



News of the South

Fall 1999

Volume 18, No. 3

President's Message

By Slade Exley (Deep South)

I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership, committee members and chairs, and other leaders for their support this past year. The year has moved quickly and the district has achieved a lot. Allow me to spotlight some of the accomplishments of this year.

The Montgomery meeting was very successful and well organized. My thanks to the Alabama Section and the local arrangements committee for the excellent work they did to put on the annual meeting.

The 69th Annual ITE Meeting in Las Vegas this past August brought numerous opportunities for the Southern District to be recognized. For those of you who may not have had a chance to read the annual meeting wrap-up in the October 1999 ITE Journal, the following members, organizations and activities in the Southern District were recognized.

- The **Georgia Section** was presented the **Section Activities Award**. This is the third year in a row the Georgia Section has received this award.
- The **City of Charlotte, North Carolina Department of Transportation** was awarded the Transportation Council's **Best Practices Award** for their project "2025 Integrated Transit/Land-Use plan for Charlotte-Mecklenburg."
- The **Alabama Section** newsletter, ALSITE News, was selected for the **District and Section Newsletter Award** (for circulation less than 250.) **Rebecca D. White** serves as Editor of the ALSITE News.
- **Gaye Garrison Sprague (South Carolina Section)**, our District Director, was recognized at the Honorees and Elected Leadership Dinner for her hard work and dedication while serving on the International Board of Directors. Gaye's three year term of office will expire December 31, 1999. Many thanks to Gaye for all she did to represent the Southern District on the Board!
- **Marsha D. Anderson (Georgia Section)**, Chair of the Goods Movement Council, was recognized for her service as Chair of this committee. Her term will expire December 31, 1999.

Another area that deserves special recognition is our district newsletter, News of the South. Through the visionary efforts of **Gene Arnold (Virginia Section)** and his **Review of Publication Procedures Committee**, we have stepped up the appearance and

continued on Page 2

In This Issue...

President's Message	1
International Director's Report	2
PTOE Exam	3
2000 Officers	3
Vice President's Report	4
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	4
Upcoming Annual Meetings	4
Exec. Board Meeting Scheduled ...	4
Greenville 2000	5
Call for Abstracts	5
Newsletter Survey	6
Transportation Tips	8
A Word of Thanks	10
News from the Sections	10
Call for Nominations	12

New Web Sites of the Southern District

Section Sites:

Kentucky Section at

<http://www.engr.uky.edu/student.orgs/ite/kysection.htm>

Student Chapters:

The University of Virginia at

<http://www.student.virginia.edu/~uvaite>

See the back page of this newsletter for a complete listing of Southern District websites, or go to:

<http://www2.ncsu.edu/sdite/>



News of the South

*News and views of interest
published by the
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communication of our newsletter. The committee's work in 1998 brought about the recommendation to place the newsletter on our website and to notify the membership of its availability through the use of postcards. This process should save the district considerable money in both postage and printing costs.

Also, through the creative efforts and hard work of the newsletter editor, **Colin Kinton (South Carolina Section)**, and the **Publications/Public Relations Committee**, we now have a beautiful district newsletter complete with color format, improved layout and appearance, and color photographs. I believe the work of these two committees over the past two years has raised the bar several notches in setting a high standard for our district organization and for other districts to follow. Great job and many thanks to Colin and Gene for their dedication and hard work!

Finally, I would like to close with emphasizing my thought for the year (Summer 1999 newsletter), which is "**give something back.**" I hope many of you have taken this message to heart and have acted in some manner over the past few months to give something back to the profession. If you have not, it is never too late. Allow me to recommend a new opportunity that will allow you to do so.

International ITE has established "The Millennium Fund" which is a voluntary giving program that will allow ITE to either move to a new facility, or modernize and update their current offices. To make such a change requires capital to invest in the technology and equipment we are all becoming used to having at our disposal. As the staff of ITE has grown over the past 20 years from 12 to 25 (soon to be 28), so has their space needs grown. Likewise, as technology has drastically changed, so have the needs for updated technology for the staff changed.

We as individuals, sections and a district have an opportunity to "give something back" to this great organization and to support their efforts to better serve its members. I hope you will generously support "The Millennium Fund" and view your actions as a means of "giving something back!"

International Director's Report

By Gaye Sprague (South Carolina)

It has been a privilege and an honor to represent you on the International Board of Directors of ITE. I have been proud to report the activities of our Sections and our District. You are accomplishing much for our profession.

Here are some highlights from the August and October Board meetings:

- Institute Finances - The Institute's finances are good. For 2000, more than half of the membership will have a dues increase of three dollars or less. The remaining members will have an increase of five dollars.
- Headquarters Relocation - In order to not increase dues outlandishly to pay for a headquarters relocation, the voluntary contribution drive named the Millenium Fund is underway. We should all try to support this fund as much as we can so that other Institute services will not be affected by the need to relocate. Those giving \$1000 will be named on a plaque, and for \$1500 you can dedicate a Boardroom chair to someone. Don't let these amounts scare you off! Any contribution of any amount is welcome!
- Leadership Retention - If you know of someone who has served in a District or Section office who we need to encourage to continue his or her service to the profession through international ITE, please let Richard or me know. We can help find an opportunity for further participation. Participation at all levels reaps reward

continued on Page 3

PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ENGINEER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The next examination for certification as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) will be in Washington, DC on Saturday January 8th, 2000. The location will be on the George Washington University Campus in Downtown Washington, DC and immediately precedes the annual Transportation Research Board meetings. If you are interested in the taking the exam you should contact Ann O'Neill at the Transportation Professional Certification Board, Inc. (co-located with ITE in Washington). They can be contacted at (202) 554-8050 ext. 113, fax (202) 863-5486 or certificatn@ite.org. Also, a complete registration form is included in the May 1999 issue of the *ITE Journal*. Applications must be submitted before December 10, 1999.

