



**CANDIDATE STATEMENTS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION**  
**Candidate for Secretary / Treasurer**

## **Chris Kirby, PE, PMP**



### **Candidate's Professional Biography**

- Education:
  1. Master of Science, Transportation - University of Tennessee, 1997
  2. Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering - University of Tennessee, 1996
- Career: 26 Years of Experience (15 years with CDM Smith)
- Registrations: Professional Engineer (PE) in TN, Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Memberships: Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE, SDITE, & TSITE), Project Management Institute (PMI)

### **ITE Service Summary**

- SDITE Member Services (Current) – Co-Chair
- SDITE Leadership Development (2015-2019) – Chair
- SDITE Strategic Planning Committee (2015 & 2021) – Member
- SDITE Education / Student Chapters Committee – Member
- SDITE Local Arrangements Committee (2007) – Registration Chair
- SDITE Audit Committee (2010) – Member
- SDITE Leadership Development Instructor and Graduate (Current)
- SDITE Awards – Private Sector Employee Outstanding Service Award (2019)
- TSITE Officer – Secretary Treasurer (2008), Vice President (2009), President (2010), Past President (2011)
- TSITE Section Representative (2017-2018)
- TSITE Committees (Served as both Chair and Member of these Committees over the Years) – Audit, Awards, Career Development, Nominations, and Scholarship
- TSITE Strategic Planning Committee (Current) – Member
- TSITE Awards – Ed Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award (2019), Tennessee Section Outstanding Individual Award (2012), Jack Humphries Young Member Award (2006)

### Other Volunteer Service

- Emerald Youth Foundation Just Lead Program, Smithwood Church Deacon Chairperson, Smithwood Church Trustees, Boy Scouts of America Den Leader & Assistant Scoutmaster, Second Harvest Food Bank (Scouting for Food), & coaching kid's sports teams (baseball, soccer, basketball...whatever my kids are into at the time).

### Discussion Points

- **Reasons for running for office:** ITE and specifically SDITE and TSITE have been my organizations of choice since my years in college. I treasure the shared experiences I have had with so many other ITE members and the relationships formed. To that end, serving the organization became a passion for me early on in my career and it is this passion for service that leads me to pursue SDITE office.
- **Discussion of the candidate's goals and priorities as a member of the Executive Committee:** I have had the privilege to actively serve on the past two strategic planning committees (2022 & 2027) and have attended board meetings as the Member Services Co-Chair / Leadership Development Chair since 2016. My goals and priorities would align with the strategic plan and current practices of the board as I feel those plans and practices have been vetted to reflect the membership's main concerns and interests. Specifically, my main focus areas would revolve around communication, organizational structure & process, financial, people development, member engagement, external influence, and section support.
- **Discussion of how the candidate anticipates accomplishing his/her goals:** As the member services co-chair, I am consistently amazed with what all our volunteers accomplish. Truly, with several tough COVID years it is impressive how we have all adapted and come together as an organization. To that end, to accomplish my goals (the goals of our organization), my priority would be to "work" the 2027 Strategic Plan. I see myself as a servant leader and my main responsibility would be to support all the wonderful volunteers we have in place and give them the resources they need to excel and to better support our membership.
- **Discussion of the challenges and opportunities the candidate believes the profession will face in the coming three years:** What an exciting time to be alive! We have all experienced trial and tragedy to continue to survive as an organization. As I have said before, I think it is remarkable how we have responded. Certainly, the challenges of what our workspaces and workplaces will look like in the coming years will be a challenge. Technology will certainly come into play to give us better communication tools. However, I think it will be important not to lose sight of "connection" with each other. Our heart and soul have always been this in-person connection we share with each other at our Annual Meeting and other venues. To that end, I believe a challenge will be to balance virtual experiences with in-person experiences at both our SDITE level and our profession. I see technology and data continuing to change the landscape of our profession in big ways. Specifically, big data, smart city technologies, and "the internet of things" applications are constantly stretching us and getting us to think in more and different creative ways.
- **Discussion of the challenges and opportunities the candidate believes the Sections, District, or international ITE will face in the coming three years:** Certainly, I believe the same challenges we face in our profession with the evolution of the workplace, technology, and maintaining a meaningful "connectiveness" apply to all facets of ITE. In my opinion, I think we have identified a mission critical element in our strategic planning. That element is to bring in the next generation(s)

of ITE Members and ITE Leaders. I have always had a passion for leadership development, and I think it is key to get new young individuals on board as ITE members, and also to prepare our young leadership for their leadership journey in our profession.