WASHINGTON STATE SECTION / INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

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

# ITE WASHINGTON

## Letter from the President

As a transportation engineer, you are faced with challenges on a daily basis. These "bumps in the road" occur during and after the design or construction phase of a project, but they also surface outside of your daily work environment at unexpected times. When your client or customer is a family member, a friend, a neighbor, or someone on the street who asks you a transportation question because you are their industry resource, are you prepared to provide an answer? In this case, successfully tackling the challenge will depend on the information that you give and the confidence that you portray.

*Kevin Chang*
*WA Section President*

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## SAVE THE DATE

This meeting will feature a panel discussion on Traffic Mitigation Fees. Experts from local jurisdictions will share their experiences and discuss the pros and cons of having these fees serve as a realistic funding source. The discussion will address SEPA and GMA based fees, and will provide details that include existing practices and technical and political issues. The panelists will share insightful lessons learned - including what they would do again and they would not do - and touch upon new challenges given the recent economic downturn. Please join us as we address this timely and impactful topic!

The panelists are: Chris Comeau (City of Bellingham), Eric Olson (Snohomish County), Jane Vandenberg (Pierce County) and Mike Pattison (Master Builders Association).

**WHEN** Tuesday, October 11, 2011
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch Meeting

**VENUE** City of Snohomish Library
Meeting room
311 Maple Avenue
Snohomish, WA 98290
The City of Snohomish library was recognized by USA Today, thanks to Seattle's Nancy Pearl, as one of the top ten libraries in the country! http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/10great/2008-03-06-10great-libraries_N.htm

**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 Cob Salad

**RSVP** By 5 PM, Friday, October 7th, 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)*

Given the unique geography of our region, it is not surprising that transportation issues are always on or in the local news. There are two major roadway projects currently under construction in the Puget Sound, namely the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement and the SR 520 Floating Bridge Replacement. There are also a number of other transportation-related projects that are worth watching, including the effects of tolling on SR 520, the northward expansion of Light Rail through Seattle's Capitol Hill district to Husky Stadium, the implementation of Rapid Ride (as we learned from Kevin Desmond's presentation last month), the construction along I-90 near Snoqualmie Pass, and the ongoing debate over red-light cameras, just to name a few.

Your role and responsibility as a transportation professional includes an obligation to promote the profession and the good work that you do day in and day out. In order to be successful, a solid understanding of the world around you is essential. The transportation field is extremely broad, and in addition to the projects that have already been mentioned, I have not even touched upon the many achievements accomplished by those of you working at the airport, ferries, in freight, and in our non-motorized communities.

Here is a sampling of the challenge facing you. If you are asked why the million-dollar homes in Hunts Point and Medina currently have thousand-dollar views of 520, can you provide in broad brush strokes an answer describing what the finished product will look like? If you are asked about the appropriateness of red light cameras, can you weigh in on this debate and eloquently share the pros and cons from an accident and safety standpoint? If you are asked for an opinion of your ideal regional mass transit system, can you provide a thoughtful answer that incorporates all of the multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional issues? The quality of your response will help to highlight the importance of this work and the value of this industry.

This year, on the second Tuesday in November, you will have another opportunity to shape the transportation future of your city, county, and state. Spend some time to review your voters' pamphlet and the ballot measures that feature a transportation component. If you decide to take a strong position, have your elevator speech ready and be encouraged to share your two cents when you are asked for feedback on an issue.

To your family member, your neighbor, or your friend, you are their transportation expert. Your insight and credibility are important to each of them, and your words and input matter. Take advantage of each opportunity and let's continue moving forward together.

Kevin Chang, President
itewapresident@gmail.com

# The World Goes Wireless

## Wireless Sensor Networks — Transforming Transportation

Managing mobility in the 21st century requires a symphony of intelligent transportation systems—all working in accord. Yet worldwide, many roadway agencies still rely on outmoded, and disparate technologies—providing only a narrow view of the big picture—while leaving long-term planning to conjecture.

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## *"The Campus Corner"*

By Meagan Powers and Jane Vandenberg

It's the kick-off of another year for the Washington students involved with ITE. Last year we had great involvement in the ITE student night with students from University of Washington, Seattle University and Lake Washington Institute of Technology all participating. A few of the activities/opportunities to keep an eye on this year include:

- District 6 Data Collection Project
    - A $1000 grant from District 6 ITE - UW has won a grant 4 years in a row! Let's see if they can keep it up!
- $2000 Graduate and $1500 Undergraduate Scholarships
    - **Scholarships are due the first week in April.** If you know a student in transportation engineering or transportation planning that you think would be a good candidate, encourage them to submit an application this year. Applications will be posted on the Washington ITE website this winter.
- Student Night Competition
    - **We are looking for a demonstration project again for this year's Student Night.** If you know of a project that you think would be interesting for the student night, please contact either Meagan Powers or Jane Vandenberg.
    - This is a great opportunity to dust off a project that has been on the back burner or is lower on funding priority lists; let the students crunch a few numbers, visit the site, and put together a presentation of their ideas on how to address the issue. Who knows what new ideas they may come up with?
    - Thank you to the City of Bellevue for contributing the information for last year's intersection safety project! It was a great event!

Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:

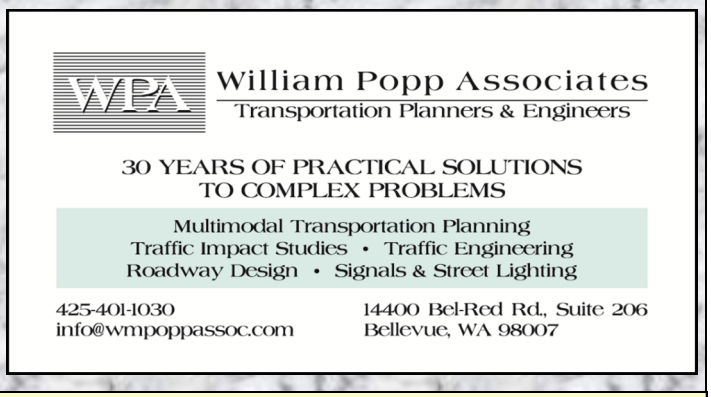
Meagan Powers, DKS Associates – (206)382-9800 or mcp@dksassociates.com

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

## 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.





## ***Advertising (Business Cards & Larger)***

To submit your ad, please send a jpg, png, or tif file of the desired ad to Dongho Chang at dchang@ci.everett.wa.us

Place your ad in the following sizes:

Business card ad for $100
Full page ad for $1000
1/2 page ad for $500
1/4 page ad for $250

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

Dongho Chang
City of Everett
3200 Cedar Street
Everett, WA 98201

*Call 425.257.8871 for further questions.*

# Scribe Report

## By Paul Cho, City of Redmond

**September Kickoff Meting (Tuesday, 09/13/2011)**

It seems as though each year, the season continues to change later and later. Summer didn't arrive in the Pacific Northwest until August. At least it bled well into September to provide warm temperatures and great views from the Alki Room of Salty's on Alki to welcome this year's first ITE Washington section meeting. Section President, Kevin Chang (King County), announced the start of the meeting after providing ample time for the 56 registered attendees, one more than last year, to shake off their summer vacation stories and enjoy the buffet lunch consisting of salmon, steak, vegetable lasagna with seafood chowder, salad and fruit.

Mr. Chang introduced section Vice President/Treasurer, Jim Ellison (Consulting Traffic Engineer), Secretary, Dongho Chang (City of Everett) and Past President, Katherine Casseday (Casseday Consulting). He continued by inviting Kevin Desmond, Metro General Manager, to begin speaking on King County's system that supports the management of our regional transportation capacity.

Commencing from seven bases to cover over 2100 square miles through 39 cities and unincorporated areas, Metro was the fastest growing transit agency in the U.S. in 2007. Much like the iconic "golden arches" where the food, the service, the facilities is essentially identical no matter where you go, transit service throughout King County is equally consistent and reliable on each one of its 220 fixed routes.

However the recent great recession obviously took its toll. Not only did sales tax drop, but ridership dropped as well due to loss of employment. Mr. Desmond presented a sobering list of measures Metro wrestled to narrow the gap between funding and service. He then transitioned to present a sustainable Metro Transit moving forward with a $20 congestion reduction charge for two years to preserve 600,000 annual service hours.

Metro will continue providing support and alternatives for those impacted by regional transportation projects such as the SR 520 and Alaskan Way Viaduct projects. With technologies such as Real-Time information, ORCA cards and third party apps being implemented on the Rapid Ride corridors, Metro hopes to gain acceptance from potential users and then advance to the next level. Rapid Ride, Metro's bus rapid transit program, has already increased its ridership along the A-line by 30% and eagerly awaits the start of B-line on the east side. Those interested in Mr. Desmond's updates can follow along at www.kingcounty.gov/metro/GMnews.

After a round of questions and answers, Kevin Chang advertised information cards with links to King County website as well as the ITE website. He also introduced Ash Sabnekar (PACLAND), chair for the new ITE Directory. Just as Mr. Chang greeted the members with a smile, so he adjourned the meeting.