A condensed set of course notes *PTOE Refresher Course Manual* is available to assist applicants in preparing for the examination. It may be obtained from the ITE Bookstore. For ordering information, please contact the ITE Bookstore at (202) 554-8050 ext. 130. Please refer to Publication Number: PD-021.

for everyone, and we need to make sure the opportunities for that participation are known.

- Student Member Upgrades – The trial period for automatic upgrades of student to associate members revealed some problems in that process. The new process will be that graduating students will have a chance to indicate that they are going to work in the field and would like to upgrade their memberships. No application or references will be necessary.
- ITE on the Web – There is more and more information on the web. Look for member-only areas and for opportunities to register for meetings and purchase publications on the web.
- Councils – Please join one and participate! The Goods Movement Council is still active for now but is undergoing reorganization.
- Governmental Relations – This effort continues and has been an excellent addition to the services of the Institute in recent years.
- MUTCD Units – A question from the Tennessee Section instigated a call from ITE to FHWA concerning the potential for the new Manual to be only in metric. FHWA indicated that the Manual will be in dual units. ITE wrote FHWA to thank them for that decision and to urge that measurements be stated so that a 12-inch signal head is still a 12-inch signal head in metric.
- Professional Capacity Building Seminars – This program has been very popular because of its combination of good content and free speakers and materials. Five seminars were available in 1999 in the ITS subject area. Funding by FHWA for next year is being discussed now. Seminars in other subject areas such as NTCIP and Operations and Maintenance may be available. As you plan your meetings, please call Russell Houston at ITE at 202/554-8050 to find out the status of availability of these seminars for use at Section and District meetings.
- Certification Board Report – There are currently 250 PTOEs, and there could be over 400 by the end of the year. Districts and Sections are sponsoring training seminars. A Traffic Operations Practitioner certification is getting closer, and a Transportation Planner certification will be examined over the next year. Please get involved now with the Certification Board if you have any feelings about these certifications!

continued on Page 4

2000 Southern District Officers

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Vice President's Report

By Kenny Voorhies (Georgia)

As your Vice-President, this year has been one of anticipation. I am looking forward to being your District 5 President next year and I trust the highlight for me and all of you will be a great District Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC. I certainly look forward to seeing all of you there.

I have been working with Dr. Ed Clark, the District Technical Committee chair, to create a new part of the technical program. We are going to include a session called "The Showcase of States." The program will be a 15 minute presentation from each of the nine states describing the best, most innovative or most interesting project that is underway or being planned in your state. Each state should caucus between now and April and decide on a project to present. I believe this should be an interesting session.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Jim Meads (Alabama)

The District account has a balance of \$37,405 as of April 15. Thus far this year the District has spent \$4,099.44 and received \$10,802.62.

The current membership total for the District is 1492.



continued from Page 3

- Publications – The Traffic Engineering Handbook update is out. The Institute is trying to decide if/how to proceed toward a traffic control devices handbook. Let Richard know if you have an opinion on the need/direction of that publication.
- International – We now have a Saudi Arabian Section.
- Annual Meetings – The 2009 meeting will be held in San Antonio.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers is more vibrant than ever before. The information on the web, the publications, and the opportunities for participation in technical activities are greater than ever. The public agency membership is an excellent tool to help give more public agency employees a chance to participate in ITE (Thanks for all of your work on that, Hibbett.), and meetings, conferences, and seminars are excellent educational opportunities. Stay involved, get involved, or get involved again if you've been taking a break. Whatever the case, you—and our profession—will benefit. Richard Atkins will be a great international Board member. Call him!

Upcoming Annual Meetings

The Southern District has a rich heritage of conducting informative and educational Annual Meetings, mixed with plenty of social occasions for members to learn from each other. The 2000 International ITE Annual Meeting will be held in Nashville. The following meeting sites have already been approved:

- 2000 — Greenville, SC
Hyatt Hotel: April 16-19
- 2001 — Williamsburg, VA
Williamsburg Marriott
- 2002 — New Orleans, LA
District Five's 50th Anniversary
- 2003 — Winston-Salem, NC
- 2004 — Kentucky
- 2005 — Georgia

Year-End Meeting of Executive Board

The Executive Board will meet on **Friday, December 10, 1999** in Williamsburg, Virginia to wrap up the year's business. Attending will be Officers, Section Representatives, Section Presidents, ABD Representatives and other SDITE leaders. The meeting is open to all Members. John Kaoudis, President of VASITE has planned for meeting arrangements at the Williamsburg Marriott, site of the 2001 District Annual Meeting.



Y2K Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC

You are invited to attend the 48th Southern District Annual Meeting.

April 15 – 19, 2000

**Hyatt Regency Downtown
Greenville, South Carolina**

We have a wonderful time in store for all, so plan to attend and bring your significant other. Don't miss this opportunity to increase your professional knowledge, learn about new technology, catch up with old friends, make new ones, and have a fun-packed time. There's never a dull moment in Downtown Greenville!

Activities planned so far include:

- Sunday kicks off with a golf tournament at Verdae Greens golf club, Home to an annual Nike tour event.
- Sunday evening there will be a reception in the hotel atrium as well as sponsored hospitality suites.
- The ABD is planning a "Carolina-style Beach Party" for a relaxing good time Monday night. Learn the "shag", the official South Carolina State dance.
- Spouses will be kept happy and busy. Shopping the boutiques of downtown Greenville, browsing the local antique shops and a visit to the Bob Jones Art Museum are some of the activities planned.

