ITE Washington Section Newsletter

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 2 | NOV/DEC 2023

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ITE Washington's December Meeting/Webinar

December 12th
11:30AM-1:00PM
via Zoom

Register Now HERE

Our December meeting will be an online webinar focused on the state of Right Turn on Red (RTOR) policy and practice on a national and local level. See inside for more details.

EXTENDED

ITE/IMSA CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW DUE 12/22

SEE PAGE 11 FOR SUBMISSION FORM

Call for Volunteers

Be apart of the planning committee for the **2026 Western District** ITE Conference to be held in Bellevue WA

Email Jeanne for more information

Final Call!

ITE/IMSA Call for Abstracts due TODAY

See page 11 for details

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president's message

Hello members,

I hope everyone is doing well and preparing to endure another Puget Sound winter! The shortest day of the year is just about here, then it's all uphill from there! This will be my last president's message as we will be transitioning the board leadership at the beginning of the year, and I will shift to the past-president position. I wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as the president of the section and your continued support of our events and activities. Whether putting in many hours of volunteer work on one of our committees or if you just attended one of our events, I appreciate everyone's participation and help this year. If there is anything you feel the section could be doing better, please let us know. I hope everyone has a great end of the year and holiday season! ■

Ryan Peterson

2023 ITE Washington President

safety corner

Gary Norris, P.E., P.T.O.E
Safety Chair

DN Traffic Consultants
Project Manager/Senior Traffic Engineer

Bellevue, Washington

The ITE Washington Safety Committee sponsored its annual all day Traffic Safety Conference and Training Sesson on November 14, 2023. The theme of the conference was "Working Together to Get Back On Track" in response to the fact that fatal and serious injury traffic crashes in Washington state were increasing at a faster than other states. The Committee invited the Shelley Baldwin from the Traffic Safety Commision, Chief Batiste of the Washington State Patrol, Claudia Balducci from King County Council, John Milton State Traffic Safety Engineer, Barb Chamberlain, WSDOT Active Transportation, Rebecca Lis King County Engineering Committee and Amanda Bley Kuehn who works with the Washington State Insurance Fund. Several of the committee members moderated the various sessions and participated in the sessions. Overall, there were 62 participants in the program both hybrid and in-person. Delicious food was provided by Pop in Jays catering including the beloved "lemon bars". Our thanks to everyone who participated I want to express my appreciation to each committee member that committed their time and effort to making this program a success. Special thanks to Darcy Akers, Section Past President, who helped orchestrate the entire conference. The Committee Members include: Robert Shull, Brian Chandler, Jeanne Acutanza, Ejaz Kahn, Kate Bradbury, Michael Hintze, Jennifer Warner Hayman, Lisa Schilperoot, Claudia Hirschey, Tobin Bennett-Gold, and Deb LaCombe. I invite anyone with ideas for next years conference to join us. Please feel free to contact me or any committee member if you have an interest.

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2023 ITE Washington Fall Section Events

Date	Subject	Location
DEC 12	Technical Training	Zoom
FEB 12-13	ITE/IMSA	Bellevue

Save the Date

ITE IMSA Annual Conference and Exhibition

Monday, February 12, 2024 & Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

Hilton Bellevue

The ITE/IMSA Annual Conference and Exhibit is one of the premier events in Washington State for transportation engineers, planners, and operations and maintenance personnel, and will be an in-person event held at the Hilton Bellevue on Monday, February 12th and on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024. The conference provides the venue for members to network, see and learn about the latest and greatest in traffic control technologies, data analytics and roadway safety equipment from industry experts, and for members to share knowledge and experience by presenting at the event. Possible topics for the technical program could include project experience, lessons learned, innovative solutions, pilot programs, testing of new ideas or technologies, state of art practice, updates on regional projects, and much more.

New this year – we will be offering training sessions Monday afternoon. Participants will be able to earn TARP and PDHs at the conference.

December Webinar focuses on Right Turn on Red (RTOR)

December 12th 11AM-1:30PM via Zoom

Speakers for this session are David Martin and Venu Nemani:

Dave has worked as a traffic safety engineer for nearly 40 years, 33 of which were with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in its Bureau of Traffic Engineering. His previous roles at NJDOT included service as both the New Jersey State Traffic Engineer and the New Jersey State Safety Engineer, and his experience has allowed him to gain a comprehensive knowledge of traffic safety engineering design, analysis, and regulatory policy. Dave was a member of the first cohort to receive Road Safety Professional certification, and he recently earned ITE's Implementing the Safe System Approach certificate. Dave works as a Project Manager for MBO Engineering. With its world headquarters located in Bordentown, New Jersey, MBO specializes in developing, implementing, and evaluating safety programs, with an emphasis on utilizing federal HSIP funding for safety improvements.

