



Letter from the President

Thank you to the many members who have been working hard to accomplish our Section's activities. That's what it takes to succeed, many members working hard.



*David Alm
WA Section President*

Attendance at our meetings is continuing to grow. Our programs continue to provide presentations on interesting and germane transportation topics. February month's ITE / IMSA meeting technical presentations were wonderful and very well attended. Beyond the presentations, this meeting format also provided the year's best networking opportunity. Traffic product vendors and their ever-evolving products mingled with the memberships in a very enjoyable setting. Thank you to Tim Newkirk (CH2MHill) and Lawrence Gwan (Parsons Brinkerhoff) for your work organizing this

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2008 CITE District and QUAD Regional Conference

The Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) is holding it's 2008 Annual Conference in Victoria. This will be a joint conference with the "Quad Conference", a regional conference hosted by the Vancouver Island, Greater Vancouver, Washington, and Oregon Sections of ITE.

The overall conference theme, Bridging the Gap, reflects CITE's interest in exploring new ideas, and educating professionals, in the transportation field on the inter-relationship and overlap of core functional areas.

Gaining a better understanding of the inter-relationships between these different areas will allow transportation professionals to further enhance the direct contribution of transportation to the health of the economy and to our overall quality of life.

The Trade Show will provide a showcase for businesses to display products and services that allow transportation professionals to meet present and future transportation demands. All Trade Show booths are now taken.

In addition to the Conference sessions, there will be a number of Professional Development Seminars of interest to Transportation Professionals to take place immediately after the Conference.

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- LOCATION** Victoria Conference Center and Fairmont Empress Hotel
Victoria, BC, Canada
- DATE** April 27th to April 30th, 2008
- TOPICS** Transportation Engineering
Transportation Planning
Road Safety
Sustainability
Green transportation and Climate change
Commercial vehicles and goods movement

REGISTRATION visit <http://www.citebc.ca/Conf2008/index.html>

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great gathering. The remaining schedule of programs will continue to bring us together with interesting and varied topics. To help with this effort, please contact Sherman Goong (City of Bothell), your ITE Programs Director, if you know of a topic of interest, technical or political, that you would like to see presented at a meeting. Or if your most recent transportation project is interesting to you, think about sharing it with the rest of us.

Iris Cabrera (City of Kirkland), our Hospitality Chair, is always interested in hearing new suggestions on upcoming meeting venue locations. We have intentionally offered a large variation in meeting venue and price for the last several years, and intend to stay on that course into the future. So bring out your favorite places as suggestions and we'll check it out.

The Washington Section Board met last month to review a few business items that will need renewed organizational efforts. This year is already hurdling toward our June Annual Meeting and Golf Extravaganza. The focus of the well-attended meeting was to make progress in shaping the Section's upcoming Annual Meeting June 9th-10th at Tacoma's Hotel Murano (formerly the Sheraton).

Terry Gibson (Gibson Traffic), is still working to optimize the golf venue. Terry is golfing again and looks forward to organizing his 20th ITE Invitational. Get your teams ready for another great event.

The Board also authorized the posting of the upcoming Membership Directory onto the web site. The Board still intends to publish and distribute the Directory as soon as advertisement space issues are concluded. The Board also reviewed the status and activities of our new Northwest Inland Chapter. Discussions also included that Rory Cameron was recognized and appreciated as the new Section Co-Webmaster (with Gary Costa), status of the Student Committee's endeavors to develop a study project, discussion of the upcoming ITE Quad-Section Meeting in Victoria, BC, and some recent concerns with delivery of Section member email. The Board will continue seeking resolution of these issues.

I have not yet found the time to pursue the ambition of establishing the Washington ITE as an independent consultation resource to regional decision-makers. Our State's elected political leadership, WSDOT policy administrators, the TIB, the PSRC, and Sound Transit could likely benefit from ITE expertise in several ways at this critical stage in the State's transportation decision-making. Our membership can collectively boast a staggering level of expertise and experience, and our reputation is buoyed further by ITE's internationally recognized leadership standing.

I'm disappointed that discussions of how we may specifically help are still pending. If there are members out there who has an idea for developing these communications opportunities, please give me a call. But be careful! The Section's Legislative Liaison Chairman's position is currently vacant.

Sincerely,

David Alm,
President, ITE Washington Section

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>

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Scribe Report for February 2008

By Paul Cho, City of Redmond

The Washington ITE Section joined with the Northwestern Section of IMSA to host the traditional joint meeting and vendor display at the Doubletree Inn in SeaTac. Whether attending one of the technical sessions or researching the latest technology on the market or interfacing with others tackling similar transportation challenges, this well attended event had something for everyone.



