WASHINGTON STATE SECTION / INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

ITE WASHINGTON

Letter from the President

Jim Ellison, WA Section President

In its most recent commuter mode split survey, Commute Seattle found that 66% of downtown Seattle commute trips are taken by modes other than driving alone. This is up from 50% in 2000. The survey results, in a press release and summarized below, found that public transit (e.g. bus, light rail, commuter rail, streetcar, and walk-on ferry) was the most popular mode choice (43%). Non-motorized modes combined for another 13% of the total commute trips.

Source: Commute Seattle

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March Luncheon Meeting

King County's Right Size Parking Program

This month's speaker is Daniel Rowe, a transportation planner at King County Metro Transit. He manages the Right Size Parking (RSP) and other land use and transportation demand management activities. Rowe's RSP project has resulted in extensive research on multi-family residential parking demand and produced innovative tools to guide parking policy, supply, and management decisions in the future. Rowe has a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Washington and prior to King County he worked as an independent transportation consultant and as an environmental consultant for Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure.

Daniel will present innovative land use and parking management research on multi-family parking in King County. This research models multi-family parking needs based on building form, transit and job access, and pricing inputs. In addition, Rowe will review best policy practice for developing new multi-family projects in complex settings that maximize walking and transit and bike use. This research is based on the RSP Project.

WHEN Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

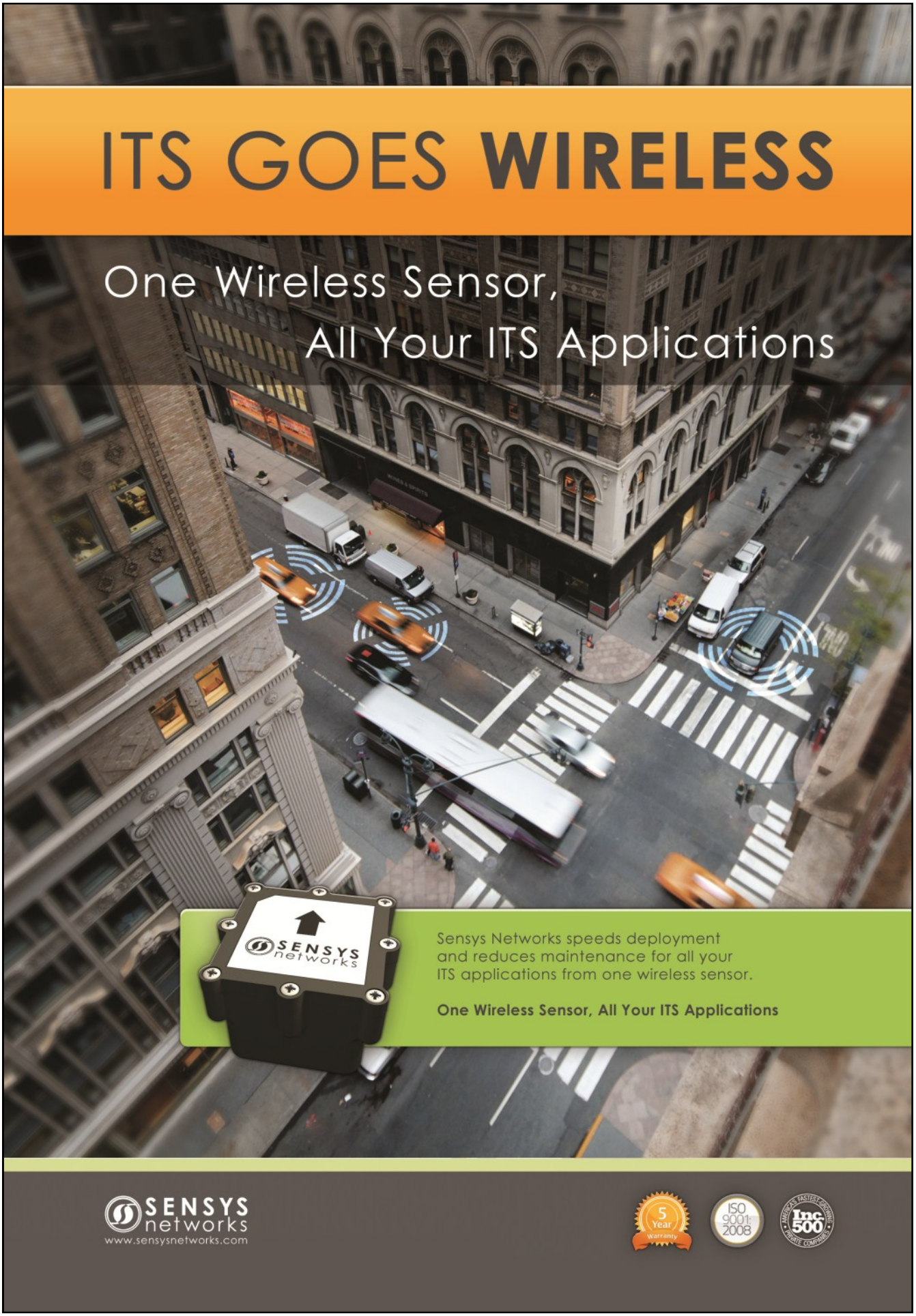
WHERE Safeco Plaza
33rd floor conference room
1001 4th Avenue (across from the Seattle Central Library)
Seattle, WA 98154

