

# items

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION  
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope you all are enjoying summer and having fun! The last few months have been quite busy for the Section members. The Midwestern District Annual Conference was held in Chicago in July followed by the International Annual Meeting and Conference in Anaheim, California.

### SECTION ACTIVITIES

**June** - Monthly meeting was held in partnership with ASCE Transportation Group on June 19 at the Maggiano's in Oak Brook where **Frank Kudrna** discussed the Transportation Policy Committee and Congressional Legislation Strategy, Illinois International Port District's Harborside Project and its Opportunities for the 2016 Chicago Olympics.

### July - ITE Midwestern District Conference

The Conference, hosted by the Illinois Section was a big success. I would like to once again extend my sincere thanks to **Mark Rinnan** and **Peter Lemmon**, who served as Co-Chairs of the conference planning committee, the various committee members and the organizations.

The PTOE/ TOPS Refresher Course hosted by the Section on July 9th at Cook County Highway Department, CDOT had 30 attendees. Thanks to **Robert K. Seyfried**, Director of the Transportation Safety Division of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety who taught the course. **Chris L. DeRosia** of Metro Transportation Group, Inc. and **Mike Pompili** of VHB, Inc. coordinated and put together this successful course.

**August** - The Section's Annual Golf Outing was held on August 7, 2008 at the Bloomingdale Golf Club. Close to 25 members attended the outing that helps fund student scholarships.

**September** - Thursday September 18 (Maggiano's, Downtown). Mr. **Christopher Kopf** of Cambridge Systematics will discuss GIS Techniques for Transit System Planning.

**October** - Section Student Day is being planned for October at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

**November** - Thursday November 20 (Rockford), with the Rockford Chapter of ISPE

### ITE ANNUAL MEETING IN AUGUST

The ITE 2008 International Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Anaheim, CA, from August 17-20 was a great success. In addition to attending a variety of excellent technical presentations and committee meetings, the conference also provided the opportunity to meet with elected representatives and delegates from other ITE Sections. The attendance at the conference was one of the highest with over 2,100 delegates. Our district hosted

(Continued on page 2)

## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Join us at **Maggiano's**,  
516 North Clark, Chicago, IL

**Date:** September 18, 2008

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

**Cost:** \$40 members  
\$20 Public Sector  
\$12 Students

**Speaker:** Christopher Kopf  
Cambridge Systematics

**Topic:** GIS Techniques for Transit  
System Planning



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

another successful reception at the conference.

**Traffic Bowl Competition** - Starting next year, the ITE Annual Meeting will host a Traffic Bowl Competition, pitting teams from every district against one another in various "heats" culminating in a championship round. In this Jeopardy type game, questions would include specific technical categories (HCM, MUTCD), general knowledge and non-transportation-related items. These events are very popular in the Western, Southern, and Florida District, and take various forms.

**People on the Move** - I would like to thank **Mike Pompili** for his many years of dedicated service towards Section activities and for serving as the Director of Technical Group. Mike has relocated to Rhode Island to be closer to his family. **Dan**

**Nowak**, who recently joined DuPage County, will be the new Director of Technical Group. I would also like to thank Dan for serving as the Chairperson of the Student Activities Committee.

If there are any items or programs you would like to see initiated or if you have any questions, please contact me at amatharu@ch2m.com or any Board member. I hope you will make time to attend at least one of the upcoming Section events. I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at one of the events.

