

# Westernite

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## President's Message

Michael Sanderson, P.E., PTOE

A Year of Opportunity  
Michael Sanderson,  
Western District  
President



Denver, Colorado was recently the scene of another terrific Western District Annual

Meeting. Thank you to Nate Larson and Will Johnson for your leadership and thanks to all the hard working members of the Local Arrangements Committee. All of us who attended enjoyed your Rocky Mountain hospitality and I extend my gratitude to you for the great kickoff to my year as president.

After I was sworn in as president in Denver, I spoke about some of my interests and priorities for the coming year. Then I said, "But, you have to play the hand you're dealt." Allow me to elaborate on what that statement means to me. Economic hard times have impacted the majority of our members, and firms continue to cut back on the amount of money that they spend on memberships, conference travel, and

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## 2009 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

By Edgar Perez, PE, Western District Secretary-Treasurer

The Western District Board of Directors met for its annual meeting on Sunday, July 12, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Denver, Colorado. A total of 42 Western District and 3 ITE Int'l representatives attended the meeting. Attendees included Western District board members, committee chairs, chapter and section officers, International ITE President Kenneth H. Voigt, and ITE International Vice President-Candidates Hibbett Neel and Robert Wunderlich. Following are highlights of some of the topics discussed and actions taken by the Board.



President Monica Suter reported on her activities since the mid-year board meeting, which included visits to 26 District sections and chapters where she presented 16 presidential proclamations to District members. A list of presidential proclamation honorees is found at WesternITE.org. She also announced the appointment of the following committee chairs: reappointment of Jenny Grote as District Administrator, Zaki Mustafa as Interim WesternITE Managing Editor pending return of Rachel Donovan, and Advisory Committee Members Rich Romer and Rory Grindley.

Vice President Michael Sanderson reported on a proposed Western District's financial audit which will review income and expenses for previous years to ensure compliance with non-profit organization policies. The board later voted to obtain additional quotes to conduct the audit and postponed it for consideration in the future. Michael also discussed the need to increase the travel budget for ITE Council Chair/Vice Chair/

*(Continued on page 7)*

## International Director's Report

By Zaki Mustafa

The International Board of direction met on August 6th, 7th and 8th at College Station Texas in advance of our upcoming annual meeting and exhibit to be hosted August 9-12th in San Antonio. While at Texas A&M University, we toured TTI and our tour included a visit to the Riverside Campus for a crash test. TTI agency Director Dennis Christiansen was a gracious host as TTI celebrated its 60 years strong and productive association with ITE. TTI is the single most active organization within our association. and currently there are approximately 60 TTI employees who are members of ITE and 450 ITE members who are Texas A&M University (TAMU) graduates. Highlights from our business meeting are as follows:

### Strategic Plan

HQ has made good progress in implementing a number of the 2009 tactical steps related to the Strategic Plan. The Board reviewed and approved revised strategies and tactics for two of the Goals of the Strategic Plan. The goal "The transportation profession will be recognized for technical excellence for contributing to sustainable communities" was discussed extensively. The issue of sustainability is very broad and, as with



*(Continued on page 5)*

## Changing Campus Culture: Making the Bus “Cool”

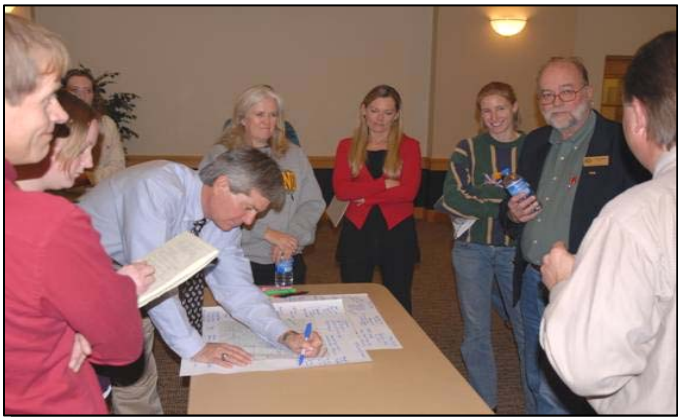
Charles W. Huffine, P.E., P.T.O.E.,  
A.I.C.P., and Joanna Morsicato

The old western culture, in which cowboys tied their horses to a hitching post in front of a saloon, lives on today at many universities. People want to park near their destinations and as a result many colleges experience the pain of too many cars and not enough parking. In the process of developing the *University of Wyoming Transportation and Parking Master Plan (TPMP)* in 2008, the University and greater Laramie communities concluded that getting people out of cars and onto buses would be a much more cost-effective and sustainable solution to the parking problems than building huge and expensive parking structures on campus. Shifting the long-standing culture from single occupancy vehicles to transit/park-n-ride would not be easy, and yet after the first year of implementing the Master Plan recommendations the results have already demonstrated success in getting people to leave their cars and hop on buses.



Parking has been an issue in Laramie for a long time. Past student surveys have indicated that this is a persistent problem for students that continues to grow as the student population increases and campus construction progresses. According to the data collected for the *TPMP*, over two-thirds of the students, faculty and staff (approximately 6,888 person-round trips per day) commute. Such high volume creates congestion during morning and evening peaks. This creates a parking demand that spills over into adjacent neighborhoods. Thirty percent of commuters take multiple trips to and from campus throughout the day, which creates additional parking and circulation issues. High parking turnover creates congestion as drivers search for a more convenient spot close to their campus destination.

