

Westernite

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President's Message

I am very honored to serve as your President this year! There are many who have come before me from whom I hope I have learned.

My term started with our Annual District 6 meeting in Anaheim, California, which was held in conjunction with ITE International. Many regular Western District attendees were able to see their ITE colleagues from all over the world. Over 2300 members from around the world attended this meeting. There were many District and International awards given at the meeting. I want to congratulate Wolf Homburger and Eugene "Gene" Wilson for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Awards this year and Richard Nassi for receiving the Individual Achievement Award for his body of work including the "HAWK" hybrid beacon/signal. Please join me in congratulating all of our fine award recipients who make our District shine! I also want to congratulate our Traffic Bowl



Monica M. Suter,
President

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2008 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

The Western District Board of Directors met on August 17, 2008, in Anaheim, California, for the Annual Meeting. More than thirty joined the Board meeting including committee chairs, chapter and section officers, and international ITE leaders: International President Alf Guebert, International Vice President Ken Voigt, International Vice President-Elect Paul Eng-Wong, and ITE Executive Director Tom Brahms. Following are highlights of some of the topics discussed and actions taken by the Board.

President Jennifer Rosales reported on her activities since the mid-year board meeting, which included visits to several local sections and chapters. She presented presidential proclamations to District members Diahn Swartz, Terry Smith, Wes Pringle and Tom Clausen. She announced the appointment of the following new committee chairs: France Campbell,

WestenITE Web Manager, and Patricia Camacho de Cano, Career Guidance Chair.

President Rosales reported that an ITE District site had been created on Facebook in an effort to reach out to younger members, students, and potential new members. She reported that she knew of at least one new member that had learned about ITE through Facebook.

Vice President Monica M. Suter reported that the District's leadership directory was updated last spring to reflect current officers through June 2008. It is

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Michael Sanderson,
Vice President

International Director's Report

International Board Approves Elements of ITE Strategic Plan

The International Board of Direction met on August 15 and 16 in Anaheim, California in association with the ITE Joint Annual Meeting with District 6. All 13 directors were present including the three Western District Board members (Julie Townsend, Randy McCourt and Zaki Mustafa, who did a fantastic job over the week as the local arrangements chair for the Annual Meeting).

Elements of the ITE Strategic Plan were adopted as noted below. This plan will be finalized with an action plan in the coming meetings. It provides the overarching framework for decisions that the Board will make. An example of the application of the Strategic Plan in decision-making was the decision in the meeting to advance the current climate change/green initiatives/

energy/sustainability topic to the status of a mega issue for ITE (aligns with the approved goal and statements regarding quality of life and professional relationships).

Mission

To be the source of professional expertise, knowledge and ideas promoting transportation science and principles

Core Purpose

To advance transportation knowledge and practice for the benefit of society



Randy McCourt,
International Director

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President's Message

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Winners which include First Place: Colorado-Wyoming Section; Second Place: New Mexico Section; and Third Place: San Diego (formerly known as Border) Section!

I want to thank Zaki Mustafa, the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chair and all of his volunteers for their hard work in making Anaheim a successful meeting. Their preparation and efficient behind-the-scenes efforts made the meeting run smoothly. I also want to thank our many sponsors and exhibitors for their participation in making this meeting a success. Special thanks goes to our Sponsorship Chair, Janna McKhann.

The Student Endowment fund has more than doubled since last year's meeting and is nearing the \$150,000 mark! Our Student Endowment Fund Chair, Cathy Leong, is leading the effort to achieve the District's goal of \$500,000 in order for the fund to become self-sustaining. I have no doubt she'll keep up the great work and come up with additional tattoos, tee-shirt and teddy bear incentives for members who contribute! Perhaps the next round of tattoos should be permanent, which could be an interesting situation for many participants as shown in the photos!

Many thanks go to Past President



Jennifer Rosales and to all past officers and chairs, as well as the section and chapter leadership for their dedicated volunteerism over the years. Everyone has contributed to the many successes achieved in our Western District.

There are many opportunities for members to receive the full value of their ITE

membership. For example, District members had the opportunity to attend international council and committee meetings in several areas at our joint international/district meeting. These ancillary meetings included topics such as: LED signal maintenance issues, yellow-time intervals, freight mobility challenges, proposed new or modified informational reports (IRs), recommended practices (RPs), and updates to various ITE handbooks. All members are welcome to attend these meetings each year and join various list-serves in their topic areas of interest. Recently, the Expert Witness Council distributed their latest "Expert Witness Notebook" on CD. Other councils have on-going relevant projects in which members can participate. Subject areas of each council can be found on the www.ite.org website. One free council membership is included with your annual dues.

Members can also become more involved in their areas of interest as council members, committee members, technical contributors or reviewers, and/or at their chapter, section or District levels as a committee chair or officer. These experiences broaden your transportation "network" and knowledge base. When a transportation professional discovers something new, it is helpful to share this at a local, District or International meeting or take the extra step of memorializing it in a paper. We are all very busy with work, family and social commitments. However, the more we share, the stronger our profession becomes! All those ITE reference books from which we have learned were the result of the hard work and many volunteer hours of ITE members.

Another easy way to contribute and benefit ITE is to provide information from after conducting a traffic count or parking study for a unique land use. This data will be used to enhance the next edition of the ITE Trip Generation or Parking Generation Manuals. You and your employer will benefit from the additional data being shared in these manuals!

