



2025

PIONEER AWARDS



June 3, 2025

Dear COMTO Michigan Members, Honorees, Partners, and Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to the 2025 Pioneer Awards Breakfast! It is an honor and a privilege to greet you on behalf of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Michigan Chapter as we come together to celebrate those whose leadership, resilience, and service have left an indelible mark on our industry and our communities.

The Pioneer Awards are more than a recognition of professional achievement—they are a celebration of courage, progress, and the power of representation. Today's honorees have each blazed trails that make it possible for others to rise. They embody the spirit of COMTO's mission: to level the playing field and ensure that talented professionals and businesses have equitable access and opportunity in transportation.

At COMTO Michigan, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the next generation of talented leaders. Through mentorship, workforce development, advocacy, and community engagement, we are working to build a more inclusive and sustainable transportation system for all. As we reflect on the accomplishments of today's pioneers, we must also ask ourselves how we will continue the journey they started—what legacy will we build for those who follow?

Thank you for your continued support of COMTO Michigan and our shared vision for a more connected, just, and innovative future. Your presence here this morning affirms that we are not only remembering our past—we are actively shaping what's next.



With gratitude and determination,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly J. Watts". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan
CEO & Founder, BME Consulting, LLC.



June 3, 2025

To COMTO members and guests:

It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to the 2025 Pioneer Awards Celebration, a salutation of excellence, dedication, and outstanding achievements.

As Co-Chair of the event, I am pleased to share this momentous occasion with all of you – our esteemed nominees, attendees, supporters, members, and partners. Each of you represents the pinnacle of talent, perseverance, and impact in your organization. We have the distinct pleasure of recognizing individuals who have significant contributions to Transportation infrastructures in the State of Michigan.

For many years, COMTO celebrated our award winners, and we paused since 2020 due to the pandemic. This year, the tireless efforts of our planning committee and volunteers have brought this event to life, creating an unforgettable experience that reflects the magnitude of the accomplishments we celebrate. On behalf of COMTO Michigan, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making this celebration possible.

As we gather to honor these remarkable individuals, I encourage all of us to take a moment to reflect on the power of passion, innovation, and community. Let this commemoration serve as an inspiration, reminding us of what can be achieved when we strive for excellence and support each other in our endeavors.

Thank you for joining us for the 2025 Pioneer Awards Celebration, and for your commitment and support to celebrating the extraordinary. Together, let us make this event a day to remember.



Sincerely,

Gorette Yung
Committee Chair, COMTO Michigan



PIONEER AWARDS

June 3, 2025
Saint Regis Hotel Grand Ballroom

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan Chapter
CEO, BME Consulting, LLC.

Introductions

Gorette Yung
COMTO Michigan Chapter Committee Chair

Greetings

Bradley C. Wieferich
Director
Michigan Department of Transportation
(MDOT)

Keynote Speaker

Brad Mims
Former Deputy Administrator
FAA

Moderator

Terrance Friday
CBS Detroit News, Anchor & Reporter

Award Presentations

Outstanding Ambassador of the Year
Emerging Leader
Member of the Year
Large Firm of the Year
Innovative Project of the Year
SBA Advocate of the Year
Public Agency Executive of the Year
Private Executive of the Year
Pioneer Award

Closing Remarks

Beverly J. Watts
President
COMTO Michigan Chapter

Program Concludes

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We are grateful for COMTO's commitment to excellence and creating opportunities for historically underutilized businesses and for all professionals in transportation.