While a parking structure would provide some of the needed parking, a segment of the university population and members of the State Legislature did not feel that this was the most cost-effective solution. A parking structure would further increase traffic in areas of campus with high pedestrian volumes, would be very costly, and would only benefit a small segment of the community. Before approving funding for a new parking structure, the State



Legislature took an important step and requested that this more comprehensive and inclusive *TPMP* study be undertaken to see if there were any other viable, cost-effective and sustainable options available. The focus of the study was on reducing the parking demand, rather than increasing the supply. A reduction in parking demand is the best long-term, sustainable solution. This can best be accomplished through the introduction of improved or new mode choices

TransPark already provides free bus shuttle services with three distinct shuttle routes and free paratransit service; however, the shuttle service is limited to the campus area and does not extend into adjacent residential areas or to key destinations in the City of Laramie. The service times are also limited, running between 7:00



am and 7:00 pm on business days. In 2001, the Safe Ride van program was developed by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW). This program is free with the goal of providing safe and reliable transportation within the Laramie city limits. This service is available Thursday night through Saturday night on days when University is in session. Safe Ride's ridership has averaged more than 10,000 riders a semester for the past three years.

Plan recommendations regarding mode choices included: improve dependability of service, provide regular and frequent headways, extend service hours, consider extension of existing routes, identify and implement new routes, create a transit system throughout the Laramie community, connecting major origin and destination points, upgrade or create transit hubs and shelters, construct the transit hub on or near central campus, construct remote park-n-ride lots and facilities throughout Laramie, and more.

While parking and mode choice improvements would provide more convenient choices, they would not be successful if people did not choose to take these alternate modes. In a single-occupancy auto culture and a community with little traffic congestion, getting people to take a bus instead is not as simple as “if you provide it, they will come.” People must have some incentives to change.

A major recommendation of the *TPMP* was to use student activism, media and technology to quickly gain widespread support for transit, shift the culture, and gain momentum for bus use.

The University of Wyoming administration was clearly behind the change in direction, as evidenced by University President Tom Buchanan taking the new South Express bus on its launch date. Students, however, were the key to success. Students are typically more open to new ideas, and have both energy and passion to quickly start a movement to change to the bus. A Student Advisory Committee was actively involved in the development of the Master Plan, and a campus sustainability committee was also behind the recommendations, so there were already student advocacy groups in-place to help “sell” the transit recommendations. The student government (ASUW) officially endorsed the transit recommendations. The word spread quickly and using students, the bus quickly became “cool.”

In order for transit to enjoy long-term success, taking the bus also needed to have support from the city and state levels as well. The City of Laramie took important steps, including having Mayor Klaus Hanson ride the bus, and the City of Laramie Council passing a resolution supporting the Transportation Master Plan recommendations. The Wyoming Department of Transportation was involved in the planning process from the beginning and expressed support of the transit recommendations, as did WYTRANS – a non-profit group formed to promote transit in the State of Wyoming.

The first major implementation was the addition of a new South Express Shuttle, which serves residential areas to the south of campus. Six additional buses were leased for the route. A park-n-ride lot was established at a closed shopping center, bike racks were installed there, and buses starting running at 5-7 minute intervals. The University promoted the new route heavily through radio messages and asking students to spread the word, giving away prizes, and the UW President Buchanan/ Laramie Mayor Hanson bus ride.

On the first day of service, August 26, 2008, daily transit ridership increased from 3,000 to 4,200. On the first two days of classes, about 900 people rode the new South Express Shuttle route. Employee parking permit sales were down 20% from the previous year. Other parking permit sales were down as well. A true test of the improvements, however, would be during the winter months, where cold and snow tend to drive people back to their cars. As seen in Table 1, March 2009 ridership is up 75% over March 2008. It is not only students that are taking the bus. More employees are taking the bus as well – especially part-time employees, which when they drive, tend to search for vacant spaces close to their destinations. Now, by taking the bus, traffic close to campus is

reduced. The resulting reduction in potential vehicle/pedestrian conflicts is an added success.

Feedback from students and employees has been positive. While there is an initial effort to get used to the change, the general consensus is that taking the bus does not result in a significant increase in time to get to class and is actually more convenient. Taking the time to change the mindset of people is often an important step in establishing a bus system. The switch to transit is helping the university to become more “green” and sustainable. There are still horses in Laramie, as well as many cars. However, buses no longer appear alien. Thanks largely to students, bus travel

*Table 1: Average Daily Ridership for Shuttle Services – March Only*

Shuttle Service	Average Daily Ridership		
	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	% Change
Union Express	1,269	1,147	-10%
Classroom Express	256	760	+197%
Campus Shuttle	153	162	+6%
South Express	N/A	715	N/A
Resident Park 'N Ride	N/A	98	N/A
Night Owl Express	N/A	70	N/A
Paratransit	39	59	+ 53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>+75%</b>

is now a viable transportation alternative. If properly planned, adequately funded, and successfully marketed, an expanded bus system has the potential to reduce traffic, plus improve connectivity, safety, and quality of life in Laramie.