This year, lowered registration fees were provided to encourage professionals under 30 years old to attend the Anaheim meeting. This was a good step toward bridging the unique attributes of each generation within our profession as we work together to achieve transportation solutions for the public. Additionally, ITE is initiating a younger member forum this fall to glean the perspective of younger members to be sure that we are in the forefront of the industry in

our communications approach and portfolio and to ensure that our membership benefits are useful across all generations.

Anaheim's opening session covered the very important topic regarding the breadth of generations that exist within our profession. As the "traditional" and "baby boomer" generations near retirement (though fortunately many continue to serve well into their golden years) the gap will widen in the "brain drain" of knowledge-base. As a result, it is ever more critical that we do not lose that knowledge, wisdom, and experience and that "Generation X" and the "Millennials" (aka "Generation Y and Z"), are quickly groomed and trained to fill some "very big shoes". I continue to "tease" my esteemed mentors: Ed Cline, Wes Pringle, and Bob Crommelin. You can run but not hide! We'll find them, and others like them, since we still need their expertise, depth of knowledge, and assistance. Their know-how continues to be invaluable. Where would our profession be without all of our founding fathers, and a few founding mothers too, who very strongly represented our profession? Under their leadership, our profession was treated with high regard. In part, I believe this is because of their very strong ability to communicate *why* transportation recommendations were important.

As we enter the fall of this year, there are many ways we can enhance our "softer" skills to be sure we are best able to communicate, and even "sell", the "why" behind our important transportation and/or technical recommendations. The better we clarify this to the public we serve, the more likely the elected officials will support our recommendations. While we may not have entered transportation for this reason, our success depends upon our ability to communicate our relevance to others. If not, those who may not share our transportation and engineering values will speak for us instead! As a result, it is critical that we enhance our overall ability to communicate/sell and occasionally even advertise the positives of our recommendations and our work in transportation. In fact, our viability as a profession depends on this, which is why communicating with the public and public relations have been a mega issue for ITE International. It affects all of us and transportation safety outcomes for the public which is why improvement in this area is one of my Vision and Goals previously shared in my candidate statement!

I want to thank Walt Stringer, Legislative Chair, for his volunteerism and

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Legislative News

As District 6 moves into the fall months, most state legislatures continue to be in recess for the year, while both California and the Federal Government work towards final budget approvals. In California, the budget stalemate has led to a variety of proposals that would diminish transit funds, as well as highly visible tactics such as unilateral pay cuts to non-critical state personnel, reducing their pay to essentially minimum wage levels.

At the federal level, during June the House of Representatives passed the Energy Saving Through Public Transportation Act of 2008 (HR 6052) which had the potential for an additional \$1.7B in transportation funding during FY08 and FY09, with higher fuel

costs and general fuel consumption savings the primary motives behind the bill. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate on August 1 (S. 3380). Also in June, the Climate Matters Act of 2008 (HR 6316) was introduced, with a portion of revenues from 'cap-and-trade' greenhouse gas reductions systems going to transportation funding. In late June both chambers passed Transportation Security appropriations bills, while the Highway Trust Fund 'Fix' legislation passed the House July 23 and then bogged down. Congress adjourned for a five-week recess on August 1, resuming September 8 for a 3-4 week session. Due to the recess most transportation legislative

initiatives were placed on hold until September. Once back in session, Congress is expected to consider a supplemental appropriations bill to stimulate infrastructure investment, including 'ready-to-go' transportation projects, which we'll hopefully cover in the next WesternITE.



Walt Stringer,
Legislative Chair



DISTRICT 6 STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Visit the new District 6
Student Endowment Fund
website at

www.westernite.org/endowment.

Learn more about the Endowment Fund and support the District's Student Initiatives Program by making a contribution online!

President's Message

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service to the District as his current three-year term (of nine total years) is completed. Please join me in welcoming Patty Camacho De Cano as our new Career Guidance Chair, and Larry Wymer as our Student and Faculty Initiatives Vice Chair. He is enthusiastic to continue his innovative contributions to ITE and to join the District team! There will be additional volunteer positions available for enthusiastic members to expand their contributions to ITE for the District. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

Please join me in welcoming our newest elected District 6 Board Members: Edgar Perez, Secretary-Treasurer and Ken Ackeret, International Director-Elect.

I look forward to bringing my unique

perspective to the District during my tenure. I also look forward to visiting several sections and chapters throughout the year. Please contact me or any officer if you have any suggestions for us to better serve you.

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado on July 12-15th. Please mark your calendars now!

As summer closes and green leaves change, let's capture fall's golden leaves and make it a great year!



2008 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

(Continued from page 1)

available on the ITE website. The directory will be updated to reflect recently elected officers following the District Meeting. She also discussed the District's Fellowship Award, which comes with a \$1000 cash prize. The District does not choose a recipient every year, and the Board approved a policy to give the award money to the District's Student Endowment Fund in those years when no winner is selected.

ID Randy McCourt reported that the International Board adopted Energy and Sustainability as one of ITE's "mega issues." He said that people interested in these issues would have many opportunities to get involved in "green" committees and task forces in the near future.



International President Alf Guebert thanked the Western District for "adopting" him and supporting him during his tenure as President.

ITE Executive Director Tom Brahm highlighted the initiatives that ITE is undertaking, specifically member services, webinars and publications.

District Election Guidelines were updated to reflect the recent change to e-balloting. District Administrator Jenny Grote reported that about 25% of District members participated in the election this year, which was similar to the previous year.

