Letter from the President

PTOE, TOPS, TSOS, PTP... what do these acronyms all have in common? Yes, they are all certifications offered through ITE (for professional traffic operations engineers, planners, signal operations specialists, and traffic operations practitioners). But also, each of these certifications requires that we maintain ongoing records of our professional development hours.

So what constitutes a professional development hour (PDH)? It does vary for different certifications, and also varies by the state or province where you are a licensed Professional Engineer. ITE defines a professional development hour as time spent in an educational sense with the clear purpose and objective of maintaining, improving or expanding professional skill and knowledge.

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ITE Washington Section presents:

“RTID and Sound Transit Ballot Measures”

You read about it in the newspaper. You’ve seen it on TV. This Fall the voters of the Puget Sound region will be faced with an important decision - To what level will our region fund projects addressing traffic congestion now and in the future. The RTID (Regional Transportation Improvement District) and Sound Transit 2 ballot measures will ask voters to approve a $6.7B funding package funding transit and roadway improvements in the region. The funding is proposed to be comprised of a 0.1% increase in local sales and use tax, which is 1¢ on a $10 purchase, and an excise tax of $80 on every $10,000 of value on a vehicle.

At the March 20 ITE meeting RTID representatives of RTID will provide us with an overview of this important decision.

LOCATION Microsoft Auditorium at Seattle Public Library in Downtown

DATE Tuesday, March 20

TIME 11:30 a.m.

COST Payable by cash or check to “ITE Washington Section”

We will have Lunch Boxes ($20) and selections are:

1) Roasted Veggie Focaccia
2) BBQ Chicken Salad
3) Brazilian Grilled Steak Sandwich
4) Salmon Nicoise Salad

Lunch boxes include chips, fruit cup, cookie and bottled water.

RSVP By Thursday, March 15 to Iris Cabrera at ITERegistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Additionally, study should relate specifically to one or more of the following categories:

- traffic operations analysis
- operational effects of geometric designs
- traffic safety
- traffic control devices
- traffic engineering studies, or
- social, environmental, and institutional issues in traffic operations practice

The PTOE requires 45 PDHs per certification period of 3 years. Many other jurisdictions and certification programs require similar levels of effort.

Have you ever had trouble tracking the time spent in these areas? I know I have! But did you know that you can track your PDH activities online on the ITE website? It’s very easy and I highly recommend it. Just go to www.ite.org and click on the Professional Development tab at the top. On the drop down menu that appears, select Professional Competency Record Keeping. Just enter your ITE membership number and password as directed, and you’ll see how to enter activity. I’ve been storing data there for the past 5 years and find it to be very helpful.

Professional development should never be a chore. Hopefully attending regular ITE programs and training, together with additional training and conferences is a rewarding experience, an opportunity to learn and expand our knowledge, and last but not least, time well spent towards accumulating those PDHs!

I look forward to seeing you at our next program.

Sincerely,

Kerensa Swanson,
President, ITE Washington Section

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How to become a Member of ITE:

"When becoming a first time local member of the Washington State Section of ITE, fill out the application online at http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm (Click on the "Membership" link) and send a check for the annual dues to the Membership Chair. Once the Membership Chair receives the application and annual dues, he/she will forward this information to the ITE National Headquarters in Washington, DC. For subsequent years, each member will be billed for his/her annual local dues by the ITE National Headquarters. If you are interested in becoming a National and District member as well, contact ITE National directly to fill out an application form (http://www.ite.org/)."
To submit your business card, please send a jpg or tif file of the desired ad to Nick Ching at nching@hntb.com. Also send a check for $100 (covers through December 2007) to Nick Ching:

HNTB
600 - 108th Ave NE, Suite 405
Bellevue, WA 98004
Direct: (425) 456-8551
Fax: (425) 456-8600
Mark your calendars to attend the Student Night on May 15th at Rock Salt restaurant on Lake Union. This year, students are invited to prepare a traffic calming plan for a neighborhood within the Puget Sound region. The students will present their ideas through a poster board open discussion with the professionals followed by a brief presentation of their plan to the whole group. At the end of the evening, the professionals will all vote to determine the best traffic calming plan presented.

We are also continuing our fundraising efforts for the Student Activities Fund. Our goal is to send at least five students to the District 6 meeting in Portland, Oregon this year. Both personal and corporate donations are welcomed. If you would like to donate to the fund, please feel free to contact any of the Student Activities committee chairpersons.

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**2006-2007 Washington ITE Membership Directory**

Preparation of the 2007/2008 Washington Section Membership Directory is underway! We are working to update contact information for our members and solicit advertisers for the directory. If you have changes in your contact information please update the Membership Committee; more information is available on the ITE Washington Section website under the membership tab. A limited number of full page color advertisements will be available as well as black and white advertisements in full page, half page, quarter page, and business card sizes. The advertisements in the directory are used to offset the cost of directory reproduction. We hope to keep the advertisement rate the same as the previous directory. We will be able to confirm advertisement costs when we have a better idea of advertising interest. If you are interested in advertising, please contact Matt Nolan of the Directory Committee (matthew.nolan@metrokc.gov) for more information.

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**PROFESSIONAL TRANSITIONS**

- Pamela Wrenn (formerly at Parsons Brinckerhoff) has accepted an offer at Carter & Burgess.