Served by transit. Parking suggestion: The garage on Seneca St. (south side of street under the Public Parking sign) between 3rd and 2nd Avenues is $6 for two hours between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

COST $15 for a boxed lunch. No charge if you bring your own lunch. However, you still must register by the due date.

MENU Lunch box from Gretchen's Shoebox. See choices on page 5.

RSVP Please register with Carla Nasr at itewaregister@gmail.com by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8. Those who register and select a box lunch and either do not cancel by March 8 or do not attend will be billed $15 to reimburse the caterer.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Letter from the President (Continued from page 1)

How we choose to get to and from work can be influenced by a number of factors, and it seems that most people typically consider the "drive-alone" mode first and then use it as a baseline to compare with other mode choices. Is it quicker to drive alone, or is using another mode quicker? Is there parking available and is there a cost? How far do I have to walk, from the parking lot or the bus stop or the transit station? When selecting the preferred mode choice, each individual often balances the length of time required for the trip with the cost that is involved.

Providing express bus service, Link light rail, Sounder train, and RapidRide bus rapid transit have certainly played significant roles in reducing the percentage of drive-alone trips into downtown Seattle. They provide viable alternatives for many commuters who would otherwise be faced with congested all-purpose freeway lanes. Ingrained in those commuters' choices, however, is another significant factor. Monthly rates at downtown parking garages can cost about $250 a month or more. Daytime downtown visitors are faced with similar choices, with hourly parking rates of up to $4.00 per hour.

You have probably noticed that our ITE WA luncheon meeting this month is in the heart of downtown Seattle. When we schedule our monthly meetings, the ITE WA Board strives to not only bring notable and interesting topics and speakers to you, but also to consider cost, convenience, and accessibility of the meetings for our members. There had been some concerns in the past that a meeting location in downtown Seattle might not meet the convenience or accessibility test. Parking, in particular, was a notable concern. However, last year we decided to try out a downtown location, near Fourth Avenue and Madison Street, and a bicycle/pedestrian/non-motorized activities topic was presented. A total of 60 people attended, one of the better turn-outs of the year. Perhaps the more notable lessons learned were: Have a good, interesting meeting topic, keep costs reasonable, and realize that good accessibility to a meeting can sometimes be more than just providing free parking.

So it is with last year's experience that we return to the same downtown location for this month's meeting. And speaking of parking, but rather within the context of determining parking supply for multi-family developments, we're pleased to provide an innovative topic: King County Metro's Right Size Parking project. Daniel Rowe, transportation planner, will present research results from a study of parking utilization at 208 multi-family developments around urbanized King County. The study is analyzing different factors that can contribute to increases or decreases in the number of parking stalls that are actually utilized. The study prompts the question: Instead of an agency having a "one-size-fits-all" parking policy (e.g., 1.5 stalls per multi-family dwelling unit citywide), why not consider context sensitive site characteristics and demographics (e.g., transit access, concentration of people and jobs, walk score, etc.) in determining how much parking should be required?

We hope you'll join us, regardless of your mode choice! Box lunches are available to order for $15 or attendees can bring their own brown bag lunch at no charge for the meeting (see meeting notice on page 1). However, we ask that if you plan on attending, please be sure to RSVP regardless of your choice of box lunch or brown bag, so that we can reserve a space for you.