The Board adopted an update to the standard bylaws for Sections and Chapters that would establish the position of Student Chapter Professional Liaison and would recommend that the position be an ex-officio member of the local section or chapter board. These changes were implemented to promote a more proactive relationship

between transportation students and professional members of ITE.

The Board approved the Charters for the Cal Poly Pomona Student Chapter and the new Greater Oregon Section.

The Board approved the new name and charter for the San Diego Section, which was previously named the California Border Section.

The Board approved \$300 to reimburse the District Administrator for one-time computer hardware expenses.

Doug Smith, WesternITE Managing Editor, reported that the WesternITE is developing plans to move to electronic delivery. Doug said that his term as Managing Editor is over at the end of this year. President Rosales said that the Board is currently seeking a new editor to take over in January 2009 (interested individuals are encouraged to contact in-coming President Monica M. Suter).

Nate Larson, WesternITE Advertising Manager, reported that WesternITE advertising income is down because firms are advertising fewer position openings.

France Campbell, Website Manager, reported that he is currently evaluating new website hosts. He reported that recently added information has caused the website to exceed the storage capacity of our current hosting arrangement.

Committee Reports

Karen Aspelin, Technical Committee Chair, announced that the Section Activity Awards were won by the Colorado-Wyoming Section for the best large section and by the Oregon Section for the best small section. Venu Parimi was the recipient of the Wayne T. Van Wagoner Award, presented to the author of the best article published in the ITE Journal written by a Western District author. Karen also reported that Data Collection Fund projects were awarded to student chapters from UCLA, BYU, Nevada-Reno, Wyoming and Washington.

Patricia Camacho de Cano, Career Guidance Chair, announced that the Young Professional Achievement Award winner is Cathy Leong. The Employer Recognition Award was won by Fehr & Peers.

Alyssa Reynolds, Student and Faculty Initiatives Chair, reported that the University of Wyoming won the District's Best Student Chapter award. Montana State University and UCLA were awarded honorable mentions. Xuan Wang from the University of Nevada – Reno received the Best Student Paper Award. Cal Poly Pomona won the competition to host the James H. Kell



competition with a proposal that included designing speed humps and then navigating them with remote control cars.

Cathy Leong, Endowment Fund Chair, announced that the Endowment Fund website was complete and could now accept online donations. She reported that the Endowment Fund currently has a balance of about \$137,000 toward the goal of \$500,000.

Future Annual Meetings

Nate Larson, 2009 LAC Co-chair, presented a preliminary budget for next year's Denver meeting. The Board approved a \$3000 advance to help fund LAC activities.

Mark Spencer, 2010 LAC Chair, reported that his committee had secured a contract with the San Francisco Palace Hotel to be the venue for the 2010 meeting. The Board approved a \$3000 advance to fund start-up LAC activities.

The Board selected the Arizona Section as host the 2013 Annual Meeting after hearing a proposal from Arizona Section members.

The Board considered the schedule of upcoming District and International meetings and discussed the merits of holding joint District-International meetings. President Rosales directed the District Advisory Committee to evaluate the schedule and to propose a policy on joint meetings.

The Board approved the engagement of Experient, a meeting planning firm, to assist the District with site selection and hotel contract negotiations and to help local volunteers with increasingly complex hotel

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The ITE Colorado/Wyoming Section is proud to invite all ITE members and their families to Denver, Colorado, for the 2009 ITE Western District Annual Meeting, July 12-15, 2009. The Sheraton Denver Hotel will host a robust and timely technical program and vendor exhibition, the James H. Kell Student Competition, and an Annual Awards Banquet to remember.

Downtown Denver is home to parks, plazas, restaurants, nightclubs, microbreweries, sports venues, tourist attractions, an enormous range of shopping opportunities, and the 2nd largest performing arts complex in the United States. From there, you can explore and enjoy the world-famous natural beauty of Pikes Peak (and Colorado's other 50+ peaks over 14,000 feet) and Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as the historic charm of dozens of small mountain towns and other great places to visit.

Whether this will be your first ITE Western District annual meeting or you're a frequent attendee, we're confident that the City of Denver, the Rocky Mountains, and all of the surrounding beauty, attractions, and activities will encourage you to arrive early and stay late to enjoy Colorado. We invite you to Take the High Road and join us in 2009!

2008 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

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agreements and arrangements.

Other Business

The Board decided to return to a single annual Lifetime Achievement Award selection starting in 2009. Recently, the District had been presenting two awards per year.



Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer Michael Sanderson presented the 2008-2009 budget. The proposed budget included increases in expenses to support the endowment fund and to support travel of the District Administrator. The budget also anticipates reduced income from WesternITE advertising as employers post fewer positions available ads. The budget approved by the Board and forwarded to the membership for adoption projects a deficit of \$15,695. Michael reported that the District has sufficient cash reserves to cover the potential of a net loss.

The Board approved the creation of a subcommittee to evaluate the District's financial management practices and to develop an investment policy.

Annual Business Meeting Highlights

At the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, August 18, President Jennifer Rosales led a moment of silence for those District members who passed away during the past year: Dan Benson, Richard Ensdorff, Stephen George, Israel Gilboa, Jack Gillespie, Chuck Haley, Paul Hooper, Mary Kihl, Jim Lubin, Ervin Olen, William Reilly, Margaret Savage, and Wayland Sizemore.

President Rosales recognized District and International leaders present at the meeting. She also recognized Zaki Mustafa and the Anaheim local arrangements

committee for their hard work.

