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John D. Edwards, Editor May 2008; Vol. 3, # 1

A Message from Our President, Carla Holmes



Henry David Thoreau once wrote, “Never look back unless you are planning to go that way”. Good quote, but not fitting in every instance. GAITE, Inc. did take a look back last year, but it was in an effort to continue to move our organization forward. In 2007, the Georgia Section’s Board determined that it was time to revisit our Section’s Strategic Plan, which was originally developed in 1997. The Board wanted to update the Plan to ensure that the Section was fulfilling its mission, goals, and objectives. The Strategic Plan Update Committee consisted of me, Rick Day, Susan Walker, and Keith Strickland

The Membership Survey.

The first step in the update of the Strategic Plan was an on-line membership survey. The membership was essentially satisfied that GAITE was fulfilling its goals and objectives and that the 1997 Strategic Plan was still effective. The survey was structured so that each element of the 1997 Strategic Plan was presented, and respondents were asked questions relating to each. Respondents were asked to rank statements of satisfaction on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied. Some of the more notable results are as follows:

- | | Approval Rating |
|---|-----------------|
| • Is the Mission Statement still appropriate?..... | 8.59 out of 10 |
| • Are the Section’s programs and services aligned with the Mission Statement? | 7.40 out of 10 |
| • Is Goal 1-Advancing the State of the Practice still appropriate?..... | 8.59 out of 10 |
| • Is the Section a “State-Wide” resource? | 6.94 out of 10 |

- Is **Goal 2-Increasing the Awareness/Influence of the Profession** still appropriate?.... 8.55 out of 10
- Is the Section accomplishing Goal 2? 6.76 out of 10
- Is **Goal 3-Enhance The Section’s Membership Services** still appropriate? 8.75 out of 10
- Is the Section accomplishing Goal 3?..... 7.34 out of 10
- Are members satisfied with GAITE?..... (“Very Satisfied” (37)%; “Satisfied” (45%)) Yes, 82%

There was some interesting discrepancy among responses, with some suggesting that the Mission Statement, and subsequently the organization’s focus, was too concentrated on traffic engineering instead of transportation engineering as a whole, and transportation planning. Conversely, there were others who felt that the focus was too broad and that more emphasis needed to be placed on traffic engineering. The Section is appropriately aligned with ITE International in its service to the “community of transportation professionals” as a whole by encompassing the broader disciplines of transportation engineering and transportation planning.

Goal One – Advance the State of the Practice

Members responding to the survey indicated that this was still an appropriate goal for the Section, with an average approval rating of 8.59. The objectives originally developed to accomplish this goal were found to also still be appropriate. One respondent stated, “Everything is metro-centric.... Shouldn’t we also provide access and support to small cities and rural areas?” Out of this concern came one of this year’s goals to have more of a “Georgia-wide” focus. The Section will redirect our efforts this year to reaching out to non-Metro Atlanta members.

Goal Two – Increase the Awareness and Influence of the Transportation Profession

Survey respondents stated that we needed to do more in terms of promoting the Section and the profession. One respondent aptly stated, “We do not do a good enough job of selling ourselves to the public”. This sentiment was reflected in other responses, and led to a goal this year to “Toot our Horn” by promoting the Section and the profession. The Section also ranked low, according to respondents, in how well we established positions on transportation issues, and how we communicated those positions to elected leaders. As a non-profit entity the Section must be careful in how it addresses these types of issues. ITE International has very defined guidelines on what Sections can and should do in the political arena. The Strategic Plan Update Committee changed the wording of this goal from its original version to be more reflective of the “educating” versus “lobbying” role. GAITE also had a voice in the critical transportation issues being discussed this year through active participation in the Georgia Engineering Alliance Legislative Coalition.

