased, and the enthusiasm for success of this chapter is greater than ever before. Unfortunately, we will have to continue to hold most of our meetings and events virtually, but I know that we are still affecting change in the Central Ohio community. Our board and committee chairs have been working diligently to plan valued-added webinars and events over the next few months, so please plan accordingly to attend.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing all of you at our first in-person event, the 6th Annual Golf FORE Education Scholarship Outing, May 17th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Quincy J. Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Quincy J. Howard

Upcoming General Body Meeting and Fireside Chat



General Body Meeting

FIRESIDE CHAT

featuring



Mark Grdina

Vice-President of Estimating
The Great Lakes Construction Company

6PM

March 10th, 2021

Immediately after the 6pm General Body Meeting, we will hold a Fireside Chat with Mr. Mike Grdina, VP of Estimating with The Great Lakes Construction Company.

Mark Grdina has over 30 years of experience in the construction industry. Mark is responsible for public and private sector construction opportunities throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, West Virginia and Kentucky.

We look forward to hearing from him and having a great discussion!

The ZOOM Meeting link can be found on our website:

WWW.COMTOCOLUMBUS.ORG

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
APRIL 2, 2021**



APPLY



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

The scholarships seek to provide educational funding for underrepresented groups (African-Americans; Native Americans; Asian-Pacific and Subcontinent Asian Americans; and women).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.
- Applicants can apply for more than one scholarship if the applicant meets the scholarship's specific requirements.
- All applicants must live in or have previously lived in the Central Ohio area.
- Scholarship recipients are expected to be available to participate in an awards ceremony on June 2, 2021.

For full application requirements and details visit our website:

[www.COMTOCOLUMBUS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP](http://www.comtocolumbus.org/scholarship)

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A COMTO COLUMBUS SPONSORSHIP?

Since COMTO Columbus is a 100% volunteer organization, all proceeds from COMTO Columbus partnership agreements are dedicated to covering the costs of events as well as raising funds for college scholarships for local students.

The Annual Golf FORE Education Outing is our #1 fundraiser to raise scholarship funds, bringing together local and national organizations and agencies.

Quarterly Networking Breakfasts that enable companies to learn about contracting opportunities with local transportation agencies and corporations.



Annual Company-Named Scholarships provide financial support to deserving high school seniors & college students majoring in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) or transportation industry fields.

For additional sponsorship information, please visit www.comtocolumbus.org

or contact:

Joe Bolzenius JBolzenius@manniksmithgroup.com

or COMTO Columbus President Quincy Howard

president@comtocolumbus.org

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL GOLF FORE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER!



SAVE THE DATE!

6TH ANNUAL

GOLF FORE EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

MAY 17TH, 2021

*The Lakes
Golf and Country Club*

6740 WORTHINGTON RD. WESTERVILLE, OH 43082

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
EXPIRES APRIL 1ST!**

**REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY**

**GET
10%
OFF!**

WWW.GOLF4EDUCATION.COM

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Registration is at 9:30am
11am Shotgun Start

ODOT DIRECTOR REPRESENTS OHIO AS A PANELIST

On February 25, 2021, ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks, PhD was a featured panelist along with three other state DOT directors from California, Illinois, and Louisiana.



Celebrate History-Making at the State DOT Level

This event was brought to us by sponsors: WSP, Somat Engineering, Ardmore Roderick, and SINGH + Associates.

 <p>MODERATOR PHIL WASHINGTON LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY</p>	 <p>PANELIST JACK MARCHBANKS, PH.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</p>	 <p>PANELIST OMER OSMAN, PE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</p>
 <p>PANELIST TOKS OMISHAKIN CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</p>	 <p>PANELIST SHAWN WILSON, PH.D. LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	

COMTO celebrated history in the making with our special panel discussion featuring 4 of our African American State DOT leaders. Something that may have been unheard of 50 years ago. The moderator, Phil Washington, CEO, Metro (L.A.) lead a discussion on the progress that African Americans have made in transportation, particularly at the state level, and what we can do to ensure more African Americans continue to thrive in this space. They shared personal insights into their career journey and their thoughts on COMTO's 50 years of Moving the Nation!



BRAD MIMS APPOINTED FAA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

COMTO President & CEO, Brad Mims, has been appointed Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration where he will be second in command at the agency. Brad served as COMTO President & CEO since 2017, and he was Interim President & CEO from 2016-2017. A search for a new CEO is now underway.