International Director Julia Townsend reported on the initiatives and issues that ITE is currently focusing on.

Cathy Leong, Endowment Fund Chair, presented awards to Sections that made significant contributions to the endowment fund during the past year: the Northern California Section, the Hawaii Section, and the Washington Section. She recognized the individual contributions of Ray Davis, Barnard Johnson, Randy McCourt, and Julia and Clark Townsend.

Secretary-Treasurer Michael Sanderson presented the proposed budget to the membership. The budget, which projects income of \$376,900 and expenses of \$392,595, was approved on a voice vote of the members.

President Rosales announced that the 2013 Annual Meeting would be hosted by the Arizona Section.

President Rosales accepted the report from the tellers committee and announced that newly elected District officers for 2008-2009:

President – Monica M. Suter
 Vice President – Michael Sanderson
 Secretary-Treasurer – Edgar Perez
 International Director – Ken Ackeret
 (three-year term begins January 2009)

The meeting was adjourned until the 2009 Annual Meeting in Denver.

International Director's Report

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Core Values

Collegiality, Social Responsibility, Integrity and Inspiration

All sections and chapters should review this document as it emerges in the coming year. It will be housed on the ITE web site upon completion. Each year our leaders should align their choice of activities and directions with this strategic plan guidance. It provides a framework for decision making by all ITE leadership to act in a consistent manner to serve our profession and our members.



Funding and Green Issues Advanced

The Board acted to advance the emerging climate change and energy sustainability issue to the status of a mega issue where significant attention will be paid to this topic in the next 12-24 months. A white paper is being developed on this topic and sessions at conferences are being planned to expand the dialogue on this topic. Fact finding is proceeding and the fall Board meeting in October will include presentations to determine the appropriate priorities and directions for ITE in developing tools and resources for our members.

With reauthorization of the US DOT funding program right around the corner, another white paper was drafted to be shared with the membership regarding the coming funding decisions that lay ahead in transportation. The reduced revenues of a petroleum-based consumption tax, the aggressive development of fuel efficient vehicles, advancing alternatives to petroleum and rapidly escalating construction cost has put the future of transportation funding at a cross roads. With the November election around the corner, our members should make sure that they share their opinions on this matter with candidates to help guide development of what is sure to be a complex and length policy for transportation.

Member Services Expanded

ITE initiated investment in member services earlier in 2008, approximately a \$500,000 commitment. At this meeting the results of this program were beginning to emerge: increased membership, high levels of participation in webinars and key publication development. It has been focused on member retention, recruitment and reactivation. Members will see four major publications emerge this year: Trip Generation, Traffic Engineering Handbook, Transportation Planning Handbook and the Urban Geometric Design Handbook. Webinars built around these documents will also emerge. For our leaders, ITE staff is updating material documenting the benefits of ITE membership for use in recruiting and for employers (look for this on the web in the coming year).

The Board approved two actions affecting younger members. The first was the creation of a forum (to be held in April 2009) for young professionals and students. The



pilot roundtable project is targeted to provide input to the Board on services that would benefit our members. If you are interested in this program, please feel free to contact our President Monica Suter.

A second approval was to create a student Traffic Bowl event similar to the event started in Portland, Oregon in 1993 and the District 6 event that followed in 1994 at the Portland Annual Meeting. All student chapters and students will be welcome to participate in this event which may involve elimination rounds on the web leading to the final event hosted at the San Antonio, Texas Annual Meeting August 9-12, 2009 (put that on your calendars).

Routine Business

ITE staff will provide ITE section and chapter leaders with the ability to use the web directory for their entire membership (rather than limited to 100 listings). Special access will be provided up to two Section and Chapter leaders to aid their ability to manage their member lists. International Meetings in the Western District will become a more frequent event in the next decade. Meetings in Seattle (2014), Anaheim (2016) and San Diego (tentatively between 2017 to 2019) will represent more International Annual Meetings within District 6 than any prior decade in the recent past. The District 6 Board has decided to consider separate meetings (rather than joint meetings) for one or two of these years – details are being discussed.

An independent audit of ITE finances was completed and approved for the prior year. ITE remains financially strong with reserves that now meet target levels. The additional investments in member services are a response to this financial strength. Fees will go up about two percent for meeting registrations in 2009 and for annual membership dues. Finally the professional certification policy P-11 was updated and approved to incorporate language including transportation planning.

New Ideas

International Directors shared ideas around the globe that represent new ideas in how to reach members and provide services. The development of ITE Facebook pages, streaming annual meeting sessions to members for local section meetings, Make A

Difference (MAD) programs in District 4, form based codes and the book called "Traffic" were all discussed.

The next board meeting is in October and all Western District members should feel free to share ideas with your directors.



Annual Membership Report

The Annual District 6 Membership Report lists the 2008 membership numbers (as of June 30, 2008) for the sections/chapters in District 6 on the table below.

Membership

Short-term changes in membership data from 2007 and longer-term changes in membership from 2001 are also shown. The year 2001 was selected for comparison because this was the first year that data for the individual chapters in the Intermountain Section were available.

The information shows that the short-term growth rate from 2007 to 2008 was approximately 3.3 percent which is slightly higher than the longer term growth rate from 2001 to 2008 of approximately 2.9 percent per year.