Amarpal S. Matharu, PE

2008 ITE Illinois Section President



ITE Midwestern District Vice-President John Davis presents Illinois Section President Amarpal Matharu with the Best Section Web-site Award

## SECTION TREASURER'S REPORT

In accordance with Section bylaws, a summary report to members of the 2007 expenditures and 2008 budget is provided. The total income received in 2007 was \$34,478.55. Excluding proceeds from a one time temporary loan of \$10,000 as start-up funding for the Midwestern District conference, the total income budgeted for 2008 is \$34,500. Expenditures in 2007, minus the conference loan totaled \$32,560.78. Expenditures for 2008 were budgeted to match 2008 income. The top 5 income sources for 2007 were: seminars at \$11,569.61, member-

ship dues at \$6,357, scholarship donations at \$3,108, golf outing fees/sponsorship at \$2,550, and advertisement proceeds at \$2,100. Top 5 expenses in 2007 were: technical seminars/committees at \$12,016.70, lunch meetings at \$6,779.88, scholarships at \$5,200, annual banquet at \$2,840.79, and the golf outing at \$1,601.67. You can request additional budget information by e-mailing kkolody@ch2m.com or phone Kim Kolody-Silverman at (773) 693-3809

## COOK COUNTY HOSTED PTOE REFRESHER A SUCCESS

Article submitted by Chris DeRosia. ITE teamed with the Cook County Highway Department to provide a refresher course for the Professional Traffic Operations Engineer and Traffic Operations Practitioner Specialist exams, which was held on July 9, 2008. The course was held at the CCHD offices at 69 W. Washington Street with a lot of help from their staff. We would like

to thank CCHD and Professor Seyfried of Northwestern University's Traffic Institute for teaching the refresher course, which turned out to be a success with 30 people in attendance. Thank you to all who helped to organize the course and those who donated equipment. We are looking to team with CCHD in the future to provide other technical training opportunities.



Illinois Section members Jeff Young (District President) and Amarpal Matharu (Section President) attend the Midwestern District board meeting held July 6 at the Hard Rock Hotel

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Submissions of articles, comments, or letters to the editor are encouraged and appreciated.



## ILLINOIS SECTION ITE "OLD TIMERS" MEET

Article submitted by Chester Kropidlowski. A meeting of Illinois Section ITE "Old Timers" was held on Wednesday, August 6th at Lou Malnati's Restaurant in Lincolnwood Illinois, the former site of many Illinois Section Annual meetings.

The meeting was convened by **Larry Dondanville**, the 1994 President of the National ITE the 1964 President of the Illinois Section, partially as a result of noticing so few "old Timers" at the recent Midwestern District meeting.

Other Illinois Section Past Presidents participating were:

- **Martin M. Blachman (Barton Ashman) - 1965**
- **George E. Kloak, (DPW/EJM Engineering) - 1969**
- **Michael J. Hartigan (McDonough Associates) - 1970**
- **Carl F. Kowalski (IDOT) - 1974**
- **Roy D. Fonda (IDOT) - 1977**

- **Chester R. Kropidlowski (CDOT/TYLin) - 1982**

Also attending were:

- **George March (DSS/IDOT/Alstott, March, & Guilleau)**
- **Wally Barry (De Leuw Cather)**
- **Jim Sagg (De Leuw Cather /CH2M HILL)**
- **Fred Potenza (National Safety Council)**
- **Jose Schultz (Our waiter)**

The group, in addition to reminiscing and catching up on old times, discussed issues of importance to the Profession including strategies to resolve the oil crisis, the need for improved public transportation in Chicago in anticipation of the Olympics, and the development of a strategy to get a free lunch from the Illinois Section.

Present plans are to make the "Old Timers" lunch an annual event. The next meeting is scheduled for May, 18, 2009 at the Wellington



The group seated in serious discussion

### KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CURRENT...

...by using the Change of Personal Information Form on the Illinois Section website at <http://www.ilite.org/public/membership/ChgInfo.pdf> and by accessing <http://www.ite.org> then log in using your member no. and password. Your personal information page is then displayed. Hit the edit button and make changes as needed.

