



Letter from the President

I hope you have enjoyed and benefited from the programs that we have held thus far. Your Board puts forth their best effort to plan programs that are informative and interesting. Up to this point, we have had excellent program topics and speakers, and turnout has been solid.



*Nick Ching
WA Section President*

We hope to continue bringing quality programs to the table, continuing with our annual December training. This year the training is on roundabouts, and I hope to see you there!

(Continued on [page 2](#))

REMINDER!

**UPDATE CONTACT INFO AT
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

As you renew your membership for 2009, please remember to update your current e-mail address and mailing address, this helps us make sure you get communications from your ITE Washington State Section.

This Month: Roundabouts

Join us in Woodinville for a morning meeting on December 9th at 7:30 AM to discuss roundabouts – design, operations and refinement. Dina Swires from WSDOT will provide an update on WSDOT work on roundabouts in the Mount Baker Region. In addition, Dina will give a summary of the May 2008 TRB national roundabout conference along with her perspective of the national roundabout design/progress.

Following the breakfast meeting, Patrick McGrady from Reid Middleton will conduct the training on roundabouts concentrating on “How we use roundabout design elements to elicit good user behavior. The goal of roundabout design is to get motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists to interact in a safe and efficient manner.

Sign up now for this informative breakfast meeting – and register for the training session, too!

- DATE** Tuesday, December 9, 2008
- TIME** 7:30 AM Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00 AM Program
9:15 - 11:00 AM Roundabout Training
- VENUE** Carol Edwards Center (operated by Woodinville Parks)
17401 - 133rd Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072
- COST** \$35.00 (\$5.00 for students) for both breakfast & training

RSVP By Friday, December 5th, please e-mail:
iteregistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Please include company name, address, phone number & names of attendees; note that you will receive an invoice from ITE if you RSVP but are unable to attend.

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Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Washington Section meetings are planned for the following dates, so mark your calendars now and plan ahead for the upcoming meetings in 2009:

- January 20, 2009— tentative date
- February 23, 2009 — ITE/IMSA Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

I encourage you to use our Section website as a source of information for upcoming events, membership updates, past newsletters, and other helpful links:

<http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm>

Also, please remember to renew your membership with ITE if you haven't already! I was recently notified by ITE headquarters that they are waiving current backdues if renewal payments are made by December 15, 2008. For those who have incurred backdues, I urge you take advantage of this opportunity.

I received a sobering reminder that ITE is not immune to the current economic condition. The International Board of Direction recently approved a budget for the 2009 fiscal year, and two student programs will become casualties of the new budget unless outside funding becomes available. The ITE student reception that is held at TRB and the International Traffic Bowl are the two programs that will not occur unless there is some financial assistance. I'm a huge advocate for investing in our students, and I hope neither of these programs will go by the wayside. If you would like to contribute to these two programs, please feel free to contact the Board. We will also get together during our upcoming Board meeting to brainstorm other ways to get these student programs back on their feet.

Also, Glenn Schwantes of HNTB has agreed to be the social committee chair for our Section! This is a new position for our Section, and we're grateful that Glenn stepped up to the plate. The intent of this committee is to provide activities in a more casual setting that will allow our members to engage with one another while at the same time having fun. Hopefully we'll have some entertaining and exciting events planned for our members in the near future. If you have any suggestions for Glenn, please let us know!

May you all have a safe and spirited holiday season!

Nick Ching
President, ITE Washington Section

Quad Conference Sponsorship

Are you looking for a great advertising opportunity? Do you have a product to promote or a service to offer to engineers? If so, you might be interested in participating in the trade show at the 2009 ITE Quad Conference, or sponsoring one of the events during the conference. If you would like to become a sponsor for the 2009 ITE Quad Conference, please e-mail:

Quad2009_Sponsorship@citevancouver.org

Business Card Advertising

To submit your business card, please send a jpg or tif file of the desired ad to Katherine Casseday at

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Also send a check for \$100 (covers through December 2009) to Katherine Casseday

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Traffic Simulation Roundtable Meeting Invitation

You are invited to attend the inaugural session of the **Washington Traffic Simulation Roundtable Group**. The purpose of the group is to engage federal, state, and local agencies; the private sector; and the research community in an on-going dialogue and exchange of ideas and good practices for the goal of using traffic simulation to make sound and valid transportation investment decisions.