Meeting Attendance

In an effort to determine if the local section/chapter procedures for conducting lunch meetings throughout the year have an effect on meeting attendance, I sent out a short 5 question survey to the sections/chapters in June. The survey asked for the average number of attendees, frequency of meetings, meeting location(s), incentives (other than the program) to attend the

meetings and if there were any discounts given to certain categories of attendees.

I received responses from ten sections/chapters. A summary of the information that was received is listed below:

- The average number of attendees ranged from 20 to 70. The number of attendees was compared to the number of voting members in each section/chapter and varied from 10 percent to 83 percent. The Central California section had the highest percentage of attendees.
- Nine sections/chapters have monthly or bi-monthly meetings (but usually did not meet during some of the summer months and/or December). The only exception is the Central California section which has quarterly meetings.
- Four sections/chapters hold their meetings at the same location throughout the year (except for joint meetings with other professional societies). Three rotate to the same locations on an annual basis.
- Seven sections/chapters do not offer any additional incentives (other than the

program and lunch). Three have raffles for prizes or money.

- Eight sections/chapters offered discounts-seven to students and one offered a \$5 discount to government employees.

The summary of responses is presented for informational purposes only. The limited amount of information constrained the ability to identify procedures that increased meeting attendance. Several of the respondents stated that the best way to attract a large crowd to a meeting was to have "good food and a great program".



*Gary Hansen
Membership Chair*

ITE District 6 Membership History								
Section or Chapter	Short Term				Long Term			
	6/30/2007		6/30/2008		1/1/2001		6/30/2008	
	Voting	Total	Voting	Total	Voting	Total	Voting	Total
Alaska	36	45	39	49	40	51	39	49
Arizona (Total)	401	470	404	462	313	363	411	486
California (Total)	1,731	2,127	1,785	2,214	1,640	1,842	1,785	2,214
Colorado-Wyoming	357	402	360	413	344	365	360	413
Hawaii	62	90	67	97	48	63	67	97
Idaho	72	94	80	109	69	89	80	109
Montana	72	112	71	99	57	110	71	99
Nevada	201	280	209	277	163	176	209	277
New Mexico	88	106	96	121	95	129	96	121
Oregon	211	266	229	282	220	257	229	282
Utah	127	217	126	222	109	136	126	222
Washington	460	523	467	542	410	433	467	542
Totals	3,818	4,732	3,933	4,887	3,508	4,014	3,933	4,887



Janna McKhann
ITE 2008

Together we are the BEST !!

In Highways We Trust (Fund)

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 established the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to provide a distinct, reliable funding source for the new Interstate System as well as other federal-aid highway projects. Revenues from motor vehicle fuel taxes and other road-user taxes would be deposited in the Fund rather than the government's general revenue stream.

Originally designed to function until 1972, when Interstate System completion was expected, the Highway Trust Fund has been continued and altered by Congress many times. At first, federal-aid highway program reauthorization bills were passed every two years; more recently they have been on a four- to six-year cycle. Although the HTF was established to be stable and autonomous, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government have shaped its evolution. One clear indicator of that evolution is the length of successive reauthorization acts: 6 pages in 1966, 22 pages in 1968, 32 pages in 1970, 47 pages in 1973, and—most recently—more than 830 pages in 2005.

Motor vehicle fuel taxes have always been the primary revenue source for the HTF, consistently representing about 90 percent of the income. In 1956, the gasoline tax was 2 cents/gallon, half being newly imposed and half diverted from the general fund. Today, the federal tax on gasoline and gasohol is 18.4 cents/gallon; the Highway Trust Fund gets all but 0.1 cent/gallon that is earmarked for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund. Together, gas/gasohol taxes account for two-thirds of the HTF's income. Because of the greater road wear imposed by heavy trucks, the main users of diesel fuel, diesel is taxed at a higher rate (currently 24.4 cents/gallon, 0.1 cent of which goes into the LUST fund) and accounts for one-fourth of the HTF income. Taxes on other alternative fuels, such as liquified petroleum gas, liquified natural gas, and compressed natural gas, also contribute to the HTF, as do several road-user taxes, such as those on truck tires and heavy truck usage.

Though supposedly autonomous, the Highway Trust Fund has not been immune to political manipulation. During the early 1970s, President Richard Nixon impounded (i.e., refused to spend) about \$8 billion of highway funds authorized by Congress.irate legislators took the issue to the US Supreme Court, which ruled Nixon's actions unconstitutional. The shoe was on the other foot in 1993, when

Congress diverted a fuel tax increase to the general fund; this deviation from the HTF's original intent ended in 1997, when all gas and diesel taxes again funneled into it.

The Highway Trust Fund has, with a brief exception in 1959–1960, been prohibited from having a deficit balance. In fact, the surplus has usually been substantial. During the 1980s and early 1990s, the balance hovered around \$10 billion. Increasing revenues expanded the balance to \$23 billion by 2000. TEA-21, the 1998 reauthorization bill, took aim at that surplus by stepping up spending, discontinuing interest income to the HTF, and transferring all but \$8 billion of the HTF to the general treasury. Since 1998, revenues have grown only 2 percent per year, while HTF expenditures have risen about 4 percent per year. By 2006, the HTF's balance stood at \$9 billion.

