



# items

MARCH 1999  
Vol. 38 No. 3

**The Official Publication of the Illinois Section Institute of Transportation Engineers**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While surfing on the World Wide Web, I found the "Pocket Guide to Transportation - 1998" produced by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (U.S. DOT) located at [www.bts.gov/pg.pdf](http://www.bts.gov/pg.pdf). It compiles a list of statistics from a number of sources on America's transportation system and its usage. It can be downloaded in a PDF format. Below, I have listed some of the significant data trends from 1970 to 1996.

Characteristic	1970	1996	Change
Population	204 million	265 million	+30%
Civilian Labor Force	83 million	134 million	+61%
Households	63.4 million	99.6 million	+57%
Vehicles	111 million	210 million	+89%
Vehicle-miles Of Travel	1.1 trillion	2.5 trillion	+127%
Motor Vehicle Fatalities	52,627	41,907	-20%

At first glance, these numbers suggest continuing job security for traffic engineers and transportation planners. Another look suggests our profession needs a heightened sense of urgency in developing better methods and policies to deal with the tremendous increase in travel. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) has been one of the better methods in recent years but we still need to deal with the policy makers. With the increase in travel, energy consumption and pollution, emissions will also continue to increase. We need to explore alternate non-polluting energy sources and ways to reduce the usage of fossil fuels.

On a positive note, annual motor vehicle fatalities have dropped from 52,627 in 1970 to 41,907 in 1996 even though vehicle-miles of travel more than doubled.

As part of the section's efforts to attract young people to the profession, **Marc Start** at (312) 917-3000 is collecting summer job openings for college students. Marc will compile a listing of the jobs he receives and will send them to schools in the region and post them on our section's web site at [www.ilite.org](http://www.ilite.org). Who knows, maybe someone your organization hires may become a future transportation professional and employee!

Congratulations to the section members who have passed the first Professional Traffic Operation Engineers Exam held in January. The Section is exploring the possibility of hosting an exam in conjunction with the District 4 Conference in 2000, the Annual Meeting in 2001, or with the Northwestern Traffic Institute.

I hope to see you at Maggiano's on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Stephen Corcoran**  
Metro Transportation Group, Inc.  
[sbc@metrotransportation.com](mailto:sbc@metrotransportation.com)

### **ITE - Illinois Section March Luncheon Please Join Us at Maggiano's!**

- Date:** Thursday, March 18, 1999
- Time:** Reception at 11:30 A.M.  
Luncheon promptly at Noon
- Speakers:** Sid Weseman - RTA  
Jack Tone - Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Topic:** Northwest Corridor Transit Feasibility Study  
(See additional details in *ITEMS*)
- Location:** Maggiano's  
516 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois
- Reservations:** Please call Javier Millan at (630) 213-1000 on or before March 15, 1999.
- Cost:** \$25 per person  
(\$12 for students)
- Next Month:** Illinois Section April Luncheon  
Thursday, April 22, 1999.  
Maggiano's in downtown Chicago
- Mike Matkovic (Illinois Department of Transportation - District 1) and Jack Tone (Parsons Brinckerhoff) "The Hillside Strangler"



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## ITE - ILLINOIS SECTION MARCH LUNCHEON PREVIEW

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Our first ITE luncheon for 1999 will be held on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's in Chicago (same as usual). A reminder to some and also to those who may not be aware, valet parking is available at the restaurant and costs roughly \$10 which can be less expensive than self parking in the area.

The speakers for this month's meeting are **Sid Weseman** of RTA and **Jack Tone** of Parsons Brinckerhoff. They will be reporting on the *Northwest Corridor Transit Feasibility Study*. Below is a summary of the project to date along with a preview of what our speakers will be discussing.

The Northwest Corridor, an area that extends from east of O'Hare International Airport west to the Cook County line, has become one of the major economic centers of our region. The corridor contains more than half a million jobs and almost 600,000 residents. But with this success has come mobility problems as more and more of the region's residents make their daily trek to this job rich area and find themselves battling congested roadways.

To examine ways to improve mobility in this area, municipalities and government agencies have joined together for the *Northwest Corridor Transit Feasibility Study*. The study is a comprehensive examination of the transportation needs of the Northwest Corridor. It will identify travel conditions and develop and evaluate transportation alternatives to improve mobility. The study's goal is to identify a small set of feasible transportation improvement alternatives. The study is being sponsored by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) and the municipalities of Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, and Schaumburg. An initial set of 21 transportation alternatives has been developed for the study. These alternatives include combinations of travel modes and routes, many along the Northwest Tollway (I-90).

In the development of these initial alternatives, routes and connections were identified to serve and correspond with the area's major employment and activity centers. Six different modes of transportation are being considered: commuter rail; heavy rail transit; light rail transit; bus rapid transit; high occupancy vehicle (HOV)/high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes; and express bus service.

The next phase of the Northwest Corridor Transit Feasibility Study screened this initial set of 21

alternatives and designated eight alternatives for more detailed analysis. The screening process was completed in February 1999. Detailed analysis of the surviving alternatives are scheduled for completion in late spring with final study recommendations due in summer 1999.