## ITE ILLINOIS SECTION 2008 GOLF OUTING RECAP

Article submitted by Joel Christell. The 2008 ITE Golf Outing was held at Bloomingdale Golf Course on Thursday, August 7, 2008. It was a beautiful day to get out on the links and play some golf. There were 23 golfers in attendance, with participants and their guests from Civiltech Engineering, HNTB, Meade Electric, Chicago Department of Transportation, and a whopping 13 participants and guests from Metro Transportation Group. This year, we had six sponsors for the Golf Outing. Sponsors were **CH2M Hill, Civiltech Engineering, HNTB, Jacobs, Lin Engineering, and Traffic Control Corporation.**

Every participant received a free sleeve of golf balls with the ITE logo, as well as dining at a

chicken and barbeque rib buffet after the outing. \$25 gift cards were awarded to **Ken Glassman** for closest to the pin, **Joel Christell** for longest putt, and **Peter Wojtkiewicz** for the longest drive. The winning foursome was **Jennifer Mitchell, Brian Roberts, Jay Olson, and Cathy Kibble**, who each received a \$25 Golfsmith gift card. The second place foursome each received a \$25 gift card to the Bloomingdale Golf Course pro shop. The foursome with the highest score each received \$15 iTunes gift cards as consolation prizes. Public sector participants were given gifts of \$10 iTunes gift cards for their participation in the event.

Thanks to all the participants and sponsors, who made this another successful event.



Larry Dondanville pretending to pay the bill before leaving early



## FUTURE CITY COMPETITION—SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Future City is a competition for middle school students to compete against their peers from different schools and different regions by exploring their creative and innovative imaginations to design their city of the future. Students will learn how to apply math, science, engineering and technology to develop a realistic future community and compete for regional prizes, including a trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Competition.

Each team consists of 7th and 8th grade students who are interested in math, science and engineering. At the regional competition in January, only 3 students will be able to present materials, but there is no limit on how many students may work on the entire project through the year. The team will work together along with the teacher and engineering mentor to:

- **Use Sim City Software to design a logical computer model of their futuristic city.**
- **Build a physical model of their city using creative materials such as recycled goods.**

- **Demonstrate their writing skills through and essay and abstract:**
- **writing about an assigned engineering design problem.**
- **explaining features of their Sim City computer design.**
- **Develop a team presentation on the physical model**

Register for the 2008-2009 competition by e-mailing Don Wittmer at [dwittmer@hntb.com](mailto:d Wittmer@hntb.com) or visiting [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org). We are always looking for more schools to participate. If you are in 7th or 8th grade, have a child in 7th or 8th grade or teach 7th and 8th graders, please contact us. Home Schools are also encouraged to participate. The registration deadline for the year is October 15.

Additional information about the local chapter of Future City is available on-line at <http://www.futurecitychicago.org/index.htm> or by calling Don Wittmer at 312-930-9119.



## APWA STUDENT MENTORSHIP

At the request of the Illinois Section board, the following article is included as an inter-society coordination effort. While applicability to most ITE members may be limited, the intent to support student mentorship activities is encouraged.

APWA Fox Valley Branch and the Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Northern Illinois University have agreed to initiate a student mentorship program. To begin this program the Branch will be making a presentation to these students to introduce APWA and the benefits of membership and to provide information on first-hand experiences in mechanical or electrical engineering. The Branch needs APWA members

that are experienced professionals in either one of these fields to present information to this group. The long term goal of the APWA student mentorship program is to provide an opportunity for experienced professionals in our field to serve as mentors to engineering and public works-related students at colleges located within the Branch.

If you have the desire to devote a small amount of time to assist in this kickoff presentation to the NIU Engineering Student Organizations, please call Carol Ksiazek, the APWA Fox Valley Branch Membership Committee NIU Liaison at LONCO, Inc. 630-577-9100, ext. 104.







## CMAP UPDATE—RANDY'S BLOG

The following is an edited version of the August 29th CMAP Update published weekly by Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

**CN and EJ&E meeting dates.** Please note that some erroneous dates were published in the STB's draft EIS. (The public meeting dates for Aurora, Illinois, and Gary, Indiana, had been switched.) The Aurora meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at West Aurora High School, 1201 W. New York St., Aurora, IL, 60506. The Gary meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at Indiana University Northwest Auditorium, 3400 Broadway, Gary, IN, 46408.