The viability of the Highway Trust Fund is in doubt. Recent skyrocketing prices have curtailed gasoline and diesel fuel purchases. Nationwide, travel has declined for at least eight consecutive months; miles driven during June 2008 were 4.7 percent less than June 2007, resulting in a \$59 million decrease in HTF revenues. While Congress presses for increased motor vehicle fuel economy, every increase in mileage efficiency reduces Trust Fund revenues. The rapid increase in the costs of construction materials (asphalt, cement, and steel) are making highway projects more expensive. Fixed-rate fuel taxes remain static while prices increase, eroding the purchasing power of the HTF. "The Trust Fund's purchasing power has declined by 30 percent because of inflation and skyrocketing construction costs—so the country is spending less today in constant dollars than when federal fuel taxes were last increased 14 years ago," said an August 2007 *National Journal* article. "Industry groups say that by 2015 it would take \$73 billion—financed by a 10-cent increase in the gas tax—just to restore the Fund's purchasing power."

SAFETEA-LU, the current highway authorization bill, expires at the end of September 2009. With input from various industry groups, members of Congress are considering how to craft the next bill in a way that will meet the nation's highway needs for construction and repair. Raising the fuel tax is a potential component, and the fixed rate may be changed to a percentage of sales or indexed for inflation. Several additional income sources are also under consideration. One would channel

the existing "gas-guzzler tax" into the Highway Trust Fund rather than the general fund, where it has been deposited since its creation in 1978. Other taxes that are indirectly related to road use may also be tapped; examples include customs duties and container fees. The imposition of tolls on roads and bridges may expand, and adjustable rates may be applied during peak periods. Another promising strategy, recently tested by Oregon, is to equip vehicles with monitoring devices so that they can be assessed a fee based on mileage driven rather than a tax on fuel purchased.

The Adobe Tower



About the Authors:

Jerry Hall, a professor of Civil Engineering at the University of New Mexico, has served District 6 as president and international director.

Loretta Hall, a member of the Construction Writers Association, is a freelance writer concentrating on engineering and construction.

They can be contacted at jerome@unm.edu and lorettahall@constructionwriters.org, respectively.

This is the tenth in a series of articles tracing the development of the Interstate Highway System.

Award Winners!



Gene Wilson, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient with Dalene Whitlock.



Wolfgang Homburger, Lifetime Achievement Award

Lifetime Achievement Award	Wolfgang S. Homburger
Lifetime Achievement Award	Eugene "Gene" Wilson
Individual Achievement Award	Richard B. Nassi
Young Professional Achievement Award	Cathy Leong
District 6 Fellowship Award	Pak Ho "Samuel" Cheung, UNLV
Employer Recognition Award	Fehr and Peers
Outstanding Transportation	Patrick Gibson, UCLA



President Jennifer Rosales presents the Young Professional Achievement Award to Cathy Leong.



Patrick Gibson, UCLA, receives the Outstanding Transportation Educator Award.



Richard Nassi receives the Individual Achievement Award.

Award Winners!



Smith Siromaskul receives the Young Professional Best Technical Paper Award.



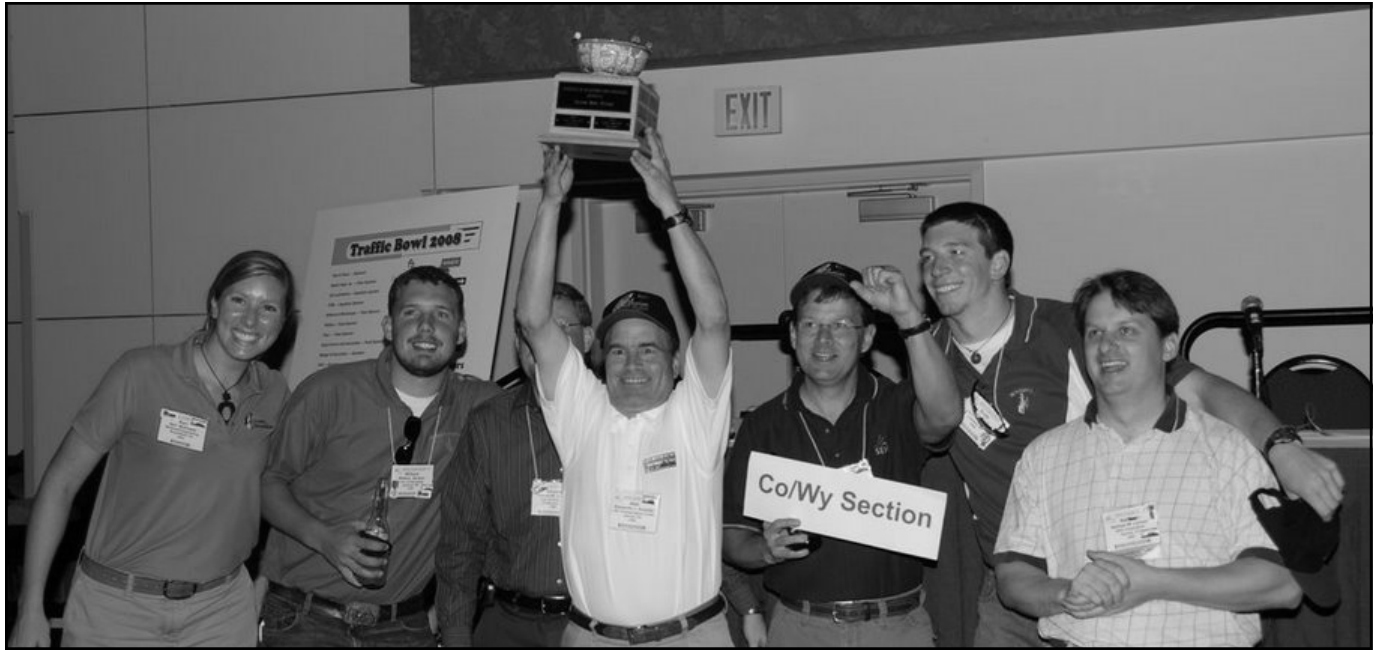
Venu Parini receives the Wayne T. Van Wagoner Award.

