Now in its 3rd year, YPT Atlanta is dedicated to providing opportunities to young professionals in transportation to foster professional development, promote fellowship, and provide networking opportunities for young professionals in the transportation field in Atlanta, across the country, and now, throughout the world. We seek to foster relationships across the transportation spectrum, including planning, engineering, freight/logistics, aviation, environmental, and more and we look to connect with everyone from the private sector, public agencies, and local graduate students. We accomplish this via social, professional, and educational events, which you are all welcome to attend!

GET INVOLVED!

Do you want to become more involved in transportation in the Atlanta area and meet more young professionals like yourself? If so, please consider becoming part of YPT Atlanta Chapter leadership. As part of the leadership you will be able to plan and organize Chapter events, work to increase membership, and coordinate with YPT National about the state of the organization.

The board of directors for the 2014-2015 year was recently elected, but there are still leadership positions available, with approval by the Board of Directors, after attending a board meeting. If you are interested, please contact us at: yptatlanta@gmail.com.

Another way for organization to get involved with YPT is by sponsoring our chapter or in-kind donations for one of our events. Our past sponsors have included AirSage, AECOM, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and soon to be the Metro Atlanta Chamber. We would be happy to partner with you or your company in the future.

DEPUTY CHAIR’S COLUMN

Looking back over the 2013-2014 year, I am happy to say that YPT Atlanta is as strong as ever. This year we have hosted 2 technical tours, 1 office tour, 2 distinguished speakers events, a reception at the APA conference, our annual holiday party, and 8 happy hours that spanned the city and included a diverse array of functions, professions, and specializations relating to transportation. We hope our events have provided you opportunities to meet fellow professionals and connect with them on a meaningful level.

We have grown last years total of 60 members and 200 friends to over 70 members and 325 friends this year. While that is not nearly as much growth as we experienced over the first year-and-a-half, we continue to see new faces come to our events. With Clayton County recently passing a referendum to add a one-cent sales tax and join MARTA, public transportation in the Atlanta metro region takes a huge step forward. It will be interesting to follow and hopefully participate in the implementation in the coming years.

After elections this year, our Board of Directors has grown to a record-high 10 members, with one spot still available. With our increased human capital, expect to see more innovative and better events over the next year, and please, as always, let us know if you have a killer idea and want help executing it.

As Deputy Chair for the upcoming year, I plan to increase collaboration between the YPT chapters across the country, sharing ideas and resources so members around the country have a superior experience.

We hope to see you at our Holiday Party on December 16th! As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. You can contact me personally at romecm@pbworld.com.

Sincerely,

Chris Rome
Deputy Chair, YPT Atlanta
YPT Atlanta continued its monthly TOD, or Transit Oriented Drinks, happy hour series that was launched last year. These happy hours occur at local bars or restaurants near various MARTA Stations throughout Atlanta. This year’s events took us to destinations including:
- Wrecking Bar Brewpub near Candler Park Station
- Mellow Mushroom near Civic Center Station
- Meehan’s Irish Pub near Arts Center Station
- Empire State South near Midtown Station
- Raging Burrito near Decatur Station
- Taco Mac at Lindbergh Center Station to kick off the college football season
- Oz Pizza near East Point Station

These 7 events were spaced in-between our other tours and speakers to maintain a consistent social interaction with our members and continue to promote our organization. Our continued diverse, transit-accessible array of happy hour locations allows us to cater to different members with each event and appeal to new members, while promoting transit and avoiding Atlanta’s notorious stop and start traffic. We will continue our TOD series in the 2014-2015 year as we continue to promote
On May 22, Paul Morris, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) President & CEO, spoke to a crowd of over 40 attendees about his career and his current role with ABI. The Atlanta BeltLine is a 22-mile loop rail to trail conversion project that will include a streetcar running within its corridor. Inspired by Ryan Gravel’s Master’s thesis for the City and Regional Planning Program at Georgia Tech in 1999, the BeltLine has now progressed from an idea to reality, connecting many of the city’s parks, spurring hundreds of millions of dollars of development, and converting many long-overlooked areas within the city to vibrant mixed-use destinations.