Venu is an experienced traffic safety and operations engineer with our 20 years of experience in both the private and public sectors promoting multimodal and sustainable transportation choices for all road users. He is currently the Chief Transportation Safety Officer/City Traffic Engineer with the Seattle Department of Transportation. Prior to working for the city, he led Montgomery County, Maryland's Traffic Engineering Division and before that was the Assistant District Engineer-Traffic with Maryland State Highway Administration. His experience working at various levels of government in different contexts helped him gain a unique understanding of transportation safety issues and challenges. He is currently leading Vision Zero efforts in Seattle along with fulfilling the City Traffic Engineer responsibilities. Venu has a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Washington and a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

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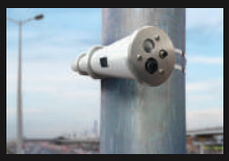

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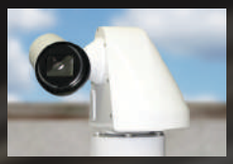

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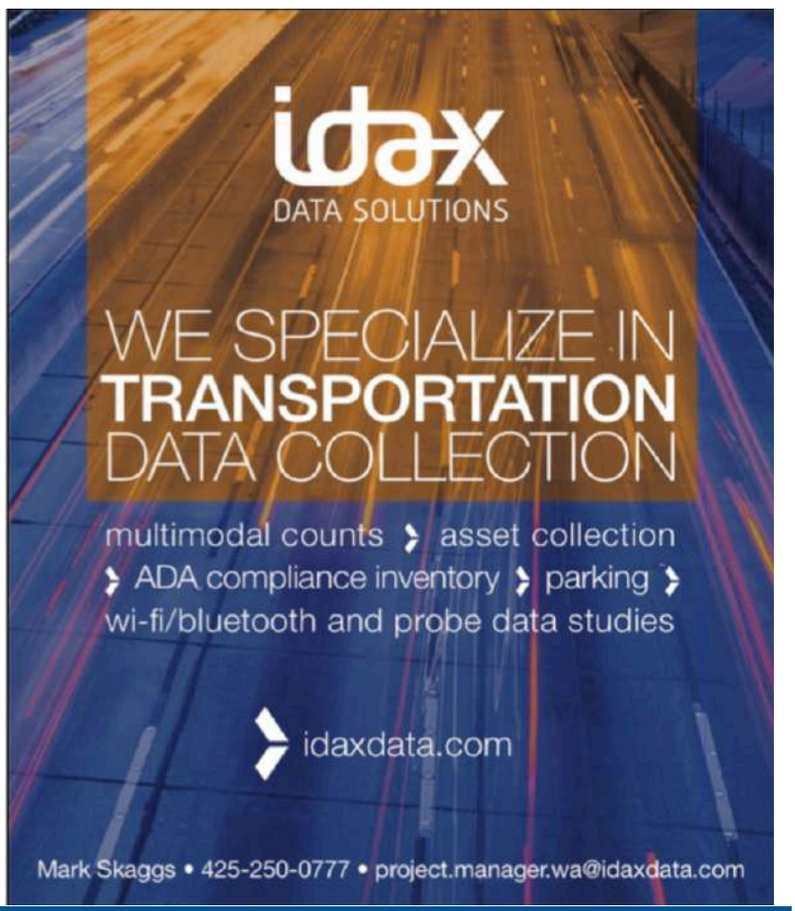

ITE Washington Safety Conference

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

November 14th, 2023

This year's Safety Conference, themed Working Together to Get Back on Track, took place once again at the Renton Community Center. We had a jam-packed day of speakers, presentations, roundtable discussions, and group discussions.

To kick off our opening session, we heard from Shelly Baldwin (Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission), Chief John Batiste (Chief of Washington State Patrol), and Barb Chamberlain (Director of Active Transportation at WSDOT). Shelly emphasized the collective effort required to achieve a future with zero traffic fatalities, highlighting the recent updates to the State Safety Strategic Plan. Since reaching the lowest fatalities in 2003, Washington has seen a steady increase in speeding and fatalities, particularly those involving pedestrians and young drivers. Chief Batiste echoed these thoughts; zero lives lost is the only acceptable number. However, meeting this goal gets harder and harder, and new ideas are needed to address the problem. While enforcement is a part of the puzzle, other solutions are needed as well. This may include automation to reduce the load on the already strained workforce at local law enforcement agencies, as well as public education to reduce distracted and reckless driving behaviors. Lastly, Barb provided an overview of the Washington State Active Transportation Plan, with an emphasis on Complete Streets and the need to engineering self-enforcing roads that convey a culture of traffic safety.

