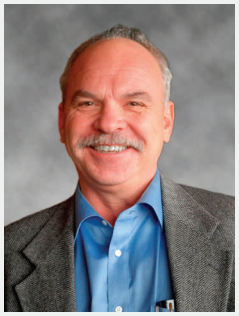
WASHINGTON STATE SECTION / INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm

ITE WASHINGTON

Letter from the President

Did you catch those Vancouver Olympics? What incredible performances by individuals who have dedicated so much of their lives to their craft. You know, the Washington Section of ITE has some individuals have dedicated many, many years to their craft and have turned in performances of Olympic proportion. By this I mean we have three individuals who have been granted Life Membership in ITE International.



Jim Bloodgood
WA Section President

This is no small feat. Per the ITE International Constitution, a Life Member shall be considered as any member in good standing who has reached the age of 65 and has paid dues above the Student Member level for 25 years, including the current year, or

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue:

Letter from the President	1-2
Campus Corner	3
Provide Input to the MUTCD Adoption Committee	3
Scribe Report	5
Featured Technical Article: 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices	6
Dynamic Message Board	7

Mark Your Calendars!

Plan ahead and mark your calendars now for upcoming Washington Section meetings and events:

- March 29, 2010 - Submittals Due for inclusion in April Newsletter
- April 13, 2010 - Lunch Meeting (look for information in the upcoming April Newsletter)
- May 10, 2010 - Student Night
- June 7, 2010 - Washington Section Annual Meeting
- June 27-30, 2010 - District 6 Meeting, San Francisco, California http://www.westernite.org/annualmeetings/meeting.htm

- August 8-11, 2010 - International Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, http://www.ite.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp

(Continued from page 1)

who has reached the age of 55, has paid dues above the Student Member level for 15 years including the current year and has paid a one-time fee.

From the Inland Empire Chapter of the Washington Section of ITE we honor Harold Ocobock, formerly the Yakima County Traffic Engineer. From the west side we honor Bill Haro, long time Traffic Engineer for the City of Bellevue and currently and expert witness consultant, and Dan Patsula, a well known and respected Seattle area consultant.

I had the opportunity to present Dan his plaque at the recent ITE/IMSA meeting. I wanted to make a public presentation of it at that meeting. However, Dan requested that I not say anything and he would just go silently into the night. I honored his request. However, his request does not preclude me from writing about it. Gotcha Dan!

Please join me in congratulating these three outstanding representatives of Washington ITE and our profession.

Jim Bloodgood
President, ITE Washington Section

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"The Campus Corner"

By Meagan Powers and Scott Lee

The Washington Section student scholarships applications are now posted on the ITE website. Students are encouraged to download the application form from our website (www.westernite.org/Sections/washington) and submit it by 5:00 PM April 2, 2010. If you know a student who you think would be a good candidate, we encourage you to let them know about this opportunity. Two scholarships will be awarded this year, one for undergraduate students in the amount of $1,500 and one for graduate students in the amount of $2,000. Scholarships are open to all students pursuing a career in transportation engineering or planning.

The UW student chapter opened their ITE meeting on-campus, February 11th at 6:00 PM to attendance by professionals as well. The UW student chapter is working on organizing trip generation data collection at Roosevelt High School for the District 6 grant that they won earlier this year.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Student Night Competition on Tuesday, May 11th at 6:00 PM. This is a great event to hear from the students and meet up and coming members of ITE. We will be awarding this year's scholarships and cash prize to the students at this meeting. We are still working on finalizing the project for the student night, so stay posted for more details in the next newsletter.

Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:

Meagan Powers, DKS Associates – (206)382-9800 or mcp@dksassociates.com
Scott Lee, Transpo Group – (425)821-3665 or scott.lee@transpogroup.com

PROVIDE INPUT TO THE MUTCD ADOPTION COMMITTEE

By Mark Madden (See companion article "2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices")

As noted in the companion article WSDOT has assembled a MUTCD Adoption Committee consisting of peer groups and officials from State, County, and City jurisdictions. The ITE representative is Mark Madden of DKS Associates. The Committee will consider the January 15, 2010 federal publication of the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) to determine which if any modifications should be made before adopting the manual into the WAC (Washington Administrative Code)

The WAC will require that all pubic agencies and private facilities open to public transportation incorporate the standards in the MUTCD as adopted in the WAC. Many changes from the previous version will require jurisdictions to update traffic control devices to remain within the law. The new edition with changes can be viewed at: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf_index.htm.

Many public agencies use compliance to the MUTCD for defense against claims of inadequate or improper traffic controls. However, the lack of compliance can be used against public agencies. Therefore, many changes have compliance dates recognizing that changes can not be made instantaneously and that the cost of changes will be lower during normal maintenance cycles or design life changes. Even though compliance dates extend the time for full compliance, some changes will require immediate planning to budget for inventories and change-out programs.

If any individual or agency finds modification to the proposed MUTCD to improve clarification, reduce conflicts, or promote safety, they may send documentation to Mark Madden at mam@dksassociates.com for consideration by the MUTCD Adoption Committee. The Committee plans to complete review of the standards in May. However, early revision requests may have an advantage with time for deeper research.