At the Illinois Section's meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sid Weseman and Jack Tone will discuss the study's progress to date and describe the 8 alternatives being considered.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

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Several publications have been made available by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The publications are listed and described below.

- **Telephone Contacts for Users of Federal Transportation Statistics 1999.** Lists names, telephone and fax numbers, and E-mail addresses of transportation specialists in the federal government by mode, cross-referenced by their area of expertise.
- **Pocket Guide to Transportation.** Illustrates changes in the U.S. transportation system over the past 26 years and how they have affected the nation's economy, safety, energy use and the environment. Much of the data parallels the data contained in more detail in the Bureau's *Transportation Statistics Annual Report 1998*.
- **Journal of Transportation and Statistics (JTS).** The JTS features original research that measures transportation activity and its importance to society, analyzes transportation trends, and advances the science of acquiring, validating, managing and disseminating transportation information.
- **The 1995 American Travel Survey: Long-Distance Leisure Travel in the United States.** Contains information on long-distance trips made for rest or relaxation, sightseeing, outdoor recreation, entertainment and shopping.

To obtain a free copy of these publications, or other BTS products, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics at phone: (202) 366-DATA; fax: (202) 366-3640; or e-mail: [orders@bts.gov](mailto:orders@bts.gov). The electronic version is also available at <http://www.bts.gov>.



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## THE ACTIVITIES GROUP NEEDS YOUR INPUT!!!

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As reported in last month's *ITEMS*, the Activities Group has been looking into a joint summer outing with the Wisconsin Section. We've priced out a Chicago White Sox game at Milwaukee County Stadium versus the Brewers on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Game tickets would run \$14 each for lower grandstand seats. For a meal, we checked with a local catering service for tailgating before the game. A lunch that consists of chicken, brats, potato salad, baked beans, corn, and beverage would cost about \$17 per person. The total for meal and game is \$31 (keep in mind that the monthly ITE luncheons are \$25 each). Before we pursue this event any further, we want to get some feedback from the Section:

- Are people interested in a baseball game in Milwaukee? (It's the last season for the old County Stadium)
- Would you pay extra for a chartered bus as opposed to driving yourself or carpooling?
- Would people rather go to a game in Illinois?
- Would people rather go to a MINOR league game in Chicago (Schaumburg Flyers) instead of a Cubs or Sox game? (It would be much less expensive but a joint venture with Wisconsin would probably not occur)
- Or, do people have no interest in a baseball game whatsoever?

We ask that people who have an opinion regarding this summer event give me a call, a fax, or an email. Without your input, it can be quite difficult putting an event together. Please let me know one way or another if you are interested in a baseball outing of some sort. Remember that we are still planning on a separate golf outing later this year as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Basketball Tournament.

**Jeff Young**  
**Civiltech Engineering, Inc.**  
**630-773-3900 (fax: 3975)**  
[email@CiviltechInc.com](mailto:email@CiviltechInc.com)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE: *ITEMS* VIA E-MAIL!!

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Those of you who have provided the Section with an e-mail address in order to receive *ITEMS* via e-mail; this will be the **last** issue you will receive by regular mail. If you have not provided the Section with an e-mail address, you will still get a copy of *ITEMS* by regular mail. If you would like to receive *ITEMS* by e-mail you can still sign-up by going to the Illinois Section website at [www.ilite.org](http://www.ilite.org) and filling out the automated sign-up form.

**Maynard Abuan – Metro Transportation Group, Inc.**  
**Peter Lemmon – Metro Transportation Group, Inc.**

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## SAFETY COUNCIL AWARDS

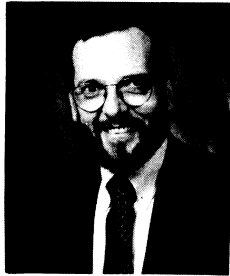
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The Transportation Safety Council is seeking nominations for its two annual awards for outstanding contributions to the field of traffic safety. The Edmund R. Ricker Awards are given in two categories, individual and organization. The individual award is given to a person who is recognized as a leader in the field of traffic safety through his/her safety activities in professional organizations, in the community, or in the performance of traffic engineering. Past winners include **George Black**, **James Pline**, **Nazir Lelani**, **Clarke Bennett**, and **John T. Hanna**. The organization award is given to an organization that has provided exemplary support for traffic safety through financial support, public relations, or other means. Past recipients have included Transit New Zealand, The American Automobile Association, The World Bank and The Traffic Safety Association of British Columbia.

The nomination deadline is **April 30, 1999**. Please send your nomination, with a brief statement on the qualifications of the nominee to:

Martin E. Lipinski, Professor and Chair  
Department of Civil Engineering  
The University of Memphis  
Memphis, TN 38152-6570

You may fax your nomination to (901) 678-3026 or send it by e-mail to [mlipinsk@memphis.edu](mailto:mlipinsk@memphis.edu).