Next, we had our morning keynote speaker, Claudia Balducci (King County Councilmember and former City of Bellevue Mayor). She echoed the issues that she has seen, including distracted driving, and emphasized the need for the Safe System Approach – including the whole system and not just spot improvements – and Vision Zero. She provided some experiences from her time at the City of Bellevue, including the progress that they have made. Some examples have included the adoption of Vision Zero, budgeting projects in the Capital Investment Program Plan, installing protected bike lanes, deploying a collision dashboard, and conducting safety assessments near schools.

Following a short break was a roundtable discussion featuring Amanda Kuehn (Attorney at Law Lyman Attorneys), Barb Chamberlain, Keri Cleary (President at the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization), and Jeanne Acutanza (Senior VP at WSP). They each come from different backgrounds and shared interesting perspectives on how their work focuses on safety. Some key topics included enforcement challenges, driver education, and the unique needs of tribal road users.

During lunch, our keynote speaker was Rock Miller (CEO with Rock E. Miller & Associates), who provided safety lessons and insights from litigation cases. In particular, he presented some of the common issues that he has been noticing, including seat belt usage, speeding, fatalities at interchange slip ramps, and the increasing number of deflections into pedestrians.

The afternoon session on Effective Safety Solutions was split up into two parts. The first part featured Michael Hintze (Director of Planning with Toole Design) Deborah

WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

EDITORIAL STAFF

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

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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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LaCombe (Senior Planner with HLA Engineering & Surveying), and Rebecca Lis (Target Zero Manager with WTSC). Michael present on active transportation, sustainable safety, and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. Deborah presented on Cle Elum's City Safety Plan updates, which included pavement parking modifications, data collection for parking studies, pedestrian counts, and traffic counts, and intersection improvements. Rebecca presented on the King County Target Zero Plan, a program through the WTSC with an emphasis on the Safe System Approach and equitable traffic safety programs and plans. The program features committees that include law enforcement, engineering, evaluation/data, curriculum development, and education/outreach.

For the second part of the session, we heard from John Milton (State Traffic Safety Engineer with WSDOT), Chris Long (Assistant Director of Mobility Operations with the City of Bellevue), and Tobin Bennett-Gold (Traffic Engineer with the City of Kenmore). John presented on pedestrian safety and assessing vulnerable road users, in which he notes that unsignalized mid-block crossings account for 20% of VRU crashes, while signalized intersections account for 9%. Chris presented on the City of Bellevue's updates to its speed limit setting policy and tools. This year, the City conducted roadway safety assessments along its high injury network and schools, launched the downtown bicycle facilities initiative Bike Bellevue, and updated its speed limit setting policy based on data-informed approaches. This includes leveraging its Mobility Implementation Plan, classifying roadways for appropriate speeds and mitigations, using a weighted scoring system to evaluate corridors, and using its newly developed suggested speed limit tool. Lastly, Tobin presented on the City of Kenmore's implementation and evaluation stages of its speed limit policy. Based on work from the previous stages, the target speed limit within the City is 25MPH for collectors, 30MPH for arterials, and 35MPH for SR 522. As part of the evaluation, they found that some locations saw greater improvement than others, while some actually saw higher speeds after lower speed limit signs were posted.

Overall, the 2023 ITE Washington Transportation Safety Conference provided an excellent overview of the current state of road safety in the region, and highlighted some of the steps that agencies and practitioners are taking to reach Vision Zero. However, the current status quo is not enough, and Gary Norris' (ITE WA Safety Committee Chair, and President of DN Traffic Consultants) closing remark summed it up best in that we need to change the mindset from making things safer and just make them safe. ■

Call for Presentations
ITE Western District Conference
Sacramento, CA June 23-26 2024

