ITE Washington Section Newsletter

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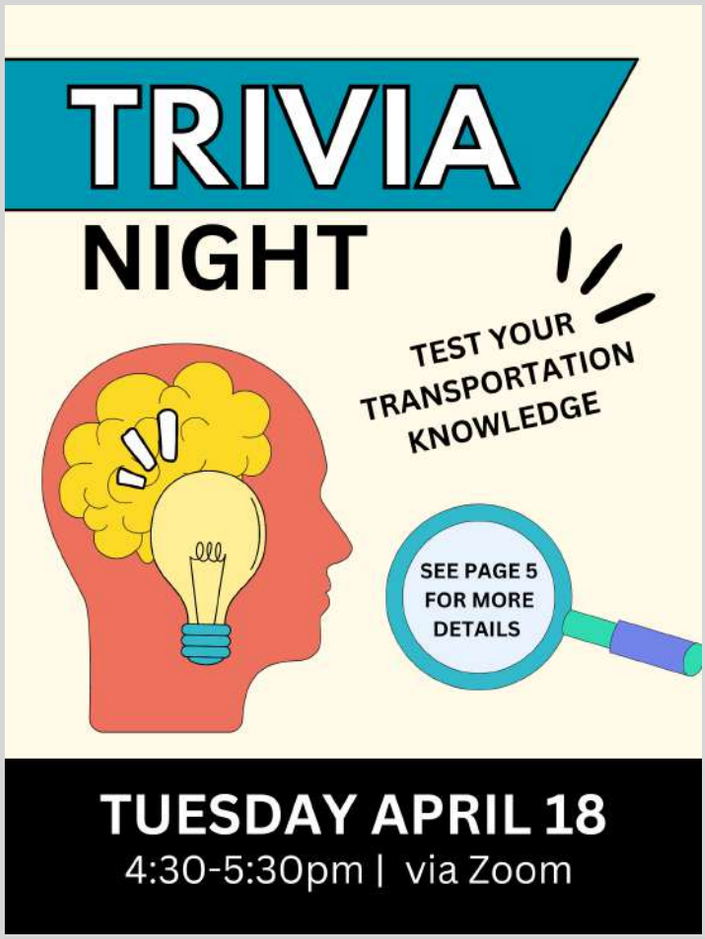

Volunteers Needed

Multiple opportunities available. See details inside.

STUDENTS APPLY NOW

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INFO HERE

Save the Date

ITE STUDENT NIGHT

MAY 9TH 2023

details on page 5

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Hello members,

I hope everyone has had a great first few months of the year! Judging from most of the conversations I've had recently, everyone has been very busy. This seems to be a time of great opportunity for those of us in the transportation industry to do some good in our communities while advancing our individual careers!

Speaking of opportunities, our chapter has several ways for you to get involved. Serving in ITE has been a huge benefit to me throughout my career and has helped me build a professional network, obtain training, and stay current in my career. I would encourage anyone in our industry to get involved!

Our most immediate need is with our ITE/IMSA Conference committee. Over the last few years, Lawrence Guan has done an outstanding job leading this committee throughout the virtual experience during the COVID pandemic and then bringing us back to an in-person conference. With Lawrence now serving on the board, it is time to find a new chairman of this committee. In addition, we've recognized the need to more clearly define the structure of the committee to help spread the work and give more people opportunities to assist with the planning of this event. If you have an interest in helping with this committee, please let me or one of the other board members know.

Our committees continue to do amazing work. The Safety committee has been very active tracking the various state legislative proposals during the last session and drafting a letter to local media regarding the effects of speed on crash reductions.

Our Student committee has also been active, planning a successful student night in March at Gonzaga University. I attended the event and was pleasantly surprised by the turnout of industry members. One of our goals this year is to establish opportunities to connect with other areas of the state through hybrid meetings. The student night really demonstrated the interest in ITE throughout the state and I'm excited to connect through future meetings.