Goal Three – Enhance the Section’s Membership Services

Those who responded to the Survey were satisfied that Goal 3 was still an appropriate goal for the Georgia Section. The Section’s leadership continues to implement new and improved member services. With such programs as the Young Members Committee, the new Annual Meeting and Annual Business Meeting formats that received positive reviews last year, new meeting formats, and even with bringing back our Section Newsletter, the Section leadership seeks to give members more value for their time and money.

A lot has changed since 1997. But as a testament to how well the Section’s original Strategic Planners captured the essence of what the Section is about and what it sought to do back then, the 2007 Strategic Plan Update Committee had to make very few changes to the Plan. In revisiting the Strategic Plan, the Section’s leadership got a great understanding of what the members’ opinions were, and took the opportunity to refocus our efforts on areas most important to them. Contrary to what Thoreau said, we looked back, and used what we saw to help advance us towards being a Section that will not only *be* “**GREAT in 2008!**”, but great for years to come!

Southern District Meeting in Charleston

By
John Edwards, Editor

The 2008 Southern District Annual Meeting was held in Charleston, South Carolina. The meeting was well attended with over 400 delegates and guests attending with 25 from the Georgia Section. There were 51 presenters and moderators including 5 from Georgia. (N.C. had 17—we need to improve our participation.)

The keynote speaker was **Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.**, who has been the mayor of Charleston for over 30 years. Mayor Riley did a superb keynote address noting the transportation improvements that have taken place in the region over the years and its impact on the economic success of the region.



Mayor Riley Giving the Keynote Address

Some of the more interesting projects were:

- Welcome Center located in a renovated warehouse
- CARTA Transportation Center and Downtown Shuttle

- Conversion of a portion of King Street from one-way to two-way
- Charleston Aquarium and its impact on tourism in Charleston
- New Ravenal Bridge over the Cooper River
- Development of Neighborhood Support Groups to coordinate development and transportation improvements

The other elements of the program were equally interesting ranging from “Unique and Innovative Intersection Designs” to “Public Outreach-Get’em Out Early and Often”

One of the most interesting papers was a presentation by **John Van Winkle** on Chattanooga’s Photo Enforcement Program. He compared accident statistics for selected intersections before and after by accident type. I highly recommend the paper.



Mike Holt Presents “Fast Forward”

Sharham Malek, **Marwan Abboud** and **Mike Holt** presented a paper on GDOT’s “Fast Forward Initiative. Other presenters included **Peggy Allen** from DeKalb County Traffic Engineering; **Keith Hogsed** from DATA SMARTS; and our own president **Carla Holmes** who moderated a session on “Unique and Innovative Design can you D.I.G. it?”



Carla Moderates on “Innovative Design”

All was not work at the Annual Meeting—there was time for networking, fellowship and a generally good time with friends, associates and fellow professionals. The pictures below and to the right attest to the great activities of the meeting.



Barbara, Martin, Wayne and Keith

The ladies and guests had a great time too. The ladies program had all of the social events, including a trip to Middleton Plantation and the Carolina Beach Party at the Citadel Beach House on

Isle of Palms. I am told that the carriage ride was a highlight of the trip. See, we Transportation Professionals do give our support to multimodal transportation!



Ladies on Tour



And There Were Some Other Members There, Too

There were two other major events that occurred at the Annual Meeting: The Traffic Bowl and the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Banquet. These events are highly anticipated and are enjoyed by all of the attendees.

Part of the fun of attending the Southern District meeting is to visit with old friends and to meet new friends. There was plenty of that at the meeting in Charleston and the next few pictures attest to that:



Existing and “Officers To Be”

Kenny Voorhies, District Director; Carla Homes, GA Section President; Keith Strickland, Ga. Section Past President and Paul Eng Wong, Vice Presidential Candidate



Carla, Keith, Peggy and Friends



**Discussing ITE Business
Keith Hogsed, Betsy Williams and Marsha Bomar**

The Traffic Bowl Team

The Traffic Bowl, sponsored by Temple Electric and moderated by Tommy Lee of Vulcan Materials, is one of the highlights of the Annual Meeting. The Traffic Bowl is a multi-session affair where student teams from each of the universities within the states compete, answering questions on basic traffic engineering and transportation planning subjects. This year there were teams from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

While our Georgia Tech team did not win, they led on all the sessions but lost in Double Jeopardy. Congratulations on your efforts, guys.