Due December 22nd 5:00 PM

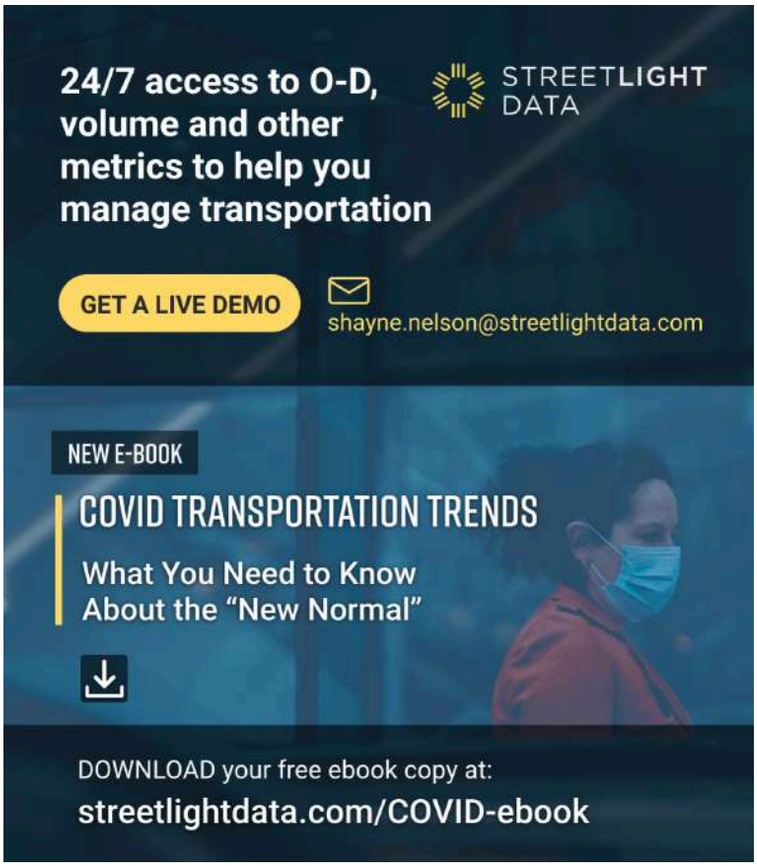
Interested in becoming a presenter at the 2024 Western District Annual Meeting?

The ITE 2024 Western District Annual Meeting will be held June 23-26, 2024 at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel in the heart of downtown Sacramento. The technical program will include approximately eight Technical Session periods consisting of three sessions/tracks and up to four presentations/panelists in each session. The program may also include a technical poster session and roundtable discussions. These sessions will be supplemented by technical tours highlighting transportation projects in the Sacramento area.

Some general topicsof interest are:

Active Transportation, Adapting Infastructure to Environmental Change, Connected and Autonomous Vehicles/Electromobility, Context Sensitive Solutions and Complete Streets

Call for Abstracts form HERE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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ITE/IMSA Annual Conference and Exhibition

Bellevue Hilton (In-Person)

Monday, February 12, 2024 (Half-Day Training)

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 (Full-Day Conference)

The ITE Washington Section and the IMSA Northwest Section invites members to present at the 2024 ITE/IMSA Annual Conference and Exhibition, which is one of the premier events in Washington State for transportation engineers, planners, and operations and maintenance personnel.

Location/Date

The in-person conference will be held at the Hilton Bellevue on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024. Note that this year will also feature a half-day training session during the afternoon of Monday, February 12th, 2024, with details on this training session to follow.

Technical Program/Presentation Format, Topics, and Length

The technical program on Tuesday will consist of four (4) 55-minute technical sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Presentations should be about 15 to 20 minutes long and topics should have a transportation engineering, planning, traffic safety and/or operations theme and demonstrate how the information presented can be utilized by conference attendees. Presenters can share project experience, lessons learned, innovative solutions, pilot programs, testing of new ideas or technologies, state of art practice, and/or collaboration with others.

Submittal Procedure

Please download and fill out the submission form on page 12 and submit the form to Justin Chan at justin.chan@transpogroup.com. Please include “2024 ITE/IMSA Conference Presentation Abstract” in the subject line of the email.

Deadline

The deadline to submit abstracts for presentation is **Friday, December 22ND, 2023.**

Additional Questions

Please contact Justin Chan at the email address above for questions about the technical program and conference.

2024 ITE/IMSA TECHNICAL PRESENTATION BIO/ABSTRACT FORM

Please fill out and submit this form for the 2024 ITE/IMSA Conference by **Friday, December 22ND, 2023**.

ORGANIZATION:
PRESENTER(S):
BIO:
TOPIC/TITLE:
ABSTRACT:
DURATION:

RETURN TO: Justin Chan
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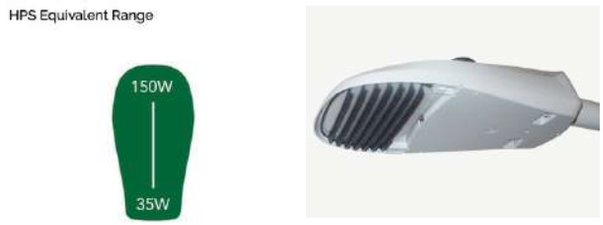

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podcast

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.

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

Bidding Farewell to ITE Executive Director and CEO Jeff Paniati

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.

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