Steven Gayle  
Candidate for ITE International Vice President



Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study  
PO Box 1766  
Binghamton, NY 13902-1766  
Phone: 607•778•2443 FAX: 607•778•6051  
email: bmts@spectra.net

As a candidate for the prestigious office of International Vice-President of ITE, I bring a breadth of recent experience in many aspects of the Institute, a depth of knowledge of ITE operations, and a passion for service to ITE. This background will benefit the membership by enabling me to effectively assume the duties of the office without having to learn the basic policies, procedures, and practices of the Institute.

My service to ITE includes:

- **International Board of Direction:** 1993-95; Budget Committee 1993, 1995
- **District 1:** Chair 1998, Vice-Chair 1997, Secretary/Treasurer 1996
- **New York Upstate Section:** Newsletter Editor, 1988-1991; Section Director 1991-92
- **International Policy & Legislative Committee:** Chair 1998-99; Vice-Chair 1996-97
- **Transportation Planning Council:** Executive Committee 1997-99; member since 1990
- **Transportation Safety Council:** Member since 1995
- **Public Agency Task Force:** Charter member, 1998-99
- **Author:** ITE *Transportation Planning Handbook*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Chapter on Urban Planning, 1998

My goals for ITE are founded on a core principle: all proposed programs, products, and services are to be evaluated against the standard of helping our members do their jobs better and attain their professional goals.

- **A focus on system management and operation.** This new perspective puts traffic engineers at center stage.
- **A continued focus on safety.** ITE needs to help members convey to the public the value of our work in designing and operating safe facilities.
- **A focus on partnerships.** From ITS to harmonization, our jobs require us to build effective partnerships with public agencies and private stakeholders.
- **A focus on professional growth.** ITE must continually enhance training opportunities for members.

I have spent my entire career in public service, and have been the Executive Director of the Binghamton (NY) Metropolitan Transportation Study since 1985. I am proud that BMTS received the 1998 National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Metropolitan Transportation Planning from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The skills involved in running a premier MPO will benefit ITE: developing plans that reflect realistic choices, communicating ideas effectively, building consensus, and making decisions.

**STEVEN GAYLE for International Vice-President...experience, knowledge, ideas, and a passion for service.**

Input is welcome: BMTS, PO Box 1766, Binghamton NY 13902-1766...fax 607/78-6051...email [bmts@spectra.net](mailto:bmts@spectra.net)



ILLINOIS SECTION

*Institute of Transportation Engineers*  
**Student Paper/Project Award Competition**

The Illinois Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers announces a paper/project competition for its student members. The purpose is to increase the participation of our student members in the section's activities. The student paper/project competition covers topics devoted to a transportation subject. Possible topics could involve traffic flow, parking, design, planning, economics, operations or other appropriate subjects. The guidelines and requirements are shown to the right.

Student members are also encouraged to participate in the ITE National Student Paper Competition. This national competition is separate from the Illinois section competition. For more information regarding the national competition, contact:

Institute of Transportation Engineers  
525 School Street S.W.  
Suite 410  
Washington D.C. 20024-2757  
Phone 202-554-8050

**Award:**

\$500 from the Illinois Section

**Eligibility:**

- Must have been a student member of Illinois Section ITE during the period between May 15, 1998 and May 15, 1999.
- Must have completed work that provides the paper of project's basis while a student member of ITE.

**Topic/Format Requirements:**

- Transportation Subject
- Written in English
- Typed, Double-Spaced 8 1/2" X 11" Paper
- Maximum Length: 15 Pages
- Table of Contents
- Title Page: Title, Author's Name, Date
- Projects must be translated to Report Format

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Topic Originality
- Contemporary Significance
- Scope and Format
- Validity
- Applicability

**Submit by May 15, 1999 to:**

**Marcie Schatz**  
City of Naperville  
P.O. Box 3020  
400 S. Eagle Street  
Naperville, IL 60566



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

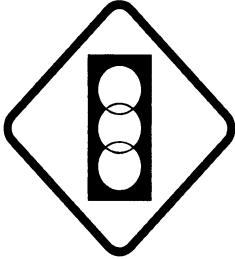
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Also, we are seeking an entry level Traffic Engineer. Knowledge of basic computer software and excellent oral and written communications skills are a must.

Reply in writing to:

**Rolf P. Kilian**  
**Metro Transportation Group, Inc.**  
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**ITE ILLINOIS SECTION CALENDAR**

March 18	ITE - Illinois Section March Luncheon - Maggiano's
March 25	Deadline for advertisements and articles for April's issue of <i>ITEMS</i> .
March 29 – April 2	“Illinois Fundamentals of Geometric Design Workshop” – Northwestern University Traffic Institute – More information in this issue of <i>ITEMS</i> .
April 22	ITE - Illinois Section April Luncheon - Maggiano's

Events are always welcome for this calendar, please contact the *ITEMS* Editors.



Tom McGlynn  
Sales Development Manager  
708-338-5425

Kari Jerich Brunn  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**ILLINOIS ITE SECTION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

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