Our Traffic Bowl Team: Christopher Watson, Shaun Pope and Dwayne Henclewood



Carla Holmes Receiving the Best Section Award from Bob Murphy

Awards

The other major event is the Awards for the year 2007. There are five awards that the Southern District presents each year and the winners are:

- Joseph M. Thomas Young Engineer Award: **Alison Catarella Michel**
- Marble Hensley Individual Activity Award: **Marsha Anderson Bomar**
- Herman Hoose Distinguished Service Award: **Kenneth O. Voorhies**
- Outstanding Section Award: **Georgia Section, ITE**
- John Exnicious Governmental Employee Outstanding Service Award: **John Van Winkle**
- Best Student Chapter Award: **Clemson University**

The Georgia Section was well represented in the awards. Members of the Section won two of the five member awards and the Section was selected as the Best Section—so “we” won three out of five of the major awards. In addition, **Kenny Voorhies** was recognized for his outstanding service on the International Board of Directors. His term ends in December 2008. Thank you, Kenny, for your dedicated service.



Marsha Bomar Receiving the Marble Hensley Award from Bob Murphy



Kenny Voorhies Receiving the Herman Hoose Award from Bob Murphy

Results of the 2008 Officer Elections: SDITE

Election of officers for the 2009 SDITE Officers was held at the Annual Board Meeting in Charleston on April 1st. The results were as follows:

President – Karen Mohammadi (Kentucky)

Vice President – Jim Westmoreland (N. C.)

Secretary/Treasurer —Tim White (Virginia)

ITE International Director — Bob Stammer
(Tennessee)

Legislative Update

By
Maureen O'Brien

A Constitutional Amendment that would give the General Assembly specific authority to create special transportation districts, as defined in general law, which would be allowed to levy a 1 percent sales tax for all transportation needs in their region if approved in a referendum. The county governing authorities in each district would levy the tax, if they participate in the regional process.

If a special transportation district tax is approved by voters, 100% of the funds collected would remain in the region. The resolution called for the General Assembly to phase in a shift of the fourth penny of sales taxes on motor fuels from the state's General Fund to earmark it for any transportation purpose; currently only the first three pennies of the sales taxes on motor fuels are dedicated for traditional road, street and bridge projects.

This Bill Failed to Pass

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14-16, 2008	WTS International Annual Conference The “W” Hotel
June 12, 2008	TBA
July 20-23, 2008	Summer Seminar King & Prince Resort
August 14, 2008	TBA
August 17-20, 2008	ITE Annual Meeting Anaheim, California
September 11, 2008	Gena Abraham DOT Commissioner
October 9, 2008	SPSU Student Chapter Southern Poly Univ.
October 18, 2008	PTOE; PTP; and TOPS Exams-TBA
December 11, 2008	Annual Business Mtg. Mary Mac’s

