WASHINGTON STATE SECTION / INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

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ITE WASHINGTON

Letter from the President

The autumn months symbolically represent a time of harvest as the winter season approaches. The early mornings now have a crispness in the air, and the opportunities to enjoy a comfortable meal under the skies after work have drawn to a close. The leaves now feature different shades of orange and yellow as they separate from the branches that have sustained their growth for the last eight months. It is a time for football fans to plan their weekends around their favorite college and professional teams with hopes that a successful season will translate into a bowl game in early January.

Kevin Chang
WA Section President

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SAVE THE DATE

This meeting will feature an overview of Microsoft campus, the transportation services that Microsoft has in place, and the impact that those services have on the company's mode split and employees. Presenting this information on Microsoft's transportation planning and operations will be Mr. Jim Stanton, who manages transportation, community & government affairs, development entitlement, and corporate philanthropy for Microsoft, and Ms. Lynn Frosch, the Puget Sound Transportation Services Manager at Microsoft in Redmond. The company's Commute, Intra-campus Shuttle and Connector Bus programs are in place in order to meet public, corporate and social responsibilities, as well as help Microsoft meet trip reduction goals specified by the Washington State CTR law and local transportation management programs.

WHEN Tuesday, November 8, 2011
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Lunch Meeting

VENUE City of Redmond, City Hall, Council Chambers
15670 NE 85th Street
Redmond, WA 98052

COST Members: $15 for boxed lunch form Ingallina's, Free if bring a brown-bag lunch.
Non-Members: $20 for boxed lunch from Ingallina's. $5 if bring a brown-bag lunch.

MENU Select from the following Ingallina's boxed lunches, which all include fresh fruits, a cookie and bottled water:

1. Italian Submarine
2. Turkey Havarti
3. Chicken Club
4. Cuban Steak Sandwich
5. Albacore Dill and Pickle
6. Vegetarian Sandwich
7. Roasted Vegetable Sandwich
8. Classic Cobb Salad

RSVP By 5 PM, Friday, November 4th, please e-mail Carla Nasr at: itewaregister@gmail.com Please include whether you are a member, your box choice, 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.

(Continued from page 1)

The approaching start of a new year is an opportunity for the newest technology to be unveiled into the marketplace and our individual worlds. Over the last twenty-five years we have seen first-hand the evolution of these ideas and how its implementation has dramatically reshaped our lives. World almanacs and multi-volume encyclopedia books increasingly gather dust on our bookshelves as we rely more or more of the endless amount of information available at the end of our fingertips. We can now book airline trips, review feedback on a new restaurant, shop for friends, and talk and interact with loved ones across the country from the comfort of our homes. This is quite a departure from the days of rotary phones, televisions without a remote control, and hand-written letters serving as the primary form of detailed correspondence.

Technological advancements have certainly been prevalent and rapid in our own transportation field. Traffic cameras and color-coded traffic flow maps allow us to view the congestion activity of our regional highways and local arterial roadways so that we can plan our trips accordingly. Variable message signs and real-time information help drivers and reassure riders waiting for a transit bus, respectively. Today's vehicles have the ability to avoid rear-end collisions, park themselves, and send out oil change reminders. To borrow a slogan from the late 1980s, "these cars are certainly not your father's Oldsmobile."

New technology is not without its faults. We grow frustrated and impatient when problems occur, and we are increasingly dependent on our maintenance personnel and IT professionals to fix many of these problems. When the internet connection goes down at home, we stare at the screen and aimlessly tap our keyboard or mouse in hopes that our persistence will magically make things better. When our e-mail account shuts down at work and is not accessible, we helplessly wait for the connection to be restored as minutes seem like hours. What happened when you ran into problems writing to a co-worker thirty years ago? You walked over to a pencil sharpener and waited for the whirring sound to stop. Sometimes you were inconvenienced with the daunting task of running the sharpener for a second time.