Topic: Perspectives on Simulation Calibration

When: December 11, 2008, 10 am to Noon.

Where: WSDOT Corson Maintenance Facility, Room 119/121. See address below. Free parking is available.

Cost: Free

Preliminary Agenda

- 1) Simulation Roundtable Group Charter – James Colyar, FHWA
- 2) Results of Simulation Survey – Jeanne Acutanza, CH2M HILL
- 3) FHWA Calibration Guidelines – James Colyar, FHWA
- 4) SR 520 CORSIM Calibration – Tresia Bass , Parametrix
- 5) I-90 Eastlink VISSIM Calibration – Graham Satterwhite, CH2M HILL

RSVP

Call or email Lisa Abel at CH2M HILL if you would like to reserve a spot (phone **425-233-3240** , email lisa.abel@ch2m.com). Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

Simulation Survey – We need your input!

The Roundtable Group has developed a survey to gauge the interest and needs of simulation users in the Puget Sound area. Please take a moment to respond prior to the meeting:

<http://www.esurveyspro.com/Survey.aspx?id=5c9ff1ec-9dd2-4cb8-b63d-73b54de1180a>

Your support and participation are the main ingredients for making this group a success!

WSDOT Corson Maintenance Facility

Address: 6431 Corson Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108

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>

Scribe Report

By Bruce Newman, City of Redmond (on assignment this month for Paul Cho)

My work programming traffic signals involves extremely short-range transportation decisions. Given the location of vehicles and pedestrians detected, should the light remain green another one-tenth of a second, or is it time to turn yellow? Once yellow, should it change red after 3.6 seconds or 4.0 seconds? Should the intersection's cycle length be 90 seconds, or 96?

Long-term transportation planning requires a dramatically different perspective. Few professionals in any discipline can relate to the challenges of developing a 30-year plan. At November's ITE meeting, Puget Sound Regional Council Program Managers Michael Cummings and Jeff Frkonja described "Destination 2040," a new regional transportation plan for the year 2040. Their job is to divine the future. What technologic advancements will shape transportation? What demographic and economic changes will occur? What will be the political and regulatory landscape in 2040? These are no small questions.

PSRC is evaluating five alternatives. Each includes a mix of projects, under different funding assumptions. Many improvements are common to all alternatives, including Sound Transit East Link (Seattle to Bellevue to Redmond), SR-520 bridge replacement (with variable tolling), conversion from HOV-2 to HOV-3, and the Alaska Way viaduct replacement.

Each alternative invests to different degrees in "Efficiency Improvements" (such as transit, vanpools, TDM) and "System Improvements" (such as widening I-405). Alternatives that assume less funding is available focus on efficiency improvements, such as "outer tier" park-and-ride lots, expanded transit service hours, and possibly converting much of the HOV network to HOT. Other scenarios include much more investment in freeway improvements, freeway ITS, signal coordination between jurisdictions, and a two-lane regional HOT network. Congestion pricing could be expanded to other facilities beyond SR-167--possibly even to arterials. I-405 could be tolled to fund further improvements. One alternative focuses on making urban areas people-friendly, with more transit expansion and more downtown bikeways.

PSRC will be evaluating each alternative against mobility, growth management, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship. Michael and Jeff both stressed the impact of emissions--particularly carbon dioxide--on climate change, so the "environmental stewardship" of each alternative will have greater consideration. PSRC's transportation models are being refined to include emissions based not just on VMT but a much more refined look at travel speeds, fleet mix, and other factors.

A plan must be selected and approved by 2010. This is required in order to comply with federal clean air regulations, to maintain PSRC's authority to accept federal funds, and--most importantly--to ensure the region is attractive enough to our children that we don't have to move to visit our grandchildren.

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Need to update your contact
information?

See **page 4** for details.