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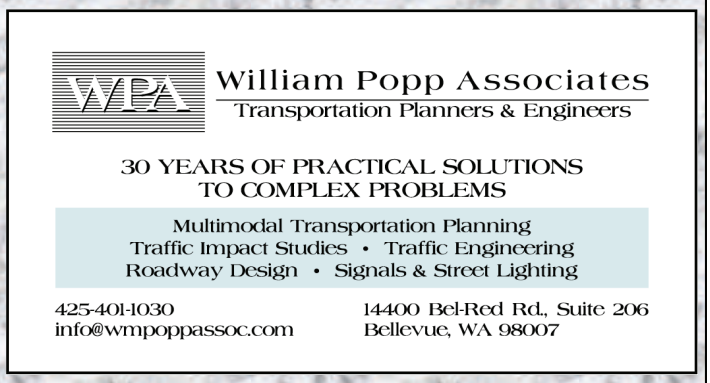
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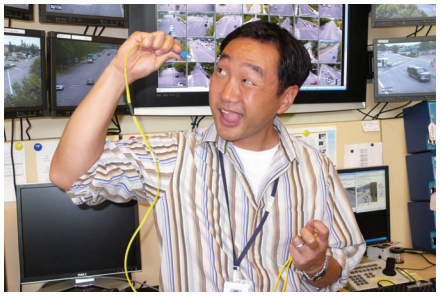
Scribe Report

By Paul Cho, City of Redmond



It's a new year and a new decade! What great opportunities lay ahead for those seeking it. One of the great opportunities was to gather at Maggiano's Little Italy for January's ITE breakfast meeting and training session. No doubt many of the 47 registered members in attendance initially wondered, "Maggiano's serves breakfast?" Yes it does. And if you missed it, yes you did (re: January newsletter for the full menu list.)

Starting the first meeting in 2010, Washington section president, Jim Bloodgood, began with announcing the celebration of life for former Oregon section member, William C. Kloos, and the celebration of career by retiring local member, Jim Ellison. Mr. Bloodgood continued his announcements with our section's contribution of $2500 toward the District 6 Student Endowment Fund, with more detailed information available at http://www.westernite.org/endowment/index.php. Following the president's announcements, Dongho Chang (City of Everett) introduced Jodi Petersen (FHWA WA Division) to begin the training portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Petersen began by providing an overview of the comprehensive course and available training that typically spans a day and a half. Such tools as webinars greatly answer the logistic challenges of providing alternative training outside of a traditional classroom setting. Especially with already tight budgets constraining travel for many, it is an opportunity for information beyond the two and half hour time frame this month's training comprises.

Approximately 54 million Americans over the age of 15 have a disability according to the 2000 census. Starting in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act set regulations for buildings. In 1973, 1987 and with the most current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, legislation attempted to address opportunities for all Americans to have equal quality of life. Mrs. Pedersen began to emphasize basic requirements of Title II that covered State and Local Governments. Once any federal funding has been rewarded, an agency may not only jeopardize its federal funding but also be penalized if guidelines for upgrading programs to current standards are not adequately met as part of its overall transportation program. Many agencies have since appointed staff or consultants as their ADA coordinator to carry the task of ensuring the agency has a transition plan and sticks to it.

Following Mrs. Pedersen's presentation, Franz Loewenherz (City of Bellevue) provided a unique example of how Bellevue was able to apply the Title II requirements in evaluating the City and updating their transition program. Employing technology that may have been slated for the space shuttle program, Mr. Loewenherz capitalized on a grant to integrate an ultra-light inertial profiler fitted to a Segway human transportation equipment to gather data on Bellevue's existing sidewalks and ramps. With 330miles of sidewalks mapped during a two month period, the data was used to provide cost estimates to address deficiencies. With this information, Bellevue was able to estimate approximately $936M in corrective treatments throughout the city. Those seeking additional information on the project may contact Mr. Loewenherz at floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov.

The meeting and training session was concluded at 11am with Mr. Bloodgood reminding members of the February joint ITE/IMSA and trade show coming up on the 22nd of February.

Featured Technical Article

Do you have an interesting technical topic, idea, or project to share? If you do, the Technical Report Committee wants to hear from you! Please contact Dongho Chang at <DChang@ci.everett.wa.us> for more information.

2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

By Mark Madden, DKS Associates

Federal Rule

On December 16, 2009, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) adopted the 2009 edition of the MUTCD. The Final Rule was published in the Federal Register with a January 15, 2010 effective date. Federal rules also require the states to adopt within two years the 2009 MUTCD as their standard for traffic control devices.

For more information on the MUTCD and the changes:

2009 MUTCD: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno_2009.htm
Final Rule for the 2009 MUTCD: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-28322.pdf

State Law

State law, in RCW 47.36.030, requires the WSDOT Secretary of Transportation to adopt uniform traffic control device standards. To fulfill this requirement the department must adopt the 2009 MUTCD, with modifications, into Chapter 468-95 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

MUTCD Adoption Committee

The department will chair a statewide committee, whose purpose is to identify the appropriate modifications for adoption into the MUTCD. The committee will include traffic engineering subject matter experts, from the department, local agencies, and the private sector, representing rural and urban areas in Eastern and Western Washington.

Adoption Process

After the committee identifies and drafts the appropriate MUTCD modifications, department staff will edit final text and solicit committee concurrence. The proposed MUTCD modifications must then receive FHWA approval before adoption through the procedures prescribed by RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedures Act.

The complete process, through adoption into WAC 468-95, is expected to take between a year and year and a half which should comfortably precede the January 15, 2012 Federal compliance date.

Additional Information

Contact Rick Mowlds, the department's Signing Engineer in Olympia at (360) 705-7988, or via e-mail mowldsr@wsdot.wa.gov for questions about the process or Mark Madden of DKS Associates at (206) 382-9800 or via e-mail mam@dksassociates.com to submit proposed modifications to the adoption process.

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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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