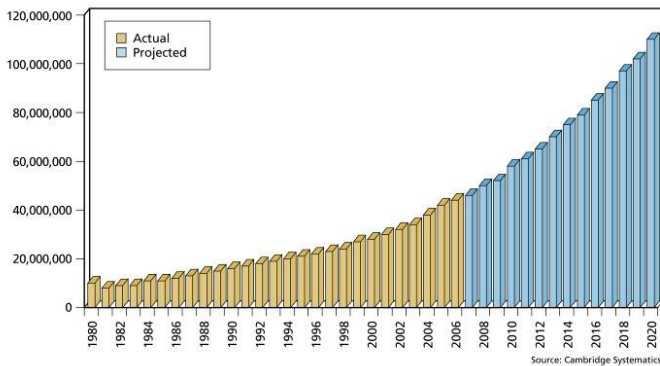
AASHTO PRESENTATION

By
John Horsley

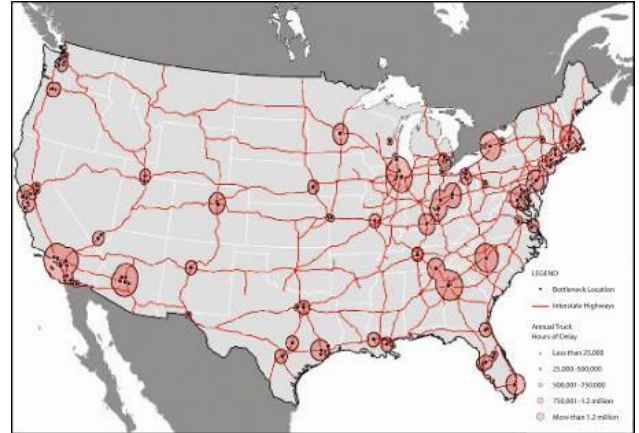
At the April Meeting, held at the Civil Engineering Building at Georgia Tech, the Executive Director of AASHTO, **Mr. John Horsley** did a presentation entitled: **“What the Future Holds for the Nations Transport”**. The presentation centered on the efforts of the National Collation on Transportation Commission to lay the groundwork for the 2009 national transportation legislation which will be labeled **“SAFETEALOU”**.

Mr. Horsley reviewed the trends in funding for transportation and the need to substantially increase funding in the coming year for all modes of transportation. One of the recommendations of the Commission is to increase the funding level from \$89 billion to \$225 billion annually.

Mr. Horsley’s presentation focused on the congestion problems in major metropolitan areas and the trends in containerized freight. The chart below illustrates the dynamic growth anticipated in containerized freight (and similarly in truck traffic) and suggested that some truck corridors are expected to have 50,000 truck movements per day.



Using the projections of truck traffic in the metropolitan areas of the United States, the Commission identified the areas where the additional truck traffic will create major congestion problems. These areas are depicted in the map to the upper right. Atlanta, Charlotte, Nashville and New Orleans are shown on the map.



Critical Transportation Corridors and Bottlenecks

Several recommendations of the Commission are likely to be included in the new federal transportation program including management of demand, improved operations, new transit capacity, new highway capacity and policies to reduce transportation impact on global climate change.



Mr. John Horsley Presenting at the April Meeting

Several recommendations that will be difficult to implement are: “removal of “modal programs and administrations” and eliminating highway accounts within the Highway Trust Program.

Pioneer Profiles

By
John Edwards

The Georgia Section is fortunate in having a number of members who have contributed to the profession over a number of years-especially in the “early years” of traffic engineering and transportation planning. Many of these members are now retired and are no longer active in the profession. This column will be a regular offering in the issues to come and will focus on both active and inactive members who were trailblazers for the current organization.

Mr. Karl Bevins, P.E. was the first traffic engineer for the City of Atlanta. He graduated from Ga. Tech with a degree in Electrical Engineering. In the late “30’s he went to work for the Georgia Power Company, who at that time operated the Atlanta Transit System. This was primarily a streetcar system although in the early 40’s it was transitioning into a rubber tired system. After WW II, Karl spent much of his time with Georgia Power Company in trying to coordinate the operation of busses, streetcars and automobiles on the streets of Atlanta.

In 1949 **William B. Hartsfield** realized the need to have a full time engineer to oversee street traffic operations for the City. He named Karl as the first City Traffic Engineer-the first in the south-east. Karl served in that capacity for 28 years and saw the development of the Lochner Report, the early stages of the freeway system



Karl Bevins, P.E.

and was a Founding Member of the Southern Section ITE—the forerunner of the Southern District and served as President in 1955-1956. He was also a founding member of the Georgia Section ITE in 1983. He was named as an Honorary Member by International ITE in 1990—one of only seventy-three members so recognized.

