WASHINGTON STATE SECTION / INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm

ITE WASHINGTON

Letter from the President

To the members of the Washington State Section of ITE, let me begin this month's message with a simple expression of gratitude.

Thank you for responding.

Kevin Chang
WA Section President

In January, a member survey was sent out to determine if our programs were meeting your needs and to identify areas of improvement. You were joined by over 160 other members from across the state who provided input, and because of your active participation, I want to make certain that I share with you these results in a timely manner.

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SAVE THE DATE

Bicycle/Pedestrian/Non-motorized Activities

Seattle has been at the forefront in adopting non-motorized transportation improvements including on-street bike lanes (1972), road diets (1972) and multi-use trails (1975). In 2011, Seattle was designated a Platinum-level Walk Friendly Community but getting to platinum is never easy. As Seattle prepares to implement the next generation of non-motorized facilities including neighborhood greenways and separated cycle tracks, Brian Dougherty will give a planner's overview of non-motorized projects including traffic and safety benefits, data collection and evaluation, outreach challenges and lessons learned.

Brian Dougherty is a transportation planner with the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Traffic Management Division. Since 2008 Brian has been planning and implementing non-motorized projects including arterial bike lanes, neighborhood greenways, safe routes to school, and ADA spot improvements. He also produces the city's annual Bicycling Guide Map and is the SDOT staff liaison to the Pedestrian Advisory Board. He has a B.A. from Marlboro College.

WHEN Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM Lunch Meeting

VENUE Safeco Plaza
1001 4th Avenue, 33rd Floor Conference Room
Seattle, WA 98154

As this meeting focus is on non-motorized activities, we are encouraging our members to consider alternative modes of travel. However, we recognize that a downtown Seattle lunch meeting, despite the public transportation and non-motorized options offered, can be challenging for some of you. ITE-Washington will provide a small $5 parking subsidy if you must drive in order to attend.

COST $15 for boxed lunch

MENU Bring your own brown bag or please select one of the following boxed lunch options from Mr. Gyro (each of which are accompanied by a side of hummus, a side salad, pita bread and water):

1. Beef Gyro
2. Lamb Gyro
3. Chicken Sandwich
4. Falafel Sandwich
5. Veggie Sandwich (Hummus, Tzatziki, Tahini Sauce, Lettuce, Cabbage, Tomato, Cucumber, and Onion)

RSVP Please register by RSVP'ing to Carla Nasr itewaregister@gmail.com as early as possible, but no later than Friday, March 9th at 5:00 PM.

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When asked to identify the factors that influenced your decision to attend a monthly meeting, the topic, not surprisingly, was identified as the factor that most strongly influenced your decision to attend (4.4 average, on a scale of 1 (no influence) to 5 (strong influence)). The location (3.8) and time of day (3.2) were also contributing factors.

