President’s Message

Jim Westmoreland (NC)

It is both an honor and a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve as the President of the Southern District of ITE in 2010. ITE has always been my professional organization of choice and this year, I hope to give back a little of what the profession and so many of you have given to me over the years: leadership, support, friendship, and opportunities to grow/develop our profession and get involved in ITE.

This year, I have developed an aggressive agenda I call “SDITE Connections 2010”. The core purpose of “SDITE Connections 2010” is to better connect you and our Sections with the many on-going activities and resources of the District, Sections, and International ITE. Over the years and based on feedback I have received from many of you, I have come to realize that to be successful and receive the highest benefit and value out of our ITE membership, we need to continually develop and implement tools that enhance our communications, information sharing, and involvement while, maintaining and improving all of those past traditions and elements that make SDITE special and great!

So as you review “SDITE Connections 2010” (and if by chance you stumble upon one or two items that catch you attention and call you to get in the game), please do not hesitate to contact the goal Chair or me about getting involved. Remember what mama said, “the more you put into something, the more you get in return”. So what are you waiting for? Get connected with SDITE in 2010. We need your help and good ideas.

Savannah to Host ITE Spring Meeting

Held in cooperation with the U.S. DOT–FHWA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and in collaboration with the Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers, ITE will be hosting this year’s Spring Technical Conference in Savannah.

The conference will feature technical sessions, conversation circles, seminars and interactive learning experiences to facilitate networking, understanding of national policy initiatives and application of state of the practice tools.

In addition, ITE is working collaboratively with the Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (T&D) to coordinate the technical program for this conference. This will serve as a lead-in to T&D’s Green Streets and Highways Conference, November 14–17, 2010, in Denver, CO, USA.

Join us in Savannah to share your ideas and experiences. Exhibits of transportation products and services will also provide a one-stop shop for attendees to view and discuss the latest product and software advances in the industry.
Past President’s Report
Karen Mohammadi (KY)

I count my blessings that this year has been a great year to be President of SDITE. I have been surrounded by dedicated officers and committee chairs that make this job much easier than it could have been. The organization is a well-oiled machine and many of our best achievements for 2009 had literally nothing to do with me but to all of the committee members who continuously keep this organization moving forward. I thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

One item I decided to focus on this year was better communication between the officers and a better way to keep our officers engaged throughout the year. To address this, I started monthly conference calls between the officers (Jim Westmoreland, Time White, Bob Stammer, Craig Hanchey, and I). Becky White joined in after being named Secretary-Treasurer elect, and Bill Seymour joined as the SP Chair.

As President there are a great number of items that come up each month that need to be addressed. This forum allowed each of us to bring item of discussion to the table so that we could resolve SDITE business quickly. Boy, did we have a lot to discuss. I strongly suggest that this model stay in place.

I applaud the Section for making great progress on the following items:
- Fabulous Birmingham Annual Meeting
- New Educator Award—District and International Participation
- Revised Annual Meeting Manual and Great Support
- New Website
- Improved Student Outreach and Potential New Student Section
- Leadership Development Training
- Recognition of Traffic Bowl at International ITE
- Creation of Logo Competition
- Movement on Administrator Position

Although it goes without saying, the Section was extremely proud to have been represented by Hibbett Neel in his run for International President and will most certainly benefit from his experience. What a great ambassador for SDITE! I wish great success to Troy Peoples in his candidacy and hope that he can benefit from Hibbett’s experiences.

Thank you all for a great year.

Connections Initiative Seeks to Strengthen ITE Involvement
Jim Westmoreland (NC)

SDITE Connections 2010 is an initiative to strengthen relationships and awareness between you as the membership and the activities and resources of the District, Sections, and International ITE. Some of the strategies of Connections are:

