



**Letter from the President**

One of the higher functions of our institute is to provide a basis for professional growth. Our last monthly meeting in Kirkland provided a well-attended opportunity to learn more about the communications systems enabling our Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and of the issues that are the current hot topics for local agencies currently developing ITS systems.



*David Alm  
WA Section President*

Our upcoming joint meeting with IMSA in SeaTac will provide learning opportunities in other topics. In SeaTac there will also be the opportunity to learn about the latest innovations and technologies for traffic control devices provided by the presence of several traffic control product vendors. I hope to see many of you there!!

*(Continued on page 2)*

**This Month: ITE/IMSA Annual Meeting**

**LOCATION** DOUBLE TREE HOTEL  
18740 Pacific Highway South  
Seattle, WA 98188  
Phone: (206) 246-8600

**DATE** Monday, February 25, 2008

**TIMES**

Vendor Display	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Technical Programs	8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch and Prize Raffle	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Vendor Seminars	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**MENU** Char-Grilled Salmon Fillet with Key Lime Cheesecake dessert. (Vegetarian option available upon request.)

**COST** Displays, programs and seminars are free  
Lunch Cost will be **\$35.00**

**MORE INFORMATION - PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR MEETING DETAILS**

**RSVP** By Thursday, February 21 to Iris Cabrera at  
[ITERegistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:ITERegistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us)

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**In Memoriam**

*Christie Jacobs  
July 4, 1959 to January 31, 2008*

ITE extends condolences and deepest sympathies to our fellow ITE member Mark Jacobs of Jake Traffic Engineering, whose wife Christie passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 31, 2008. Christie had been employed by the Washington State Department of Transportation since June of 1984, most recently as a Transportation Engineer 2. In addition to her husband, Christie leaves behind their sixteen year old son, Marckus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Jacobs family during this difficult time.

Memorials to Christie's memory to: Harborview Trauma Center, UW Medicine Development, 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, 98101. (Make checks payable to UW Foundation)

**With our Deepest Sympathy  
ITE Washington Section**

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to our Section's local efforts to provide professional development training, I have noted an increase in the amount of training organized through our International ITE organization. Just check out the ITE International web page at [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org), and at any time see what training, research, and conferences are upcoming through the site's "Professional Development" tab. At this time, I note the following opportunities for training:

- ITE Technical Conference on Safety, March 30, Miami, Florida
- ITE Quad Conference, April 26, Victoria, BC
- ITE District 6 Meeting, August 17, Anaheim, California
- Webinars. Below is a brief example of the constant stream of topics offered through the link <http://www.ite.org/education/webinars.asp>

Date and Time	2008 Web Offerings
Thursday, February 7 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Application of the Flashing Yellow Arrow for Permissive Left Turns</a>
Tuesday, February 12 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Transportation Impact Analysis for Site Development</a>
Thursday, February 21 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Overview of the 2007 Notice of Proposed Amendments to the MUTCD Web Briefing</a> **SOLD OUT**
Thursday, February 21 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Resolution of Transit Priority Integration Issues</a>
Tuesday, February 26 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets</a>

As practicing traffic engineers, please be active in your personal pursuit of training. You should feel an obligation to keep yourself current on the best science available. ITE has set the table with great data. In publications and periodicals organized and offered by ITE, there is a constant flow of new information, examples, and analysis. Yet it is up to each of you on a personal level to take advantage of the training opportunities within your reach.

There is no current requirement in Washington and other states that registered professional engineers to for continuing education training to maintain PE registration obligations. The stimulus to stay current is self-generated. But sadly, some may need this requirement as their reminder that it is a good idea. Surely, no transportation engineers need a legislated obligation.

Washington ITE members already embrace the concept of learning. We already generously give ourselves to mentoring those entering our profession. We strongly support our Student Chapter and give to our scholarship funds. We have been writing technical papers and giving presentations at conferences to share lessons learned to the benefit of other transportation professionals. So don't forget the other side of this theory, go out there and get yourself trained. Go to that conference. Go discuss product options and your needs with the vendors. Sign up for that teleconference or webinar. Be active. For your sake and the sake of all of us, please don't forget to keep checking for new opportunities to improve as a traffic engineer.

Sincerely,

David Alm,  
President, ITE Washington Section

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## **“The Campus Corner”**

By Scott Lee and Megan Powers

Washington Section student scholarship applications are now available on the Washington Section Website at [www.westernite.org/Sections/washington](http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington). Two scholarships will be awarded this year, one for undergraduate students in the amount of \$1,200 and one for graduate students in the amount of \$1,500. Scholarships are open to all students pursuing a career in transportation engineering or planning. Applications are due April 4, 2008.

We would like to invite students who are interested in attending the Joint Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE) and QUAD Conference (held in Victoria BC) to contact the student activities committee. Scholarships are available to students to cover the cost of attending the meeting (including transportation, housing, and conference fees). If you are a student who would like to attend the meeting, please contact the Student Activity committee about this opportunity.