Informative technical sessions on such topics as:

- Greenville CBD Traffic Plan Implementation
- Parking Program Development
- Reducing Collisions Using Camera Technology
- MUTCD Revisions
- Traffic Safety
- Uses of ITS Data for Planning and Operations
- Professional Development Seminar
- Panel Discussions
- Innovations and Projects from the States in the SDITE

For those of you who would like to come in early or stay an extra day, the beautiful and historic Biltmore House is only one hour away in Asheville, North Carolina.

Special rates are available for those who pre-register: \$140 for members, \$165 for non-members. This year, two-day registrations are also allowed (Sun/Mon or Tues/Wed) at a cost of \$85 per person. Spouse registration is \$90 for the entire meeting or \$65 for two days. Special hotel rates will also be available for attendees.

Look for your registration package coming in February!



Call for Abstracts Call for Papers Y2K Southern District Meeting Greenville, SC

The ITE Southern District invites you to submit **an abstract of a paper** that you would like to have **considered for presentation** at the District's Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC, April 16–19, 2000. An abstract on any paper related to **Safety, Operations, or Planning** for any transportation mode will be considered for inclusion in the technical program. The abstract should be 250-300 words in length and should fill no more than one typed page. The name, title, mailing address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address (or, for multiple authors, that of the person who would be presenting the paper) must appear on the abstract. Please send the original diskette containing the abstract in either Microsoft Word or Word Perfect 5.1 to:

Dr. J. Edwin Clark, Chair
ITE Southern District Technical Council
1643 W. Little River Dr.
Seneca, SC 29672

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **February 1, 2000**.

The District also invites technical papers for the **Outstanding Sponsored Technical Paper** and for the **Outstanding Non-Sponsored Technical Paper** competition. The term "Sponsored" implies that the paper was prepared essentially as part of the author's job responsibility and on company time. The term "Non-Sponsored" implies that the paper was prepared on the author's own time and essentially apart from his/her job responsibility. To qualify for the competition, the paper must meet the following requirements:

1. The author(s) shall be a member(s) of the Southern District.
2. The paper shall be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page, and shall be 1,500 words minimum.
3. The paper shall have been completed since December 1, 1998.
4. The original and five (5) copies shall be submitted to the Chair of the Technical council no later than February 1, 2000.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Clark at (864) 882-9803 or email at bjec@blueridgenet.com.

Newsletter Procedures Survey

This year the Southern District implemented new procedures for distributing our newsletter News of the South. We distributed the summer newsletter and this fall newsletter via the new procedures. Basically, you should have received post cards that announced the posting of the newsletters on the District's web site at . You were then given the option of contacting the newsletter editor to receive a paper copy if you were unable to access the internet and the newsletter, or if you were unable to print your own paper copy if you desired one. The procedure seemed to work reasonably well as the editor has received relatively few requests for a paper copy. However, we are interested in your opinion of the new procedure. Please complete the following survey and return to me via e-mail, fax, or U.S. mail. Thanks for your help.

Gene Arnold garnold@vdot.state.va.us
804/293-1990 (FAX)
804/293-1931 (TEL)
Virginia Transportation Research Council
530 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903

1. Did you receive the post cards announcing the posting of the newsletter on the web site?

_____Yes _____No

2. Was the message on the post card clear?

_____Yes _____No

3. Were you able to access the web site and read the newsletter?

_____Yes _____No

4. Were you able to print the newsletter if you so desired?

_____Yes _____No

If yes, do you have access to a color printer?

_____Yes _____No

5. If you answered No to question 3 or 4, did you call for and receive a paper copy?

_____Yes _____No

6. Do you like the new procedure?

_____Yes _____No

Why or why not?

7. Did you read and/or download the 1999 Yearbook from the web site?

_____Yes _____No

8. Do you like having the Yearbook on the web?

_____Yes _____No _____No Opinion

Why or why not?

9. Any other comments about the newsletter?

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Transportation Tips

Re-printed from the *Traffic Engineering Council Newsletter*
Co-editors: *Martin Bretherton (Georgia), Bridget Smith (District 6)*
& *Eve Barakos-Landino (District 1)*

Design Manuals Online

Compiled by *Martin Bretherton (Georgia)*

Do you have questions about road design issues. The internet can help. There are a few state design manuals available online. The following manuals are available for your use:

California (Cal Trans) manual is at
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/hdm/hdmtoc.htm

The California design manual(6.9 MB) is available to read on the screen or you can download a PDF version (note it is compressed with "Stuffit" not PKZip, so you might need to download the free "Stuffit Expander" via a link on the Caltrans page). You can download the manual by chapters.

Washington (WSDOT) manual is at
www.wsdot.wa.gov/eesc/design/policy/index.htm

The Washington design manual (24MB) is available in PDF format. The manual is available in Metric or English. You can download a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the PDF files.

Alberta DOT (Canada) is at
www.tu.gov.ab.ca/index.htm

The Alberta design manual is available in PDF format.

Utah (UDOT) manual is at
www.dot.state.ut.us/esd/rw-design.htm

The Utah design manual is available using Wordperfect 6.1. There is also a pavement design manual.

Vehicle Stopped Ahead Flashing Sign

by *Martin Bretherton (Georgia)*

There is a two-lane road in Gwinnett County that has been difficult to widen because of political considerations (not in my backyard!). A "T" intersection was experiencing many rear end accidents because of a sight distance restriction. Approaching vehicles could not see stopped vehicles waiting to turn left into the subdivision street (Hazel Ct). There is very little space to add a "run-around" lane because of the fill section on the outside of the intersection.