Jim Ellison, President
itewapresident@gmail.com or
jim@jameswellison.com

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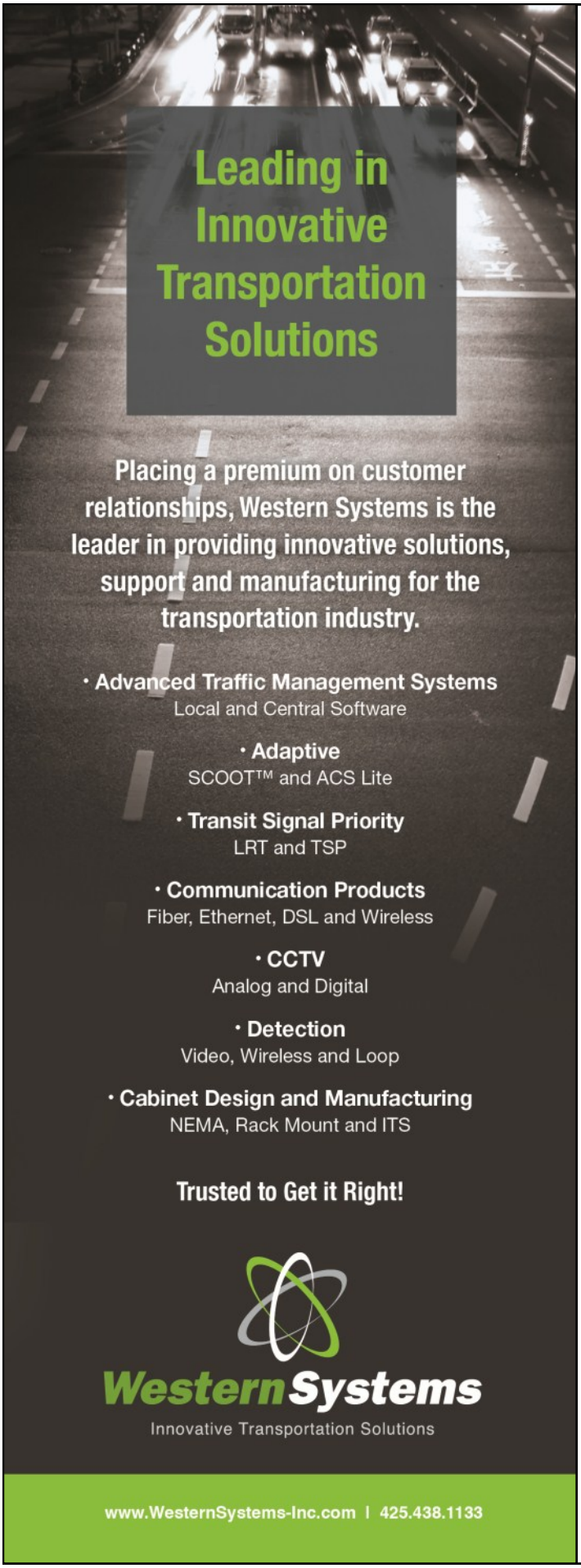

Safety Corner

News from the Section Safety Committee

By Gary Norris, Safety Committee Chair, DN Traffic Consultants

The ITE WA Safety Committee met in person following lunch at the February 11 ITE/IMSA joint conference. We discussed three topics. First, the committee still has questions about the prioritization process used to select projects for federal safety grant funding. We decided to continue to research ways that the committee can support the project development and selection processes to arrive at the highest quality projects.

Second, we are still enrolling members to begin a free 12 week course on the use of the Highway Safety Manual. There will be 12 participants and each will lead one online training session using GoToMeeting software. The course content is the NCHRP 17-38 Highway Safety Manual Implementation and Training Materials. Participants will receive the instructor and student materials from this workshop. The webinars will be held at a time mutually agreed to by the participants and the first session will be scheduled when we have 12 persons enrolled. We hope to be able to report on the results of the training at the ITE WA Annual Meeting. To learn more or sign up, please contact Gary Norris or Robert Shull.

Third, the Safety Committee will lead a track at the annual meeting on safety. Mike Hendrix of Perteet leads this effort and if you have suggestions please contact Mike.

The Safety Committee alternates each month between face to face meetings and those done by either telephone conference call or online webinar. The next meeting will be held in March via GoToMeeting. If you have a desire to participate, please contact Gary Norris. Also, if you want more information about the committee or are interested in joining, please contact one of the committee members:

- Caroline Brabrook, cbrabrook@hwlochner.com
- Brian Chandler, brian.e.chandler@saic.com
- Matthew Enders, 360-705-6907 or matthew.enders@wsdot.wa.gov
- Janet Hall, jhall@ci.mlt.wa.us
- Mike Hendrix, mhendrix@perteet.com
- Steve Mullen, smullen@kentwa.gov
- Robert Shull, 206-414-8751 or rshull@transportmodeler.com
- Gary Norris, Safety Committee Chair, 425-765-5721 or gary@dntrafficconsultants.com

Call for Presentations for ITE WA's Annual Meeting

ITE WA's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, June 10. The location and time will be announced soon. We are looking for presentations for the meeting. If you have one that you would like to give or know of a presentation or an interesting topic, please contact Jamal Mahmoud at 206-263-6116 or jamal.mahmoud@kingcounty.gov. Or feel free to send your presentation directly to Jamal and he will contact you. Thank you.

2013 ITE WA Event Schedule

These dates for ITE WA meetings and events are subject to change depending upon the availability of venues.

- **Tuesday, March 12** – King County's Parking Management Program. See page 1 for more information.
- **Tuesday, April 9** – Topic, time, and location to be announced soon.
- **Tuesday, May 14** – Student night at Ivar's Salmon House on North Lake Union in Seattle. Begins at 5:30 p.m.
- **Monday, June 10** – Annual meeting. Time and location will be announced soon.
- **Tuesday, June 11** – 25th Annual Golf Tournament at Canterwood Golf and Country Club, Gig Harbor. Time of event to be announced soon.
- **No meetings in July and August**

2013 ITE International Annual Meeting and Exhibit

August 4-7 – in Boston, Massachusetts at the Sheraton Boston and Hynes Convention Center. Please watch ITE International's calendar of events for more information.

March Luncheon Meeting Menu *(Continued from page 1)*

1. Roast beef and cheddar: with horseradish dijonnaise, roasted red onions, and lettuce on a seeded bun.
2. Focaccia margherita (vegetarian): mozzarella, slow-roasted tomatoes, basil, arugula, and creamy pesto sauce.
3. Ham and Swiss: with lettuce and tomato on wheat and seed bread. Mayonnaise and mustard on the side.
4. California club: oven-roasted chicken breast, bacon, avocado, bleu cheese scallion spread, lettuce, and tomato.
5. Turkey and Havarti: with cucumbers, lettuce, and tomato on whole wheat.
6. Cobb salad: roasted chicken breast, bacon, avocado, bleu cheese, tomatoes, green onions, and hard-boiled eggs over Romaine lettuce with balsamic vinaigrette.
7. Farmer's market salad (vegetarian): candied walnuts, Beecher's Flagship cheese, dried cranberries, and diced apples over mixed greens with balsamic vinaigrette.

All lunches come with a bottle of water, sliced apples, gourmet popcorn, and a cookie.

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Scribe Report

Overview of the 2013 ITE/IMSA Joint Conference and Vendor Exhibition

By Paul Cho, ITE WA Scribe, City of Redmond

February typically hosts the anticipated and well attended joint ITE/IMSA Joint Conference and Vendor Exhibition. Those responsible for planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining our transportation infrastructure gather to share their experiences as well as get updated on emerging technologies. This year, 94 members registered for the luncheon meeting in addition to the walk-in professionals enjoying the vendor exhibition. The vendor exhibition from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. featured 34 vendors displaying the latest tools to assist transportation professionals to save lives, move people and goods, and improve the quality of life in the Puget Sound region.

The morning schedule held parallel tracks of:

Technical Sessions
- Tolling on SR520 and in Washington
- Renton's experience with adaptive signal control
- Seattle's signal strategies for bicycle and pedestrian safety

IMSA Meetings
- IMSA General Membership Meeting
- IMSA WA Division Meeting
- IMSA Executive Committee Meeting

Vendor Displays

Following the morning events, members assembled in the main conference area for a luncheon presentation, where grilled chicken Mediterranean and rustic apple tart were served. ITE WA president, Jim Ellison, allowed members time to enjoy their meals while exchanging thoughts on the morning programs. Next he recognized those in ITE, IMSA, and vendors whose efforts produced such a successful meeting thus far. He then asked Jerry Liu (Tetra Tech) to introduce the speaker, John Niles of the Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES). Mr. Niles' presentation was called Transforming Transportation with Electric, Connected, and Increasingly Automated Vehicles.

Mr. Niles began by displaying several graphs depicting general trends in vehicle travel. The graphs showed that people are driving less, that gas prices are rising, and that congestion levels are plateauing. He then focused our

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Scribe Report *(Continued from page 7)*

thoughts on what seems to be the highest priority for anyone traveling along our transportation systems - travel time. And the primary cause of delay in travel time is accidents. Mr. Niles continued to challenge the members by redirecting our thoughts to technology improvements in our infrastructure and then to what vehicle improvements can reduce accidents and thus reduce our delays.

Guest speaker John Niles from the Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions talks to ITE and IMSA members about Electric, Connected, and Increasingly Automated Vehicles

Manufacturers have been developing and testing various ways that vehicles can drive with virtually no headway to improve the capacity of the roadway. In addition, the technology to allow such tight packs of vehicles could also scan for possible conflicts and avoid accidents. Google just built a vehicle this year that drives without a human pilot using radar, laser, cameras, GPS, encoders, and computers. A current base map is used to plot a course for the vehicle, but sensors allow the vehicle to respond to dynamic changes along the route. While this may seem like George Jetson's car, manufacturers have already put into production such technologies as lane keeping, adaptive cruise control, and pedestrian detection.

Mr. Niles rounded his presentation with examples of the importance of vehicle fuel efficiency as countries such as China and India ramp up their consumption of fossil fuels. Further he showed that electric vehicles can be more efficient than busses by showing a comparison of transit versus an electric car with three other carpoolers in terms of passenger miles per gallon. Some very insightful questions were raised and answers given following the presentation before Jim Ellison introduced Rob Klug, IMSA NW president.

Mr. Klug acknowledged and thanked the other chair members that worked so hard for the success of this conference. He also announced this year's IMSA NW Annual Meeting which will be hosted in Tacoma in October. The luncheon presentation concluded with the raffling of door prizes provided by participating vendors. The afternoon then continued with a technical session on Seattle's experience with street lighting controls. Then members took advantage of five tracks of in-depth information and training provided by the vendors on the latest technologies available to support and maintain our transportation systems, which concluded the day.

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Civil, Traffic and Structural

Resources from Seattle Neighborhood Greenways

By Jim Ellison, ITE WA President, Consulting Traffic Engineer

Our January luncheon speakers, Eli Goldberg and Cathy Tuttle from Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, expressed their gratitude for our enthusiasm for family-friendly streets in Washington State. If you missed the luncheon or would like to share the presentation with a colleague, view their video and PowerPoint presentation here. Also, they have significant additional resources for communities interested in exploring family-friendly neighborhood greenways. This includes presentations by Portland Bureau of Transportation leaders on best practices in community outreach, engineering, and encouragement. For information and access, please contact Eli Goldberg at eli@ugreenways.org.

Campus Corner

Current Activities and Opportunities

By Richard Hutchinson, Student Activities Committee Chair, KPG

Student Night: Please mark your calendars to join us on May 14, 2013 for the ITE WA Student Night at Ivar's Salmon House on North Lake Union. At this annual event, students analyze a transportation issue or project from a local jurisdiction and present their findings to the professionals in attendance. The Student Activities committee has been working with the City of Seattle Department of Transportation and the King County Department of Transportation to develop an interesting and challenging project easily accessible to students for competition. This year we selected a project in the Green Lake neighborhood of Seattle, where several types of roadway users interact daily to share the same limited right-of-way. The event will start at 5:30 p.m. with an open Q&A poster board session with the students who are competing. Students will then present their projects during dinner. In past years we have five or more teams of students participate in this event. Professionals who attend the event will vote on the presentation and the students with the top three projects will be awarded $100-$500 in cash prizes.

Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships: ITE WA provides scholarships to both undergraduate ($1,500) and graduate ($2,000) students pursuing a degree in transportation engineering or transportation planning. Scholarship winners will be announced at the ITE Student night in May. Applications are available here and are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2013.

University of Washington ITE Student Chapter Data Collection Project: The UW ITE Student Chapter just completed a data collection as part of a grant they received last fall from ITE's Western District for trip generation and parking data collection. Several students took time out of their busy schedules to collaborate over several shifts to collect excellent data to be used nationwide.

For more information on the Student Activities Committee and these activities and opportunities: Please contact Richard Hutchinson at 253-627-0720, 206-286-1640, or richardh@kpg.com.

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- Full page (width = 7 1/2 inches, height = 10 inches): $1,000

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Please let us know if your contact information changes so that you continue to receive monthly ITE WA announcements and newsletters by e-mail. To update your information, click on the Membership tab on the ITE WA website: http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm .

Newsletter Comments and Article Submissions

If you have comments on this newsletter or have an interesting topic or project to share, please contact Susan Bowe, Newsletter Editor at itewaeditor@gmail.com .