Membership Survey of the Georgia Section

By
David Benevelli

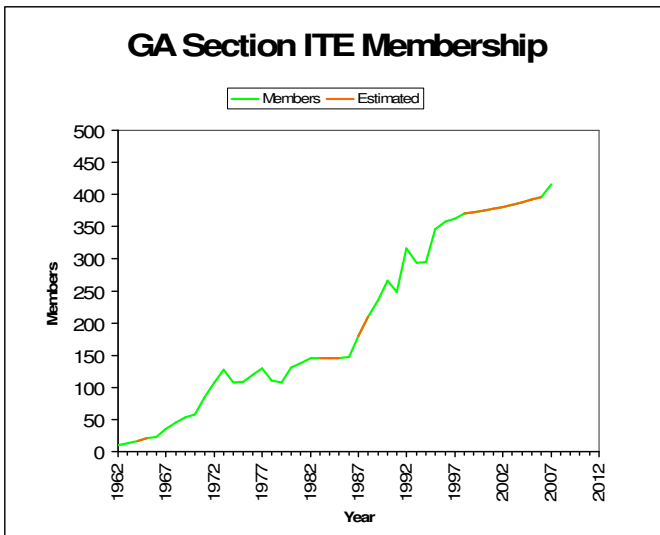
I am proud to serve as the Membership Committee of the Section. The purpose of the membership committee is to encourage new members to join, to review the characteristics of membership composition of the Section and to recommend changes in membership procedures.

GREAT in 2008 is our section’s motto this year and the R reminds us that we need to continually Revitalize Membership in the Georgia Section. This article looks at the section’s membership since our beginning in 1962 and our roles as we move ahead.

A Growing Tradition

In 1962, a small group of traffic professionals living in the Atlanta began to discuss a "local professional organization of traffic engineers." They discussed various organizations and, based on prevailing ITE guidelines, chartered a statewide organization. By the end of their first full year, their recruitment efforts grew the organization by 30%. Needless to say these founding members began a great tradition of quality technical programs and idea sharing that we continue today.

The Georgia Section ITE Membership graph track’s the section’s growth since that first year. The data comes from the section’s history as compiled by **John Edwards** and **Charles Bopp**.



The available data is shown in green and estimated values are shown in red. The Section’s growth over the years has varied with the economy, changing national needs and policies, infrastructure programs, and changing migration patterns. Note the rapid growth starting in 1986 and continuing through Atlanta’s hosting of the 1996 Olympics. This growth reflects the intense preparations for the games and Atlanta’s emergence on the world’s stage. Today we have over 400 members statewide and look forward to further growth as we tackle increasingly complex mobility issues with technology applied by diverse teams of transportation professionals.

Our Rich Legacy

Our section has a significant history of contributing its talents on the local, regional, national, and international stages. These efforts produced two International ITE Presidents (John Edwards, Marsha Anderson Bomar), District Directors (3), District Board Chairman (2), District Board Representatives (7), and Southern Section ITE Presidents (5). These numbers highlight the leadership skills developed by our members and the respect these individuals have earned from their peers.

Many awards have been earned through the individual and team efforts of our section. These awards include the Hoose Distinguished Service Award, the Hensley Outstanding Individual Award, The Burton W. Marsh Distinguished Service Award, and the Wilbur S. Smith Distinguished Transportation Educator Award. Our cumulative efforts have garnered six Section Technical Awards including the most recent 2007 Best Section Award from the Southern Section.

A special group of 73 ITE International members have been honored for their life-time contributions since the organization’s founding in 1930. Two of these distinguished few are Georgia Section members **Karl Bevins** and **John Edwards** (they are also among the ten original founders of the Georgia Section). Their lifetime accomplishments are summarized on the ITE web site although it is more fun to listen to their stories, in person, at section events!

We are also proud to have 37 section members who have been recognized with the ITE membership grade of Fellow. These individuals have professional registrations and have the experience leading and being responsible for important technical projects. Each of these people leads through their active commitment and contributions to ITE and the profession. Their actions inspire younger members to grow both professionally and personally.