Gwinnett DOT tried something new. The county installed a flashing warning sign in advance of the intersection. The sign reads "Vehicles Stopped Ahead". There is a small plaque under

one of the flashing yellow lights that reads "When Flashing". The sign installation was placed 510 feet before the intersection. The sign is energized by vehicle actuation using two 6' x 40' loops, one on the main road and one on Hazel Ct. where the cars stop to turn. The loop on the main road has a 2 second delay and a 3 second extension, Hazel Ct. has a 0 second delay and 3 seconds extension. The speed limit on the main road is 45 mph.

The flashing warning sign has reduced crashes. Rear end crashes averaged 3.3 per year for the past 5 years. There have been two rear end crashes since installing the flashing sign(about 21 months of after data) and no crashes in the past 16 months.

To date, the county has not experienced any operational problems with the flashing sign. It is the DOT's hope that one day we will be able to improve the alignment on the main road and 'fix' the problem. The sign is considered an 'interim' solution. .

For more information, please contact Martin Bretherton, P.E., Gwinnett County DOT, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045, (770) 822-7412, fax (7700 822-7478 or email: brethema@co.gwinnett.ga.us

Virginia DOT's Residential Traffic Management Program

By *Bridget Smith*

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), with over 44,000 miles of roadway in its Secondary Road System, is one of only a few state DOTs that operate and maintain local roads. Many of these are located in neighborhoods and subdivisions in the state and, accordingly, residential traffic management is of concern to the Department. Two statewide policies, one addressing through truck traffic problems and one addressing cut-through traffic, are available to help neighborhoods. Additionally, VDOT recently developed a Residential Traffic Calming Guide that specifically addresses speeding on residential streets. These two policies and one guide encompass VDOT's Residential Traffic Management Program.

Truck Restriction Policy – the policy allows for the prohibition or restriction of through trucks from a secondary highway. The criteria used in evaluating the request from the local governing body include the availability of a reasonable alternative route for trucks, the restricted road being functionally classified as a local or collector, and the incompatibility of truck traffic (e.g., engineering of the roadway or accident history).

Cut-Through Policy – the policy allows VDOT, at the request of the local governing body, to implement appropriate measures to mitigate cut-through traffic. An operating guide accompanies the policy. The street must be a local residential street where 40% of the 1-hour, single direction volume (minimum of 150) is cut-through. A petition signed by at least 75% of the total occupied households in the area must also be obtained.

Residential Traffic Calming Guide – the Guide, which is in draft form pending the completion of a 2-year pilot, allows VDOT, at the request of the local governing body, to implement appropriate measures to mitigate speeding problems. The street to be calmed must be 2-lane with a 25 mph posted speed limit or less. The average speed must be >5 mph over the posted speed limit and a petition signed by at least 75 % of the total occupied households in the area must be obtained. Other topics in the Guide include detailed discussion on: 1) the process (resolution, plan development, approval and implementation, and evaluation), 2) traffic calming measures (non-physical and physical with design criteria), 3) traffic volume criteria, 4) optional point system for prioritization, and 5) funding.

During this pilot period, which ends in December 1999, a number of traffic calming projects are being implemented and evaluated, both from the standpoint of how well the process is working and how well the particular devices installed are working. Some information is currently available on this evaluation. It is anticipated that a revised Guide will be published and the program implemented statewide in the spring of 2000.

Contact Gene Arnold at garnold@vdot.state.va.us for more information or copies of any of the aforementioned documentation. (Telephone: 804/293-1931; Fax: 804/293-1990, or Mail: VTRC, 530 Edgemont Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903)

Pedestrian Countdown Signals

By Bridget Smith

Will pedestrian countdown signals be the new rage? At the recent Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, several vendors touted this equipment. The FHWA recently sanctioned a test of countdown signals in the City of Monterey, California. This test took place at two intersections where countdown signals were added to conventional pedestrian signal heads in February 1999.

The countdown signals used in the test were manufactured by Tassimco Technologies, model type PCS 444 and consisted of a standard pedestrian signal with an added display showing the countdown of remaining crossing time. Display digits are between 6 – 8 inches in height and Portland orange. The cost of the countdown device is approximately \$750 per signal head.

Dessau-Soprin inc. evaluated pedestrian and motorist behavior at the test locations. The results summarized in their report “Safety & Behaviour: Behavioural Evaluation of Pedestrians and Motorists Towards Pedestrian Countdown Signals” indicate that

countdown signals discourage pedestrians from crossing when at the end of the clearance interval and encourage pedestrians to accelerate their pace when time is running out or to wait mid-crossing at the median for the next phase. FHWA’s initial concern was that motorists would use the countdown signals to anticipate the signal change. Dessau-Soprin found that this was not an issue.

The City of Monterey has received tremendous interest and support for this new device and plans to utilize it at several other intersections with crosswalks requiring a clearance interval of more than 15 seconds. For more information or a copy of the final report, please contact Rich Deal, Monterey’s City Traffic Engineer, at Public Works Department, City Hall, Monterey, CA.

PED HEAD START

by Jack Lucero Fleck

“Ped head start”, also known as “early release”, is a signal timing strategy that allows pedestrians to leave the curb before vehicles are permitted to turn. Vehicles are held at the red signal for a few seconds while pedestrians traveling in the same direction are given a “walk” symbol. After pedestrians have entered the intersection, vehicles are released. The City and County of San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic recently implemented ped head starts downtown near the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and found that they improve pedestrian safety and comfort at busy intersections.

