



items

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September Luncheon

Join Us at Maggiano's

Date: September 16, 2004

Time: Reception - 11:30 A.M.
Luncheon - 12:00 P.M.

Topic: Illinois Prairie Parkway

Speakers: Ronald A Shimizu
Parsons, Brinkerhoff,
Quade, and Douglas, Inc.

Rick Powell
IDOT District 3

Summary: Discussion of the Prairie Parkway Project centered in Kendall County.

More details are on Page 3 of ITEMS

President's Message

How do we solve the many problems facing our industry these days? At this time, the root of the problem begins with a dramatic reduction in funding. As the election nears for the Presidency, a resolution to the Federal Highway Bill does not appear on the immediate agenda. Where do we then go for answers?

We all know that growth is only going to continue in Illinois; therefore, the traffic concerns are only going to grow as well. I believe that one possible answer lies with innovative "outside the box" thinking. And where do these new ideas come from...?

Within the ITE community, there exists a wealth of information from our peers around the Nation and the World.

Those that attended the District 4 conference held in Chicago and the International conference in Florida this summer were probably exposed to many projects and fellow colleagues that face the same problems we face here in Illinois. From these conferences, new ideas can come to life as we discover what others are doing elsewhere. I encourage you all to take advantage of these opportunities.

This fall, several opportunities will arise for us here in Illinois to listen and share ideas with others. The U of I Traffic and Safety Conference is scheduled for October 28th and 29th. On the 27th the annual golf outing is also planned. At this conference the Section will continue to reach out to the ITE Student Chapter at Champaign as we've done in the past. An evening meeting of Q&A with the students about the transition from college life to "real life" has always been a fun time for both the students and the members of ITE sharing their experiences. If you are interested in joining the Student meeting, please contact **Amarpal Matharu**, our Student Affairs Director for more information.

For this fall, the Activities Group has been working hard at setting up speakers for our luncheons. I hope you can find time to meet, mingle, share, and listen with your fellow members of ITE. Check the event schedule for the upcoming meeting dates.

There is also another incentive to attend our monthly luncheons. I have been approached about the possibility of receiving Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for our technical luncheons. After discussing the matter with representatives from the Illinois Society for Professional Engineers (ISPE), attendees are eligible to receive a minimum of one-half PDH.

The 1/2 hour is based on our typical minimum presentation and discussion time we have regarding a technical topic. Lunch itself is obviously excluded.

This fall, the Illinois Section is hosting a sitting for the PTOE exam. Emails regarding this event have been sent out recently. For more information on sitting for the exam, please contact ITE - International or **Matt Letourneau**, the Section's Technical Director.

Those of you that are International Members should have received a ballot in the mail regarding changes to the District 4 by-laws. Specifically, the changes proposed revolve around how the District representatives from each Section are chosen. Currently, each Section in District 4 (Illinois, MOVITE, NCITE, and Wisconsin) have the immediate Past-President serve on the Board as an officer for one year automatically. The Board positions rotate each year. For example, Karen George, the Past President for Illinois is the District 4 President. Next year, the President for District 4 will come from another Section and he/she will serve as an officer for that

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)
one year only.

The proposed change would have a District wide election where each Section nominates potential candidates for the Secretary/Treasurer. Once elected, the individual would serve on the District Board for 4 years. Each year, they would progress serving as Vice-President, President, and Past-President just as our Illinois Section officers do. This system is proposed in part to strengthen the District leadership. Also, it would give members that may have served on the Section Board in the past another opportunity to get involved with ITE later in his/her career.

If the changes are approved by the District membership, the Illinois Section Board will likely need to bring forward to our members changes in the Illinois Section by-laws. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact either **Karen George** or myself.

Amarpal Matharu, has obtained a new

group of individuals eager to help branch out our services from the Section to the students here in Illinois. I thank those that take the time to assist our future co-workers and industry leaders in becoming active members of ITE in Illinois.

Lastly, one of the more fun events for us to get together is the ITE annual Golf outing that is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2004. The event will be at the Bloomingdale Golf Club in keeping with tradition. Fun, food, drink, and prizes abound as usual, not to mention golfing as well. For more information, see the attached flyer or contact **Joel Christell** or **Steve Pautsch** at (630) 773-3900.

See you soon,

Very truly yours,
Jeff Young, P.E.
President

Did you know?

