ITE Washington Section Newsletter

VOLUME 34 I ISSUE 3 I JAN/FEB 2024

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Test your traffic knowledge at

TRIVIA NIGHT

March 19

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WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

AVAILABLE ADVERTISEMENT SPACE

Interested in supporting ITE WA and the scholarships we fund? See contact details on page 10

AWARD SEASON

Nominate your colleague, mentor, or mentee for the ITE Western District Awards! See page 8 for details on categories and deadlines.

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Hello members,

We have begun the month of March! Time has gone by so fast. It seems like just yesterday I was starting on the board as the secretary/treasurer, this year I'm the Section President. Returning for another year on the board we have Ryan Peterson, past president, and Lawrence Guan, Vice President. Pratik Srivastava is new to the board and will be this year's secretary/treasurer. Throughout my career I've worked all over Washington and no matter where I'm working I always seem to run into familiar faces. Sometimes it's through a project and sometimes it's at a conferences or other ITE event. I'm proud to work in the transportation field where people are so passionate about their career. This commitment is evident in the enthusiastic volunteers who contribute to our ITE committees and the dedicated committee members themselves. Exciting plans are in store for the upcoming year. We recently had our ITE/IMSA conference, which was a huge success. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to make this conference possible. If anyone has an interest in volunteering or joining a committee, please reach out; it's a great way to stay connected with your fellow transportation professionals. Hope to see you all in the upcoming meetings. ■

LisaRene Schilperoort

2024 ITE Washington President

New Board Member

Welcome Pratik!

Pratik Srivastava works as a Traffic Engineer for HNTB Corporation. He specializes in traffic simulation and modeling, transportation data analytics, planning, and highway safety. He has worked on highway corridor studies, safety analysis, PEL studies, and P3 projects. He has a passion for analyzing and optimizing transportation data to create safer roadway systems. Pratik started his journey with ITE as a student member at the University of Cincinnati. Previously, he was part of ITE's Urban Goods Movement Committee and was actively involved in student activities and social committees in the Minnesota and Indiana local sections. Pratik has completed his master's in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from India. Earlier this year, he graduated with his second master's degree in data analytics from Harrisburg University in Pennsylvania. ■

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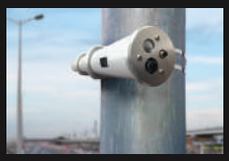

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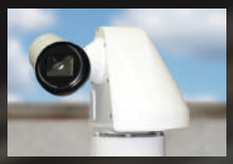

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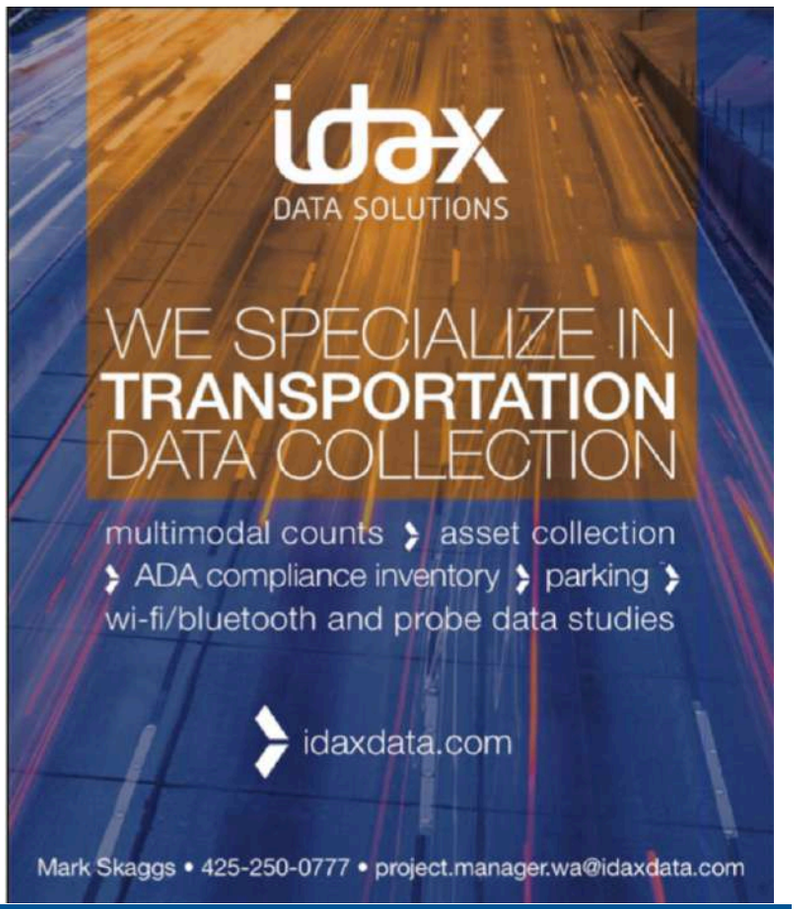