Engineers conducted a before and after study, defining a pedestrian “preemption” as a case where a vehicle turned in front of a pedestrian crossing in the crosswalk on a green signal. If the vehicle turned after the pedestrian passed but had not yet reached the curb, it was not counted as preemption. After implementing a ped head start, preemption dropped 65-76 percent at the locations studied. Motorists exhibit more respect for pedestrian right-of-way where ped head starts are in place. Pedestrians were released five seconds before vehicles for the before and after study, but San Francisco engineers are currently experimenting with other time intervals.

For more information, contact Jack Lucero Fleck at the City and County of San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic at 415/554-2344 or jack_fleck@ci.sf.ca.us. You may also reach him at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 345, San Francisco, CA, 94102.

SPEED LUMPS

by Karen Shipley

City of Sacramento Department of Public Works staff and residents have been concerned with finding a way to slow traffic on residential streets that are transit bus and emergency response routes. Working in partnership, staff from Traffic Engineering Services, Fire Department, Street Maintenance and Sacramento Regional Transit have developed a new modified speed hump, which is being called “speed lumps”.

see Tips on Page 15

A Word of Thanks

Doug Robert - Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award Winner: To my fellow peers—it is indeed humbling (to say the least) to receive recognition first from the people you know, love, and respect, and secondly from a career which you know, love, and respect. I was in shock for quite some time and wonder how I could be chosen over the many quality people in our ITE group. This certainly should be a motivation for the younger people to keep working hard and loving the profession through ITE.

As you know, there is rarely enough recognition given to those who “make it better” every day in their own communities. This award made me anxious because it brings with it a responsibility to continue that challenge especially through our group. It also energized me, which I wish could be shared with everyone, and I will try.

This has been the highlight of my career and thank you, my friends.

G.A. “Lonnie” Yates - Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award Winner: I am doubtful that my attempt to verbally express how I feel about being awarded the “Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award” can match the deep appreciation I have experienced.

When I consider all those members of the Southern Section and now the Southern District that have received this award before, it is very humbling to realize that my peers have seen fit to place me in that company. I can only assure the membership of this fine organization that I will continue to support the Southern District in every way that I can.

Over the years I have been impressed that Herman Hoose was always there to help in the presentation of this award as long as he was able. I have also been impressed by his career, his impact upon

see Thanks on Page 11

News From The Sections



ALABAMA SECTION

We’ve had a busy year! The 47th annual meeting was a great success. We enjoyed hosting the district and hope that everyone that attended had a great time. The technical sessions were excellent and the ABD really put on a fun evening with “A Night at the Races.”

Our spring meeting was held in conjunction with the district meeting. We had a business meeting with 15 members in attendance.

The annual meeting was held in Gulf Shores, AL. The Deep South section joined us this year. The highlight of the meeting was the “traffic bowl.” A jeopardy style game with lots of transportation questions. The teams were divided by states: Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Louisiana’s team won! The annual auction raised over \$3,000.00 for our scholarship fund.

Our fall meeting was held at the Talledega Super Speedway on October 7. The 61 members and guests that attended enjoyed a special welcome to the track and an informative technical session. We all will have to admit the highlight of the day was taking a lap in the pace car!

The Alabama section officers for 2000 are:

- President Tim Taylor
- Vice President Stacey Glass
- Secretary/Treasurer Becky White
- Past President Robby Anderson
- Section Representative James Brown
- Asst. Affiliate Director J. G. Meyer
- Affiliate Director Walter Dorsey

The meeting locations for 2000 are:

- Tuscaloosa Spring Meeting
- Gulf Shores Annual Meeting
- Auburn Fall Meeting



GEORGIA SECTION

On 12 October, the Georgia Section sponsored the ITE refresher course for the Professional Traffic Operations Engineers Certification exam. Eleven participants attended. The course covered the subjects of Traffic Studies, Traffic Operations, Operational Effects of Geometric Design, Traffic Safety, Traffic Control Devices, and Social Environmental Legislative/Regulatory Issues. On 6 November, twelve individuals sat for the exam. The reaction to the exam questions were mixed. Some said the exam was difficult while others said that the questions were tricky. Currently, there are four Georgia Section members who are certified. Good luck to those who sat for the exam; soon, there will be sixteen section members with the PTOE certification.

It is interesting to note that the number of PTOE participants was small. When the Georgia Section began discussing the possibility of hosting the exam, it was thought that perhaps as many as fifty members would sit for the exam. Much discussion among the members took place. Some indicated that there was no need for the certifications. Others said that certification is the right thing to do. Still others suggested that the market place would dictate the need. Perhaps, only time will tell where the PTOE certification is headed.

The Georgia Section again won many awards in 1999. John Hibbard, our Section President, received the Joe Thomas Young Member Award. Way to go John! The Georgia Section received the ITE Best Section Activities Award. This is the third year that the Section was the recipient of this award. The Best Student Chapter award was given to the Georgia Tech Student Chapter. Martin Bretherton, Vince Edwards and Jun Miao were recognized as runner-ups for the Outstanding Sponsored Technical Paper award. To each and all, keep up the good work.

The September Section lunch meeting was hosted by the Southern Poly Tech Student Chapter. Mr. Steve Parks, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation and an alumnus of Southern, spoke on "The Future of Transportation in Metro Atlanta." During the 1999 State legislative session, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) was established. Mr. Parks spoke to the role of GRTA, its relationship with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Since Mr. Parks worked hard on the formation of GRTA his expertise and insights were very informative.

The Georgia Section October meeting was an evening meeting. Mr. Jack Boose of Parsons Brinckerhoff lectured on light rail using the "Light Rail Primer" as a reference. He explained in detail the concept and notion of light rail including the advantages, disadvantages, and how light rail can contribute to the reduction of congestion. He also discussed how light rail fits into the State transportation plan and how GRTA could potentially use light rail rather than heavy rail.