Technology, without question, has made many of our day-to-day tasks easier and more convenient than ever before, and it has a place in our lives. As we continue to understand how these changes can make a positive difference, including at our November lunch meeting featuring a presentation about the transportation program at Microsoft, let us not lose sight that a personalized hand-written letter still has a place in this rapidly demanding world. Let us take the time to think about the consequences of new technology, and let us "sharpen our own pencils" so that in the end, our contributions will not result in a puzzle that is more difficult to solve than when we started.

Kevin Chang, President

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"The Campus Corner"

By Meagan Powers and Jane Vandenberg

UW Student Chapter wins James H. Kell RFP Competition at 2011 Western District Meeting

The proposal for "Traffic Hero", by Yegor Malinovskiy and Runze Yu (pictured right) from the ITE UW Student Chapter (ITEUW), has been selected as the winner of this year's James H. Kell RFP Competition. As the winners of this award, our student chapter facilitated the Kell Competition on Sunday afternoon at the Annual Meeting in Anchorage.

Four students from the ITEUW: Runze Yu, Xiaoyue Liu, Yegor Malinovskiy, and Kelly Pitera attended the 2011 ITE Western District Annual Meeting, from July 10th to 13th in Anchorage, Alaska (pictured below left, respectively). The trip was sponsored by the ITE Washington Section.

Participating students enjoyed the game and learned the basic ideas of video-based traffic detection (pictured below right). Followed-up interest in the game emerged from the ITE community, bringing the potential of presenting this game in future ITE conferences and events.

Additionally Runze's paper, "Quantifying the Relationship between Near-road Concentrations of Black Carbon and Traffic Flow Observations", was selected as the winning paper for the 2011 Western District Student Paper Award. He presented his research at the conference and was also awarded an award plaque and a check for $500 during the awards banquet.

Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:

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

Jane Vandenberg, Pierce County – (253)798-2249 or jvanden@co.pierce.wa.us

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Also send a check for the ad size you desire (ad will run from January 2012 through December 2012) to:

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Call 425.257.8871 for further questions.

Scribe Report

By Paul Cho, City of Redmond

October Meeting (Tuesday, 10/11/2011)

In preparation for this month's ITE Washington meeting, I asked the usual suspects around the office for attendance to see who my carpool partners might be. I didn't get the typical responses I normally receive. Was it because the location was the farthest north we've had a section luncheon meeting? Was it because I had asked typical operations and maintenance minded people? Was it because I had forgotten to contact development services staff in our office about the topic? Whatever the case, I had found myself as a single occupant driving toward the City of Snohomish Library which was recently named one of top libraries in the country by USA Today.

In my quest to rally potential carpool mates, I had forgotten to put my name on the lunch pre-register list and was relegated to brown bagging. But fortunately, for members, this was a no cost alternative in an effort to keep fees down for those that have had to really trim their budgets. Otherwise, the drive was pleasant and I eagerly awaited the discussion.

This month's topic on Traffic Mitigation Fees is something I am aware of but typically not as involved in. I would truly be cross training in an area that would eventually impact my daily duties and responsibilities. Whether it was the topic or the location, I was surprised to meet many new faces and some I haven't seen in a long time that composed the 46 registered for this month's topic. Section president, Kevin Chang, began the meeting by asking Ed Koltonowski (Gibson Traffic) to introduce the discussion panelists; Chris Comeau (City of Bellingham), Eric Olson (Snohomish County), Jane Vandenberg (Pierce County) and Mike Pattison (Master Builders Association).

Chris Comeau proceeded to describe the City of Snohomish's experience with their Transportation Impact Fees (TIF) program starting in the mid-80s and evolving through the 90s and today. Initially based on zones, the TIF program was modified to mirror that of the City of Olympia as they compared the fee structures of over 60 cities in Washington to come up with their current structure that has been in use since 2004.