*This is the condensed version — for the full report please go to our website at [www.westernite.org](http://www.westernite.org)*



## A Winning Formula? We Think So!

By Julia Townsend

As Engineers and Planners we are constantly working with formulas - some are pretty straight forward and others are more complicated. District 6 has found a winning formula for attracting and engaging bright and energetic Engineering students into ITE and the profession. That winning formula started with implementation of a very successful and unique Student Initiatives Program that was developed in 2002 under then District 6 President Rory Grindley. Since its inception this program has grown and been revised and expanded to today's program which includes the Data Collection Fund awards, travel support for both the Student Paper Winner and the Best Student Chapter to attend the Annual Meeting, a cash prize for the Student Paper winner, honorable mentions for the Student Chapters and incentives for the Student Chapters to submit an Annual Activities report, the District's Fellowship Award, textbooks for new Student Chapters, and much more. The success of the program can be seen each year. More Student Chapters are becoming active and new ones are forming. A record number of Student Chapter reports were submitted this year. Student participation at Annual Meetings has increased from a handful of students to almost 100. There has been a staggering increase in the number of students in the mentoring program. Those students that started in the program have since graduated, joined the profession, and are taking up leadership roles in the Chapters, Sections and District.



As with implementation of any new program, there is always a cost associated with services and the Student Initiatives Program is no different. This current array of programs totals about \$25,000 per year which comes directly from the District's operating budget. The ultimate goal is to be able to expand the Student Initiatives Program to entail \$40,000 per year in awards and services to our Student Chapter. In 2005 under then District 6 President Zaki Mustafa the Student Endowment Fund was founded. The ultimate goal of the Student Endowment Fund is to generate enough in interest each year to fund the Student Endowment Fund activities thereby moving the cost of these programs out of the District's operating budget. This move would ensure that even in tough economic times, these essential student programs would continue.

The Endowment Fund has grown since its inception with total assets just over \$200,000. It has taken a lot of hard work to get where we are today as well as a lot of generosity from Sections/Chapters, Corporations and individuals that are dedicated to ensuring that the Endowment Fund reach its' goal. Under current Endowment Fund Chair Cathy Leong, we have seen a variety of fundraising activities from adorable ITE bears (which are a must in any professionals office), ITE Logo shirts and the ever popular tattoos that grace each annual meeting for a bit of fun and excitement during those meeting breaks which have added to the funds success. Rumor has it that if you want the tattoo professionally applied; Cathy has contracted the services of our own District Administrator, Jenny Grote, who does a fantastic job for a small contribution to the Endowment Fund.

This is an essential program to the District and one that has been a lot of fun to be involved with over the years. While many of us didn't have such wonderful programs back when we were in college, we do have the unique opportunity to be part of those that can leave such a legacy to the next generation of transportation professional. To fully fund the program, would take a \$75 contribution from each District 6 member. In these tougher economic times, such a contribution may not be possible in a lump sum or at all. For those of you that do feel that you would like to be part of the legacy, Cathy can help you by breaking down contributions over several years or you may just choose to make a smaller donation. All donations are very much appreciated by the students and are tax deductible; so if you are able, I would encourage you to contribute.



## Editor's Corner

I would like to begin by thanking you, the reader, for checking out this edition of the Western ITE Newsletter. For those interested in the contents of this newsletter, please note that extended versions of some articles, such as the informative "Making the bus cool" technical piece, can be read at [www.westernite.wordpress.com](http://www.westernite.wordpress.com). In the coming months we will be posting all of the technical papers submitted at our Annual Meeting on our new web site. While on the topic of the physical newsletter, we have announced that starting next year there will be only two printed editions per year with the majority of our content now being placed on the aforementioned website ([www.wordpress.westernite.com](http://www.wordpress.westernite.com)). This is in keeping with the theme of Michael's message to us this month and we are doing our best to work in a manner that is more economically efficient. The upside of moving to a primarily web based format is that much more content can be posted, including both articles and photos that would have taken too much space in a physical newsletter. To go directly to our photo album which now includes photos from Denver, follow the link <http://picasaweb.google.com/zakiladot>. From this point forward, I would like section updates, technical papers and any other prospective articles to be sent to [ntmustafa@gmail.com](mailto:ntmustafa@gmail.com). The newsletter's new format is exciting for us all, and I cannot say enough how much I appreciate the readership.



Zaki Mustafa

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advertising. This has and will impact the way the District is organized, and how we operate. So in spite of many ambitious ideas that I may want to pursue, I know that in our current situation my year as president will largely be focused on navigating the District through these uncharted waters. This is the hand I was dealt, but don't get me wrong; my statement is by no means pessimistic or a sign of resignation. I see our situation as a challenge – with adversity comes change and with change there is opportunity!

With the help of the Board of Directors and our great committee chairs, here are a few of the first things we will be working on in the coming months:

**Financial Management Practices.** We will be evaluating options and implementing changes to improve the way we handle the District's substantial budget and invested assets. The Board will be initiating a regular program of audits and third-party reviews of our financial management, and we will be considering the adoption of an investment policy to guide how we manage the significant balances in cash reserves and the Student Endowment Fund.

**WesternITE.** This year we will implement a transition from the traditional printed version of the WesternITE newsletter to an interactive, web-based delivery. While we may still deliver a printed newsletter on some occasions, we are making this change to both improve the timeliness of the newsletter and to offer enhanced interactive features that our members expect. We are also making this change because of the significant cost savings to the District. The major revenue source for the newsletter, advertising of professional services and positions available, has nearly disappeared and requires us to rethink the methods by which we organize, produce and deliver the newsletter.