2024 ITE Washington Section Events

Date	Subject	Location
MAR 19	Trivia Night	TBD
MAY	Student Night	Ivar's
JUN	ITE Golf Tournament	TBD

2024 ITE Washington Associate Events

Date	Subject	Location
MAR 19-20	ITE Virtual Spring Conference	Zoom
APR 9-11	APWA Washington	Vancouver, WA
JUN 23-26	ITE Western District Annual Meeting	Sacramento, CA
JUL 21-24	ITE International Annual Meeting	Philadelphia, PA

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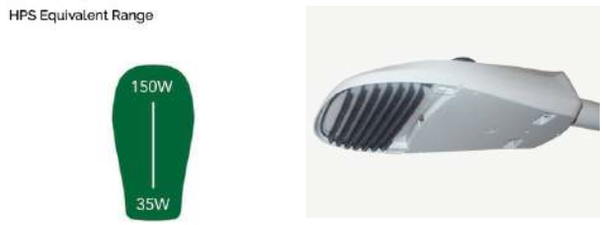

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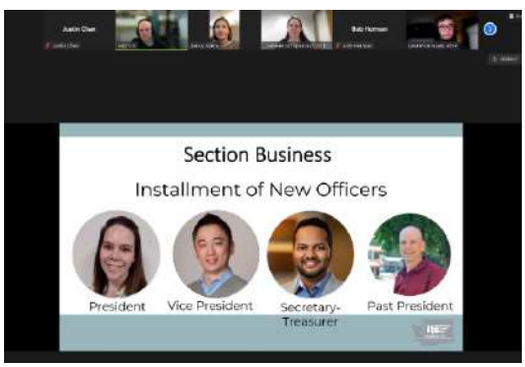
ITE WA December and January Webinars – Right-Turn On Red Restrictions and Section Business

December 12, 2023 and January 9, 2024

Justin Chan, PE
ITE Scribe
Transportation Engineer
Transpo Group
Kirkland, Washington

For our December training webinar, we heard from two different perspectives on Right-Turn On Red (RTOR) restrictions and the considerations for safety as it relates to the national and local levels. We first heard from David Martin with MBO Engineering, who delved into the historical context, highlighting the 1975 Energy Conservation Act, which mandated states to permit RTOR to ease congestion during a gas shortage. However, the 1986 ITE recommendation for RTOR prohibition, rescinded in 2019, led to an ongoing study by ITE-IR-151-E, revealing a lack of consistency in RTOR regulations across states. Between 2012 and 2021, the use of automated enforcement for RTOR violations has been trending down, and enforcement in general is not routinely performed. While it is known that allowing RTOR helps with congestion, planners and engineers must also consider Vision Zero and that the only acceptable number of traffic fatalities is zero. In Toronto, these types of crashes account for 2% of pedestrian fatalities, and 4% of bike fatalities. Extrapolating to the US, this would account for over 200 deaths nationally. Next, we heard from Venu Nemani the City Traffic Engineer and Chief Safety Officer at SDOT, who provided a Seattle-focused perspective. He highlighted some of the proactive safety treatments that SDOT has implemented, including leading pedestrian intervals, lowering speeds, protected left-turn phasing, and RTOR restrictions. Venu noted that RTOR-related crashes often involve pedestrians or cyclists, and almost always involves an injury. In March 2023, Seattle adopted a policy to restrict RTOR at specific locations, prioritizing factors like safety, equity, and urban areas. Notably, vehicular delay is not a consideration. With over 1,000 traffic signals in the city, 13% already enforce RTOR restrictions, with 73 locations added in 2023 and an additional 131 locations planned for 2024. To ring in the new year, our January meeting featured updates on our Washington Section. We started the meeting off with several breakout sessions, providing an opportunity to network with other attendees. Next, we installed our new officers, with LisaRenee Schilperoort as our new President, Lawrence Guan as Vice President, Pratik Srivastava as Secretary-Treasurer, and Ryan Peterson as Past President. We also announce the 2023 project awards, with SDOT almost sweeping all categories! Congratulations to the City of Redmond for the Routes to Rails Accessing Transit Campaign project for winning the Planning category, and SDOT for the Green Lake Outer Loop project for the Complete Streets category, the Dedicated Overnight Truck Tractor Parking Harbor Island for the TSMO category, and the West Marginal Way – Ped, Bike, and Freight Improvements for the Traffic Engineering category and the Overall Project of the Year! To wrap up the meeting, we heard from Past President Ryan Peterson and Jonathan DenHaan with Transpo Group on the recently-released



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EDITORIAL STAFF

ITE Newsletter Editor
Elena Bertolucci
Spec Sales
Sea-Tac Lighting & Controls
Seattle, Washington

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Please let us know if your contact information changes so that you continue to receive monthly ITE WA announcements and newsletters by email. To update your information, click on the Membership tab on the our website: www.wa-ite.org

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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PROWAG Final Ruling. Some of the key changes include updates to slope measurements for curb ramps and crosswalks; updates to pedestrian pushbutton upgrade criteria and RRFB requirements; and detectable warning surfaces. ■

WESTERNite

Call for Award Nominations

Western District Awards

See Below award categories

Career Guidance Award

Mentor Award

Recognizes professionals that provide exceptional support and guidance to young professionals. Nominations are due to the Career Guidance Chair Henry Hammel via email by April 15th.