Following Mr. Comeau, Jane Vanderberg described Pierce County's more recent program that tackled the challenge of providing the development community with a more predictable way to mitigate impacts of new development. The County Council approved a package that became effective January 1st of 2007 that looked at

(Continued on page 7)

Safety Corner: Safety Training Program & Community

By Gary Norris, ITE Washington State Section Safety Committee Co-Chair

Jim Ellison, Mike Dornfield, and Gary Norris met a couple weeks ago to discuss the safety training program scheduled for December 13. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the room as we discussed how to make transportation safety relevant and meaningful to each of us. I think everyone will be pleased with the program and all should plan to attend.

For those of you who are interested in transportation safety, ITE has launched a new web site: ITE Community. The purpose of this website is to facilitate networking and collaboration among ITE members. One aspect of the Community is an opportunity to have a safety specific group to discuss state of the practice, hot topics, and connect with other safety focused ITE members. To get started go to http://community.ite.org. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact brian.e.chandler@saic.com.

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travel demand models to help identify forecasted growth, then identify road deficiencies and forecast future needs. From this information a list of projects necessary to support the growth was established to calculate existing and potential revenues and shortfalls and thus arrive at impact fees. Of course the downturn in the economy brought on new challenges related to uncollected fees and the issue of refunds if a building permit was cancelled.

Eric Olson continued the discussion with Snohomish County's experience. Mr. Olson described the changes from a SEPA-based to a GMA-based structure. He continued with challenges related to annexation and its impacts on collected fees. Mr. Olson also stressed the balance between how much to charge developers with respect to encouraging development. He provided examples of credits to developers to make certain types of growth more attractive in an effort to reduce trips.

And finally, we heard from the other side of the fence with Mike Pattison painting a very vivid picture of how the development industry has had to adjust to the downturn in the economy. In an environment where the cost of housing has come down, the fees have remained fixed putting additional pressures to the development community to come up with up-front fees when cash flow and financing are scarce. Mr. Pattison pointed out creative ways that allowed some developments to move forward during this tough economic time.

A long round of questions and answers followed the presentation. Kevin Chang then thanked the panel as well as Ed Koltonowski and Carla Nasr for their efforts in putting the meeting together. Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mr. Chang reminded the members of important dates for ITSWA (11/1) and November's luncheon meeting (11/8).

Notice of Public Hearing:
Adoption of 2009 MUTCD by Washington State

Washington State is still in the process to adopt the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, the Washington State Register published the proposed modifications to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 468-95. This begins a comment period for written comments that closes on November 15. There will then be a public hearing on WAC 468-95:

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Washington State Department of Transportation, Headquarters Building,
310 Maple Park Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501
in the Commission Board Room (Room 1D2)

To view the proposed modifications to WAC 468-95 or to comment, please click here.

After comments are addressed, WAC 468-95 will be officially modified. This means that Washington State will adopt the 2009 MUTCD and the 2003 MUTCD will no longer be valid.

Also, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently proposed changes to the target compliance dates listed in the introduction section of the 2009 MUTCD. They propose to remove 46 dates, modify five, and keep seven as is. The goal is to make it easier for local and state agencies to upgrade to traffic control devices that meet new standards. FHWA requests comments from these agencies and other interested parties on a "Notice of Proposed Amendments", published in the Federal Register, by October 31, 2011. To read or comment on that Federal Register, 23 CFR Part 655 Vol. 76, No. 169, click here PDF or here HTML. The proposed changes are shown here PDF or here HTML.

For further questions, please contact Rick Mowlds at 360-705-7988 or Rick.Mowlds@wsdot.wa.gov or Susan Bowe, (360) 705-7380.

ITE Washington State Section 2011-2012 Membership Directory Notice

By Dongho Chang, State Section Secretary

The Washington State Section of ITE will be producing our 2011-2012 membership directory by next spring. The membership directory will be posted electronically on our website as a valuable resource to our members. The directory will be a reference for clients and peers and we want to have your most current contact information. If you had a recent change in your contact and membership information, please visit our website at http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/membership/membership.html and complete the update form. Please email Dongho Chang at dchang@ci.everett.wa.us if you wish to be omitted from the directory.

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