Mr. Joey Ledford, the "Lane Ranger" for the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) spoke at the November luncheon meeting. Mr. Ledford writes a daily traffic column for the AJC – ergo the pseudonym the "Lane Ranger". He actively participates in Georgia Section activities including the monthly and annual meetings. Often, he uses the transportation expertise of the section members to ensure the accuracy of his column. He brought fun and laughter to the noontime crowd. For approximately a half-hour he presented quotes from the AJC Vents and from his own personal diary. Two quoted Vents were:

"It seems that no matter where my husband parks, the lines have always been painted crooked."

"I know the Mercedes-Benz is a luxurious car, but I saw a lady brushing her teeth while driving! Do they have sinks?"

Its good to laugh!!!!!!!!!!

For the year 2000, the Georgia Section of candidates are:

President:	Betsy Williams
Vice President:	Wassim Selman
Secretary/Treasurer:	John Funny Bayne Smith
District 5 Representative:	Martin Bretherton Steve Puster
Affiliate Director:	Teresa Epple Jimmy Roper

The ballots are due and will be opened on 9 December at the annual holiday meeting.

Future meetings are as follows:

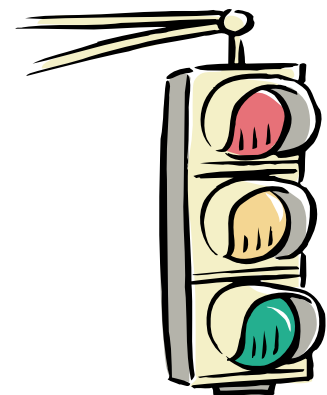
Event	Date	Location
Annual Holiday Meeting	12/9/1999	Druid Hills Golf Club 6:00 PM
February Lunch Meeting.	2/10/2000	TBA
March Lunch Meeting.	3/9/2000	TBA

Thanks continued from Page 10

the many that knew him and worked for him and his impact upon the organization of ITE. It is my one regret that he was no longer with us to be a part of this presentation.

John Hibbard - Joseph M. Thomas Outstanding Young Member Award Winner: It was a tremendous surprise — and such an honor — to receive the Joe Thomas Young Member Award in Montgomery this year (1999). I've known Joe going back to being in school at Georgia Tech, where he and Pete Parsonson conducted the traffic signal short courses, and my respect for him has grown over the years.

The ITE family, at Section and District levels, has been very good to me, both professionally and personally, and it has been a real privilege to have such support, and recognition from my peers. Thanks again to the District, and especially the District Awards Committee, for such recognition.



Call for Awards Nominations

One of the rich traditions of SDITE is that we recognize our fellow members who have distinguished themselves through individual achievements. The three most prestigious awards - the Hoose Award, the Hensley Award, and the Thomas Award - are presented annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the District and to our profession. The selection of recipients is based on personal traits such as integrity, morality, and leadership; individual accomplishments such as traffic engineering innovations, technical research, and paper writing; and organizational service such as meeting participation and committee work. These awards are described as follows.

The Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award is bestowed upon an individual who, over a period of years, has contributed outstandingly to the advancement of transportation engineering and to the SDITE.

The Marble J. Hensley Individual Activity Award is granted to an individual who, over the previous year, has contributed outstandingly to the advancement of transportation engineering and SDITE.

The Joseph M. Thomas Young Member Award is provided to an individual who, over the person's young professional career, has contributed to the advancement of transportation engineering and SDITE. The recipient must be under the age of 35.

The Awards Committee depends on the membership to identify candidates for these three awards. Nominations for the awards have been solicited directly from District Officers, Section Representatives, and Section Presidents; however, anyone in the District is welcome to make a nomination for all or any of the awards. Please take a few minutes to think about fellow colleagues whom you feel fulfill and exemplify the criteria identified above. The nominee does not have to be a

continued on next page

NORTH CAROLINA SECTION

North Carolina Section Forms Administrative Council

The North Carolina Section (NCSITE) moved forward in implementing their strategic plan by establishing an Administrative Council under the NCSITE umbrella. Membership of this Council consists of approximately 25 senior transportation professions from the Federal Highway Administration, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, local transportation departments, and private transportation consultants.

The mission of the NCSITE Administrative Council is to provide leadership to transportation professionals in North Carolina by:

- Promoting leadership development of our members
- Providing legislative information to our members and support to our policy makers
- Providing forums for identifying and resolving strategic issues
- Promoting pro-active sharing of information between and within transportation agencies
- Promoting public education and public involvement

During 1999 the NCSITE Administrative focused on the strategic issue of providing integrated transportation planning in North Carolina. The first meeting in 2000 will focus on a second strategic issue of providing effective leadership development training for our professionals.

For additional information, contact Richard Atkins.

Speaking of Richard Atkins... Congratulations go out to Richard on his retirement from the City of Greensboro! After thirty-one years of dedicated service, Richard has decided to explore a more relaxed lifestyle in the field of consulting and will be spending his retirement years with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. Richard should have plenty of challenges ahead as he will also be sworn into office in the next two weeks as the Southern District's International Director. He can be reached at (336) 851-1006, FAX (336) 851-0601 or email at ratkins@neel-schaffer.com.

SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION

Greetings from Sunny, South Carolina! Lou is having a tough time over at Chicken U, but everyone seems to be pretty understanding about the whole thing...I guess people are just focused on too many other things. Roger Dyar has left his position with the City of Greenville to work with ARCADIS in what we call the Upstate. Mike Ridgeway has been named as the Acting City Traffic Engineer, and according to Gaye Sprague is doing "a really good job!" Gaye will be providing technical assistance on an as needed basis. Contracts like that are even more important now that the International Headquarters of Sprague & Sprague has moved to plush new accommodations at 3101 Augusta Road in Greenville. Her new phone number is (864) 242- 3106. Ed Hutchinson has recently returned home to the Planning Commission at Greenville County. Ever vigilant to seize an opportunity, WSA observed all of this renewed activity in the Upstate and transferred Gary Thompson to a field office outside of Greenville. In his new position, Gary is supervising construction of several roads serving the new Michelin Tire Complex, working on traffic control plans for projects like the Southern Connector (one of the State's biggest design/build projects), and pursuing other traffic engineering opportunities.

Meanwhile down in the opposite end of the State, the big news coming out of the Low Country is that Charleston is at least a step closer to having a replacement for the Cooper River Bridge. The consultant team headed by JMI was recently selected to build a new main span (almost 1700 feet long!), two approach spans, and two new interchanges. The cost for such a little project? At least \$ 420 million.....

In Columbia, Luke Fant closed his consulting practice in order to join Jordan, Jones and

Goulding. Meanwhile, back at the farm. . . .Rick Wertz and the rest of the SCDOT Traffic Engineering went through the joy (and agony) of updating their office space in the headquarters building. They report that the new wiring actually lets them run more than one computer at a time now!!!

TENNESSEE SECTION

The Tennessee Section ITE Board held its Summer Meeting on May 23rd to 25th in Gatlinburg in conjunction with the "Southeastern Local Roads Conference". At the meeting, Tennessee Section members expressed their concern to the Southern District Representative Gaye Sprague about the Federal Highway Administration's apparent decision to publish the upcoming edition of the MUTCD in Metric units only. The Tennessee Section asked Gaye to discuss this with the International ITE Board in light of many State DOT's recent reversals from metric units back to English units.

Two additional meetings were held in 1999. The Annual Meeting was held on July 23rd and 24th in Nashville. An auction was the highlight on Friday night with the proceeds going to the scholarship fund. The technical program and business meeting were held on Saturday with elections for the 2000 officers. A three-day continuing education seminar on the "Using the National ITS Architecture for Deployment" was planned as part of the meeting.

On October 24th to 26th, the Fall Meeting was held in Oak Ridge in conjunction with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The Tennessee Section is initiating the development of a web page. It should be on-line this Fall.



VIRGINIA SECTION

VASITE held its Spring Meeting in Williamsburg on March 23. The meeting was jointly sponsored by VASITE and ITSVA. Approximately 115 people were in attendance to listen and learn about pertinent transportation issues. Topics discussed included:

- Incorporating ITS into the regional planning process
- Status of the I-64 MIS
- Electronic Toll Collection implementation on Richmond's Downtown Expressway
- Media and public viewpoint of ITS deployment
- Technology's impact on the transportation industry
- Economic impact of Light Rail Transit in Tidewater
- Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project
- USDOT perspective on National ITS Architecture and Standards
- Local Technical Assistance Program for transportation professionals
- Status of ITS implementation in Virginia

The section is embarking on a Strategic Plan initiative (Vision 2000). A survey of the membership was conducted in late spring. A report from the committee has been submitted to the board that includes recommendations for first year initiatives.

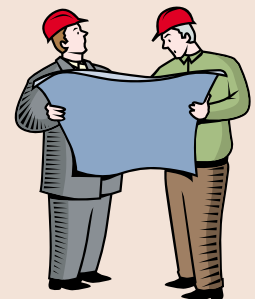
The Annual Meeting was held in Virginia Beach on June 24 and 25. Attendance for the event was approximately 135, one of our best showings in recent years. The technical program was punctuated with the following topics:

- Legislative issues (Bills and Access Management)
- Roundabout Design and Applications

member of your Section. Ideally, all nominations from a Section should be submitted through the Section's Representative; however, this is not a mandatory process and anyone in the District is welcome to submit directly to the Awards Committee. You may contact the Chairman of the Awards Committee (see below) to receive a Nomination Form.

Nominations must be received by January 22, 2000.

If you have any questions or to request a Nominations Form, contact Bob Stammer, Jr., Chairman of the Awards Committee, at (615) 343-8061, (615) 343-0670 (FAX), or docbob@vuse.vanderbilt.edu (e-mail).



- Red Light Camera applications and experiences
- Traffic Calming experiences
- Traffic Impact Study experiences

The following officers were elected for the Year 2000:

President Valerie Henchel, Intermodal Engineering
 Vice-President Warren Hughes, Bellomo-McGee, Inc.
 Secretary/Treasurer Mike Martin, Edwards and Kelcey, Inc.
 District 5 Representative Bill Cashman, Langley and McDonald
 Affiliate Director Karen McPherson, Kimley-Horn
 ITE Director Tim White, Wilbur Smith Associates

Continuing to serve in 2000 are:

John Kaoudis Immediate Past President
 George T. Rogerson, Jr. Director (AFF)
 Joseph T. Wallace Director (ITE)

Three awards were given at the Annual meeting:

Distinguished Service Award Thomas M. Slaughter
 Outstanding Individual Activity Award Lynn E. Allsbrook
 Young Member Award George Rogerson, Jr.

The fall seasonal meeting was held in Charlottesville with over 75 individuals in attendance. The meeting theme was “Approaching the 21st Century” with the following topic areas being covered by thirteen speakers:

- Pedestrians and Bicycles
- Traffic Operations and Safety
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Transportation Planning

Three continuing education training courses were presented during the year. A one (1) day course on “National Transportation Communication For ITS Protocol and ITS Standards” was held on March 22nd in Williamsburg in conjunction with the Spring Seasonal Meeting, a two (2) day hands on computer workshop on Synchro was held on August 24th and 25th in Hampton, and a one (1) day course on Chapter 9 of the Highway Capacity Manual was held on October 8th in Charlottesville in conjunction with the fall seasonal meeting.