Student Awards

Student Regional Travel Scholarship

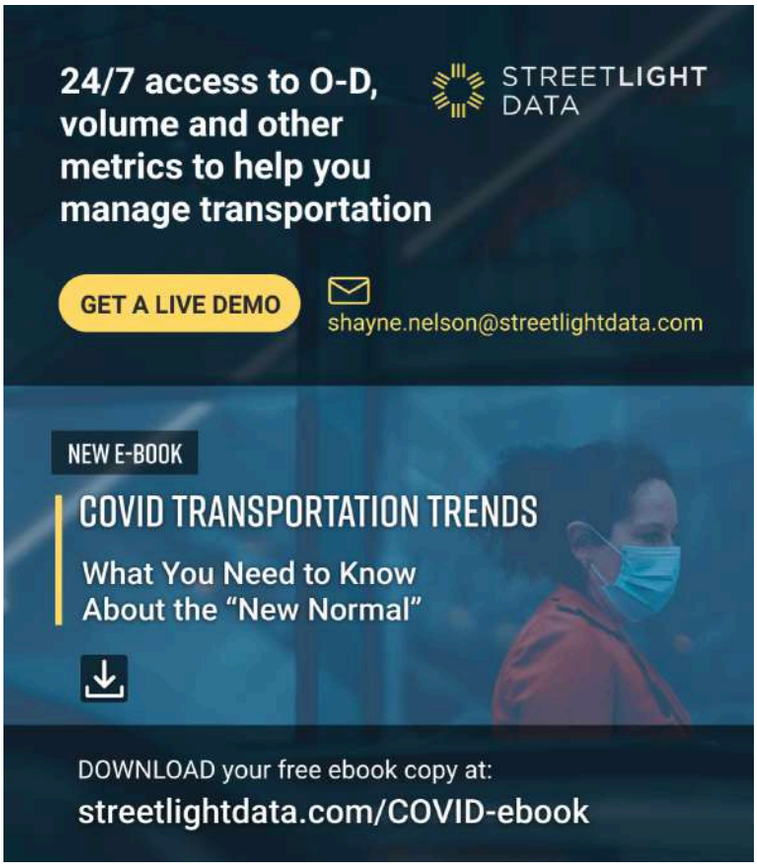
Provides financial support of $500 for up to two (2) students (one from each region) to attend the upcoming ITE Western District Annual Meeting. Students should submit a completed application form, resume and one page essay to Kayla Fleskes-Lane, the Student Funding and Initiatives Committee Chair by April 15th.

Outstanding Student Award

Recognizes an undergraduate and a graduate student who has shown exceptional dedication to the transportation profession, extraordinary enthusiasm for ITE, untiring labor toward transportation research, and/or unwavering professionalism in an intern position. One undergraduate and one graduate student will be selected and awarded a plaque, a $500 monetary prize, and free registration at the Western District Annual Meeting. Nominations are due to the Career Guidance Chair Henry Hammel via email by April 15th.

Outstanding Transportation Educator Award

Recognizes an educator who demonstrates extraordinary creativity in teaching, takes exceptional measures to spark student interest in the transportation profession, provides unwavering encouragement for student endeavors, or shows unequaled service to ITE in the past year. Nominations are due to the Career Guidance Chair Henry Hammel via email April 15th.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podcast

ITE Talks Transportation is a collaboration between ITE and Bernie Wagenblast, founder and editor of the Transportation Communication Newsletter and host of Transportation Radio. Each month, a new podcast features a thought leader within the transportation industry. In keeping with #transportationtuesday, a new episode will be available the 4th Tuesday of every month.

The Power of Community Engagement in Transportation – Odessa L. Phillip, PE, President and CEO, Assedo Consulting

Shailen Bhatt, FHWA Administrator – Safety, Leadership, and the Impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Alex Argudin, CEO, Miami Parking Authority – Parking Trends, Challenges, and Innovations

careers

Washington State Department of Transportation

Washington State Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Training for Local Agencies

The Washington State Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is a partnership between WSDOT's Local Program Division and FHWA, providing training opportunities and a coordinated technology transfer program for local agencies in Washington State. LTAP offers courses directly targeting the training needs of local agencies receiving Federal funding. All in person sessions are cancelled due to COVID19, but there are plenty of online opprotunities to take advantage of.

Types of Training for Local Agencies:

LTAP Classes/Webinars

Training by Our Partners

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

Online Training

Links to many online training courses, including construction and material testing.

Free Access to AASHTO-TC3 Training (American Assoc. of State Hwy & Transportation Officials - Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council)

GIS Training Opportunities -New Mexico LTAP

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