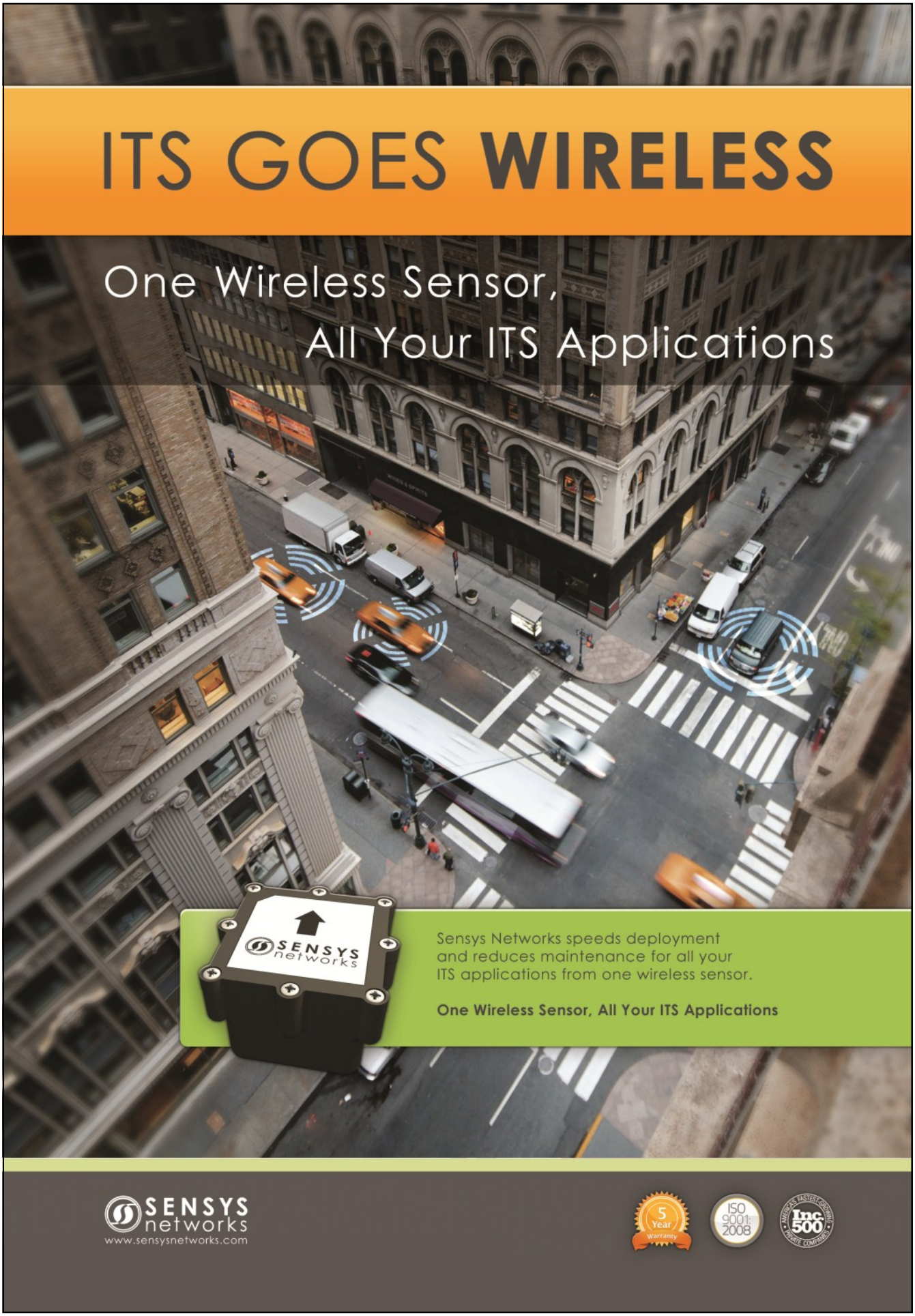
We provided a list of topics for future meetings and asked you to identify your top three choices. The MUTCD topped the survey, with 40% of you including this topic in your top three. Pedestrian facility design and operations (38%), traffic management centers and signal systems (36%), major regional design and construction projects (32%), and bicycle facility design and operations (29%) rounded out the top five. For those of you interested in non-motorized design and facilities, you will be pleased to know that our March meeting, presented by staff from the City of Seattle, will focus on this particular subject.

When asked about how we currently distribute our newsletter, over 65% of you preferred our current method of a direct e-mail with the newsletter attached. The remaining subset of responders asked that the newsletter be posted directly to the website and that an e-mail be sent to members with a link provided. We will continue to work on reducing the file size of the newsletter so that it does not occupy so much space in your mailbox.

When we gave you the opportunity to provide additional feedback, many indicated that the location and/or time of day of our monthly meetings prohibited you from being able to attend. As a native of Eastern Washington, I am particularly sympathetic to my "509" colleagues who simply are unable to take several hours out of their day to travel and to attend one of our lunch meetings. When we have held a half-day workshop or full-day conference, some of you from Eastern and Central Washington have invested the time to attend, and I hope that we can broaden our geographic range of meeting sites in the future, or find ways to remotely foster and encourage your participation. Along these lines, the 2012 ITE-Quad meeting, hosted by the Oregon Section this year, will be held on Monday, June 4th in Vancouver, WA. I hope that many of you from across the state will consider attending. (Because of the Quad meeting, our regular end-of-year June meeting and awards presentation (Monday, June 11th) and golf tournament (Tuesday, June 12th) will still be held, but we will be compressing our traditional day-long annual meeting into a shorter event. More details will be provided in the weeks to come.)

Lastly, when asked if you would be interested in being more active in ITE-Washington, over 20%, or about 35 of you, indicated that you would be interested. As you might expect, our monthly meetings, newsletters, and various programs held throughout the year could not occur without the dedicated service of our many committee chairs and members. If you are interested in being more active, an important first step would be to contact me or any of the committee chairs. Our contact information can be found on our website, and we would enthusiastically welcome your increased participation and involvement.