For more information on the CEO search, go to <https://comtonational.org/ceosearch/>

TARA MCDANIEL NAMED COMTO INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO



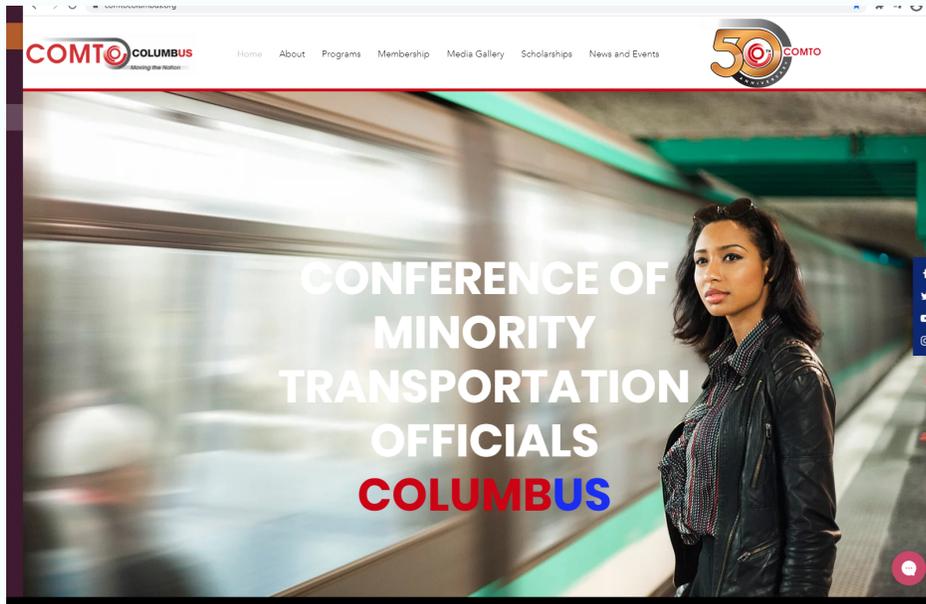
With the recent departure of COMTO's President & CEO Brad Mims, Tara McDaniel has been named the Interim President & CEO of COMTO by unanimous vote of the COMTO Board of Directors. Tara will serve until a new permanent CEO is appointed.

Tara has served as Chief of Staff for more than two years and worked closely with Brad Mims on the day-to-day management of the organization. Tara has developed strong relationships throughout the COMTO membership and industry leaders and led several national initiatives to further COMTO's growth and success.

THE NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Have you visited the COMTO Columbus website lately? Well, you **SHOULD!** The newly redesigned site is easy to navigate and provides access to the COMTO Columbus calendar, news, event photos, recent newsletters, social media posts, and **MORE!**

Visit www.COMTOCOLUMBUS.ORG today!



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month - commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

Leaders, pioneers, homemakers, trailblazers - women were essential to the founding of this great nation and are essential on the path forward into its future. Be sure to celebrate the contributions and successes of the strong women in your workplace or agency during the month of March and EVERY month of the year.



DID YOU KNOW?

On the 4th Friday of each month new or existing vendors can meet with CMHA's Purchasing Manager regarding upcoming projects or promote their business services or products. Vendors can also ask questions or receive assistance, vendor registration/section 3 self-certification.



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

You can sign up to participate on cmhanet.com under Business Opportunities/Section 3 and then Purchasing Open opportunities.

Sign up link Meet & Greet Link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CMHAProcurerment@cmhanet.com/bookings/>



U.S. Department of Transportation Announces FY 2021 Round of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced it is seeking applicants for the FY 2021 round of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that are in line with the Biden Administration's principles for national infrastructure projects that result in good-paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology, and explicitly address climate change and racial equity.

The funding available for this year's grants totals approximately \$889 million. The Department recognizes the role that infrastructure investment plays in economic development and job creation, and the added urgency of this funding at time when the COVID-19 pandemic has put stress on state and local budgets. More information is available at www.transportation.gov

COMTO COLUMBUS 2021 CALENDAR

MAR

09 WEBINAR: Tax Advice for Small Biz

10 General Body Meeting/Fireside Chat

11 WEBINAR: Women's History Month Program

APR

02 2021 COMTO COLUMBUS Scholarship Applications DUE!

07 - 09 ODOT Civil Rights Symposium

MAY

17 6th ANNUAL GOLF FORE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE!

OTEC 2021

OCT 26-27

JUN

02 COMTO COLUMBUS 2021 Scholarship Luncheon!



"As we work to recover and emerge from this devastating pandemic stronger than before, now is the time to make lasting investments in our nation's infrastructure," said Secretary Buttigieg. "We are committed to not just rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, but building back in a way that positions American communities for success in the future—creating good paying jobs, boosting the economy, ensuring equity, and tackling our climate crisis".

COMTO Congratulates Pete Buttigieg on His History-Making Confirmation to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation

TRANSIT FUNDING CHANGES

Public Transit Funding Increased!

Governor Mike DeWine's budget cut state money for public transit 90%, from \$70 million to \$7.3 million annually. Even with about \$40 million annually in federal money, the amount allocated to pay for public transportation was dramatically lower.

In 2019, lawmakers negotiated a higher sum for public transportation. (That was actually reduced from \$70 million annually because of pandemic-related budget cuts.) DeWine's proposed \$7 million a year was in line with past budgets, but advocates for public transit said Ohio shouldn't go backward. Instead, lawmakers proposed increasing the budget to \$193.7 million over the next two years. Of that, \$46.3 million is state general revenue fund money. Rep. Erica Crawley, D-Columbus, said she appreciated the increase but hopes the new dollars mark the beginning, and not the end, of Ohio's commitment to better funding public transportation.

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COMTO Columbus 2021 Corporate Sponsors To Date



THANK YOU!