During the event, Mr. Morris shared some of his career successes, including designs for the Oklahoma City Bombing and World Trade Center Memorials, creating and then selling his own company, starting Parsons Brinckerhoff’s place-making group, serving as Deputy Director of Transportation for North Carolina DOT, and then joining the BeltLine. Morris’ chronology of his career was beneficial for all in attendance and we were impressed by his dedication to stay connected to the public in December of 2014. Mr. Hillsman discussed many aspects of the streetcar, such as the public involvement process with the many stakeholders, some of the technical issues, including complex signal phasing and timing at Peachtree Center Station and the contra-flow lane on Ellis Street. The Atlanta Streetcar will re-connect the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, which was bisected by the construction of the I-75/I-85 Downtown Connector decades ago. The goal is for the Streetcar to serve as both a last-mile connector and a tourist route to destinations in Downtown Atlanta, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Centennial Olympic Park, and the Tabernacle concert venue. Attendees were also able to see the Atlanta Streetcar for the first time at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility.

On May 1, YPT organized a streetcar tour with Keith Hillsman, of the City of Atlanta. Mr. Hillsman led us on a tour of the 2.7 mile route, which is now slated to begin operations to

Questions about YPT? Suggestions for future events? We’d love to hear from you—please contact us at yptatlanta@gmail.com

Website: http://yptransportation.org/chapters/atlanta/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/YPTAtlanta
Twitter: @YPTAtlanta
On March 7, YPT visited the Atlanta Headquarters of Routematch, a transit planning software firm located in Midtown. Routematch specializes in providing software to optimize paratransit trips for transit agencies, but has also provides fixed-route planning software. Routematch software helps optimize trips for agencies while providing options and feedback for customers to help ensure they do not miss trips and are notified when their vehicle is running late. During the office visit, YPT received a tour from Hill Hardman, Director of Corporate Strategy and Development. During the tour we saw their different collaborative spaces which were arranged differently for each department, and learned about the different agencies they serve, including Denver RTD, one of Routematch’ biggest clients. Finally, Routematch provided lunch and held an open question and answer session for the approximately 15 YPT Atlanta attendees.

On October 9, the Atlanta Chapter of YPT hosted a panel discussion on the potential impact of the November 4th MARTA referendum on the ballot in Clayton County. Panelists included Clayton County Chairman Jeffrey Turner, MARTA Board Chair Robert Ashe, the President of Citizens for Progressive Transit David Emory, and the President of Metro Planning and Engineering Grady Smith. Maria Saporta of SaportaReport, served as moderator.

The panel discussed the significance of a referendum passage creating MARTA’s first expansion into a new jurisdiction in over 35 years. The panel also discussed regional implications of a passage or failure, expected MARTA services and funding appropriations, and the connection to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

More than 40 young professionals attended the event along with representatives of the press from WABE, the AJC, and Creative Loafing. One resulting article can be found here: “Clayton’s MARTA expansion ballot measure could determine future of metro Atlanta transit.”
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION WESTSIDE TOUR AND RECEPTION

On April 29, YPT Atlanta partnered with the Atlanta BeltLine and the Westside Communities Alliance (WCA) to host a tour and reception on Atlanta’s west side for local community members and attendees at the national APA Conference in Atlanta. This event sought to draw participants out of the downtown area to explore one of the lesser-known transit-oriented development areas in west Atlanta, as well as the potential for redevelopment that transit is bringing to the area. The tour concluded with a reception at Johnny M’s Pizza Bistro, where the group enjoyed delicious pizza, appetizers, and drinks, along with skyline views of the city at sunset.