- Develop and distribute quarterly e-mail news bulletin to membership (“The Connector”). Highlight SDITE news, SDITE resources, Section best practices, ITE meeting opportunities, and Student Chapter news. Terry Snow – Chair.
- Develop quarterly conference call forum for District Reps. and Section Presidents to share best practices. Jim Westmoreland – Chair.
- Develop, sponsor, and implement two SDITE Student Chapter Webinars or Webcasts (e.g., “What’s in IT for me?” and “Choices and options for your future – public, private, academic”). Scott Walker – Chair.
- Continue Implementation of SDITE’s Strategic Plan. Bill Seymour – Chair and Team leaders.
- Provide SDITE Leadership Development Program in (2-3) other sections – Richard Atkins – Chair.
- Appoint District Administrator and determine duties/responsibilities by Annual Meeting. Jim Westmoreland – Chair and Executive Committee.
- Establish SDITE Budget Review Committee (review current/past SDITE budgets and operations and, provide recommendations for future). Tim White – Chair and four (4) Past Presidents.
- State DOT Involvement in ITE. Survey State DOT/SDITE members to determine and document how they are involved in ITE. Troy Peoples – Chair.
- Section Scholarship Programs Best Practices. Survey Sections to determine and document best practices of scholarship programs. Craig Hanchey – Chair.
- Conduct Bimonthly SDITE Leadership Coordination Calls. Jim Westmoreland – Chair and SDITE Leaders.
How This Bird Can Help Your Career

Social sites provide instant information to ITE members

Social networking sites are growing as a mainstream source of communication for agencies, organizations, companies, and individuals. If you haven’t made the leap into them yet, here’s a quick overview.

ITE has Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts to take advantage of social media networking with members. If you are new to social media and need some helpful information, keep reading below for information about how you can connect with ITE through the fastest-growing social networking sites. Now is the time to join in and get connected.

**Facebook**

Facebook users can add friends, send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, and school or college. ITE uses Facebook as a tool to interact with ITE members. We share upcoming ITE events as well as those of related organizations, inform friends about ITE news and open our fan wall for comments and suggestions.

**Twitter**

Twitter is a free social networking and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author’s subscribers who are known as followers. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or, by default, allow open access.

For ITE, Twitter is primarily a one-way communication tool to disseminate information to our members. We tweet information of note about ITE as well as re-tweet items we find interesting and relevant.

**LinkedIn**

LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site mainly used for professional networking. The purpose of the site is to allow registered users to maintain a list of contact details of people they know and trust in business. The people in the list are called Connections. Users can invite anyone (whether a site user or not) to become a connection. ITE’s group on LinkedIn provides member-generated content. Group members pose questions and advertise jobs regularly. A weekly news digest is sent to members of the group. ITE also uses this venue to advertise its events.

Each of these sites require users to register by providing an email address and password. Uploading a picture also helps (remember, these are social sites), but isn’t required. Use of the sites is free. Have fun!

The IBOD Report

Bob Stammer (TN)

The ITE International Board of Direction (IBOD) works diligently to oversee the “nuts and bolts” of our organization. Bob Stammer (TN) represents the Southern District on the IBOD and provides an update on some ITE issues.

**Strategic Planning**—Work is continuing on MEGA Issues such as Workforce Development, Safety, Management and Operations, Designing for All Users and Public Image/Public Relations. International ITE has also worked diligently on implementing a Strategic Planning to guide the Institute. We need to continue to work for understandable and identifiable actions.

**Membership and Services**—Latest report is that we are within 70 voting members of being where we were last January, 2009. Please pay your dues and encourage others to do the same. On the services side, we are having discussions about allowing two “free” council memberships.

**Finances and Staffing**—ITE Annual Operating Budget is ~ $ 8 million per year. Targeted reserve is 75% of this or $6 million. ITE has not been immune to the economic downturn, and we have had to dip into reserves. They are projected to be about 60% at end of 2009, which was a target number in the 80’s by IBOD. Six staff positions have been eliminated in 2009, and staff now numbers 26. Importantly, there is NO DUES INCREASE for 2010.

Portsmouth Gearing Up...
*Kirsten Tynch, Tim Foster and John Yorks (VA)*

On behalf of the 2010 SDITE Local Arrangements Committee, it is a great pleasure to invite you to the 58th Annual Meeting of the Southern District ITE from April 11-14, 2010, in beautiful Portsmouth, Virginia.

The Southern District ITE has a tradition of bringing together transportation professionals from academia, government and private practice. It is a place where we meet to learn and to exchange practical ideas and experiences while socializing with colleagues, mentors, friends and family. As always, the conference will provide a variety of sessions led by our fellow transportation professionals. As we continue to work toward our meeting, we encourage anyone who would like to make a presentation to please contact us. Our theme - "Trails, Rails, and Sails...Turning the Tide on Multi-Modal Transportation" - will be interwoven throughout the presentations and events.