**Strategic Plan and Membership Survey.** Yes, we have a strategic plan. However, it has been five years since it was developed and it is time that it be reviewed and updated. The current version of the strategic plan, which can be viewed at [www.westernite.org](http://www.westernite.org), sets goals in the areas of Student Initiatives, Career Development, Technical Excellence, Social/Networking and Promoting the Profession. We will soon be sending out a survey to get members' input on the strategic plan and to answer a couple of basic questions: how are we currently doing, and what should we be doing in the future? The Board will consider this input at our mid-year board meeting and report back to the membership next summer at the annual meeting in San Francisco.

I am proud to be your president for the next year. Thank you for the opportunity, and I will work hard to serve you well. This year as I travel and visit many of you at your local section meetings, I will be asking for your input on these and other issues, but at any time if you have comments or concerns please email me at [msanderson@sandersonstewart.com](mailto:msanderson@sandersonstewart.com).

*(Continued from page 1)* **International Director's Report**

the climate change and energy issue, can be difficult to determine what it means to our profession and how we can best address it. A committee will continue to discuss this issue and develop appropriate steps.

**Finances**

HQ constantly monitors the Institute's financial condition, and adjusts as necessary. Three staff members were laid off in March and another three in July. Tom Brahm has also assisted these staff members in obtaining new positions. Recognizing that layoffs can be difficult even for those who keep their positions, Tom has worked to maintain staff morale.

The Institute is using this economic downturn to look at technology and demographic changes and re-shape how we do business in the future, while maintaining member services. For example, the process for reviewing abstracts for next year's technical conference and annual meeting will be done virtually, without bringing everyone to HQ.

**Membership**

Even with the poor economy, membership remains strong, with paid voting membership up over 3% over the same time period in 2008

**Technical Conference and Annual Meeting**

It is anticipated that the Tech Conference and the Annual Meeting will operate at a loss. Travel bans, particularly for government employees, are a significant issue. A committee of the Board is looking at new options related to the Tech Conf and Annual Meeting. The board spent some time brainstorming ideas related to key issues for the Tech Conf and Annual Meeting.

The 2009 Annual Meeting included a Student Hub, a place for students to gather and meet other students, and some interactive workshops. Staff is looking at further developing new approaches for next year's meetings. There will most likely be more workshop sessions, conversation circles, interactive or hands-on sessions, with fewer of the "talking heads" type of presentations. The registration fees for 2010 will be no higher than in 2009. The Annual Meeting will be in Vancouver, BC, and it is not known at this time what the currency exchange rate may mean for the Institute.

**ITE Headquarters**

The lease for the new ITE Headquarters is still in negotiations. The current lease is good through August 2010. The new space would include a recognition of donors to the Institute, including those who contributed to the Millennium Fund which was used for outfitting the current space.

**Publications and Webinars**

Key publications that are in progress include: *Parking Generation 3rd Edition*, *Manual of Transportation Studies*, *Trip Generation Handbook*, *Introduction to Transportation Engineering*, *Traffic Signal Maintenance Manual* and a biannual academic journal. This peer-reviewed academic journal will be semi-annual. It will be published electronically and a search is underway for an external sponsor for a printed version.

The earliest ITE will receive the MUTCD for publication would be December, but the end of the first quarter of 2010 is more likely. Once they receive it, they can turn it around in under three months. This is a major revenue stream for ITE.

**Together we are the BEST**

## Section and Chapter Spotlight

**ALASKA** The membership of the Alaska Section of ITE has grown quite a bit over the last few years. In fact, at the ITE 2009 Western District Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado the Alaska Section was presented with the Membership Award for the "Highest Percentage Gain" for 2008-2009. Because of this, the ITE luncheon meeting venue had to be changed to accommodate the crowds. Now members meet at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum. The Museum displays historic aircraft and aviation artifacts that contributed to the development and progress of aviation in Alaska. This venue also offers free guided tours of the museum to ITE members after the monthly luncheon meetings.



The Alaska Section ITE played an integral role last year in assisting the newly formed ITE Student Chapter at the University of Alaska



Anchorage. Board members from the Section regularly attend the student chapter meetings, give section updates to the students and encourage them to regularly attend section meetings. Luncheon meeting fees are waived for students and they are given a few minutes at the meeting to report on Student Chapter activities.

The Alaska ITE Section was chosen to host the 2011 Western District Annual Meeting and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is busy at work planning for and organizing the event. One of the first activities organized was a logo contest. LAC Co-chairs Anne Brooks and Joann Mitchell traveled to Denver for the 2009 Western District Annual Meeting to check out the program and meet the many dedicated organizers for tips and advice on putting on a great conference.



In the picture from left to right: Josh Cross, Vice President; Karthik Murugesan, Treasurer; Jennifer Satterfield, President; Nicole Knox, Secretary.

## 2009 Denver Annual Meeting



Through the thin air of a sunny Rocky Mountain paradise, another ITE Western District Annual Meeting came to pass; over 500 people went home enlightened with fresh knowledge, emboldened with modern perspectives, and enriched with new relationships. From July 12-15th Denver, Colorado hosted the 2009 annual meeting of the western United States' best and brightest transportation engineering and planning professionals and students. "Transportation in the Sustainable Energy Future" was the theme of the technical program, and

it kicked off in grand fashion with a dynamic look into the future of sustainable transportation by Michael O'Keefe, a senior research engineer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in nearby Golden. The technical program featured over 100 informative presentations and posters on a broad range of cutting-edge transportation projects and programs.