The Student Night Competition will take place on Tuesday, May 13th. This year's project will be provided by the City of Redmond. Stay tuned, the location and scope of the project are coming soon.

We are currently looking for anyone interested in sponsoring the student night or willing to donate to the student chapter fund. Sponsorship of the student night would include providing funds for the cash prizes given away to the winning students. Last year \$1,000 was given away to students participating in the event. Donations given to the general chapter fund are used to send students to local conferences, aid in scholarships given to graduate and undergraduate students each year, and reduce costs to students at monthly meetings.

Anyone willing to sponsor or donate can contact either of the student committee coordinators.

### Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:

Scott Lee, Transpo Group – (425) 821-3665 or [scottl@thetranspogroup.com](mailto:scottl@thetranspogroup.com)

Meagan Powers, DKS Associates – (206) 382-9800 or [mcp@dksassociates.com](mailto:mcp@dksassociates.com)

## **ITE Transportation Achievement Award**

The **ITE Transportation Achievement Award** is awarded annually for excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs by entities concerned with transportation such as governmental agencies, legislative bodies, consulting firms, industry and other private sector organizations. The Transportation Consultants Council has endowed this award.

Awards are presented in the categories of operations, facilities and safety.

Visit <http://hosting.bronto.com/3947/public/TransportationAchievementAward.doc> for more information about the award and how to apply.

Please note the deadline of **April 1, 2008**.

Any question about this award or any other ITE award, please contact Heather Talbert at ITE ([htalbert@ite.org](mailto:htalbert@ite.org) or 202-289-0222, ext. 138).

## **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 Paul Cho, City of Redmond*

With snow and ice on the ground in many places and schools running delayed schedules, the weather was a replay of last year. Coincidentally, this year's joint ITE/ITS Washington breakfast and training session was also scheduled in Kirkland, but this time in the warm shelter of Heritage Hall owned by City of Kirkland. The three topics for this year's training included Regional ITS Initiatives and Challenges, IP Communications Training and a Panel Discussion on local ITS Deployment.



As members escaped the cold, warm food awaited them as a reward for their adventures through the weather; so started our second annual "Brave through the snow and ice to Kirkland for a great breakfast and very informative training session."

The first topic was presented by Hicham Chatila of the Transpo Group and Staphanie Rossi of Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC.) Mr. Chatila provided a pulse on the various ITS projects that have been recently completed or currently under way. A common theme was the similarities of the projects but the uniqueness and independence in addressing similar challenges. Ms. Rossi continued with updates on efforts to pull together local and regional experts. One effort is the Regional Traffic Operations Committee (RTOC) formed almost a year ago. She also provided information on a regional demonstration project in video sharing between jurisdictions called Traffic Busters that's spear-headed by WSDOT.

Both speakers stressed that many of the current systems are not managed in a proactive and integrated manner. Many agencies that have the capability of collecting real time data do not use it. 50% of motorists use arterials, yet only WSDOT, King County and a few local agencies have active systems in full utilization. Mr. Chatila continued by stressing the importance of an institutional change that required to address resources necessary to innovate, design, deploy and operate ITS.

Joe Rinehart, of Netversant, provided training on networking concepts. Laced with humor and using small words for the networking challenged, Mr. Rinehart compared Ethernet communications with that of spoken language. An idea is encoded into spoken language through a sender's mouth. The sound waves over the air provide the medium to deliver the idea to a receiver's ear. The sounds are then decoded to the brain and the end result is a shared idea. Much in the same way, the IP network consists of a sender, encoder, medium, decoder and receiver to share data.

The next comparison was that of a vehicle with an origin and a destination. The vehicle (data) must enter the freeway on a unique on ramp (IP address) and exit off a unique off ramp (IP address.) The highway provides the path and the number of lanes dictate the capacity (bandwidth.) Mr. Rinehart then cranked up the technical knob a bit by comparing a unique IP address to a unique telephone number. The IP network has revolutionized the way businesses communicate and the same technology can be applied to the communications needs of traffic signals, cameras, and other ITS devices.

The meeting continued with a panel discussion with Mark Poch and Mike Whiteaker of City of Bellevue, Chuck Morrison of City of Seattle, and Jim Bloodgood of Snohomish County. The panel provided insight on their experiences with deploying ITS within their respective agencies.

A common challenge that stood out was a coordination effort with respective IT departments. Since traffic communications has moved to the same platform as business communications, the need for additional expertise beyond signal control language has emerged. An agency can hire an experienced network specialist into the traffic group or the traffic group must work together with the networking group within the agency. The second common challenge was the allocation of resources. Not necessarily more money for projects, but rather for time to manage ongoing workloads in addition to the ITS projects.

