



items

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Spring is finally in the air and the record snowfall is a distant memory! Our thoughts turn to flowers, golf, and Summer Hires!!! That's right! It's that time again to find summer help for your company or agency. Summer employment is an excellent way to recruit and train potential transportation professionals at a reasonable cost. Also, summer employment gives us a chance to expose undecided college students to our profession. Don't forget this year's summer intern is next year's entry level engineer or planner.

"RU Y2K OK?" is a video produced by the U.S. Department of Transportation on the Year 2000 computer problem and how it may affect the transportation industry. The video can be found along with other Y2K resources at www.ite.org including a users' survey, papers, and case studies from other professionals. Potential problems related by the survey respondents included controller failure, general signal system failure, incorrect commands to field controllers, school beacons, TOD-DOW signal coordination, emergency pre-emption, and record keeping. We have eight months left to test our own computer systems and make the appropriate fixes.

For some of our section members, this issue of *ITEMS* will be the first one delivered exclusively by e-mail. Each copy of *ITEMS* costs approximately one dollar for printing and postage while e-mail is essentially free. As more members sign up for this service (at http://www.ilite.org/ITEMS_Newsletter/E-MailForm/e-mailform.html), we hope to use the savings to increase the Section Scholarship Fund. Also, the annual Yearbooks will be available on the web site in the near future.

I hope to see you at Maggiano's on the 22nd when Mike Matkovic and Jack Tone reveal the identity of the infamous "Hillside Strangler" and the techniques they used to loosen his grip on the Eisenhower Expressway.

Your President

Stephen B. Corcoran
Metro Transportation Group, Inc.

abc@metrotransportation.com

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

- Date:** Thursday, April 22, 1999
- Time:** Reception at 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon promptly at Noon
- Speakers:** Mike Matkovic - Illinois Department of Transportation (District 1)
Jack Tone - Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Topic:** The Hillside Strangler
(See additional details in *ITEMS*)
- Location:** Maggiano's
516 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois
- Reservations:** Please call Mary Leising at (630) 213-1000 or Kim Kolody at (773) 693-3800 ext. 245 on or before April 19, 1999.
- Cost:** \$25 per person
(\$12 for students)
- Next Month:** Jim Stahlecker (McHenry County Highway Department) and Mike Magnusen (Civiltech) – Illinois Routes 62/31 Feasibility

Illinois Section May Luncheon
Thursday, May 20, 1999
Maggiano's on Clark





ITE - ILLINOIS SECTION APRIL LUNCHEON PREVIEW

I-290 Eisenhower Expressway Hillside Interchange Project

I-290, the Eisenhower Expressway, is an eight-lane freeway from the "Loop" to the city limits at Austin Boulevard. Here the freeway narrows to six lanes through the 8-mile study area to the junction of I-290 with I-88, the East-West Tollway, and I-294, the Tri-State Tollway in Hillside. At the infamous "Hillside merge", 12 lanes of freeway narrow into the six-lane I-290 bottleneck. In portions of the study area I-290 carries over 200,000 vehicles per day and is congested for a 14-hour peak period from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IDOT conducted a feasibility study for the addition of an HOV lane to approximately 8 miles of I-290, the Eisenhower Expressway. This included developing estimates of present and future traffic volumes. Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) also performed computerized operations modeling to test alternative designs, developing and assessing operations, as well as enforcement and traffic management plans. The FRESIM model was used to evaluate complex traffic operations along I-290 and was particularly useful for evaluation of alternative interchange design concepts.

An interim immediate action improvement plan and an ultimate long-range HOV plan were developed and tested. PB developed detailed concept plans for six HOV alternatives including various buffer and barrier separated lanes, as well as a separate HOV roadway using a parallel railroad right-of-way. Four alternatives for the Hillside interchange with I-88 and I-294 were developed, including a flyover for the HOV lanes to avoid weaving conflicts. Plans for park and urban diamond interchanges were drawn and tested to replace the obsolete cloverleaves. Interchange schemes were also developed to revamp the two interchanges, which currently have left-hand ramps with right-hand ramps.

To test the CATS traffic assignment results at the Hillside merge, a select link analysis was performed to identify routes of vehicles using the adjacent ramps. An aerial origin-destination survey was performed to track vehicles through the same merge area and to compare actual movements with the CATS model predictions.

Recognizing that, even with the added HOV lanes, numerous points of congestion were forecast by the

regional model, a series of non-HOV spot improvements were identified and tested using FRESIM. One of the spot improvements involves peak hour closing of a local access ramp from Roosevelt Road to I-88. This ramp joins I-88 just upstream from its merge with I-290. To test the benefits of this ramp closure, the ramp was barricaded for a 2-week test period. PB conducted numerous observations of traffic flow and speeds both before and during the ramp closure to evaluate the impacts. Intersection counts were also conducted on parallel arterial routes to observe diversion.

At this month's luncheon, Mike Matkovic with the Illinois Department of Transportation (District 1) along with Jack Tone of Parsons Brinckerhoff will be presenting the current status of the I-290 Hillside project.

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

If you would like to receive *ITEMS* via the Internet, you can sign-up by going to the Illinois Section website at www.ilite.org and filling out the automated sign-up form. All you need is a valid e-mail account and an Internet web browser. All members with e-mail and web browsing access are encouraged to sign up. Receiving *ITEMS* via the Internet will reduce printing and postage costs and frees up money for other Illinois Section activities.