Activities for students, families, and guests were very well-attended as well, including the first ever Western District Student Traffic Bowl (won by the University of Wyoming), Family Night at Elitch's Amusement Park, a rocking-good time at the 70's-themed Annual Awards Banquet, and the time-honored Traffic Bowl (won by the Arizona Section). The 28 exhibitors and 13 sponsors who made the meeting possible are also to be commended for their support of the annual meeting.

Finally, many thanks to the hard-working Local Arrangements Committee members and their employers for their commitment to making the 2009 Denver annual meeting a re-sounding success. They are as follows: Prof. Rhonda Young (University of Wyoming), Student; Larry Corcoran (Douglas County), Transportation; Sarah Karjala (Fehr and Peers), Traffic Bowl; Will Johnson (SEH), Co-Chair and Vendor/Sponsor Coordinator; John LaSala (City and County of Denver), Hospitality; Jamie Archambeau (PBS&J), Registration; Nate Larson (URS), Co-Chair; Aaron Heumann (Martin + Martin), Financial; Alex Ariniello (LSC), Technical; Paul Brown (Jacobs), Publications; Kari McDowell (McDowell Engineering), Publicity; and Margie Krell (URS), Family Activities.



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### 2009 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

International Committee Chair. This budget was discussed and increased to \$2,000 during budget review.

Secretary Treasurer Edgar Perez reported the district's finances during the 2008-2009 fiscal year up to June 10, 2009 and reported the total balances of the District's checking, 2010 fiscal year which was reviewed by the board and voted on the following changes from previous savings and Student Endowment accounts. He also presented the proposed budget for the 2009- fiscal year:

Increased income and expenses for 2010 Annual Meeting in San Francisco which is estimated to be about \$80K higher than previous years. Decreased revenue from WesternITE publication. Decreased from \$45K to \$30K. Reduced expenses for WesternITE production. Reduced from \$38K to \$22K. Increased travel budget for Council Chairs/Vice-Chairs from \$1K to \$2K.

Past President Jennifer Rosales reported on her work related to Lifetime and Individual Achievement Awards and the progress that the ITE Group on Facebook is having.

ID Randy McCourt highlighted several items from his written report and thanked the board since this is his last meeting on the Board. He also shared the vision that should drive the efforts of the District, "Where we are and where we go from here into the future depends on how we differentiate science and technology and how we take advantage of opportunities."

International President Ken Voigt complimented Senior International Director Randy McCourt for a job well done. He discussed the different publications that ITE publishes and that public membership has remained steady despite the economy. Membership in general is higher than most other sister organizations. ITE international has had a 20% cut in staff but this should not interrupt services for the members. ITE Webinars have been reduced to \$15 thanks to a federal grant. ITE has established a task force on Energy, Environment and the Economy. The Student Traffic Bowl is picking up momentum and there will be a competition in 2010 in Vancouver among all the District champions.

District Administrator Jenny Grote reported that about 25% of District members participated in the e-balloting election this year, which was similar to the previous year.

The Board approved a template for Student Chapter Bylaws and Charters and also approved the following Section and Student Chapter bylaws:

Cal Poly Pomona Student Chapter Bylaws  
San Diego Section Bylaws and Charter  
Northern California Section Bylaws

The Board discussed as to how to optimize our westernite budget and provide a quality information services to our membership. Nate Larson, WesternITE Advertising Manager, reported that WesternITE advertising is down. Zaki Mustafa indicated that new interest is growing due to the new interactive electronic newsletter format.

France Campbell, Website Manager, reported on the efforts to accommodate the online registration for the annual meeting and rec-

ommended a maintenance/improvement budget for same.

Karen Aspelin, Technical chair, reported that a total of 9 section/chapter activity reports were submitted with the San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area Sections winning the small and large section awards respectively. She also announced the Wayne T. Waggoner Award winner Xuan Wang and Data Collection contributors UCLA, Univ. of Nevada Reno, Univ. of Washington, Portland State Univ. and Montana State University.

Patricia Camacho de Cano, Career Guidance Chair provided an update on the Mentoring Program and distributed pass along cards for mentors and mentees to sign up for the program. The idea was well received to get more people to volunteer for the program. Patti will revise the criteria for Employer Recognition Awards to include big and small companies regardless of location. The recipient of this year's Young Professional Achievement Award is Alejandro Angel from Tucson, Arizona.

Alyssa Reynolds, Student and Faculty Initiatives Chair, Alyssa Reynolds reported that this year has had the most student chapter reports totaling 23 reports out of 32 student chapters. Each of these chapters will receive \$100. Wyoming was selected as the best Student Chapter. Grant Shultz from BYU was selected as the Outstanding Educator. Approximately 80 students registered for the conference.

Cathy Leong, Endowment Fund Chair, announced that the Endowment Fund website has been well received. She reported that the Endowment Fund has had an increase of about 25% with a balance of about over \$210,000 toward the goal of \$500,000.

#### Future Western District Annual Meetings

Mark Spencer, 2010 LAC Chair, reported that the meeting will be at the San Francisco Palace Hotel.

The Board approved the 2014 Annual Meeting Location in Rapid City, South Dakota (Near Mt. Rushmore)—LAC Chair Appointment is Randy McCourt.