# 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.

## Planning Urban Roadway Systems

Donald R. Samdahl, PE, PTP, Fehr & Peers

ITE has just released a proposed new recommended practice titled "Planning Urban Roadway Systems". Transportation Planning Council of ITE prepared this report, which focuses on how to better plan new urban roadway networks and modify existing roadway systems to be more effective. The report covers a wide variety of topics, including the following:

- Principles of Roadway System Planning
- Roadway system characteristics (what's new with functional classification; context sensitive roadway systems; layered networks for all modes; roadway spacing methodologies)
- Roadway system planning process (how it fits within a transportation plan)

The report also covers several special issues of importance to transportation planners—suburbanization of formerly rural roadway systems; urbanization of suburban roadway systems; transit-oriented development roadway patterns; traffic calming; one-way and two-way streets; and transitions from freeways to surface streets.

The proposed Recommended Practice is now available for purchase from the ITE Bookstore. ITE will also hold a webinar briefing on Planning Urban Roadway Systems at 9am on November 15. We encourage you to obtain a copy of the report, review it, and provide comments to ITE prior to December 1, 2011. Your comments and suggestions for improving the report will be seriously considered by the committee, with the intent to have a final Recommended Practice published in mid-2012.

Please contact Don Samdahl (206-576-4242) d.samdahl@fehrandpeers.com with any questions.

# ITS Washington Annual Conference

**Save the Date!**

**November 1, 2011**

Registration will begin in early October.

The meeting will include sessions on the following:

- **Tolling**
- **Technology**
- **Active Traffic Management**
- **Advanced Signal Operations**
- **University of Washington Research**
- **Transit Technologies**

http://depts.washington.edu/itswa/events.html

# Spot Light on Safety: Distracted Driving

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

One of the major focal points of the Decade of Action is to eliminate distracted driving. In 2009 it was estimated that 5,474 deaths and 448,000 injuries in the US resulted from distracted driving. There are three main types of distracted driving including Visual – taking your eyes off the road; Manual – taking your hands off the wheel; and Cognitive taking your mind off what you are doing. Distracted driving includes such activities as

- Using cell phones
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to a passenger
- Grooming
- Reading including maps
- Using a PDA
- Changing a radio station or CD

In some sense, we as traffic engineers must be careful that we don't encourage distracted driving through the use of long signal cycle lengths when the driver gets distracted while waiting for the signal to change or the proliferation of roadway signs which distract the driver from the roadway.

During the next month, please consider ways that you might personally and professionally eliminate distracted driving.

## *Obituaries*

**Jim Ozanne**, longtime friend and colleague to many members of the Washington Section of ITE, passed away Thursday, September 22 at the age of 59. Jim worked for the past 25 years at the City of Everett serving most recently as a Senior Transportation Engineer. Jim was a sharp dresser who was professional inside and out. He cared about his work and always loved to look into the technical details. Jim worked tirelessly through his illness as the project manager for Everett's Bicycle Master Plan, which was adopted by the Everett City Council earlier this year. Jim was also mentor and teacher to members of our section. He taught at Seattle University educating students about the Transportation Engineering field. *A memorial service for Jim will be held at 1 pm, Saturday October 8, at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Everett.*

"We are sad to inform you **Roy B. Sawhill**, age 89, passed away peacefully on September 16th 2011 in his home in Tucson, Arizona. He leaves a legacy of his contributions as professor teaching Traffic Engineering at the University of Washington. He leaves his beloved wife Harriett of 31 years in their home with professional caregivers. His daughter, Tami Price and son Scott will remember him for being a loving and understanding father. Roy kept his friends, family and relatives close to his heart. For those who knew him, he will be deeply missed." A Facebook page "Remembering Roy Sawhill" is available for those who wish to post their memories and experiences. For those who do not use Facebook and wish to have their memories posted, please feel free to email them to: tami.price@comcast.net and we will have them posted.

# WA Section Board


**President**

Kevin Chang, P.E.
King County
201 S Jackson St
Mailstop KSC-TR-0222
Seattle, WA 98104
206.263.6131
206.296.0176 Fax
itewapresident@gmail.com

**Vice President/ Treasurer**

James W. Ellison, P.E.
Consulting Traffic Engineer
1600-B SW Dash Point Rd, #33
Federal Way, WA 98023
253.666.2377
itewatreasurer@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Dongho Chang, P.E.
City Traffic Engineer
City of Everett
3200 Cedar Street
Everett, WA 98201
425.257.8871
dchang@ci.everett.wa.us

**Past President**

Katherine Casseday, P.E.
Casseday Consulting
9726 NE 138th Place
Kirkland, WA 98034-1808
206.450.8758
kcasseday@yahoo.com


## *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