

***Press Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Ramonica D. M. Moore  
(202) 530-0551**

Jacksonville Chapter Receives *Best Grass Roots Activities Award* for a Third Time



**July 2009, Washington, DC**– For the third year in a row, the Jacksonville Chapter of the Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) received the award for *Best Grass Roots Activities* at COMTO’s 38<sup>th</sup> National Meeting and Training Conference in Dallas, TX. This award recognizes efforts to broaden the level of participation in COMTO grass roots activities or events.

The Jacksonville Chapter’s grass roots activities range from affecting the children of the community to a professional in the industry. Annually, the Jacksonville Chapters hosts events such as the Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day and Toy Drive. This past year, the chapter introduced a food drive. Gathering donations from chapter members and local transit agencies, the food drive committee was able to deliver boxes of groceries to the Hubbard House for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Jacksonville Chapter constantly strives to support the community that supports them.

*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 senior level minority professionals in the transportation industry. It was an occasion to act, born of the need to address the inequities of a rapidly expanding industry within which its minority workers, upon whose shoulders the industry was built, were not allowed the same access to employment, promotion and contract opportunities. Since its inception, COMTO has continued to evolve to become the premier organization for the training, education, and professional development of minority transportation professionals. From the advancement of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), legislative initiatives, scholarship and program opportunities COMTO’s scope is varied and far-reaching. With thirty-nine (39) chapters encompassing individuals, organizations, transportation agencies, non-profits and Historically Underutilized Businesses, efforts have ensured that members of COMTO now serve in every sector of the transportation industry. From highways and roads to mass transit systems, subways to rail systems and port authorities to airports, COMTO members represent every level of the transportation industry.*

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