In your spare moments, Portsmouth awaits - offering strolls through the historic Olde Towne area and along the waterfront of the Elizabeth River. Excellent restaurants are just a walk or ferry ride away. The Children's Museum of Virginia, Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, Nauticus Maritime Museum and the Battleship Wisconsin are nearby for adults and kids enjoyment. April is a great time to visit Portsmouth as spring is in bloom.

The SDITE Annual Meeting is always a great opportunity for transportation professionals to come together. We look forward to seeing you in Portsmouth in 2010.

**Special Session Planned at 2010 Annual Meeting**
*John Edwards (GA)*

The development of the SDITE Leadership Development Program is complete and a successful pilot test was conducted last year in the Georgia Section. The SDITE Leadership Oversight Team is pleased to announce that an abbreviated form of the program will be offered on Wednesday April 14, 2009 in conjunction with our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, Va.

Three modules were selected to give our members a taste of 14 modules in the complete program. The Leadership Overview will be presented during the opening session of our seminar, and will be open to all who care to attend. Two additional sessions will be presented as small group, interactive sessions with a maximum of 20 persons, rotating though both sessions.

In order to plan for meeting facility logistics, participation in this seminar will require advance registration. There is no additional cost for participating in this seminar.

**SDITE Transportation Leadership Overview (Dan Turner)**

Serving in a leadership role provides opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. Participants will receive information about five key leadership characteristics, eight core practices, the difference between managers and leaders, and what’s most important in motivating today’s employees.

**Effective Leader Communications (Dan Turner and John Edwards)**

Surveys of employees indicate that a leader’s ability to communicate effectively is the number one reason they like and trust their leaders. Participants in this session will receive information about the many forums for communications, potential barriers to effective communications, tips for becoming a more effective listener, and suggestions for enhancing internal communications.

**Conducting Effective Meetings (Bill Seymour and Richard Atkins)**

Transportation professionals spend a large portion of times in meetings; but few of us holding a leadership position have been formally trained in conducting meetings. Participants will learn of twelve key steps and will be provided written materials, a template for meeting announcements and meeting assignments.

**How to Register**

- Register directly by going to the 2010 SDITE Annual Meeting website
- Respond to the written Annual Meeting information package provided by the Local Arrangement Committee.
2009 Marks Great Strides for SDITE Strategic Plan Efforts

Bill Seymour (KY)

On behalf of our Goal Area Team Leaders, I am pleased to share some of the accomplishments of the SDITE Strategic Planning Committee during 2009:

**Leadership Development**

- Conducted pilot leadership training sessions with a small group of transportation professionals in NC to refine the Leadership Development Training program
- Completed Leadership Development Training modules
- Conducted pilot leadership training sessions at the Tennessee Section Summer Meeting
- Conducted complete Leadership Development Training for the Georgia Section in two, two-day sessions in September and November

**Information Communication and Outreach**

- Continued work on updating the website through a private consultant
- Plan to finalize responses and input to complete website update soon
- Encouraged sections to have members become more active in outreach efforts, especially to school kids
- Powerpoint presentations developed by members for outreach efforts are and will be posted on the website for members doing outreach presentations

**Workforce Development**

- Distributed student survey to students members and student advisors
- Working with Technical Knowledge Team on a joint session for the 2010 Annual Meeting
- Working with IC&O on Powerpoint presentations for outreach efforts

**Technical Knowledge**

- Planning a professional development session for the Annual Meeting in Virginia - Leadership Development
- Working with WFD on a joint session for the 2010 Annual Meeting
- All sections have now compiled the technical knowledge from websites in their states. The webmaster has all the latest information. The information was published in the latest edition of the newsletter.

**Annual Meetings**

- Update of LAC Manual almost completed – includes text, spreadsheet and timelines for various tasks
- Looking at Operations Manual to see where overlaps may occur

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**Strategic Planning Committee/Team Leaders**

Bill Seymour (KY), Chair
Technical Knowledge - Martin Bretherton (GA)
Annual Meeting - Cindy Pionke (TN)
Workforce Development - Jeff Moore (KY)
Leadership Development - Brent McKinney (NC)
Info/Communications/Outreach - John Van Winkle (TN)
International Traffic Bowl Preps for Inaugural Matchups

*Southern District champ to see worldwide competition*

Preparations are underway for the 2010 ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl with district events being conducted in the coming months. The traffic bowl is a knowledge competition among ITE student chapters, similar to TV game shows, such as the College Bowl or Jeopardy, but with a transportation engineering and planning flavor for the clues, questions and answers.