According to the Rock Mountain News, in the state of Colorado, 80 percent of DUI cases were plea bargained in 2002-2003. In Boulder County, nine out of 10 drivers charged with DUI were allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of driving while impaired - meaning a faster recoup of their driving privileges. Repeat offenders cause four out of 10 alcohol-related fatalities.

U.S. Road Fatalities Decline but Problems Persist

U.S. DOT Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has announced that the nation's road-related fatalities and injuries reached an historic low in 2003. In 2003, 42,643 persons were killed and 2.89 million were injured, down from 2002 levels of 43,005 and 2.93 million, respectively. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was 1.48 in 2003, down from 1.51 in 2002. At a press conference announcing the statistics, Mineta stated the following reasons for the decline in fatalities: campaigns to encourage safety belt use and discourage impaired driving; state legislatures' passage of tougher seat belt and drunk driving laws; and rulemaking efforts to improve vehicle safety standards. Other statistics from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) include:

- Motorcyclist fatalities increased 12 percent.

- Twenty-seven states had decreases in the total number of fatalities. The highest percentage decreases included: Colorado (-15 percent), Vermont (-12 percent), Connecticut (-10 percent), Ohio (-10 percent) and West Virginia (-10 percent). The highest percentage increases in fatalities included the District of Columbia (+43 percent), Rhode Island (+24 percent) and Oregon (+17 percent).
- Passenger vehicle occupant fatalities dropped to 31,904, the largest decrease in more than a decade. Fifty-six percent of those deaths were unbelted fatalities.
- Pedestrian deaths declined 2.1 percent.

Summaries of the 2003 report are available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/PPT/2003AARelease.pdf>.



**Illinois Sections
Institute of Transportation Engineers
September Luncheon Meeting**



Date/time:	Thursday, September 16, 2004 / 11:30 Reception, Noon Lunch
Speaker:	Ronald A. Shimizu, P.E. – Senior Supervising Planner/Project Manager Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade, and Douglas, Inc. Rick Powell – Project Manager IDOT District 3
Presentation Topic:	Illinois Prairie Parkway Project
Location:	Maggiano's – Chicago - 516 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois
RSVP:	ITE members contact Joel Christell (jchristell@civiltechinc.com) or Steve Pautsch (at spautsch@civiltechinc.com) 630-773-3900 by Tuesday, September 14, 2004
Cost:	\$30 for ITE Members, \$10 for Students (free first time)

The Prairie Parkway Project is a study of future transportation needs of a corridor centered in Kendall County Illinois, including portions of the surrounding counties of Will, Kane, DeKalb, La-Salle and Grundy in IDOT District 3.

Prior to the start of the current Preliminary Engineering Study, IDOT had completed a corridor protection study. The corridor protection study began in March of 1999 as a proactive approach to evaluating the ability to develop a north-south transportation corridor between Interstate 80 and Interstate 88. This study was initiated because of concerns that development patterns and increasing travel demands could overload the existing transportation network in Grundy, Kendall, and Kane counties. Through that study, several north-south corridors were investigated that would connect the major transportation routes of I-80 and I-88, yet still provide access to existing state and US highways. The corridor protection study examined constraints, including urban areas and existing development, planned growth, floodways, wetlands, parks and preserves, and threatened and endangered species.

Based on this analysis, IDOT elected to use the Corridor Protection process to select a possible transportation corridor and protect that corridor while it was still reasonably undeveloped and open. After a public review and hearing process, the Illinois Secretary of Transportation signed the Record of Hearing for the Prairie Parkway Corridor Protection approving the modified Central Corridor protection map for an area in Grundy, Kendall, and Kane Counties.

The speakers will discuss the progress and plans for the current Preliminary Engineering Study, which comprises three major phases, A, B, and C (accompanying figures). This study is not bound by the results of a prior corridor study. As a result of identifying existing and projected deficiencies, additional work such as the identification of alternatives to address those needs and the analysis of both engineering and environmental issues will be performed over the next several years. This analysis will meticulously follow the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and encourage extensive public involvement throughout the development process. Also, this effort will be one of the first major projects by IDOT to follow the newly adopted policy of a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach for transportation system planning in Illinois (refer to <http://www.dot.state.il.us/css/home.html>).

For additional information on the project, see www.prairie-parkway.com.



ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing

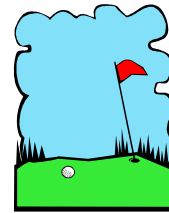
The ITE Illinois Section is hosting a Golf Outing on **Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM**. The event will be held at:

**Bloomington Golf Club
181 Glen Ellyn Road
Bloomington, Illinois**

The cost will be \$65.00 per player for reservations prior to Wednesday, August 18th. \$70 before Wednesday, August 25th. Join us for fun, competition and camaraderie. Bring your friends, family members, and clients for this late summer golf event. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, etc. Brats and Burgers to follow.