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A NOTE FROM THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: METRIC VERSUS ENGLISH

The task group appointed to study if the Illinois Department of Transportation should continue to use the metric system has completed its work and recommended a return to the English system. The recommendation, along with several caveats, has been accepted. Accordingly, all new project starts should be in the English system. Projects which have been started in the metric system, may be completed in that system.

The Division of Highways will continue to maintain their manuals and other similar documents in the dual system as they now exist. The exception is the new Design Manual which is a metric document but will have English units added before it is finalized. All of the Division's computer programs have been designed to handle either English or metric units, so no changes are necessary.

The Federal Highway Administration will continue to work in the metric system as mandated by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. FHWA's data gathering efforts and national research will require some elements of the Illinois Department of Transportation to continue to work with the metric system.

AASHTO has indicated that they will work in dual units since some states will stay with the metric system, while others are changing back to the English system. At this writing, 26 states have indicated they will continue in the metric system, 16 will revert to the English system and the remaining states have yet to decide their position.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as the Illinois Department of Transportation deliberated its position on this issue.

**Darrell W. McMurray, P.E. -
Illinois Department of Transportation
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets**

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Once again, the Website of the Month is back. Since this article was missing from last month's issue, there will be two websites featured this month. With commuting trends changing from the traditional suburb-to-city commute to the growing city-to-suburb and suburb-to-suburb commutes, this month's websites feature commuting related websites.

Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)

<http://www.tmi.cob.fsu.edu/act/act.htm>

ACT works to improve mobility, enhance air quality, and reduce the effects of today's commuting habits with Transportation Demand Management (TDM). ACT provides information regarding legislation like tax benefits and commuting alternatives.

Commuter Choice Options

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/policy/ecco.htm>

This website describes commuting and parking benefits that are available through tax breaks. These Commuter Choice Options do not necessarily incur an additional cost to the employer, yet provide benefits to the commuting employee.



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www.metrotransportation.com

Illinois Section ITE Baseball Outing



BATTER UP! The Illinois Section of ITE has planned a summer event to see the Schaumburg Flyers in action, and we want **YOU** to be there! The date to remember is Friday, July 23, 1999, when the Flyers will take on the Winnipeg Goldeyes. Game time is set for 7:20 P.M.

The outing includes a picnic (hotdogs, hamburgers...) which starts at 6:00 P.M. This event is open to family and friends, so bring the whole gang! The price will be approximately \$15.00 per person, which includes the picnic, game tickets and lots of fun! For those of you not familiar with minor league baseball, it's a whole new experience! Come check out the newest game in town!

We have to make our reservations by mid-June, so mark your calendars, and plan on joining us for some summer fun!

Look in next month's issue of *ITEMS* for the sign up sheet and more details.



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

TRAFFIC ENGINEER & SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER

Metro Transportation Group, Inc. has an opening for a Senior Traffic Engineer. Growth at Metro calls for a BSCE or related field with four to eight years of experience in conducting traffic impact analyses and other traffic engineering/planning studies. Duties call for experience in managing projects, budgets, clients and directing other to assist. Must be able to make presentations to public bodies and have the ability to negotiate with public agencies. A good understanding and use of HCS, PASSER II AND III, TRANSYT-7F, TEAPAC and other traffic engineering software desirable. Illinois PE required or ability to obtain within one year.

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.
1300 Greenbrook Blvd
Hanover Park, IL 60103-5482

TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING

David Evans and Associates, Inc. (DEA), a growing national firm has excellent opportunities in their expanding transportation group. As one of the premier engineering firms in the Northwest, DEA is seeking candidates for the following positions in the Bellevue, WA office:

Senior Traffic Project Manager

Project management experience with signal design, channelization plans, and complex traffic studies. BS in Civil Engineering or equivalent degree required (BS/MS in Transportation desirable), 7+ years experience. PE required and must be obtained in Washington State.

Design Engineer

2-3 years experience required. Highway and arterial design using MicroStation with InRoads or CAiCE preferred. Familiarity with AASHTO, State and County standards, BS in civil engineering, and PE are preferred.

Traffic Engineer

BS in civil engineering and 4-6 year experience required. Traffic signal design and PE preferred. Interest in ITS desirable.

You will thrive in the freedom and support we offer and be compensated competitively. Mail, Fax or E-mail cover letter and resume for this position to:

Attn: DKP
David Evans and Associates, Inc.
415 - 118th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98005
Fax (425) 519-5361
dkp@deainc.com

EEO/AA

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ENGINEER

The City of DeKalb is seeking an experienced civil engineer to plan, implement, and supervise the street maintenance, construction projects, and field operations for the Public Works Department, Engineering Division. This Project Implementation Engineer is a mid-level management position requiring a high level of analytical ability, excellent technical, communication, administrative and management skills pertaining to public and private development. Requires BSCE, and at least five years professional experience in civil engineering. Professional Engineer in Illinois is preferred, Engineering in Training will be considered. Current salary range is \$41,752 - \$62,628, with starting salary DOQ.

Applications will remain open until position is filled. Applications should be forwarded to:

City of DeKalb
Human Resources Division
200 S. 4th Street
DeKalb, IL 60115

or

In Word Perfect format to swilley@cityofdekalb.com.

EOE



ITE ILLINOIS SECTION CALENDAR

- April 22 ITE - Illinois Section **April** Luncheon - Maggiano's
- April 29 Deadline for advertisements and articles for May's issue of *ITEMS*
- May 20 ITE - Illinois Section **May** Luncheon

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



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