Kevin Chang, President
itewapresident@gmail.com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Scribe Report

By Paul Cho, City of Redmond

February Meeting (Monday, 2/13/2012)

This month's ITE/IMSA joint conference and Vendor Exhibition drew a strong mix of professionals involved in planning, designing, constructing and maintaining our traffic/transportation systems along with specialists that supply the necessary tools and materials. Up 17 from last year, 53 vendor booths displayed the safest and most efficient technologies available to the 106 (two more than last year) registered for the luncheon meeting hosted at the SeaTac Double Tree hotel. In addition to the registered participants, walk-ins were also welcomed to attend the morning technical sessions and afternoon vendor training.

Sandwiched between the information sessions, the joint ITE/IMSA luncheon meeting was kicked off by Lawrence Guan (Parsons Brinkerhoff) who introduced ITE Washington section president, Kevin Chang. Mr. Chang recognized those from ITE as well as IMSA involved in organizing the event. He continued with announcements of the upcoming events such as the Quad Meeting and the annual ITE meeting; both in June. Mr. Chang then invited IMSA NW section president Allyson Thompson (Yakima) to the podium. Ms. Thompson recognized IMSA officers and announced the June IMSA NW section annual meeting in Vancouver, WA.

Lawrence Guan then introduced the main speaker, Michael Forbis (WSDOT). Mr. Forbis provided a recap of traffic signal technologies that dated back to the 1800s and rolled into the 1960s as WSDOT deployed their CCTV and reversible express lanes technology talking over twisted copper pair and microwave. With more driver information, we (politicians) saw congestion and wanted to find out how we can address this. Soon more devices were deployed to manage the congestion but drew a big challenge; how to talk with the ever growing number of devices? The devices only communicated through a closed proprietary communications link that changed from one manufacturer to another.

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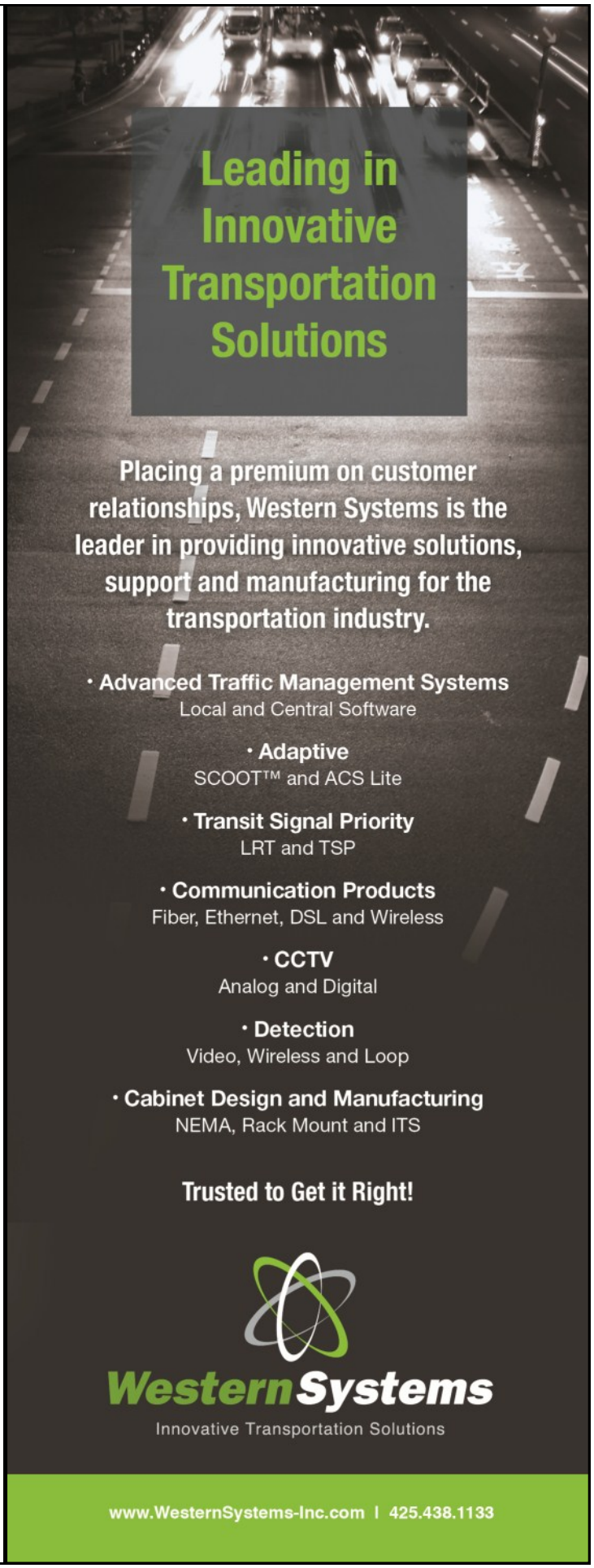
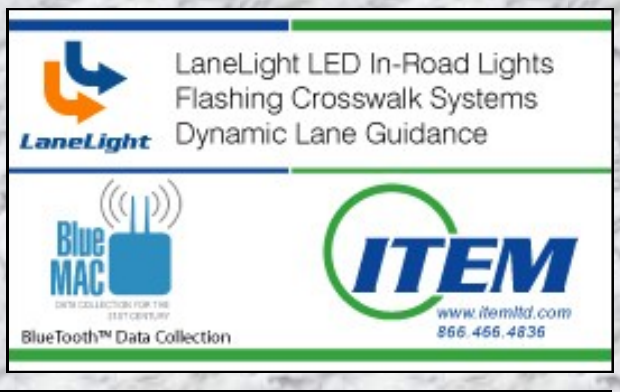
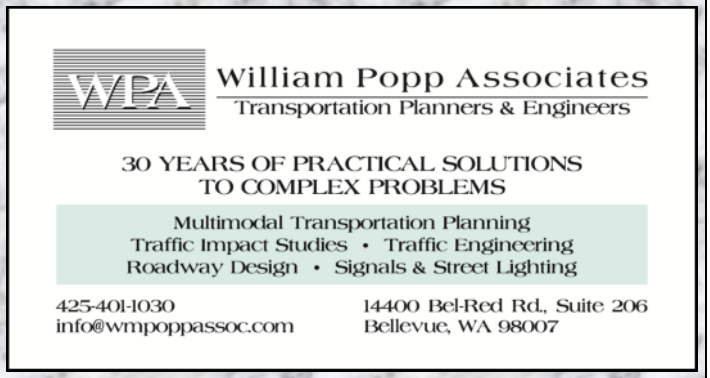
Starting in the 1980s, the IEEE802.3 standard over twisted copper pair was the start of Ethernet communications protocol. Today most of us enjoy IEEE802.11 wireless to link to our personal devices in our everyday lives. But the challenge is to incorporate the appropriate technologies at a price point that is acceptable for a large public agency (such as WSDOT). Mr. Forbis encouraged planning for large network needs because IP networks can be very complicated. Have access to a network engineer as you plan for your network purchase, expansion and security. He really stressed consulting a network engineer if your IP address starts with 192.168.1.1 or you don't know what an RJ45 plug is.