To sign up, send, e-mail, call or fax your reservation to:

Joel Christell (jchristell@civiltechinc.com) or
Steve Pautsch (spautsch@civiltechinc.com)
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.
450 East Devon Avenue, Suite 300
Itasca, Illinois 60143



Phone: (630) 773-3900
Fax: (630) 773-3975

Please make check or money order to **ITE Illinois Section**. We need confirmations by Wednesday, August 18th for early registration at \$65 per player or by Wednesday, August 25th at \$70 per player.

ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing

Name		Cost
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
Total Paid		_____

Thank You For Your Interest

ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing Sponsorship

The ITE Illinois Section is hosting a Golf Outing on **Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM**. The event will be held at:

**Bloomington Golf Club
181 Glen Ellyn Road
Bloomington, Illinois**



The proceeds of the Golf Outing will go towards the ITE Illinois Section Scholarship Fund to assist future Transportation Engineers in their education.

Sponsorship of a hole will be recognized with a large sign indicating the company's or individual's name.

Minimum donation of \$100 please.

Hole prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, etc. Half of the sponsorship amount will be awarded to the golfer and the other half will go towards the Scholarship fund.

Send a check payable to **ITE Illinois Section** to:

Joel Christell (jchristell@civiltechinc.com) or
Steve Pautsch (spautsch@civiltechinc.com)
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.
450 East Devon Avenue, Suite 300
Itasca, Illinois 60143



Phone: (630) 773-3900
Fax: (630) 773-3975

We need confirmations by August 30th, 2004.

ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing Sponsorship

Yes, We would like to help sponsor the ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing.

Contact Person: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Thank You For Your Assistance





State Senator Dale E. Risinger (37th) Briefs ITE and ASCE on Legislative Issues

Dale Risinger, the Illinois State Senator from the 37th District and a professional engineer, presented issues being debated in the 93rd Illinois General Assembly at the joint ITE/ASCE suburban luncheon on June 10. Joining Senator Risinger as a guest of ITE and ASCE was his senate colleague, Pamela J. Althoff (32nd). The primary concern of the General Assembly at the time of the meeting was the State Fiscal Year 2005 Budget. Senator Risinger related how the over-time sessions required to pass a new budget created additional stress for the public and the legislative process, including a higher 3/5 majority required for passage, the feeling of uncertainty, and erosion of a bipartisan spirit. He also expressed concerns on recent trends associated with the current administration that included: increased spending without an increasing revenue base; new levels of long-term debt with an uneven payback; one-time appropriations from special state funds; and diversion of state road funds for other uses. Several other issues of importance to engineers will remain in on-going debate in committees of the House and Senate when the fall session continues. These include State Board of Education reform, new revenue from State casino licenses, and curbing the growth of Medicaid as a portion of the state budget versus reduction in other areas such as road infrastructure. Secondary issues that might be revisited, according to the senator, were a possible new Structural Work Act proposal and legislation to allow roadway design-build projects. Senator Risinger thought that engineers should become better educated on legislative issues and more involved in the political process.



Senator Risinger with ITE and ASCE Leaders, L to R: John Ellis, ITE Activities Director, Robert Gorski, ASCE Transportation Division Chair, Senator Risinger, Joan Zhang, ASCE Transportation Division Secretary, and Joel Christell, ITE House Committee Chair

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Announcement

Regina Webster & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the most recent addition to its civil and transportation engineering team—**John R. Ellis**, P.E. Mr. Ellis brings a diverse background of engineering, project management, and business experience to the firm. As Senior Transportation Engineer, Mr. Ellis will serve as a project manager and staff engineer for ongoing and new projects, including the McCormick Place Expansion Traffic Management Plan.

A professional engineering services firm, **Regina Webster & Associates** (RWA) was founded in 1990. Specializing in the areas of civil design engineering, traffic and transportation planning and data collection, the firm has been actively involved as a prime contractor serving Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Chicago Departments of Transportation, Department of Aviation and various counties and municipalities including the City of Evanston and the Village of Zurich.

Student Affairs Group—New Committee Members

The **Scholarship Committee** will be headed by **Tim Sjogren**. Tim works with **Jacob and Hefner**.