Looking Ahead

The key to the section’s growth is demonstrating the benefits of membership to our peers. One way to quantify the benefits of ITE is to label them as whether they are tangible or intangible. The tangible benefits are easy to quantify and can be seen on the ITE and Georgia Section web sites. What are difficult to quantify are the intangible benefits that just may be the most personally rewarding. How do you measure “picturing” the face of your peers

during a phone conference or discussing signal timing coordination across your political boundaries? What are the benefits of being able to pick up the phone and calling a friend to discuss your latest concept for funding needed infrastructure? How do you measure the satisfaction from seeing your design built and receiving community feedback that it eliminates their frustrations? John Edwards was recently asked why he continues to contribute so much of his time and energy to the Georgia Section. His reply was simple. It's the satisfaction and pleasure of watching people as they grow into new leadership roles. Clearly this is an intangible benefit for all of us.

At this year's Georgia Tech graduation, **Dean Kamen** (a world renowned inventor) reminded the roughly 2,000 graduates about their role in the world. He put their technical skills into perspective in a world where fewer people are training in technical fields. For each of the day's graduates, there are 3 million people on the planet today who will depend on each graduate to produce clean water and energy, build safe structures, provide mobility and connect people around the globe. He challenged them with a quote attributed to Winston Churchill, "You make a living by what you do, but you make a life by what you give".

To continue the growth of our section and profession, we need to establish a culture of encouragement. Each of us has a responsibility to foster an environment where everyone can and does contribute. These individual contributions have all of us grow both personally and professionally. We need to encourage each other to retain our existing members. We need to encourage our peers who have moved to the side-lines so that they renew their participation. And we need to encourage prospective members so that they can receive the benefits, both tangible and intangible, of participating with the members of the Georgia

Section ITE. Maybe the person you encourage will grow to fill future leadership roles. Together we can prepare for the future by being **GREAT in 2008.**

New Members (Since January 2008)

By

Maureen O'Brien, Affiliate Director

The following persons have applied for membership in the Georgia Section and have been recommended for membership. The Section board approved these members at the recent Board meeting.

Richard Boston—Volkert and Associates

Isatou Cham—Volkert and Associates

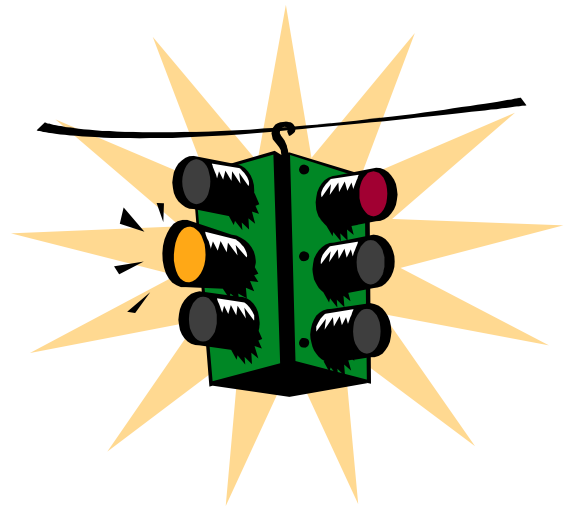
Tom Harjung—Thompson Engineering

Peter Hortman—URS Corporation

Diwan Singla—Clayton County Traffic

Naga Swetha Pasupuleti—Grice Inc.

Please welcome these new members into our organization.



International ITE Vice-Presidential Candidates Campaign Statements¹

Mr. Gene Wilson
2008 Candidate for Vice President,
International ITE

As you know I am a candidate for the 2009 ITE International Vice President. I know that to be successful, it will take the support of many ITE members. In that regard, I seek your help and support.



My Vision for ITE

Strengthen ITE by helping to solve critical professional and societal core issues.

Gene will use his experience in education and training to help achieve solutions in the areas of safety, management & operations, designing for all users, and workforce development.