Lawrence Guan again took the podium and together with Jerry Liu (INCA) drew raffle tickets for prizes that vendors had donated for the event. Each prize winner was asked to introduce who they were and who they represented. After all the prizes were awarded, members checked their schedules for the afternoon technical session as well as the vendor training. In addition, the vendor displays were again open and bustling with information exchange until the conclusion of the day.







Space available for your business card.
See the last page of the newsletter for details.

Featured Technical Article

Do you have an interesting technical topic, idea, or project to share? If you do, the Technical Report Committee wants to hear from you! Please contact Dongho Chang at dongho.chang@seattle.gov for more information.

Disaster Recovery Workshop A Success

By Lise Northey, Program Manager,
Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program

Thank you to all who attended the February 8 Transportation and Utilities Infrastructure Recovery Workshop. We had 165 attendees who generated good discussions about prioritizing what gets rebuilt after a disaster and why and how the region might organize post-disaster to best get things done. *A number of folks told us they were interested in more specific information about the planning that has been accomplished on what to do and how to make these decisions*. This is where the **upcoming training on the Puget Sound Regional Catastrophic Disaster Coordination Plan** and on the **Transportation Recovery Annex** may be of interest.

Bill Lokey, Tom Miner and Kathy Gleaves of Witt Associates, who facilitated the February 8 workshop and breakout sessions, will be providing training and exercise opportunities on the Puget Sound Regional Catastrophic Disaster Coordination Plan and the Transportation Recovery Annex for each of the 8 counties within the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant planning region. Those events are currently being scheduled throughout the region through the local emergency management departments.

All individuals who signed up for the Feb 8 workshop will receive notification of these sessions, and can also can check the EMD training and exercise calendar at http://www.emd.wa.gov/training/training_index.shtml to find the dates and locations. That website also lists the remaining workshops and exercises in the Evergreen Quake Recovery series. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Program Manager Lise Northey at lise.northey@seattle.gov or Bill Lokey at wlokey@wittassociates.com.

