

Women In Transit: Celebrating Shirley DeLibero's Legacy in Public Transportation

As we step into Women's Month this March, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transit (SMART) is proud to launch our "Women In Transit" initiative. This campaign is more than just a celebration; it's a nod to the women who have driven, quite literally, monumental changes in public transportation. Among these influential figures stands Shirley DeLibero, a name synonymous with transformative leadership in the transit world.

Shirley DeLibero's journey in public transportation is a story of groundbreaking achievements and relentless dedication. Her career, marked by leadership roles in several major transit systems across the United States, has been a beacon of inspiration and progress. DeLibero's tenure is best characterized by her innovative approaches, her unwavering commitment to customer service, and her vision for inclusive transit systems.

At SMART, we draw inspiration from DeLibero's leadership style, particularly her focus on community engagement and her commitment to improving transit services for all. Her approach aligns seamlessly with our mission at SMART: to provide accessible, reliable, and efficient transportation solutions to our community.

DeLibero's impact on public transportation was profound. She was known for her ability to turn struggling transit systems into models of efficiency and customer satisfaction. Under her guidance, public transit systems saw significant improvements in operations, increased ridership, and enhanced customer experiences. Her initiatives often involved modernizing fleets, improving accessibility, and implementing customer-focused services, which are pillars that continue to guide SMART's operations today.

Perhaps one of DeLibero's most commendable traits was her dedication to mentorship and advocacy for women in the transit industry. She paved the way for many women to ascend into leadership roles, breaking the glass ceiling in what was once a male-dominated field. Her legacy is not only in the systems she improved but in the leadership paths she opened for countless women in transit.

This Women's Month, as SMART celebrates "Women In Transit," we are not only honoring the past achievements of leaders like Shirley DeLibero but also looking forward to the future. We are committed to continuing her legacy of innovation and inclusivity in public transportation. We strive to create a transit environment where women's contributions are recognized, valued, and seen as vital to our collective success.

In tribute to Shirley DeLibero and the many women who have shaped public transit, SMART reaffirms its commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace. We recognize that our strength lies in the diversity of our team and the unique perspectives each member brings. As we navigate the challenges of modern transit, we carry forward the torch lit by trailblazers like DeLibero, illuminating a path of progress, inclusivity, and excellence in public transportation.

As we celebrate Women's Month, let's honor the journey, applaud the achievements, and get inspired by the stories of women in transit. Their contributions are not just milestones in their careers but are stepping stones for the future of public transportation. At SMART, we are proud to be

part of this continuing journey, driving change and innovation in the spirit of leaders like Shirley DeLiberio.