The first step for your student chapter to participate in this inaugural event is to compete in your district’s competition. Over the next 8 months, each district in the United States and Canada will conduct their competition to select their representative to the international event. Most of the district traffic bowls will be held during a district meeting.

Each student chapter that wins the district competition will receive a plaque and be eligible to compete in the competition taking place at the ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Members of the student chapter teams that compete in Vancouver will receive a complimentary registration for the ITE Annual Meeting. Each of the teams will be eligible for a $2,000 USD grant to assist travel and accommodation costs. Grants will be awarded on site in Vancouver. The student chapter that wins the competition will win $2,000 USD.

Contact your district traffic bowl chair today for more information. Get ready for this special competition. Good luck and we hope to see you in Vancouver!

For more information, contact:

John Davis, Chair – ITE International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Committee

v: 262.522.4905

E-mail: DavisJ@AyresAssociates.com

The International competition will draw from the information found in these texts:

- Transportation Planning Handbook, 2nd edition
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- ITE Web site, www.ite.org

Initiated by the Alabama Section, second and third place prizes will be awarded by SDITE as part of the Temple Challenge. The new award structure is as follows:

The 1st Place Winning School receives $3,000 from the ABD
The 2nd Place Winning School receives $1,500 from SDITE
The 3rd Place Winning School receives $750 from SDITE

For the International competition, the rules have changed (slightly). For a copy of the official traffic bowl rules, contact Dyan Damron (dyan.damron@neel-schaffer.com).
Outreach Presentations to Become Available

John Van Winkle (TN)

One project that the IC&O committee has undertaken is both an outreach program and a website enhancement. As members have responded to our committee’s call to share with us their experiences with developing outreach programs, we realized that the best way to share these ideas was to catalog these electronic presentations on the new website.

Once the website update has been completed, we will be creating a new library of sample outreach PowerPoint presentations that have been developed by members and made available as a reference for others preparing their own presentations. While we do have several presentations already available, we will continue to work to increase our library by inviting more members to send in presentations that they have made in the past.

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The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a comprehensive update to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) on December 16, 2009. Reserve a copy from ITE and it will ship in mid-March 2010. The cost is $100 for ITE members. If you order by March 1, you can take advantage of free domestic UPS Ground shipping. Use discount code MUTCD at checkout from ITE.org.

The deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2010 for the first Transportation and Development Institute (T&DI) Green Streets and Highways Conference, taking place November 14-17, 2010 in Denver.

February 12 is the deadline for early-bird registration for the Spring Technical Conference March 14-17, 2010 in Savannah. ITE.org for more information.

ITE HQ Relocation Update

Paul Eng-Wong (International President)

Since our move 10 years ago, technology enhancements have made it possible to host seminars with instructors conducting courses remotely for students scattered throughout the world. Collaborative efforts have benefited from linking participants from remote sites. We have hosted many thousands of visiting members, world leaders in our profession, representatives of governments, allied associations and policy makers. We plan to use our new space at 1627 I (Eye) Street, NW, Washington, DC, in the Army and Navy Club Building, to continue to further the mission of the Institute, and the design will help us to do so. For our new office, we are working to incorporate state-of-the-art science technologies to continue and expand these efforts.

ITE's new headquarters is two blocks from the White House and within a block of both the Farragut North and Farragut West Metro Stations.

The leadership of the Institute asks that you help us to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Institute and its move to a new office by contributing to the 80th Anniversary Headquarters Office Fund. We are seeking your contributions toward the reception area, conference room and seminar and briefing broadcast room to make this space most functional—a space that reflects favorably on the Institute and its past, present and future. We are seeking to raise $200,000. The Executive Committee of the Institute has begun this effort by contributing more than $10,000. Contributions will be recognized and opportunities for specific sponsorship are available.

Additional information concerning specific opportunities to endow conference room furnishings, reception area furnishings and the seminar and briefing broadcast room will be available on the ITE Web site.

Thank you for your generosity and support of ITE.
News of the South — Newsletter of the Southern District (5)

"News of the South" is the official publication of the Southern District (5) of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Any comments or suggestions are welcome and should be submitted to Jeff Hammond, Editor (615) 370-8410, jeff-hammond@rpmtraffic.net

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