Those are just two examples of the great work our committees and other volunteers have provided. We sincerely appreciate this, and I look forward to seeing ITE continue to be a positive force in our industry. ■

Ryan Peterson

2023 ITE Washington President

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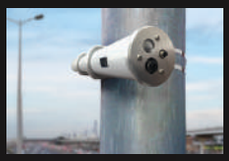

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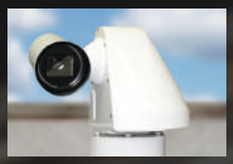

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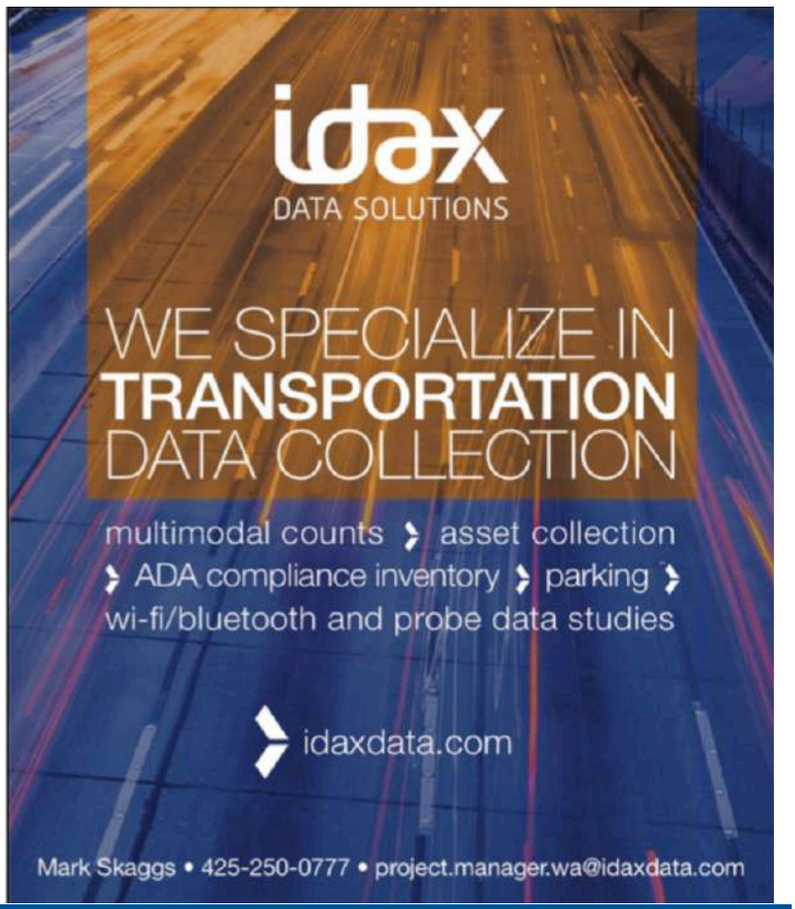

2022 ITE Washington Fall Section Events

Date	Subject	Location
APR 18	Trivia Night	Virtual
MAY 9	Student Night	Ivar's
JUN	ITE Golf Tournament	TBD

Save the Date for ITE Washington's annual Transportation Trivia night!

Please join us for our annual Transportation Trivia Night. The event will test your knowledge of transportation facts, with prizes for the winning team! Come with a team or join one at the event. This will be a virtual event using Zoom.
Tuesday, April 18th, 2023, 4:30 to 5:30 pm

REGISTER HERE

This year's theme for the Joint ITE International and Western District Annual Meeting and Exhibition is Connecting People and Communities. This meeting will take place in the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) and its headquarters hotel, the brand new Hyatt Regency hotel, just across the river from downtown Portland. The OCC and hotel are steps from Portland MAX light rail, convenient to many local and regional attractions, and a gateway to the Pacific Northwest, making it a great opportunity for both individual and family travel.

More details HERE

2022/2023 ITE Associate Events

APR 26-27	APWA WA	Tacoma WA
AUG 13-16	Joint ITE International & Western District Meeting	Portland OR

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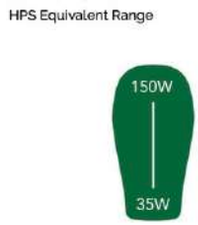

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2023 Washington ITE/IMSA Annual Joint Meeting

February 7th, 2023

Justin Chan, PE
ITE Scribe
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Kirkland, Washington

This year's annual ITE/IMSA Joint Conference was once again held at the Bellevue Hilton and brought together transportation professionals from across the region. The conference featured various sessions on a range of topics, including safety, clean energy, regional projects, and construction traffic management, as well as vendor exhibits and showcases on the latest in transportation technologies.

