

RE: Initiatives for 2010

Georgia ITE Members and Friends,

I am excited to serve as your President of the Georgia Section of ITE for 2010. I've established some goals and want to share them with you.

Encourage More Public Sector Involvement

Even during a difficult year economically, we can grow. We grow by offering services that people who are not currently members participate in and find of high value. We should set a goal to grow by 10 percent, from 406 to 447 members in 2010.

If you work for a public agency in a transportation role, there is a place for you in our organization. Only 32 percent of our membership is in the public sector, so we need to take some initiatives to encourage more public sector membership. A good reason to belong is that if you have a transportation challenge, there is probably someone in our organization that has already dealt with it and can offer some suggestions.

We will ask several Past Presidents to work with our Membership Committee to visit ten public agencies, successfully recruit five of them and to encourage them to get actively involved by mentoring them throughout the year. We will continue at our monthly meetings to offer public agencies a chance to tell us about your organization through a 5-10 minute presentation in our Agency SpotlITE.

Create chapters to involve members in Columbus, Macon, Savannah and Augusta. Have two one-day technical seminar programs, not in Atlanta.

Provide Interesting Programs

Create a Program Committee chaired by Vice President Mike Holt to generate ideas and speakers for all meetings and to retool the format of the meetings. Young members love to tour things and love demonstrations. They are looking for more substance, but not necessarily more glitz. Change the format of our meetings to make them interactive, exciting and fresh.

As always we will have a wide variety of interesting and informative presentations at our annual Summer Seminar at St. Simons Island July 18-21. Book your room now. Refresh the Summer Seminar meeting. In the budget, don't hesitate to do a different kind of program or talent. Don't be afraid to stir things up. We want to deliver a quality program that creates a feeling of "WOW" and anticipates members' needs. GDOT only sent three people in 2008 and one person in 2009. In 2010 target 15 people from GDOT and reserve rooms for them. Identify them and make arrangements for them to come. Move the auction to Sunday night.

In 2011, we would like to initiate a new two day winter conference, a Winter Workshop similar to our Summer Seminar. Planning for this important event will take place during

2010. We need some creative folks to volunteer to help with this committee. Rotate this around the state each year.

Modernize and Retool the Organization

Set up electronic payment for meetings. Hire a futurist trainer to work with the Georgia Section Board to reshape and retool the organization. What will the world and the profession look like in 2020? How should we shift our resources to meet the changing needs of our membership? The futurist will help the Board to craft an organization that will meet the future needs of our members.

Training

The world we operate in continues to change at a rapid pace. So that we all can be as current as possible to do our best to address the transportation issues, the Section will continue to sponsor a number of training opportunities. If you have suggestions contact our Technical Committee Chair Patrece Keeter at pgkeeter@co.dekalb.ga.us or Vice Chair Andrew Antweiler at aantweiler@roswellgov.com.

We will also continue two programs that started last year. If you are interested in honing your administrative skills, look for information on our Leadership and Management Training. If you know of young engineers who are ready to move up the ladder, encourage them to apply for our Mentoring Program.

Socialize

Our Young Members/Activities Committee led by Winter Horbal and Tim Brandstetter will be planning some adventures. Let's go to ball games; participate in some physical challenges (maybe a sprint triathlon). Give back/volunteer to help others in need.

Because of the economy this year, cancel the Annual Awards Dinner in January 2010, but consider resuming it in 2011. Give out awards at Annual Meeting in December 2009. Plan another social event (maybe a day at the lake) sometime in 2010 with joint input from the Annual Meeting Committee and the Young Members Committee.

Use social networking (Facebook, LinkedIn) for our events and to stay in touch.

We Need You and Your Ideas

GA ITE is strong because of its people. Thank you for all that you have done in the past, but we need your help now. Volunteer and get involved in a committee. If you have an idea for a great demonstration or an interesting program, please let me know at dlow@roswellgov.com or 770-594-6422 or contact one of the other officers.

I look forward to an exciting year working with each of you.

David Low, P.E., PTOE
President
Georgia Section ITE, Inc.