Wisest and Windiest Scribe Award	Andrew Kluter and Allen Huang, San Francisco Bay Area Section
Young Professional Best Technical Paper Award	Smith Siromaskul, "A Comparative Analysis of Diverging Diamond Interchange Operations"
Wayne T. Van Wagoner Award <i>(for best paper by a District 6 member published in ITE Journal)</i>	Venu Parimi, "A Comparative Evaluation of the Safety Performance of Roundabouts and Traditional Intersection Controls"
Annual Meeting Best Paper Award	James M. Witkowski, "Maricopa County Enhanced Parkway"
WesternITE Editorial Award <i>(for best paper published in WesternITE)</i>	James M. Whitty, Oregon DOT, "Oregon's Distance-Based Road User Fee System: Meeting Road Revenue for the 21st Century"
Membership Award for: Highest Number Gain Highest Percentage Gain	San Francisco Bay Area Section Idaho Chapter
Outstanding Web Site Award	Oregon Section



Fehr and Peers receives the Employer Recognition Award.

Award Winners!



The Colorado-Wyoming Section celebrates its victory in the Traffic Bowl.

Traffic Bowl	1st– Colorado-Wyoming Section 2nd– New Mexico Section 3rd– San Diego Section
Student Chapter Award for Best Student Chapter Report	University of Wyoming
James H. Kell RFP	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Best Student Website Award	Portland State University
Student Paper Competition (District and International Winner)	Xuan Wang, University of Nevada, Reno, "Evaluation of Lane-by-Lane Detection at Signalized Intersections Using Simulation"



James H. Kell Competitors

Anaheim Annual Meeting Amazing Success

Over 2300 Transportation Professionals and friends gathered at the recently completed International Annual Meeting in association with the Western District in Anaheim, California, August 17-20, 2008. The meeting was a huge success with rave reviews by many participants. Special thanks are due to Executive Director Tom Brahm and ITE staff who made us all feel at home at the meeting.



Rock Miller with Holly Miller

The meeting was kicked off by meetings of the International Board and the District 6 Board to assist in planning for the future of the Institute. Nearly 60 students gathered to participate in the James H. Kell competition, representing 8 western Universities. These activities were concluded by the International Annual Business meeting, where Paul Eng-Wong, a transportation consultant based in New York City was announced to the membership as the Vice-President Elect for the Institute. Ken Voigt of Milwaukee was named President-Elect, while Earl Newman of Springfield, Missouri, leaves the board at the end of the year. This was followed by a Sunday evening reception in the large exhibit area that included displays and information for about 50 products and services exhibitors.

The opening session was called to order by International President Alf Guebert of Calgary, Alberta and honorary member of the Western District. The session was highlighted by keynote speaker and author Lynne Lancaster on overcoming generational collisions between traditionalists, baby

boomers, generation X, and millennials. Her remarks were the theme of numerous conversations throughout the conference.

Over 40 technical sessions were held over three days. The presenters received many positive comments, and attendance at the final sessions remained strong, despite the competition posed by nearby amusement parks and resorts. Perhaps the sold-out and customized-to-ITE technical tours backstage at Disneyland served to reduce temptation to stray from the conference proceedings.

In traditional Western District fashion, a full slate of District events was held within the conference. The Annual Business Luncheon featured an uplifting presentation by keynote speaker Chris Norby, Orange County Supervisors and Chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority Board. The Traffic Bowl was the District's featured event on Monday night. The competition was marked by lively entertainment along with "discussions" between judges and competitors. More excitement is expected next year in Denver when the winning Colorado-Wyoming Section will try to retain their title!

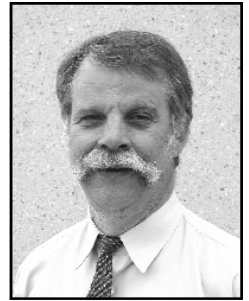
On Tuesday, District officers were able to acknowledge the many volunteers and local section leaders that make ITE a special organization. Also, departing board members Julie Townsend, Dalene Whitlock, and President Jennifer Rosales gave their final remarks to the membership. Then on Tuesday night, the Institute presented its International Technical and Achievement awards to many deserving honorees at the Annual Awards Banquet. ITE's highest awards for personal service were made for Burton Marsh Award winner Mark Norman and Theodore Matson Award Winner David Keummel. Significant International awards for the District went to the City of Los Angeles, the City of Palm Desert, Caltrans, and to our own International Director Randy McCourt.

I would personally like to acknowledge the incredibly hard work by Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chair Zaki Mustafa, who consistently went out of his way to make sure that the event had the

best possible overall atmosphere. His duties ranged from providing airport transportation to individuals in need, to making sure that preparation for all events was complete and well-planned.

The rest of the LAC and numerous volunteers from local student chapters (especially Cal Poly and UCLA) and the City of Los Angeles DOT also deserve a lot of credit. Special thanks go to Ruth Smith of Willdan for volunteer coordination, John Lower of Anaheim for Technical Tours, John Thai of Anaheim for Traffic Bowl planning, John Fisher of LADOT for Traffic Bowl questions, Janna McKhann for fundraising, and to my own family, Linda Miller (Spouse/guest tours) and Holly Miller (contributor recognition).