Our first session was centered around safety, with presentations from David Shahon with CT Northwest, Brian Chandler with DKS Associates, and Tobin Bennett-Gold with the City of Kenmore. David's presentation focused on the safety of vulnerable road users, particularly safer pedestrian and bicycle crossings. The session highlighted how passive detection and artificial intelligence are being used to improve safety at mid-block crossings, RRFB applications, and signalized intersections. Next, Brian discussed upcoming safety grant opportunities for 2023 and beyond, which includes the WSDOT County Safety Program, as well as the second year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, which makes $1 billion available each year to local and tribal agencies. Lastly, Tobin presented on the City of Kenmore's process for evaluating speed limits on arterial and collector streets, identifying new desired speed limits, and implementing speed management treatments to encourage lower travel speeds, including some preliminary findings from the before-and-after studies that were conducted to determine the effectiveness of these changes at reducing travel speed, and helping to inform future practices.

Our next session was focused on clean energy. Vito Coletto with Western Systems presented on their new hydrogen fuel cell solution to take the place of traditional battery backup systems. These systems utilize hydrogen fuel tanks, which can provide backup power for several days, whereas traditional battery backup and diesel generators might only be able to provide backup power for several hours.

However, these systems require a larger cabinet to house the hydrogen canisters, and refilling of the canisters may require more effort, depending on the hydrogen fuel infrastructure available in the area, so consideration will need to be taken as to where this system would best be deployed.

Next was lunch, which included project awards like the 2022 Planning Project, 2022 Safety Project, 2022 Complete Streets, and 2022 Project of the Year. Congratulations to the City of Tacoma, City of Bellingham, WSDOT, and SDOT on their successful projects! During lunch, we also heard from our keynote speaker, Ralph Rizzo with the FHWA, who provided an update on upcoming programs for the year, including Community EV Charging Program, the National Culvert Replacement Program, as well as the latest installment of the Every Day Counts program.

After lunch, we learned about some regional projects that have been underway, including Norene Pen with WSDOT who presented on their Complete Streets program, Chris Comeau with the City of

Bellingham on their James Street Multi-Use Pathway project, and Carrie Wilhelme with the City of Tacoma and Michael Hintze with Toole Design Group who presented on

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Send comments and submissions to itewaeditor@gmail.com

Articles must be received by the third Thursday of the month to be considered for publishing in the next issue.

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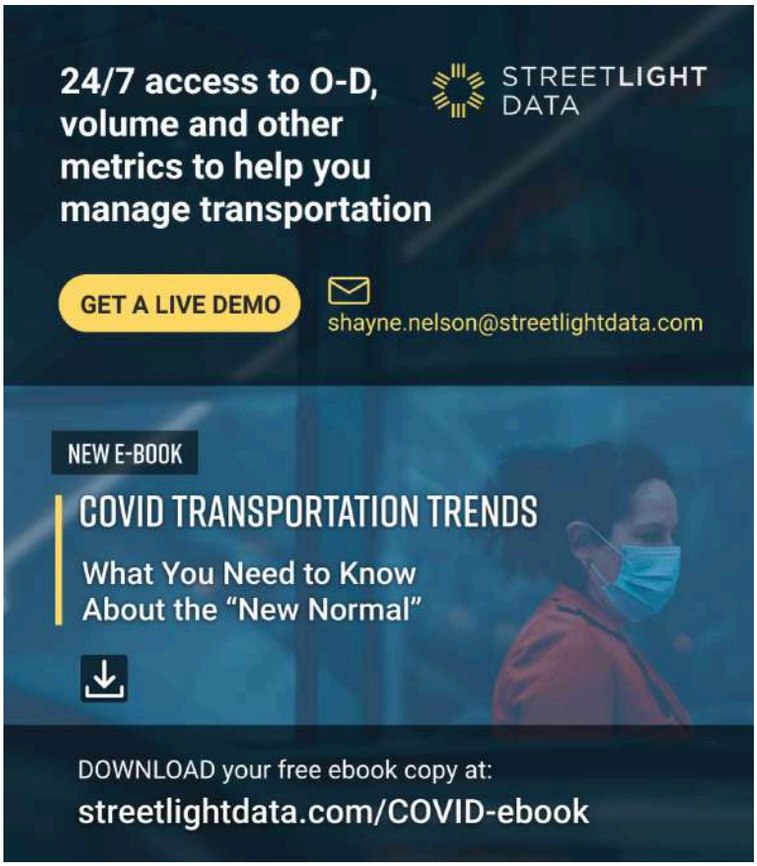
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Student Industry Night

On the evening of March 7, Washington ITE held a live Student Industry Night after a two-year pandemic hiatus. Gonzaga University in Spokane hosted the event and it was spearheaded by the section's student activities committee, past and present section presidents, and the Gonzaga ITE student chapter. The event was targeted to students from Gonzaga University, University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University, Spokane Colleges, and Washington State University and featured 8 local employers (Horrocks, Kittelson and Associates, Parametrix, City of Spokane, TranspoGroup, WSDOT, Whipple Consulting Engineers, and WSP – though Covid caused one to miss the event) with booths full of industry information, job and internship opportunities, and giveaways.