ITE Washington State Section 2011-2012 Membership Directory Notice

By Dongho Chang, State Section Secretary

The Washington State Section of ITE will be producing our 2011-2012 membership directory by next spring. The membership directory will be posted electronically on our website as a valuable resource to our members. The directory will be a reference for clients and peers and we want to have your most current contact information. If you had a recent change in your contact and membership information, please visit our website at http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/membership/membership.html and complete the update form. Please email Dongho Chang at dongho.chang@seattle.gov if you wish to be omitted from the directory.

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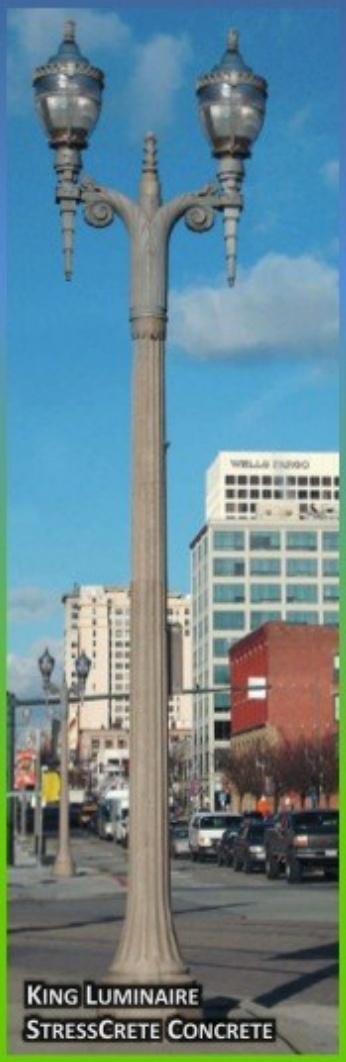

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"The Campus Corner"

By Meagan Powers and Jane Vandenberg

The Washington Section ITE Student Activities committee has several on-going and upcoming events:

1) Please mark your calendars to join us on May 9th, 2012 for the Washington Section ITE Student Night at Ivar's Salmonhouse on North Lake Union. The Student Night is an annual event in which students complete an analysis of a transportation issue or project from a local jurisdiction and present their finding to the professionals in attendance. The event will start at 5:30 PM with an open Q&A poster board session with the student who are competing, and include student presentations during dinner. The Student Activities committee has been working with the City of Seattle Traffic Management Divisions to develop an interesting and challenging project for competition. In past years we have had more than five teams of students participate in this event. Professionals attending the event will vote on the best student presentation and cash prizes ranging from $100-$500 will be awarded for the top three projects.

2) The Washington Section has provided scholarships at both the undergraduate and graduate level to students who are pursuing a degree transportation engineering. The Student Committee is distributing scholarship applications for both the graduate and undergraduate. The scholarships are awarded to students interested in pursuing a career in transportation engineering or planning. The undergraduate scholarship amount is $1500.00 and the graduate scholarship is $2000.00. The winners of the scholarships will be announced at the ITE Student night in May.

Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:
Meagan Powers, DKS Associates – (206)382-9800 or mcp@dksassociates.com
Jane Vandenberg, Pierce County – (253)798-2249 or jvanden@co.pierce.wa.us

Upcoming ITE Washington State Section Events - Please Save The Date!!

Please save the date for these upcoming ITE Washington State Section events:

- Tuesday, April 10th - April Meeting
- Wednesday, May 9th - May Student Night and Presentations
- Monday, June 11th - June Meeting and 2011-2012 Awards Presentation
- Tuesday, June 12th - 24th Annual ITE-Washington Golf Tournament (Harbour Pointe Golf Course)

Also, the Joint IMSA NW Annual Conference / ITE Oregon Quad Conference will be held on the first week of June in Vancouver, WA. For more information, please go to <www.regonline.com/2012imsaNWconference> and <www.regonline.com/2012iteoregonquad>.

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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

Advertising (Business Cards & Larger)

To submit your ad, please send a jpg, png, or tif file of the desired ad to Dongho Chang at dongho.chang@seattle.gov

Place your ad in the following sizes:

Business card ad for $100
Full page ad for $1000
1/2 page ad for $500
1/4 page ad for $250

Also send a check for the ad size you desire (ad will run from January 2012 through December 2012) to:

Dongho Chang
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700 Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124

Call 206.684.5106 for further questions.