Anne Brookes and Joann Mitchell, 2011 LAC Anchorage Co-Chairs distributed pamphlets, pins and buckets with the Alaska logo. They reported on the efforts to have a great meeting to be held at the Egan Convention Center and Hilton Hotel and encouraged everyone to visit [www.alaskaite.org](http://www.alaskaite.org) when it becomes available.

#### Other Business

The Board decided to postpone the hiring of a consultant to do the District's Spanish translation. Edgar Perez shared that the Tijuana Student Chapter has been slow in coming to fruition due to interrupted communication with leaders and members in Tijuana. The San Diego Section will continue to work with a liaison/Professional Student Advisor to officially establish the chapter.

#### **Annual Business Meeting Highlights**

At the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 14 President Monica Suter, after the pledge of allegiance, led a moment of silence for those District members who passed away since the last Business Meeting, including: Chuck E. Haley, Gary N. Hansen, Yongyao Lou, William (Bill) Marconi, Melvin Meyer Peter B. Moreland, James C. Ray, Dr. Ed Sullivan, Warren S. Unemori and Art Corkey.

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## Legislative Update



**Steve L. Eagan**  
Legislative Chair

**Roberta McLaughlin**  
Legislative Vice Chair

### Lawmaker says gas taxes could fund road repairs

Las Cruces Sun-News (Las Cruces, NM)  
Alamogordo Daily News (Alamogordo, NM)

By Steve Ramirez,

Posted: 08/21/2009 12:00:00 AM MDT

"The possibility of an increase in the federal gas tax to fund transportation projects throughout the nation is not being ruled out," the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said Wednesday. Responding to a question during a panel discussion on sustainable transportation funding at the New Mexico State University Music Center in Las Cruces, NM Rep. James L. Oberstar, D-Minn. said a potential federal gas tax hike or any other ways to increase the federal budget to maintain or improve the interstate highway road system will all be considered. "Everything is on the table," said Oberstar, who has served as a U.S. representative since 1975. "We're open to any other ideas to bring more money to the table. But wherever it comes from, it has to be sustainable."

Oberstar added there is support for the proposal from House leadership. But opponents include President Barack Obama's administration.

Rep. Harry Teague, D-N.M., who serves on the committee with Oberstar, said the chairman has a long-term plan that would provide sustainable funding for federal transportation that merits consideration from Obama's administration.

"We need action now, and President Obama needs to work with Chairman Oberstar," noted Teague.

Oberstar said the budget for federal transportation and related infrastructure is going to be reduced by \$40 million for the 2010 fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, and could be even more. He added that federal revenues have been flat since 2006, that the

federal gas tax has not been increased since 2003, and that the administration of former President Bill Clinton redirected the federal gas tax revenue into the government's general fund during a five-year period. Oberstar posited, "we have to substantially invest in our future. We can't continue to ask the public to fund something that isn't working well."

Oberstar also said New Mexico was among the top third of all states in receiving federal American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funding because it had projects that could be constructed quickly.

"I foresee your state continuing that practice," Oberstar pointed out. "Regardless of what happens, that will be a very good thing for your state because that continued practice should make it easier for New Mexico to become eligible in future for federal road funds." Oberstar was in Las Cruces joining various New Mexico elected officials in a ceremonial ground breaking of a \$52 Million ARRA project to widen I-10 from four lanes to six lanes from Las Cruces to Anthony at the Texas state line.

### Senate Passes Agreement With House Which Allows One Month Extension Of SAFETEA-LU Federal Surface Transportation Program Authorization

The following information was derived from various print media sources. Congress has put off a decision on a new six-year federal surface transportation authorization bill.

Earlier last week, by a 335-85 vote, the U.S. House passed a three-month extension to the existing SAFETEA-LU federal surface transportation program authorization, which was set to expire September 30. The extension keeps the current six-year, \$286 billion program running through December 31.

The Obama administration and Senate leaders have called for an 18-month extension.

Representative Jim Oberstar, Democrat of Minnesota, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, put forward the three-month extension after it became apparent that his wishes for a new six-year package would have to wait.

Earlier this year, Oberstar introduced a six-year package that would provide \$450 billion for highways, bridges and transit systems, plus \$50 billion for high-speed

rail. In recent weeks, however, it became increasingly apparent that the ambitious plan would not be approved by Sept. 30. Late on Wednesday, September 30, the Senate passed on a vote of 62 - 38, a budget resolution that included a one-month extension of the existing federal highway and transit programs.

The resolution was an agreement between House and Senate appropriators that allows the federal departments to continue operating if Congress has not already approved their budgets for fiscal 2010. Senators did not consider a separate bill that would continue the federal surface transportation program through December 31. Senator Barbara Boxer, Democrat of California, Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, reportedly was drafting last-minute legislation to match an extension that the House approved last week.

Boxer's bill also included language to rescind a requirement in the surface transportation bill that would have canceled states' contracting authority for federal funds not already obligated to infrastructure projects.

The Senate adjourned without bringing up Boxer's bill.

## Student Initiatives Committee

We are pleased to announce that Danielle Scharf has been appointed as the new chair of the Student Initiatives Committee. Danielle is an officer of the Inter-mountain Section, and she is an alumni and former president of the successful Montana State University student chapter. Danielle has a great background in student chapter activities and she has worked extensively with mentoring students and younger members. She and Alyssa will be working together for a seamless transition of the committee duties. Please welcome Danielle to the board.