Strengthen ITE by working together as a community of transportation professionals.

Gene will help ITE provide member services to strengthen your local professional recognition. Gene wants to help you become more active in ITE at all levels. The stronger our membership is, the stronger ITE's voice becomes. He will

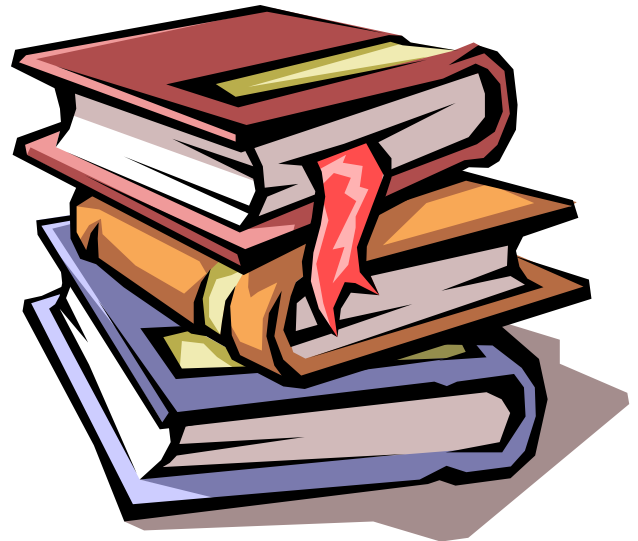
work within the ITE community, forming new partnerships as appropriate and with ITE's global networks to achieve solutions.

Strengthen ITE's global network of members.

Gene will provide more opportunities for international member involvement. Gene will use his experience with WIN to create an international ITE communications network. An ITE WIN network will provide more opportunities to share worldwide knowledge of transportation developments. This international networking will help all ITE members.

Strengthen ITE member communications and educational training.

These are keys to more members and more active members. Gene pledges to listen and respond to your professional needs and issues.



¹ Note from the Editor: We Have Been Asked To Publish The Campaign Statements In The Newsletter

Mr. Paul Eng-Wong
Candidate for Vice President
International ITE

Vision Statement

Professional enrichment through active and meaningful member participation is the centerpiece of my vision for ITE. The organization must serve as a conduit between individual spirit and collective resolve if ITE is to continue playing a central role in elevating our profession. My vision includes these key areas:



Professional Development – The heart of ITE is its membership, and nurturing the careers of transportation professionals demand effective programs for leadership development and professional ethics. We need to have the membership pulse at our fingertips; understanding your needs and interests should help guide everything that we do. I will strive to communicate with you, the members, and continue to invest in our future.

Technical Advancement – ITE must remain at the forefront of technical expertise to satisfy the needs and demands of transportation systems that are constantly growing in magnitude and complexity. We have an opportunity to bring the best and brightest minds to bear on a wide array of technical challenges, and I will promote ITE as the premier resource for technical excellence and technological innovation in the transportation industry.

International Partnership – As a worldwide organization, ITE should persist in its commitment to increase collaboration with the international community of transportation professionals. I will encourage an exchange of ideas, technology and research that can be developed globally and applied locally.

These areas of emphasis have something very important in common; they rely on the participation, enthusiasm and commitment of an active membership. Both member and employer involvement in shaping the future direction of ITE are integral to its growth and success.

You, the members, work hand-in-hand with some of the most notable experts in the transportation industry, cultivating both valued professional relationships and lifelong personal friendships. Employers benefit from more knowledgeable staff, increased networking opportunities and improved employee retention. With members reaching new heights in technical achievement and innovation, the public will benefit from safe, efficient and reliable transportation systems.

I have always believed that ITE is both a resource and a responsibility, and I have seen first-hand the benefits of investing my time in all that the organization has to offer. Every time I give to ITE, I get back so much more in return. With you, me and ITE working together, we can ensure that ITE continues to be the organization of choice for the transportation profession.