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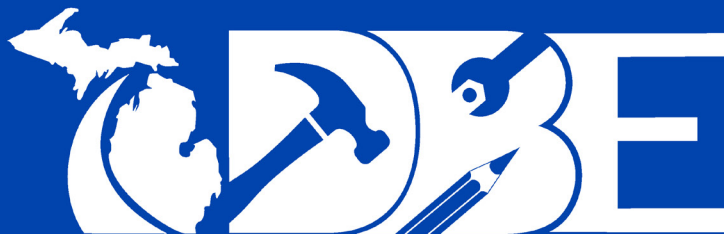
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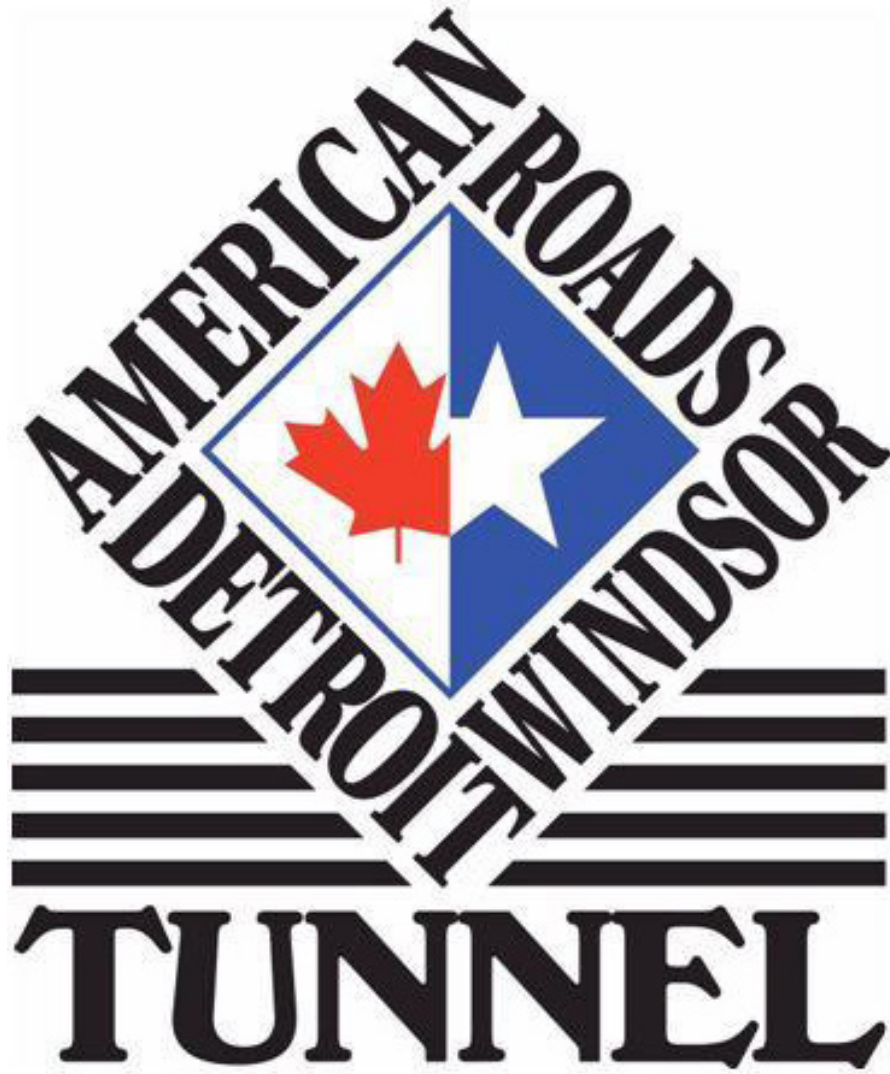
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Beverly Watts

COMTO Michigan
President

BME Consulting LLC



Olukayode (Kay) Adefeso

COMTO Michigan
Vice President

Wayne County Airport
Authority (WCAA)



Joshua Salazar, P.E.

COMTO Michigan
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HDR



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for Regional Transportation
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Dee Parker, MDOT
Oladayo Akinyemi, Wayne County
Bryant Moorman, Ajax Paving
Trebecca McDonald, HNTB

COMTO Pioneer Awards Breakfast Committee

Pioneer Award & Nomination Committee Co-chairs:
Gorette Young, MDOT and **Beverly Watts**, BME

Olukayode (Kay) Adefeso, WCAA
Trebecca McDonald, HNTB
Kim LeBlanc, SOMAT
Natiera Farrington, SOMAT
Benard Parker, SMART
Kalaya Thomas, Metro Strategies
Oladayo Akinyemi, Wayne County
Cathy Nedd, Cathy Sites

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Terrence Hicks, Metro Strategies

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Transportation Braintrust Breakfast Chairperson:
Regine Beauboeuf, American Roads

**Special Thanks to the Committee Chairs, Members and all of
our Volunteers who made this event possible!**



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