This year's technical sessions consisted of:

- Proposed changes to the MUTCD presented by Rick Mowlds (WSDOT)
- Local municipalities experiences with the 2006 windstorm presented by Tom Borges (King County), Dick Adams (City of Lynnwood), Jon Cornelius (WSDOT)
- Link Light Rail and Seattle Streetcar projects presented by Chris Long (DKS), Joe Couples and Rick McMahan (City of Seattle)
- Discussion on pedestrian signal timing issues and all-red clearance intervals with panel members Dongho Chang (City of Everett), Fred Housman (King County), Fred Liang and Brandon Carver (City of Bellevue)

In addition, vendor's offered several technical sessions to present some of the latest offerings in:

- Vehicle detection
- Communications hardware
- Energy efficiency rebates
- New releases in traffic modeling software
- Advanced warning devices
- Accessible pedestrian devices
- Cabinet manufacturing

Sandwiched in between the morning and afternoon session was the luncheon. As we dined in the top floor ballroom, ITE and IMSA members were able to discuss current events in the region. Tim Newkirk started the luncheon meeting and invited vendors to come to the podium and introduce themselves and the products and services they represent. As a bonus, some door prize drawings provided additional entertainment.

Like most transportation professionals in the region, we are inundated with so much on our plates. It's difficult to lift our heads to see what's happening around us. The hidden treasure that is an integral part of these meetings is the opportunity to look for ways to help others pursuing similar goals; or to obtain help in progressing towards your own goals; or to network enough to know what your goals may or should be.

There are so many changes that have taken place and are taking place and must yet take place in our field. Whether it is advancement in technology, changes in designing and operating our facilities, improving services while reducing our waste, my hope is that more and more members take advantage of the resources that are available within the membership. In addition that members can challenge one another to improve the quality of services we provide to the ultimate end user; the public.

Scribe Report for March 2008

By Paul Cho, City of Redmond

Modulating the throttle onto the front straight of the race track, I was able to take a quick glimpse of the tachometer to ensure engine could stay in the lower gear a bit longer as I unwound the steering. Scratching for the last bit of traction exiting the corner, all my concentration was focused on feeling the tires and where the edge of the track lies. Once settled on the main straight, I grabbed the next gear before hitting the rev limiter and then I could scan the other gauges to make sure my temperature and oil pressure gauges were displaying all conditions normal. My car was happy as I was wringing every last ounce of performance out of it. Sensors throughout the car recorded and conveyed vital information to its driver. My dashboard was my first link to the health and state of my engine. My tachometer displayed how fast my engine was spinning, my temperature gauge showed that my heat was being managed effectively, my oil pressure gauge reassured me that vital fluids were circulating properly, my speedometer verified how I was performing, my gas gauge showed how long I could sustain my drive.



Much in the same way a driver might use gauges to optimize the performance of his car, Steve Gorcester of TIB relies on his Dashboard to ensure the best performance from Washington's \$80M per year grant program to improve roadways and sidewalks. This was the topic of March's ITE luncheon held at the Troiani Ristorante Italiano in downtown Seattle.

After some brief announcements, the program was handed over to Mr Gorcester as he provided background of TIB's past performance and then a live demonstration of how the Dashboards simplify performance reporting. Struggling to recover from over programming, late projects, and an unclear financial situation, the 10 year old method of adjusting hundreds of project schedules on a paper spreadsheets to control \$600M in expected billings had to change to recover from likely default in addition to ensure that this situation would never reoccur.

The Dashboard is an intranet based application that is linked to a vast electronic warehouse of information. Starting with 12 years of data that is linked to a computer display, the use of charts, graphs, and colors allows quick reference to the vital status of any given project. The electronic gauges can be custom tailored to meet various reporting needs.

Querying aspects of the project can help track and organize projects by schedule or budget. Green, yellow, and red colors are used to provide the general health of any aspect of a project instead of a phone call to each individual agency. It is also used to prioritize where funds may be needed the most for small city maintenance. Rather than phone calls and paper trails, the Dashboard allows TIB to focus on yellow and red areas where a more attention may be needed the most.

Bills that took five months to pay now take 21 days. Projects that needed assistance to meet their schedules could receive support in a timely manner. A \$40,000 effort to go live has yielded tremendous results. Only two years ago, the Dashboard rarely showed green indications. Through the reporting efficiency that facilitated better management of TIB programs, the Dashboard now displays mostly green.

To submit your business card, please send a jpg or tif file of the desired ad to James Bloodgood at jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us

Also send a check for \$100 (covers through December 2008) to James Bloodgood

Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
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425.388.6419

Positions Available

Planner 2/3 (Transportation) (Job #3933)

Public Works and Utilities Department

Transportation Planning and Programming Division

Salary Range: \$26.68- \$38.45 Per Hour (Commensurate w/Education & Experience)

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Pierce County is seeking talented, seasoned planners to perform professional planning work in the development, maintenance, and use of the County's travel demand model for the Public Works and Utilities Transportation Planning and Programming Division. Assignments may also include managing projects, staffing comprehensive community planning efforts, analyzing future travel demand based on alternative forecasting scenarios and/or certain supervisory responsibilities. **Planner 2:** Graduation from a four-year college or university with major coursework in planning, geography, public administration or related discipline and two or more years of increasingly responsible experience in county, municipal, or regional planning. Additional education or experience may substitute for the recruiting requirements. **Planner 3:** Requires a four year degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in planning, geography, public administration or closely related field and five years planning experience directly related to travel demand modeling. Pierce County offers family-oriented benefits for the employee and their family members.

For details contact: Pierce County Human Resources Department (253) 798-7480 or apply online: pchumanresources@co.pierce.wa.us or <http://www.piercecountywa.org/jobs>.

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