The event also served as a networking for professionals on the east side of the state and was a nice return to in person events, with many reconnections and new connections made. One lesson learned was to not compete with a Gonzaga men's basketball game for attendance; though with a lower student turnout, those who did attend were offered more face time with employers and personalized round table discussions to hear about the experiences of the professionals and get career advice. Thanks to our planned panelists Monica Harwood Duncan, McKenna Milacek, Inga Note; and our planning committee Rhonda Young, Jeanne Acutanza, Darcy Akers, Ryan Peterson, Marissa Milam, Kallyse Crawford, and Tyler Wong.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Many hands make light work! Did part of your annual goal setting include getting more involved in professional societies, mentoring less experienced peers, expanding your technical capabilities, and collaborating more with industry peers?

You are in luck! Volunteering with your Washington State ITE Section affords opportunities to meet many of these goals. Always feel free to reach out to any board member to volunteer on our many committees or send a note to ITEWashington@gmail.com. A unique opportunity includes volunteering on the Local Arrangements committee for the 2026 Western ITE Section meeting being held in Bellevue, WA. If you have some creative ideas, energy or enthusiasm, or if you just want to ask some questions please contact Jeanne Acutanza at Jeanne.Acutanza@WSP.com

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Tacoma Vision Zero. With Complete Streets and the Move Ahead Washington package, WSDOT is now required by the legislature to incorporate the principles of complete streets in the planning and design of state transportation projects that meet certain requirements. Currently, this applies to approximately 50% of WSDOT's projects, and as such, they have gained many insights into this. Most importantly, the project and local context need to be considered, as solutions are not one size fits all. Next, Chris provided an overview of the James Street project, and the different alternatives that have been considered over the years. This has included different sidewalk and shared-use path configurations on different sides of the roadway, while also considering impacts to nearby businesses and the tremendous population growth that has been observed in the area. Lastly, Carrie and Michael presented on the City of Tacoma's Vision Zero efforts, which have focused on reducing speeds, updating their Complete Streets policy, creating a data dashboard, and developing a conceptual design for Portland Avenue, a corridor that has seen numerous crashes over the years. To conclude the conference, we learned about what the City of Bellevue has been doing for Construction Traffic Management, particularly as it relates to the Main Street Bridge demolition that occurred over the summer as part of the Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes project. Not only did this involve the closure of all lanes across I-405, but also had significant impacts to City of Bellevue traffic operations. To facilitate this, the City utilized a variety of strategies, including detour routing, messaging and traveler information via variable message signs, coordination with navigation app providers, uniformed police officers to help control traffic, and traffic signal retiming.

These presentations only represented one part of the conference. In addition to this, we also had several vendor seminars that took place throughout the day, which allowed participants to learn more about the latest in transportation and ITS technologies. This included artificial intelligence and video analytics, new roadway lighting solutions, vehicle detection technologies, and electric vehicle charging solutions, to name a few. In between these presentations, participants also got a chance to take a close and personal look at these technologies in the exhibit hall. Overall, the conference provided a valuable opportunity for ITE and IMSA members to not only learn about the latest developments in transportation safety, technology, and policy, but to also allow us to catch up with one another. ■

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podcast

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Rural Safety Issues, IIJA Funding, and Challenges for Public Agencies with Bill Lambert, New Hampshire DOT

Dr. Shawn Wilson, Louisiana DOT Secretary: Perspectives on Transportation Funding, Safety, Workforce Issues, and More

Rob McInerney, International Road Assessment Program – Improving Global Roadway Safety with the Safe System Approach

careers

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Washington State Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

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Types of Training for Local Agencies:

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Training by Our Partners

This is a listing of other programs and training offerings through WSDOT and LTAP Partners.

Online Training

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GIS Training Opportunities -New Mexico LTAP

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