In closing, the panel recommended having a goal of the ultimate build out. By having this vision and plan in place, an agency can take advantage of any opportunities along the way that might provide a boost towards the end goal. Much like having a bearing for a ship to sail to, a captain can take advantage of changes in the wind to make course corrections but eventually finding the desired port.

# ITE/IMSA Joint Annual Meeting and Vendor Exhibition

Monday, February 25, 2008

Location: DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
18740 Pacific Highway South  
Seattle, WA 98188

Times: Vendor Display 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Technical Programs 8:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Lunch and Prize Raffle 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Vendor Seminars 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Menu: Char-Grilled Salmon Fillet with Key Lime Cheesecake dessert. (Vegetarian option available upon request.)

Cost: Displays, programs, and seminars are free  
Lunch Cost will be **\$35.00**

**Parking will be free, just proceed into the gated lots and take a ticket at the booths. Upon exit, mention you are with the ITE/IMSA meeting.**

**Reservations for Lunch:** Reservations must be made in advance, before noon on **Thursday, February 21st** by sending an E-Mail to [ITERegistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:ITERegistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us). Please clearly state your name, the name of your organization, and that your reservation is for the February meeting.

**Lodging:** We have a small block of hotel rooms reserved for Sunday and Monday night. Please contact the hotel directly to reserve accommodations and ask for the 'INT' group rate. The phone number of the hotel is (206) 246-8600.

## Technical Program

### **8:30 AM: Technical Session 1**

#### 2007 Proposed Changes to the MUTCD

Moderator: Dongho Chang, City of Everett

Speaker: Rick Mowlds, WSDOT

### **9:30 AM: Technical Session 2**

#### Response to 2006 Windstorm and Widespread Power Outages

Moderator: Tom Borges, King County

Speaker: Dick Adams, City of Lynnwood

Speaker: Jon Cornelius, WSDOT

### **10:30 AM: Technical Session 3**

#### Rail Transit and Local Arterial Integration: Link Light Rail and South Lake Union Streetcar

Moderator: David Alm, INCA Engineers

Speaker: Chris Long, DKS & Associates (Link)

Speaker: Joe Couples, City of Seattle (Streetcar)

### **1:00 PM: Technical Session 4**

#### Panel Discussion of Pedestrian Signal Timing and the All-Red Clearance Interval

Moderator: Jerry Liu, Parsons Transportation Group

Speaker: Dongho Chang, City of Everett

Speaker: Fred Housman, King County

Speaker: Fred Liang and Brandon Carver, City of Bellevue

Vendors that will be represented this year include:

- ◇Valmont Industries
- ◇Holophane
- ◇Zumar Industries
- ◇Electronic Integrated Systems, Inc.
- ◇Kar-Gor, Inc.
- ◇Northwest Signal Supply, Inc.
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- ◇Naztec, Inc.
- ◇Traffic Safety Supply, Inc.
- ◇Lighting Group Northwest
- ◇Alpine Products, Inc.
- ◇Western Systems
- ◇Skyline Dynamic Message Signs
- ◇Ameron International Corporation
- ◇Cascade Signal Corporation
- ◇Spot Devices
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- ◇Puget Sound Energy
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- ◇SmartStud Systems, Inc.
- ◇Advanced Traffic Products, Inc.
- ◇PTV America, Inc.
- ◇Teleste Video Networks
- ◇Clary Corporation
- ◇RuggedCom
- ◇and more....

Vendor Display: This one-day vendor exhibition has grown to become the premier trade show in the Northwest and a favorite of the vendors for traffic and transportation related products.

This is an excellent opportunity for traffic and transportation professionals, and signal **and sign technicians** to come and see "what's new" in the industry, to meet with the manufacturer's representatives, and to share ideas with others in this vast and ever changing field. We anticipate a large attendance with more than 200 professionals and over 40 different vendors at this year's exhibition.

For current information, go to the following web address:

<http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/Meetings/Feb2008Meeting.htm>

# WA Section ITE Board

## President

David R. Alm  
INCA Engineers  
400 112th Ave NE, Suite 400  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
425.635.1000  
425.635.1150 Fax  
[d.alm@incainc.com](mailto:d.alm@incainc.com)

## Vice President/ Treasurer

Nick W. Ching  
HNTB  
600 - 108th Ave NE, Suite 405  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
425.456.8551  
425.456.8600 Fax  
[nching@hntb.com](mailto:nching@hntb.com)

## Secretary

James Bloodgood  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201  
425.388.6419  
[jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us)

## Past President

Kerensa Swanson Fromherz  
The Transpo Group  
11730 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, S 600  
Kirkland, WA 98034  
425.821.3665  
425.825.8434 Fax  
[kerensas@thetranspogroup.com](mailto:kerensas@thetranspogroup.com)



c/o James Bloodgood  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201  
425.388.6419  
[jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us)