The TWU Local 100 Women’s Committee, under the new leadership of Deborah Brown, the union’s Director of the Family and Women’s Assistance Department, is launching a campaign to increase participation in the Women’s Committee, and work with leadership to expand the recent victory for reasonable accommodation light duty jobs for pregnant Train Operators and Conductors to all transit Departments.

Currently, there are 6,876 Local 100 women employed in transit titles across New York City Transit. That is about 18 percent of the workforce, but it is a figure that has been steadily growing over the past several decades.

The union has been fighting in a number of areas to modernize the MTA’s policies for women workers, and to improve facilities and rest areas, especially in the subways, some of which date back 100 years before any women worked in transit.

In 2019, the union won the establishment of a number of safe, clean, and secure Lactation Pods for key locations in the system for new transit mothers. Then, this past November the union made a breakthrough on accommodations for pregnant workers in RTO, which was a first in the history of New York City Transit.

Sister Brown said: “I am very gratified by the way the current administration is moving to address the concerns of women transit workers. The Women’s Committee and our goals have the full support of President Tony Utano and the Local’s leadership team. Together, I’m very confident that we can continue to make real progress for women in transit.”

But said Brown, “we need greater participation in the Women’s Committee by our sister transit workers. There are many issues that need addressing before the MTA can be listed as one of the top employers for women in the country, like Visa or Facebook. We’re shooting high, but we’ve come pretty far considering where we were just a few years ago. There’s no reason why we can’t move the dial a lot more on these vital issues for women in transit.”
Mission Statement
It is the mission of the Transport Workers Working Women’s Committee, hereinafter TWU WWC, to provide support and information to all working women and men. To empower women to seek leadership positions within their union as well as in their communities; to further the cause of all workers, female and male and to elevate the awareness of working women’s needs both inside and outside the workplace. The TWU WWC also works to bring a greater awareness of the need for physical and mental wellness and to educate and encourage all women on their path to future leadership.

"This is a significant union victory," said Local 100 president Tony Utano. "Pregnant women for the first time will have an opportunity for a real light-duty option that doesn’t include standing on their feet all day or doing physical labor."