(Continued from page 7)

### 2009 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

President Suter recognized District and International leaders present at the meeting. She also recognized Nate Larson and Will Johnson and the rest of the Denver local arrangements committee for their hard work and successful meeting. She also presented the state of the District indicating that the membership of the District is at 4,858 Members (with 3,912 Voting Members), 16 Sections (Including 1 New Section), 6 Chapters and 32 Student Chapters.

Senior International Director Randy McCourt reported on his experience on the board and a look to the future of ITE.

Cathy Leong, Endowment Fund Chair, reported that the endowment fund has grown to over \$210K and presented awards to the Sections (Colorado-Wyoming Section and Riverside-San Bernardino Section) and individuals (Bob & Barbara Crommelin and Julie & Clark Townsend) that have made significant contributions to the Student Endowment Fund during the past year.

Secretary-Treasurer Edgar Perez presented the proposed budget to the membership. The budget proposed an income of \$444,555 and expenses of \$457,659 and was approved on a voice vote of the members.

President Suter announced future Western District Annual Meetings as follows:

2010 – San Francisco (June 27-30)

2011 – Anchorage

2012 – Santa Barbara

2013 – Phoenix

2014 – Rapid City, South Dakota (Joint Meeting with District 4)

President Suter accepted the tellers' committee report and announced the newly elected District officers for 2009-2010 as follows:

President – Michael Sanderson

Vice President – Edgar Perez

Secretary-Treasurer – Alyssa Reynolds

International Director – Dalene Whitlock (3-year term begins January 2010)

The meeting was adjourned until the Tuesday, June 29, 2010 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.



### TE 2010 Technical Conference and Exhibit

Meeting Transportation's 21st Century Challenges

March 14–17, 2010

Savannah International Trade & Convention Center  
Savannah, Georgia, USA



### Call for Traffic Bowl Questions

ITE is assembling a database of questions to be used by ITE International, districts and sections in conducting student traffic bowl competitions. In the coming years, ITE is planning on conducting an Institute-wide competition among the student chapters, culminating with a competition among the district winning student chapters. Individual members, companies and student chapters may submit questions.

All who submit questions are entered into a drawing for \$500 worth of ITE Script, which can be redeemed for meeting registrations, professional development courses publications, etc. The more questions you submit, the greater your chances

Please visit [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) for additional information



### Featured Web Seminars

- Oct 14 - Developing an Effective Traffic Signal Timing Program
- Oct 21 - Improving Coordinated Signal Operations
- Oct 28 - Improving Performance at Signalized Intersections

Please visit [http://www.ite.org/education/webinars\\_faq.asp](http://www.ite.org/education/webinars_faq.asp)  
for FAQ on Web Seminars

# Section and Chapter Activities

## Colorado/Wyoming

The Colorado/Wyoming Section of ITE had a busy summer! The Section kicked off the summer with our annual golf tournament on Friday, June 26th at the West Woods Golf Club. There were 82 players at this year's Colorado/Wyoming Section golf tournament, and generous donations from our sponsors made for some great prizes and allowed us to raise well over \$300 for the scholarship fund. The winning team included Mike Harmer, Skip Hlad, Chris Paiz, and John Sabo. A special thanks to the golf committee: John Seyer, Craig Faessler, Eric Boivin, John Muscatel, Scot Lewis, and Jeff Ream.

Our Section hosted the Western District Annual meeting at the Sheraton Denver Hotel from July 12th through the 15th. This meeting had attendees from all thirteen states in our district, as well as national and international representatives. The highlights of the three day conference included a keynote address by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) Center for Transportation Technologies and Systems, a multi-track technical program, vendor exhibits, poster sessions, a pub crawl, family night at Elitch Gardens, and an Awards banquet.

The University of Wyoming received the "Student Chapter Award" for the second consecutive year. Their team also won the inaugural Student Traffic Bowl.

Chuck Huffine, Stantec, received the "Best Annual Meeting Paper Award."

The Colorado/Wyoming section contributed \$5,000 to the District 6 Student Endowment Fund.

The Local Arrangements Committee was co-chaired by Nate Larson and Will Johnson. Other Committee members included: John LaSala, Alex Ariniello, Aaron Heumann, Kari McDowell, Paul Brown, Jamie Archambeau, Margie Krell, Sara Karjala, Larry Corcoran and Rhonda Young.

The Colorado/Wyoming Section 2009-2010 election results have been announced. Ben Waldman - Section President, Greg MacKinnon - Vice President, and Christopher Sheffer - Secretary/Treasurer. In addition, Sara Karjala has joined the Executive Committee as our new Activity Report coordinator. The Legislative Committee

Chair position is still vacant. If you are interested, please contact Ben Waldman.

Our first Section luncheon of the season will be held on September 18th at the DTC Embassy Suites. Registration is available at [www.cowyite.org](http://www.cowyite.org). In addition to the business meeting, Bill Van Meter, RTD, will be updating us on FasTracks. The Executive Committee has designated this luncheon as our 2009 "Public Employee Appreciation Luncheon." All public employees are invited to attend for a discounted price of \$15 for ITE members and \$20 for non members.



Kari J. McDowell

## San Francisco Bay Area

On September 17, 2009, high speed rail (HSR) in California was the focus at the SF Bay Area ITE Section's (SFBayITE) first meeting of the year, held at Osha Thai restaurant in San Francisco. Meeting sponsorship was generously provided by Sensys Networks and National Data Services (NDS). Ray Schreiber of Sensys and Bernadette Gilbey of NDS gave brief presentations introducing both firms. Randy McCourt, District 6 (WesternITE) International Director, kicked off the meeting by swearing in the new SFBayITE Board members: Nate Chanchareon (President), Shruti Malik (Vice President), Kamala Parks (Treasurer), and Mousa Abbasi (Secretary). Following this ceremony, Past President Rich Haygood then presented Wing Lok, the newest Past President, with a special plaque honoring his service to the Section as President over the past year.