Kevin O'Neill will head the **Internship Committee** and assist with the ITE auctions. **Kevin** works with **URS Corp.**

After many years of service to ITE, **Maynard Abuan** has re-joined as a member on the **Student Activities Committee**. Maynard works with **Civiltech Engineering, Inc.**

We welcome and thank the new committee members for their time and dedication.

After serving on the **Scholarship Committee** for few years, **Dave Angelakis** has moved to Canada. We thank Dave for his efforts and dedication in putting together the annual ITE auctions.

Amarpal Matharu
MACTEC E & C
 Director of Student Affairs Group



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2005 International Officers Elections

Results of President and Vice President Elections

2005 International Officers' terms will start January 1, 2005.

- Timothy P. Harpst, P.E., PTOE (F) -- President
- Richard T. Romer, P.E., PTOE (F) -- Vice President
- Steven D. Hofener, P.E., PTOE (F) -- Immediate Past President



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Interesting Statistics Regarding Chicago's Illinois Traffic Crash Reports

By Joseph Fazio, Ph.D., P.E., Visiting Faculty, Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Program, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110016, India

Traffic crash reports that police officers complete serve as the basic elements of municipal traffic accident reporting systems. National traffic crash statistics ultimately incorporate what police officers write in their traffic crash reports. At the municipal level, the information supplied in the reports by police officers help identify high, hazard locations and provide decision makers the knowledge where traffic safety improvements have a high priority.

The Illinois Section ITE Traffic Safety Technical Committee (TSTC) obtained Illinois Traffic Crash Report data from the Chicago Police Department (CPD) for 1996, 1997, and 1998. The database contained all reported crashes in Chicago except expressways and freeways that fell under Illinois State Police jurisdiction. CPD provided the data only for statistical purpose and excluded report fields that would compromise privacy issues.

Police officers properly completed most fields and some were blank, i.e., missing. If the police officer improperly completed a field, the response received an 'invalid' label. Table 1 and Table 2 show the selected, top five fields that police properly completed and those that police either missed or improperly completed, respectively. In the rankings, grouping of fields occurred when their percentages were between plus or minus 2% of the mean.

The exclusion of certain fields occurred when exactly 100% of their responses were missing or invalid because the CPD probably did not provide their data in the given database. Before any ranking, some fields required adjustments because they were contingent upon other fields. For example, if the traffic crash involved only one vehicle, then 'Vehicle 2 type' is missing. Such 'missing' responses are not included in rank determination. Further, field exclusion from the rankings occurred if one could not make any adjustment. The TSTC acknowledges the analyses work of three, B.Tech., Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati students, namely Varun Raj, Suresh Kataria, and Deep Singh in producing the rankings.

Request for technical articles

All members of the ITE Illinois Section are encouraged to contribute to *ITEMS*. Please consider submitting technical articles to the Section's quarterly newsletter. Although you may not have a technical paper currently written, you may have presented a study at an ITE conference. Consider transforming your presentation into a technical article.

Mark de la Vergne
Mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com

Table 1
Most Completed Illinois Traffic Crash Report Fields

Rank	Fields	Approximate Percent Completed
1st	number of Unit 1 or 2 occupants, estimated crash time, crash day, crash month, and crash year	100.0%
2nd	hit-and-run checkbox, intersection related checkbox, and lighting condition	98.3%
3rd	weather condition, private property checkbox, and type of report checkbox	97.7%
4th	traffic control device, and traffic control device condition	97.0%
5th	type of first collision, Event 1, Event location 1, and Unit 1 vehicle type	94.1%

Table 2
Least Completed Illinois Traffic Crash Report Fields

Rank	Fields	Approximate Percent Completed
1st	number of Unit 1 or 2 occupants, estimated crash time, crash day, crash month, and crash year	100.0%
2nd	hit-and-run checkbox, intersection related checkbox, and lighting condition	98.3%
3rd	weather condition, private property checkbox, and type of report checkbox	97.7%
4th	traffic control device, and traffic control device condition	97.0%
5th	type of first collision, Event 1, Event location 1, and Unit 1 vehicle type	94.1%

ITE Illinois Section Calendar

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Upcoming Dates

- September 9 September Luncheon
- September 24 Section Annual Golf Outing—
- October 1 Section Secretary mail list of
- October 14 October Luncheon
- October 20 Additional nomination deadline
- October 28-29 52nd Illinois Traffic Eng. & Safety Conf. at UIUC
- November 1 Secretary mails final ballot
- November 15 ITEMS Deadline



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