

# Criteria for Evaluation of the SDITE Technical Paper Awards

(Based on the SDITE Operations Manual)

Technical Awards:

To promote innovative, professional, and technical approaches to transportation engineering challenges. The “Call for Best Technical Papers” is intended to generate competition and encourage member participation on a technical level. The Southern District will sponsor two competitions:

1. Best Technical Paper - Awarded for the best technical paper submitted by an active ITE member(s) of the Southern District or state section (see Section 8.11) at two levels:
  - a. Best Individual Member Technical Paper – A paper prepared as part of or in conjunction with the author’s job responsibilities (sponsored) or prepared as a result of independent research or effort and apart from or beyond the author’s job responsibilities (non-sponsored).
  - b. Best Technical Paper by a Young Member or Group of Young Members – Either sponsored or non-sponsored paper prepared by a member or group of members 35 years of age or less as of January 1, 2023.
2. Papers prepared as part of a course of study for college credit or toward a degree will not be considered for these awards; rather, such papers may be eligible for the Student Paper competition described elsewhere in the Southern District ITE Operations Manual.
3. Format - Papers shall be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page, and shall be a minimum of 1,500 words in length. It is recommended that papers not exceed 2,500 words in length. Papers may include charts, graphs, and photographs to illustrate key points, hypotheses and conclusions, but the primary criteria for judging will be based upon the ability of the author to present his or her case in writing. It is recommended to limit electronic submissions to less than 5Mb in file size.
4. Submittals must be accompanied by full contact information including name, state section, street address, e-mail address, daytime phone number, and which Technical Paper competition they are to be considered. Authors wishing to be considered for the Young Member Technical Paper Award must indicate their age.
5. Authors must indicate their availability to present their paper at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA, upon submittal. Every effort will be made to notify the winners prior to the early registration deadline for the meeting.
6. Submittal - Papers must be submitted electronically to <https://ite.secure-platform.com/sdite/organizations/main/home> . Submissions must be formatted in Adobe Acrobat (pdf or equivalent).
7. Forward questions to the Southern District Technical Knowledge Team Chair, Kevin Cole; [coleka@cdmsmith.com](mailto:coleka@cdmsmith.com).
8. Deadline for submission of papers for the 2023 competition will be ~~January 15, 2023~~.

**Extended Jan 30, 2023**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### From the Southern District ITE Operations Manual:

8.11.2. Name of Awards – “Best Technical Paper Award” and “Best Young Member Technical Paper Award”

8.11.3. Evaluation Criteria for Papers - Five parameters shall be utilized to review the papers. These parameters and weighting factors are as follows:

1. Originality (20%) - To what degree do the subject matter and conclusions treat new ideas or call for a radical change in present thinking? How imaginative and original was the approach? To what degree were the qualities of inventiveness and ingenuity exercised?
2. Significance (20%) - To what extent are the contents of the paper a major contribution? Will it have a significant impact on safety or on major social factors?
3. Scope and Format (20%) - To what degree is the paper complete in relation to its stated purpose? Is the report well organized and illustrated to emphasize the important points and to read logically from the introduction to the conclusion? Is it as concise and simple as possible, consistent with the full expositions of data and reasoning essential to the conclusions?
4. Validity (20%) - How sound are the approach, data, and reasoning utilized in the paper?
5. Applicability (20%) - Can the results of the paper be applied in a practical manner toward solving traffic engineering or transportation problems? Does the paper lean toward practical, or theoretical applications?

8.11.4. Selection of Award Winners - Each year, winning papers will be selected for both the Best Technical Paper and Best Young Member Technical Paper categories. A runner-up (honorable mention) paper may be selected for each category. No ties will be permitted. If, in the opinion of the Awards Committee and the Executive Board, no papers qualify for these awards, none will be given for that year.

8.11.5. Form of Award – Plaques or framed certificates for winners and runner-ups (honorable mention). The District may also, depending on budgetary considerations, offer a full registration to the Annual Meeting to the award winner in each category, and a half registration to the second-place winner in each category, or a cash equivalent award.