TRANSPORTATIONCAMP SOUTH & GOVATHON 2014

On Saturday April 12, 2014, the second ever TransportationCamp South was held at Georgia Tech. This year the event was combined with a Govathon in order to generate more interest in creating apps using open transit data. The purpose of holding transportation camps around the country is to give attendees the chance to use the open format to guide conversations/sessions towards the areas that interest them the most. Without a pre-set conference schedule, new trends emerge and natural networking occurs based on the topics each attendee is drawn to. Sessions this year covered topics ranging from creating a “MARTA Army” to generate a stronger culture of ownership among riders, the upcoming Atlanta bikeshare program (including a preview of a bike), to How to Create a Transit App. There was also a session called “A Political Strategy for Transit Expansion in Atlanta, where a small group discussed legislative and political changes that would be needed to improve transit funding in Georgia. Following the completion of TransportationCamp on Saturday, members of YPT headed over to the Barrelhouse to relax and discuss the sessions they attended. The entire unconference can be followed on Twitter with the hashtag #Transpo or at @TranspoCampSo.
2014-2015 ELECTION RESULTS

The board of directors for the 2014-2015 year was recently elected - congratulations to all of the new Directors!

Most of our leadership from 2013-2014 remains for the coming year. We look forward to leveraging this consistency to organize more successful events in the coming year. For those still interested in becoming part of YPT Atlanta for the coming year, the position of Vice Chair for Sponsorship is currently vacant and open to members of YPT Atlanta; please contact us at yptatlanta@gmail.com if you would like to get involved. The easiest way to do this is to attend a board meeting. Board meetings are open to all members and are regularly scheduled for the last Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at the AECOM Midtown office. Our next meeting is Monday, January 5th, 2015. Please contact the Vice Chair for Administration, Lindsey Dunnahoo, if you would like to attend, and we will send you a calendar invitation.

2014-2015 YPT ATLANTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair
Phillip Cherry
Parsons Brinckerhoff
cherrypw@pbworld.com

Vice Chair for Membership
Danielle Elkins
CH2M HILL
Danielle.Elkins@ch2m.com

Deputy Chair
Chris Rome
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Vice Chair for Communications
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Vice Chair for Administration
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Director At-Large
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Vice Chair for Finance
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Director At-Large
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Vice Chair for Programs
Carly Queen
Georgia Institute of Technology
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Director At-Large
Forrest Rose
Georgia Department of Transportation
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GOALS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

Phillip Cherry, Chair: “Organize and put on events that are can’t miss events in the transportation industry in Atlanta for news, networking, and those new to the area and improve the Board’s internal communication, organization, and efficiency when putting on events.”

Chris Rome, Deputy Chair: “Improve each Board position by incorporating ideas and processes from other YPT Chapters or organizations. Improve the website and keep it updated.”

Lindsey Dunnahoo, Vice Chair for Administration: “Encourage board member attendance at board meetings and events. Have a successful election process by filling the majority of available positions.”

France Campbell, Vice Chair for Finance: “Efficiently and accurately manage the YPT Atlanta finances so we can leverage our finances to promote growth and development of our valuable members.”

Danielle Elkins, Vice Chair for Membership: “Increase membership from the tech community and from advocacy organizations to develop YPT Atlanta into a true network of young professional in transportation that represents the voice of millennials.”

Carly Queen, Vice Chair for Programs: “Deliver more high-profile events to attract at least 100 different individuals to participate in YPT events and activities in 2015. Collaborate and partner with local businesses and organizations to expand and strengthen our network.”

Forrest Rose, Director-at-Large: “Organize more events that focus on local transportation initiatives like the City of Atlanta’s upcoming Bond Referendum. Also, continuing to increase and promote YPT to new members will be paramount.”

Nila Abubakar, Director-at-Large: “In my second year serving on the YPT board, my primary goal will be to improve overall quality and quantity of our events while providing support to our board and mem-

![YPT Atlanta Logo]
PHOTO ALBUM - A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR EVENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR