Letter from the President

Early last year I picked up a copy of USA Today while out of town, and noticed the lead article on the front page: “No U.S. airline fatalities in 2010.”

The article by Alan Levin stated, “U.S. airlines did not have a single fatality last year. It was the third time in the past four years that there were no deaths, continuing a dramatic trend toward safer skies.”

The headline caught my eye because of the operative words, “No fatalities...in 2010.” And it was only natural to “Imagine,” as John Lennon would say, that one day we might be able to declare, “No U.S. highway fatalities last year.”

(Continued on page 2)

September Meeting

Seattle Department of Transportation’s Action Agenda and Citywide Roadway Safety Action Plan

Making Seattle’s transportation system work for everyone is a complex job that becomes even more of a challenge in these economic times. SDOT Director Peter Hahn will discuss Seattle’s two-year plan, that outlines set policies, actions, and measures of success for the city. SDOT Senior Planner Jim Curtin will discuss the citywide Road Safety Action Plan, that employs proven countermeasures to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on Seattle streets by 2030.

When Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Where Salty’s on Alki 1936 Harbor Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98126 (view map) (206) 937-1600

Cost $40. Parking is free.

Menu A buffet lunch that includes grilled wild Alaskan salmon, top sirloin steak, Salty’s famous seafood chowder, Caesar salad, three cheese tortellini, grilled jumbo asparagus, sourdough bread and butter, Starbucks coffees, Tazo teas and iced tea, and white chocolate mousse cake.

RSVP Please register with Carla Nasr at itewaregister@gmail.com by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 7. Those who register and do not attend will be billed $40 to cover the cost of their meal.

In This Issue

Letter from the President 1
September Meeting 1
New Section Officers 4
2012-2013 Meeting Schedule 4
Road & Street Supervisors Conference 5
Traffic Simulation Roundtable 6
ITE Classic Golf Tournament 7
2012 Section Awards 8
2012 District Meeting Awards 9
Safety Corner: Safety Committee Meetings 9
Campus Corner: 2012 District Meeting 10
Updating Traffic Control Devices 11
Section Business 15
For you non-believers, please look at the progress we are making. In 1968, I recall writing an article for my high school newspaper about some of the notable events that had occurred that year. Although I had no idea I was to become a traffic engineer one day, I noted then that there were 931 people who died in Washington state highway crashes in 1968. That number would actually later peak in 1979 at 1,015. As a comparison, our state experienced 458 fatalities in 2011. We are making progress.

Washington State has been a leader in the national Toward Zero Deaths initiative, by virtue of implementing the state’s Target Zero campaign some ten years ago. I admit that at first I was skeptical. After all, how can we ever control driver inattention, impaired drivers, and just plain irresponsible driving? Then I attended a presentation by Toby Rickman, then the State Traffic Engineer, where I realized that this wasn’t just about engineering safer roads. Or ramping up DUI and speed enforcement. Or improving driver education. It was all of these and more, including improving vehicle safety and further enhancing EMS life safety response and treatment. Put all these together, and imagine. Zero fatalities could one day be a reality.

Enhancements in vehicle occupant safety through increased employment of air bags and the use of seat belts and in improved crash worthiness of vehicles have had significant positive results. Crash avoidance systems and crash warning systems are now beginning to appear in new vehicles. Testing of additional technological advances continues, such as those described in a recent article in the Seattle Times on August 21st entitled, *Brake! That Talking Car May Save Your Life*, that describes how wireless devices will allow vehicles to send signals to each other, warning their drivers of potential dangers such as stopped traffic or cars that might be blowing through a red light.

Seattle is the first major U.S. city that I am aware of to officially launch a Toward Zero Deaths initiative. Last week the city announced its Road Safety Action Plan, with the goal of eliminating fatalities on Seattle roads by 2030. Please join us at our September 11 meeting at Salty’s on Alki to learn more about the City’s goals, including creating a culture of empathy on Seattle roads, from Director Peter Hahn and Senior Transportation Planner Jim Curtin.

One of the most significant needs identified by the Toward Zero Deaths national strategy is to change Americans’ attitudes toward highway safety. Plane crashes and collisions involving school buses, transit, and trains make the national news, yet reaction to highway fatalities appears to be more muted. We need further advancements in changing our safety culture along with on-going programs and technologies in order to substantially reduce highway fatalities. Hopefully the public and elected officials are willing to support and embrace them.

As transportation professionals, we each have the opportunity to be a safety advocate not only through our work activities, but also through our daily interactions with family, friends, and acquaintances. Each of us can serve as a role model, advocate, and educator. Consider helping to make this shift in U.S. traffic safety culture possible. As Doug Palm, a co-chair of Seattle’s Road Safety Summit, was quoted, “Whether we drive, walk or bike, we all deserve to arrive alive.”

Jim Ellison, President
itewapresident@gmail.com
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New Officers Inducted

Elections were held for ITE WA Section officers for the 2012-2013 year. The names were announced at the ITE WA Annual Meeting in June at Seattle’s Museum of Flight. Congratulations to:

(from left to right)
- Jim Ellison, PE, Consulting Traffic Engineer, President
- Dongho Chang, PE, PTOE, City of Seattle, Vice-President/Treasurer
- Carter Danne, PE, PTOE, Traffic Engineer (On-Call), Secretary
- Kevin Chang, PhD, PE, King County, Past President

Washington State Section 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule

These dates are subject to change depending upon availability of venues.

- Tuesday, September 11 at Salty’s on Alki. See page 1.
- Tuesday, October 9
- Tuesday, November 13
- Tuesday, December 11 – Breakfast & Training
- Wednesday, January 16
- Monday, February 11 – ITE/International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)
- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 9
- Tuesday, May 14 - Student night
- Monday, June 10 – Annual meeting
- Tuesday, June 11 – 25th Annual Golf Tournament
News

The 50th Annual Road and Street Maintenance Supervisors Conference

October 1–3, 2012
Yakima Convention Center
Includes a Dedicated Traffic Solutions Conference Track on Tuesday, October 2.

The Road and Street Maintenance Supervisors Conference is a long-time Pacific Northwest tradition that brings agencies together to forward and enhance road and street maintenance operations in the Pacific Northwest. It is one of the few venues tailored specifically for the presentation of state-of-the-art methods and techniques for the maintenance and repair of streets, road, highways, and bridges. The conference offers road and street supervisors, lead technicians, equipment operators, and maintenance specialists the opportunity to discuss current issues and challenges that their agencies are experiencing and to share various approaches and solutions. Included are management topics and practices for personnel and equipment. The vendor showcase exhibits new products, materials, and equipment.

The Traffic Solutions Conference Track will is available as a part of the three-day conference or optionally as a one-day registration. Traffic solutions topics are of particular interest to city, county, and state maintenance supervisors and maintenance technicians who are responsible for the installation and maintenance of traffic signs, pavement markings, and other traffic control devices.

The conference is sponsored by Washington State University. This year’s program, hotel, and registration information is on their website at http://cm.wsu.edu/rs. For questions please contact WSU Conference Management at 800-942-4978 or 509-335-3530 or at ehoug@wsu.edu or lstrenge@wsu.edu.
Traffic Simulation Roundtable Half Day Workshop

Please join us for our next ITE WA Traffic Simulation Roundtable meeting, featuring speakers from the Portland and Seattle areas. This meeting will be held jointly with the Oregon ITE Traffic Simulation Roundtable. Lunch will be provided thanks to the Oregon and Washington chapters. Space is limited, so please register early if you would like to attend.

When: Tuesday, October 4, 2012, 10AM - 2PM

Where: Washington State Department of Transportation SW Region Headquarters
11018 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682 (view map)
306-905-2000

Cost: Free

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. - Check-in and opening remarks

10:30 a.m. - Data sources and traffic flow theory presentations by:
- Jill MacKay (IBI Group, Seattle)
- Miranda Wells (DKS Associates, Portland)
- Robert Bertini (Portland State University, Portland)

11:30 a.m. - Lunch and presentations on dynamic traffic assignment by:
- Scott Higgins and other Metro staff (Metro, Portland)
- Anthony Lo and other staff (Parsons Brickerhoff, Seattle)

12:45 p.m. - Roundabout panel with guests:
- Brian Walsh (Washington State Department of Transportation, Seattle)
- Alex Kiberi (Kittelson, Portland)
- Victor Saleman (Davide Evans and Associates, Seattle)
- Randy Johnson (PTV America, Portland)

1:45 p.m. - Closing remarks

2:00 p.m. - Adjourn

To register: Please e-mail Tony Woody (tony.woody@ch2m.com).

For questions: Please e-mail Matt Beaulieu (Matt.Beaulieu@wsdot.wa.gov) or Tony Woody (tony.woody@ch2m.com).
Recap of the 24th ITE Classic Golf Tournament

By Mark Poch, Tournament Chair and Terry Gibson, Tournament Chair and Event Founder

Nearly 80 golfers in 19 groups participated in the 24th ITE Classic on June 12 at beautiful Harbour Pointe Golf Club in Mukilteo. The golfers teed it up at 9:00 a.m. with a shotgun start. Although rain was forecasted, thankfully only a few showers grazed the day. However, the hilly and hazard-laden course and the fierce competition gave the hardy ITE men and women all they could handle in team and individual competitions.

Thanks to our great sponsors, we were able to present numerous team and individual and awards, as well excellent raffle prizes during a wonderful BBQ dinner and annual awards ceremony after the round. The team competition featured great scoring throughout the greens, with an exceptional 58 turned in by first place King Co. DOT team (Kevin Chang, Doug Hodson, and Eric Shimizu). In second place was an almost equally impressive 61 by the long time City of Redmond team (Don Cairns, Bill Campbell, Ron Grant, Jeff Thompson). Third place with a score of 65 went to the first time Snohomish Co. team (Bruce DuVall, Doug McCormick, and Lane Olmstead). DKS Ladies came in at last place.

Competition hole winners included Dan Brewer (Long Drive #10), Bob Herman (Long Drive #18), Lane Olmstead (Long Drive #2), Steve Haugen (Closest to pin #12), and Bret Tredway, who knocked it stiff on the devilish par 3 7th hole (Closest to pin #7).

Raffle prizes included $50 gift certificates to Oki Golf, Azteca, and Home Depot, as well as two pairs of Mariners tickets. Raffle prize winners included Tyler Boyer, Don Cairns, Bill Campbell, Kevin Chang, Vince Geglia, John Hendrickson, Doug Hodson, Richard Hutchinson, Edward K., Brian Kemper, Wittana Miller, Syed Rahman, Dusty Rasmussen, Eric Shimizu, Jason Suzaka, Clark Williams, and Scott Williams. Congratulations to our winners!

Our sponsors were:
- Advance Traffic Products (Mike Singson) – Competition Holes
- All Traffic Data (Mark Skaggs) – BBQ
- Fehr & Peers
- KPG
- Prime Electric (Bob Bracco) – Raffle Prizes
- Sensys (Tom Chang) – Team Awards
- Tetra Tech/INCA (Scott Williams) – Team Awards
- TransCore ITS
- Western Systems (Robert Nims) – Raffle Prizes
- Zumar

Deby Alm was our official photographer again this year and thanks to her efforts, all team captains received a digital photo of their groups, as well as a 24th Classic group photo.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year’s silver anniversary event!
News

2012 Washington State Section Awards

By Catherine Casseday, Past President, Casseday Consulting

Washington State Section ITE honored Les Jacobson and Tony Woody at the 2012 Annual Meeting in June held at the Museum of Flight. Les Jacobson, P.E., of Parsons Brinckerhoff, was honored for Outstanding Achievement for his contributions to transportation in Washington state. Les is a leader in the planning and implementation of ITS systems for improved safety and operations along freeway facilities, in Washington state and nationally. When you see ITS applications in Western Washington, chances are good that you can thank Les for planning, design and implementation of the ITS tools. These range from ramp meters to variable speed signs to the adaptive traffic management system on northbound I-5. Les is a master of thinking BIG and getting the changes made. It’s a pleasure to recognize Les for his contributions to traffic operations and management throughout our area.

Tony Woody, PE, of CH2M Hill, was honored as the Outstanding Young Professional for 2012, recognizing his role in establishing the Simulation Roundtable in the Washington State Section. The Simulation Roundtable is a grassroots program developed by and for ITE members. Tony has worked with Jeanne Acutanza, James Colyar and Matt Beaulieu to expand the roundtable’s reach to other members. They have also strived to share the experiences and skills of Northwest traffic operations analysts with other members and to expand the abilities of members. Tony is very deserving of this recognition of his contributions beyond the norm for our membership.

Congratulations Les and Tony!
News

Washington State Section and University of Washington Student Chapter Recognized at ITE Western District Meeting

By Jim Ellison, ITE WA President, Consulting Traffic Engineer

The word Washington was prominently mentioned at the ITE Western District Annual Meeting Awards Banquet on June 26 in Santa Barbara, California. The Washington State Section was honored for its contribution to the District Student Endowment Fund, and received special recognition for being the top contributor among all sections throughout the District.

Our state’s section was also duly represented as one of nine teams entered in this year’s District Traffic Bowl competition. Traffic Bowl is set up similar to the Jeopardy game show, with categories that cover contestants’ knowledge of traffic and transportation, ITE activities, and other related topics. After surviving a three-question sudden death tie-breaker with the Intermountain Section in the preliminary round, the Washington team of Eric Shimizu (DKS Associates), Mike Hendrix (Perteet), and Jim Ellison (Consulting Traffic Engineer) finished a close second to the California Riverside Section in the finals.

The UW Student Chapter received a special recognition award for developing the Traffic Hero game, which the District used during the conference as a fundraiser for the Student Endowment Fund. UW also was awarded honorable mentions for its overall achievements over the past school year, and for its student chapter website. Cathy Liu, chapter president, was recognized for an award-winning student paper and as Outstanding Graduate Student in the Western District. For more details, see the UW Student Chapter article on page 10.

Safety Corner

New Safety Committee Meetings

By Gary Norris, Safety Committee Chair, DN Traffic Consultants

Seattle Department of Transportation will emphasize safety at this month’s section meeting. Please see the announcement on page 1. This year the safety committee would like to begin regular safety committee meetings to generate topics that we can learn about and projects that we can undertake. The goal is to increase safety awareness and further reduce fatalities throughout the state. If you would like to participate in these committee activities, please contact Gary Norris at gary.norris@comcast.net or 425-765-5721. Thanks, the safety committee looks forward to working with you on this important topic.
Campus Corner

Highlights for the University of Washington Student Chapter from the 2012 Western District Annual Meeting

By Cathy Liu, ITE University of Washington Chapter President

The ITE Western District Annual Meeting was held June 24-27 in Santa Barbara, California. Three students from the ITE University of Washington Student Chapter, Walker Cheng, Cathy Liu, and Yegor Malinovskiy attended the meeting. The trip was sponsored by the ITE Washington State Section and the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium at the UW.

Our chapter facilitated the Traffic Hero game during the Get Acquaintance Social Night on June 24 to earn money for the Student Endowment Fund. The game was developed by Yegor Malinovskiy and Runze Yu at the University of Washington STARLab. Traffic Hero is a video game that attempts to make the otherwise mundane, yet common and important task of automated traffic data counting more interesting and entertaining. It engages students in counting vehicles while giving them an inside look into some of the algorithms that go into vehicle detection. The game involves combining their honed Guitar Hero skills with advanced video detection techniques. Given guitar game controllers connected to a computer, two players from the same team collaborate to manually count vehicles on a recorded video segment of a multilane highway. The game detects the manual counts made by the players, compares them to those made by an algorithm, and then awards points to the team. Difficulty is determined by the number of lanes being counted concurrently, vehicle volumes, as well as the collaboration strategy of both players. Our chapter helped the Western ITE raise $500 during the event. The ITE-UW chapter received the Special Recognition Award for this effort.

Our chapter also received the Student Chapter Award Honorable Mention this year for outstanding accomplishments of the chapter by fostering the close association of students with the transportation profession and the Institute. Along with that, our ITE Student Chapter website received the Student Chapter Website Award Honorable Mention.

Cathy Liu received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Also, her paper "An Analytical Framework for Managed Lane Facility Performance Evaluation" was selected for the Best Student Paper Award. The paper presents the methodological framework for analyzing the freeway performance of general purpose lanes and managed lanes facilities in a Highway Capacity Manual context. The method incorporates new features for performance assessment, accounting for the unique attributes of managed lane facilities. The framework presents an important new approach for the performance analysis of managed lane-enabled freeway segments. This is valuable in providing guidance for analysts to evaluate freeway segments in the presence of concurrent general purpose lanes and managed lanes. The

(Continued on page 11)
Cathy Liu receives the 2012 Daniel B. Fambro Student Paper Award from Rock Miller, President of ITE International.

This has been a year of achievement for the ITE UW Chapter. We want to thank our Student Chapter officer team: Cathy Liu (President), Klein Shen (Vice President), Tom Le (Secretary), Yi Gu (Undergrad Representative and Outreach), Tingting Wang (Webmaster), and Sherry Kim (Treasurer) for their dedication in serving our organization in the past year. We also want to thank our student mentors, Meagan Powers and Jane Vandenberg, our student advisor, Professor Yinhai Wang, PhD, and WA ITE Section for their prolonged support and guidance of our student chapter.

Note: Elections will be held at UW this fall for new student officers.

**Technical Article**

**When Should An Agency Update its Traffic Control Devices to Current Standards?**

By Susan Bowe, Washington State Department of Transportation Highways and Local Programs

The goal of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is to improve traffic control devices nationally to increase the safety of roadway users and of workers in the roadway. To do this, the MUTCD establishes standards which every agency must follow, along with guidance, option, and support statements. These are defined below. The MUTCD requires that agencies upgrade their traffic control devices continuously over time. It states that when a device is damaged beyond repair, an agency must replace it as soon as possible with a device that meets current standards. Also, agencies must replace other devices systematically. Agencies can think of this as replacing devices system-wide in a planned way on an ongoing basis.

Because of budgetary, construction and maintenance program, and political realities, it takes time for all the agencies in the country to update non-compliant devices to the standards. Because time can turn quickly from years to decades, there is a list of dates in the MUTCD by which local and state agencies are required to replace certain existing traffic control devices that do not meet current standards. These are called target compliance dates. The first version of the 2009 MUTCD had 58 of these dates. Some of the dates were carried over from earlier editions of the MUTCD and other dates were for new requirements.

(Continued on page 13)

1 There are two exceptions to this. If a traffic control device is missing or is not in working order, it can be replaced with a device that does not meet current standards if:

1. It will be installed amongst other devices that do not meet current standards, and/or
2. The device will be updated soon to meet current standards.
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Technical Article, continued

(Continued from page 11)

In May, the Federal Highway Administration published Revision 2 of the 2009 MUTCD, which reduced the list of target compliance dates to 12. The goal was to make things easier for local and state agencies under budgetary, workforce availability, and other constraints. These dates are shown on page 14 and took effect on June 13.

The revision removed 46 of the 58 dates, extended four into the future, and kept eight dates the same. Now agencies have longer to upgrade non-compliant traffic control devices on a systematic basis. For example, gone is an actual date by which agencies must increase the size of regulatory signs. Gone are dates by which regulatory, warning, and guide signs need to meet minimum retroreflectivity requirements. Also gone is a date by which countdown-style pedestrian signal heads must be used at certain crosswalks. And bumped into the future is a date by which agencies must develop and use an assessment or management method to maintain most regulatory and warning signs at a minimum or higher sign retroreflectivity level. However, whether or not there is a target compliance date, agencies still need to update their traffic control devices systematically.

An agency with non-compliant devices has more risk. Someone could get seriously injured or killed in a collision where a non-conforming device may have been a causal factor. According to Don Petersen, Safety & Geometric Design Engineer with FHWA’s Washington state division, “If the traffic control device was not updated and there was no plan for it to be updated, the responsible agency is at greater risk during a tort claim.” Also, although rare, if devices are neglected over the years with no plan for replacement, the agency could lose federal funding. Further, if an agency does not upgrade devices on a regular basis but instead hopes to make changes as the target compliance date approaches, they can have problems finding the budget to make the changes or they might miss the date. If they miss the date, they have no protection from the MUTCD to use during a tort claim.

What is an agency supposed to do? Plan and budget. Most agencies have the easiest time upgrading non-compliance traffic control devices if they plan and budget for the work as part of their regular maintenance, operations, and construction activities. If agencies address non-compliant devices systematically starting now, they will reduce their risk and make their roadways, and the nation’s roadways, gradually safer over time.

(Continued on page 14)
Target Compliance Dates in the 2009 MUTCD
(with Revisions 1 and 2 incorporated)

Dates that apply to local agencies

☑ Dates that have passed. Local agency needs to be in compliance now.
☐ Have all workers within the right-of-way, including emergency responders, wear high-visibility safety apparel. Section 6D.03. December 31, 2011.
☐ Have all flaggers within the right-of-way, including law enforcement personnel, wear high-visibility safety apparel. Section 6E.02. December 31, 2011.
☐ Have all adult crossing guards within the right-of-way, including law enforcement personnel, wear high-visibility safety apparel. Section 7D.04. December 31, 2011.

Upcoming dates
☐ Have crashworthy supports for all signs on roads with a speed limit of 50 mph or higher. Section 2A.19. June 17, 2013.
☐ Develop and use an assessment or management method to maintain minimum or higher sign retroreflectivity levels for all regulatory and warning signs. This does not include signs with brown or blue backgrounds. Section 2A.08. June 13, 2014.
☐ Meet requirements for yellow change and all red clearance intervals at all traffic signals. Section 4D.26. June 13, 2017 or with signal retiming, whichever happens first.
☐ Meet requirements for pedestrian change intervals at all traffic signals. Section 4E.06. June 13, 2017 or with signal retiming, whichever happens first.
☐ Meet requirements for the number and location of all One Way signs. Section 2B.40. December 31, 2019.
☐ Meet requirements for horizontal alignment signs on all freeways and expressways, and on all arterials and collectors with an Average Annual Daily Traffic above 1,000. Sections 2C.06-2C.14. December 31, 2019.

Other dates

Upcoming dates
☐ Supplement Crossbuck signs with Stop or Yield signs at passive railroad grade crossings. Section 8B.04. December 31, 2019.
☐ Have a retroreflective strip on all Crossbuck sign supports at passive railroad grade crossings and on the back of all Crossbuck signs at active and passive crossings. Sections 8B.03 and 8B.04. December 31, 2019.
Section Business

Section Board for September 2012-August 2013

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Newsletter Contact Information

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 link on the ITE WA website: http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm.

Advertisements

Advertising for this newsletter is available in the following sizes:

- Business card: $100
- 1/4 page: $250
- 1/2 page: $500
- Full page: $1000

Ads run from January 2012 through December 2012. To submit your ad, please send it in jpg, png, or tif file format to: Carter Danne at cdanne@gmail.com. Also send a check for the ad size you desire to: Dongho Chang, City of Seattle, P.O. Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124.

Article Submissions

If you have an interesting topic, idea, or project to share, the Technical Report Committee wants to hear from you. Please contact Jamal Mahmoud at jamal.mahmoud@kingcounty.gov or 206-396-3248.

Corrections

The technical article, FHWA Issues Revisions to 2009 MUTCD provided in the June 2012 ITE WA newsletter was written by Susan Bowe, Washington State Department of Transportation Highways and Local Programs Division.