If you missed the Anaheim meeting, then you missed a great event. Fortunately, the District will do it all again next year in Denver, while the International meeting moves to San Antonio's Riverwalk. Also everything went so well that Anaheim will likely host another International meeting in 2016, for those who can wait.



*Rock Miller,
Vice Chair LAC*



Congratulations to Our In-Coming Officers

Past President Jennifer Rosales

President Monica M. Suter

Vice President Michael Sanderson

Secretary-Treasurer Edgar Perez



Swearing in of officers.

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Section and Chapter Activities



Hawaii Section

June 2008

The Hawaii Section Annual Meeting was held on June 26, 2008, at the Municipal Building. At the beginning of the meeting, ITE secretary, Honglong Li shared his experience about his trip to China recently.

The guest speakers were Dr. Panos Prevedouros, a Professor with Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Prevedouros presented his studies at several bottleneck intersections in Honolulu. The study explored the operational benefits by tunneling one-lane through movement. The microsimulation in VISSIM showed considerable improvement in terms of traffic operations during the peak hours. Dr. Prevedouros indicated that further civil engineering is needed to investigate the feasibility of the tunnels. During Q & A session, Dr. Prevedouros also demonstrated his simulation idea and work on Pearl Harbor tunnel.

Honglong Li,
Secretary



San Francisco Bay Area Section

June 2008

On June 26, 2008, the SF Bay Area ITE Section (SFBayITE) held its final monthly meeting of the 2007-08 Section year at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) MetroCenter Auditorium in Oakland. Prior to the monthly speaker presentation, two awards were given to longtime Section members who have made notable contributions to the Section over their careers.

On behalf ITE District 6, President Jennifer Rosales announced that the District Student Endowment Fund, which helps support the Student Initiatives Program, has reached more than 20 percent of its \$500,000 goal. In other news, the District has established a Facebook page as a new medium for communication among members. She also announced that the District is seeking a new editor for the WesternITE bi-monthly newsletter.

Jennifer presented a District 6 Presidential Proclamation to Tom Clausen, P.E., P.T.O.E., honoring him for his longtime service to ITE and the transportation engineering profession. As an ITE member for 33 years, Tom has served as Section President, District President, and International Director representing District 6. He is an ITE Fellow and has worked for several Bay Area cities and the California Department of Transportation. He is also an instructor for the Tech Transfer program of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Tom additionally has the distinction of holding P.T.O.E. License No. 1.

Dalene Whitlock, Past President of District 6, presented the District 6 Lifetime Achievement Award to Wolfgang Homburger, P.E., an honorary member of ITE. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the District's highest recognition of professional accomplishment and outstanding service to District 6. For more than 35 years at U.C. Berkeley, Wolfgang has served as a lecturer, research engineer,

acting director and assistant director of the Institute of Transportation Studies. He has also authored or edited several transportation textbooks.

The main meeting speaker was Therese McMillan, MTC's Deputy Executive Director of Policy. In addition to her MTC duties, she is also an instructor at the Mineta Transportation Institute in San Jose. Therese presented the findings of a recent study entitled *Transportation for Tomorrow: Report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission*. Steve Heminger, MTC's Executive Director, served on this special commission that was established by the recent federal SAFETEA-LU legislation and was charged with providing detailed recommendations for creating and sustaining a pre-eminent surface transportation system in the United States. The report is available at: <http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org/>.

Among the commission's findings and recommendations:

- Between 1982 and 2005, the number of metro areas with average annual time spent in congestion of at least 40 hours increased from one (Los Angeles) to 30
- U.S. annual traffic fatalities over the last several years have held constant, while Great Britain has seen an overall decline each year
- Maintaining highways at their current state would cost approximately \$175 billion; upgraded maintenance of the highway system would cost approximately \$225 billion
- New Starts transit projects have been averaging 10 years for project delivery
- Establish a federal surface transportation commission
- Raise the gas tax by 25 to 40 cents to help with the anticipated future funding shortfalls

Rich Haygood, in his final act as this year's Section President, concluded the meeting by giving gifts of appreciation to all Board members for their service during the past year.



Andrew Kluter,
Co-Scribe



Allen Huang,
Co-Scribe

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Requirements for these positions include:

- BSCE
- CA PE
- 10+ years public works and/or transportation design and minimum 5 years management experience (for PM) with CALTRANS related projects including PSR, PR and PS & E deliverables
- Demonstrated leadership, project management, and client relations skills

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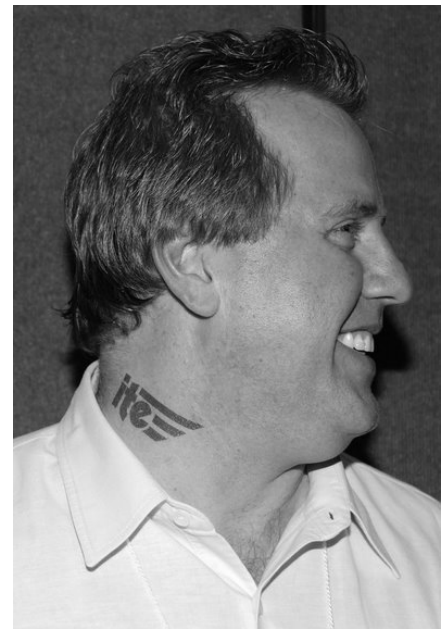
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