New President Nate Chanchareon followed with additional Section announcements. Nate introduced two newly appointed Section board members: Bhanu Kala, Sponsorship Co-Chair and Jin Wang, Co-Web Administrator. In addition, at the recent 2009 ITE Western District Annual Meeting in Denver, SFBayITE was named Best Large Section in the District based on the Section's Annual Report detailing 2008 events (see: <http://www.sfbayite.org/annualreport/>). Finally, Nate announced that Dalene Whitlock was elected Western District International Director in Denver. Rod Diridon, Executive Director of the

Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University and a local champion of HSR in California, began the main presentations with an overview of the proposed California HSR system. He first provided project context, noting the numerous HSR systems already operating Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Italy, Spain, and other countries. California HSR is currently one-third of the way through program-level environmental clearance. The envisioned HSR system would be a 790-mile, double tracked system capable of 220 miles per hour (mph) maximum speed, with an expected trip time of 2 hours 40 minutes from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The full system is expected to be in revenue service by 2030.

Next, Camille Tsao, Manager of Planning in Northern California for HNTB Corporation, discussed Caltrain's plans for commuter rail along the Peninsula corridor, which Caltrain will share with future HSRA project-level environmental impact report (EIR) is currently underway and expected to be complete by early 2011.

George Mazur of Cambridge Systematics concluded the technical presentations with an overview of the California HSR system ridership and revenue forecasts. A travel model consisting of intrastate travel was constructed. Forecast results show a large travel market for commute trips of 100 miles or less, for example between San Francisco and Fresno/Central Valley. It was also projected that in magnitude, many of the future HSR stations in 2030 would rival the Burbank Airport in weekday boardings. Expected sources of HSR ridership are 74 percent from auto, 18 percent from air travel, 7 percent from conventional rail, and one percent from diverted/induced demand. Typical HSR systems are very competitive to other modes at the 250-400 mile trip distance range, with autos being more competitive at less than 250 miles and air travel more competitive at greater than 400 miles. The HSR system's distance between the cities of SF and LA will be about 375 miles, placing this system in the "sweet spot" in terms of competitive advantage with auto and air travel.



Andrew Kluter

# Some of the Annual Meeting Winners !



**Student Traffic Bowl Winners**  
University of Wyoming



**TRAFFIC BOWL**  
First Place  
ARIZONA SECTION



**Best Paper Award**  
Chuck Huffine



**Outstanding Student**  
Joshua Crain  
Portland State University



**Best Student Website Award**  
Portland State University



**Outstanding Transportation Educator - Grant Schultz,**  
Brigham Young University



**Student Endowment Fund Awards**  
Arizona Section



**Student Paper Competition**  
Cody Glasnapp



**Best Paper by a Young Professional**  
Smith Siromaskul



**James H. Kell RFP Competition**  
University of California – Berkeley



**Student Endowment Fund Awards**  
Highest Overall Contribution  
Northern California Section



**Outstanding Student Chapter**  
University of Wyoming



**Wayne T. Van Wagoner Award**



**Employer Recognition Award**  
DKS Associates



**Student Endowment Fund Awards**  
Highest Contribution Per Member  
Riverside – San Bernardino Section



**Best Website Award**  
New Mexico Section

**Individual Achievement Award**  
Wayne Kittelson



**WesternITE Editorial Award**  
City of San Diego



**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Ethlyn Ann Hansen



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If selected for this position, you will perform or oversee advanced and complex transportation planning assignments, including project and program management, budget oversight, contract administration, including technical guidance to consultants and contractors and technical staff. You will exercise considerable latitude of independent judgment and serve in a section manager capacity monitoring and evaluating staff and prioritizing and assigning work. It is required that you will need to have a thorough knowledge of rules, regulations, codes and issues involved in transportation planning, as well as familiarity with emerging transportation concepts particularly related to non-vehicular travel modes.

## TRAINING/EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's Degree in Transportation Planning, Transportation Engineering, Public Administration, Urban Planning or other closely related subject from an accredited University and five years of progressively responsible professional planning or administrative experience primarily in transportation planning activities, including at least two years in a project lead/manager capacity.

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**ITE 2010 Annual Meeting and Exhibit**  
August 8-11, 2010  
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



## Call for Abstract

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is accepting abstracts for presentations at the 2010 ITE Western District Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, June 27-30, 2010. The submittal deadline is January 4, 2010.

For Additional information please visit  
<http://www.sfbayite.org/2010/>

On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee and the San Francisco Bay Area Section, I proudly announce the 2010 Western District Annual Meeting to be held June 27-30, 2010, in San Francisco, California.

We will host our conference from Sunday June 27- Wednesday June 30, 2010 at the Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco. In addition to providing ample opportunities for networking, sightseeing, and socializing, the LAC will be working on a high-quality technical program that will include multiple technical tracks, training workshops, and several tours. Please join us in San Francisco in 2010!

Sincerely,

Mark Spencer, PE  
ITE Western District  
2010 General Meeting Chair  
mes@dksassociates.com

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