Planning for the 2001 Southern District Meeting in Williamsburg is well underway. The Local Arrangement Committee held an organizational meeting on June 25. VASITE is fully aware of the tremendous amount of work required to conduct the meeting and is working diligently to prepare for 2001.

Current membership as of October 25th stands at 488 that reflects 65 new members since the first of this year. It is projected that the 1999 goal of obtaining 500 members will be achieved by December 31st. A brochure prepared by the Public Relations Committee was introduced at the Annual Meeting to explain the benefits of membership in VASITE and encourage requests for membership applications.

The Scholarship Fund balance is currently over \$24,500 as of October 25th. Over \$1,000 was raised with the Annual Golf Tournament held on June 23.

A joint meeting is planned with the North Carolina Section for June 2000 in Virginia Beach.

Tips continued from Page 9

The speed lumps design incorporates a six-foot center lump with one-foot cutouts on either side. Buses and fire trucks straddle the center lump. Some passenger vehicles may also straddle the lump depending on their wheelbase; however, most vehicles will need to slow down to go over the speed lumps.

Speed lumps are currently being testing on two residential streets. After a trial period of two to three months, the speed lumps will be evaluated for their effectiveness in slowing traffic. If successful, a speed lump program will be developed for use on transit bus and emergency response routes citywide.

For more information, contact Karen Shipley at the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works at 916/264-8365 or kshipley@cityofsacramento.org. You may also reach

Court Gives Green Light to Humps

by Martin Bretherton (Georgia)

On June 23, 1999 the District Court of Appeal of Florida, Second District (Case #98-02595) unanimously (3-0) ruled on the City of Sarasota's appeal of the injunction enjoining the City from erecting speed humps and speed tables on City streets and removing all previously placed speed humps and speed tables. The court ruled the plaintiffs, Robert Windom and John Hartenstine lacked standing and reversed the summary final judgment entered against the City.

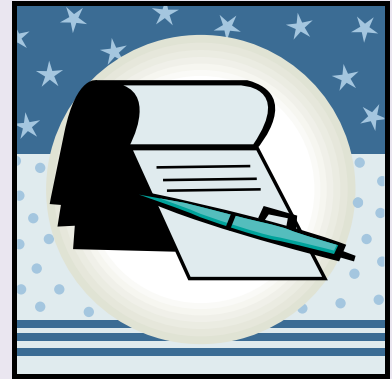
The plaintiff filed suit against the city claiming the speed humps were not in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices(MUTCD) and the city must install all traffic control devices in accordance with the MUTCD. Circuit Judge Robert Bennett ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in 1998. This was a precedent setting case that could effect every jurisdiction in Florida and their speed hump program.

The District Court ruled the plaintiffs did not have standing because:

1. They lived in different neighborhoods within the city, and neither is required to traverse any of the speed humps or tables for normal ingress or egress to their residence.
2. The Florida DOT may require a public agency, such as the City, immediately to remove an offending device, but the DOT never took any action to direct removal of the City's speed humps or tables.
3. The plaintiffs possess no private cause of action and accordingly, lack standing to institute such a claim.
4. The power to challenge the installation, rests not with the plaintiffs, but with the Department of Transportation.
5. Where litigants who bring an action challenging governmental injury are unable to distinguish their situation from others similarly situated, the result is an unwarranted consumption of limited judicial resources.

In conclusion, this is Florida law and may not apply to your state but it would appear that the District Court did not rule out additional legal action about the legality of speed humps/tables. The entire ruling can be read on the web at <http://jud10.flcourts.org/2ndDCA/june99/98-02595.htm>.

For more information, please contact Martin Bretherton, P.E., Gwinnett County DOT, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045, (770) 822-7412, fax (770) 822-7478 or email: brethema@co.gwinnett.ga.us or Don Galloway, P.E., City of Sarasota, (941) 316-1434. The author thanks Mr. Galloway for his assistance in preparing this article.



Have you always wanted to submit an article to be published in *News of the South*, but didn't know how to do it? Now you do.....all you have to do is e-mail your submittals to Colin Kinton at ckinton@wilbursmith.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is November 15, 1999. Don't delay, send us your news today!

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

"*News of the South*" is the official publication of the Southern District(5) of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) , which is the professional society for transportation engineers in the Southeast United States. It is affiliated with International ITE which is an international professional engineering society.

"*News of the South*" is published three times per year. Any comments or suggestions on the format or content are welcome. News on members, the Sections, or the profession should be submitted to the Editor. E-mail address: ckinton@wilbursmith.com



Web Sites of the Southern District

International Institute of Transportation Engineers: <http://www.ite.org/>

Southern District ITE: <http://www2.ncsu.edu/sdite/>

Sections

Alabama Section: <http://www.alsite.org/>

Deep South Section: <http://www.civil.msstate.edu/org/dsite>

Georgia Section: <http://traffic.ce.gatech.edu/itegeorgia/>

Kentucky Section: <http://www.engr.uky.edu/student.orgs/ite/kysection.htm>

North Carolina Section: <http://itre.ncsu.edu/ncsite/index.html>



Student Chapters

Auburn University: <http://www.auburn.edu/department/ce/>

Mississippi University: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/ite>

North Carolina State University: http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stud_orgs/ite/

University of Kentucky: <http://www.engr.uky.edu/ce/studentto.html#ite>

University of Virginia: <http://www.student.virginia.edu/~uvaite>

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