ITE Member Transition information will be added to future newsletters. Please forward any updates on your personal and career developments to Nick Ching at nching@hntb.com

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**Newsletter Contact Info**

If you have any changes in your contact information, please let us know so you continue to receive monthly ITE e-mail announcements and newsletters. To update your information, click on the "Membership" link on the Washington State Section ITE website: [http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm](http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm)
February is the traditional full-day combination of business, presentations, and display of product vendors for Washington ITE Section and Northwestern Section of IMSA. Always a favorite, this year’s meeting held on the 26th at the SeaTac Doubletree Inn, gathered the two transportation groups along with local vendors to share new ideas and past experiences. The event was well attended with 101 registered members and guests as well as over 30 vendor displays, along with walk-ins that stopped by to talk with vendors or just participate in the technical sessions.

This year’s technical session agenda was particularly heavy on traffic signal operations topics. Being one of the highest profile traffic control device, the proper operations of a signalized intersection or corridor is crucial to safety and congestion management. Appropriately scheduled, Henry Schellert (US Traffic Corp) started the first technical session with a presentation on the history and technical specifications of a NEMA controller and cabinet. Rounding out the controller and cabinet information, Saeed Nowkhasteh (WSDOT) provided a comparison of the 170/2070 platform to the NEMA. Both presentations provided vital information to those new to traffic signal operations as well as veterans of only the NEMA or 170.

The next technical session focused on signal coordination and communications. John Tatum (Snohomish County/City of Marysville,) presented on their successful coordination of signalized corridors following the “Signal Timing on a Shoestring” (FHWA) document. And to help facilitate success for the City of Lynnwood, Paul Coffelt (City of Lynnwood) presented on their successes and challenges in building the communications link to the various devices that assist the Engineer.

Presenting on ITS Systems, Dick Adams (City of Lynnwood) shared information on Lynnwood’s fiber system that serves as a pathway to control 55 traffic signals as well as feeds from adjacent signals outside of Lynnwood. Further assisting the Engineer are such packages that translate controller and software-format data to a more commonly usable form such as Excel for reports and analysis. Jerry Hautamaki (HNTB) provided information on advancements in electronics technology such as video detection, communications switch gear and wireless communications to greatly elevate the level of traffic management for tolls, HOV enforcement, driver advisory and more.

Breaking for Diablo Chicken lunch, Tim Newkirk (CH2M Hill) asked the vendor representatives to introduce themselves. The Vendors play a vital role in providing the latest information and support on technology and tools available to agencies. Members could drop by any of the vendor’s displays throughout the day to request information on the various products and services available.

The fourth technical session was presented by Kim Roberts (King County) on IMSA certification. In order to keep its members up to date on the best practices of construction and maintenance of signal systems, the following classes and exams were created; Work Zone Traffic Control, Traffic Signals, Signs and Markings, Roadway Lighting, Fire Alarm, Public Safety Dispatch, Inspections (Traffic Signals.)

For more information, the speaker’s presentation materials may be downloaded from the web at: http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/Meetings/Feb2007Meeting.htm
Reminder Call for Abstracts

2007 ITE Washington Section Annual Meeting

June 11, 2007, Yakima, WA

This year’s Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament for the Washington State Section of ITE are just around the corner! The date is June 11, 2007 (June 12th for the Golf Tournament) in the City of Yakima. For those planning ahead, the location is the Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center. The number to call for reservations is 1.800.733.5466 or direct to the Hotel at 509.248.5900. The room rates are guaranteed at $75.95 for single or double occupancy ($60 for government employees with ID of employment) and $85.95 for 3 or more occupants ($80 government rate, confirm at time of reservation). The golf tournament at the Annual meeting is to be at Appletree Golf Course (Yakima) with an approximate start time of 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12.

Some abstracts for presentation at the meeting have already been submitted for consideration and we are anticipating a great meeting with a great variety of topics. We are particularly interested in hearing from members from the Eastern side of the State to balance our program and give the Western membership a chance to see what happens on the other side of the Cascades (although we are still considering abstracts from all members!). We are still interested in a technical training session for a portion of this meeting and are planned for approximately two hours in length. Please consider submitting an abstract of a study you would like to have considered for presentation or a technical training session that you would like to facilitate at the June meeting event. Thank you in advance for your participation! Other activities include lunch and keynote speaker, and a poolside BBQ on Monday evening.

Abstracts should include title of paper, author/presenter(s), contact phone number and email address. Please keep abstract description to one (1) page in length. All abstract submittals should be forwarded to Sherman Goong at:

Email:  sherman.goong@ci.bothell.wa.us
Fax:    (425) 486-2489
Mail:   c/o City of Bothell Public Works
       9654 NE 182nd Street
       Bothell, WA 98011

2006-2007 Washington ITE Monthly Meeting Calendar

ITE Washington Section programs generally occur on the second Tuesday of each month. The following dates and program topics are currently planned:

- March 20, Tuesday - Luncheon - RTID/ST/Seattle Tax Ballot
- April 17, Tuesday - Luncheon - Joint Meeting with ITS
- May 15, Tuesday - Dinner - Student Night
- June 11, Tuesday - Annual Meeting - Annual Meeting Program
- July 15-18, Sunday-Wednesday - District 6 Meeting - Full Program
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