**Chicago Humanities Festival panel.** From 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2008, I will be part of a panel we're organizing for the Chicago Humanities Festival. Titled "The GO TO 2040 Plan: Bold Innovations for a Better Chicago," it will focus especially on the role of commuter rail and potential regional high-speed rail service. Other panelists include Rick Harnish (executive director, the Midwest High Speed Rail Association), Howard Learner (president and executive director, the Environmental Law & Policy Center), and Andy Plummer (transportation historian). Moderated by CMAP Board member Al Larson, Mayor of Schaumburg, the panel will explore some of the big regional issues and discuss – in the tradition of Daniel Burnham – how growth patterns and prosperity can be influenced through better planning in general and the GO TO 2040 campaign in particular. Location is the Chicago History Museum 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614.

**More on high speed rail.** The same day and location as our panel, the Chicago Humanities Festival will open an exhibit on high speed rail. For more information, call the festival at 312-642-4600 or see the complete festival program. USA TODAY this week had an op-ed piece about HSR, specifically the California initiative now under consideration to connect Los Angeles and the Bay Area. The cost of \$10 billion is

daunting, but HSR advocates have new momentum partly due to rising fuel costs and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Community Conversations.** As part of our GO TO 2040 outreach, CMAP is hosting a number of public meetings – which we call "Community Conversations" – across the region for residents to talk about what they'd like to preserve or change about their communities by 2040. See the current list for one in your neighborhood, and we're adding more every week. Anyone can request a Community Conversation by completing a simple on-line form. We now have available printed copies of the Regional Vision for 2040 in Spanish. Please contact Diana Torres, 312-386-8774 or dtorres@cmmap.illinois.gov.

**TIP comment period.** CMAP is requesting public comments for the Federal Fiscal Year 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments, Regional Transportation Plan Update and update to the Conformity Analysis. To view the projects being amendment, please click here. To view the emissions information, please click here. The comment period will end on September 21, 2008. To submit comments in writing please mail to: CMAP, ATTN: TIP Amendments, Sears Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60657. To e-mail, please include "TIP Amendments" in the subject line to TIP@cmmap.illinois.gov.

**Survey participants needed.** The Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is conducting a research study on the travel and public transportation use patterns of Chicago commuters. They will pay \$15 for residents who participate in a one-hour workshop/interview conducted at UIC. Interested commuters may contact Lei Tang (ltang4@uic.edu).

**Current work plan.** CMAP's FY09 work plan is now posted on our website under the "about" menu section and at [http://www.cmmap.illinois.gov/current\\_workplan.aspx](http://www.cmmap.illinois.gov/current_workplan.aspx).

### 2009 ACEC-ILLINOIS ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS "CALL FOR ENTRIES"

New for 2009:

- Two categories have been added; **Small Projects and Energy**
- A few changes have been made in existing categories
- A check off box has been added for projects awarded through the QBS process. (A special QBS ribbon will be placed on display panels at the awards luncheon for projects that were awarded through QBS.)
- An explanation about how to complete the Construction Cost section has been added on page 4 of the application.
- Panel guidelines have been added on page 5 so you can begin your panel preparation now.

Timeline: Entry by Friday, October 31, 2008. Judging on Thursday November 13, 2008. Awards given Friday February 13, 2009 at the Drake Hotel, Chicago

Entry Form: We've gone paperless! Entry forms will not be mailed.

See Word (fill-in form) and pdf available on the ACEC-IL website at [www.acec-il.org](http://www.acec-il.org)



## DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I wanted to update you on the general headlines that came out of the International Board of Direction Meeting (IBOD) in Anaheim, as well as some other items that occurred during the Annual Meeting itself:

- 1. Strategic Plan** – The International Board of Direction (IBOD) continued its review of ITE's Strategic Plan. Final review and possible acceptance of the plan will occur at the fall IBOD meeting.
- 2. Annual Meeting** – A "perfect storm" occurred this year – bad economy, continued agency travel restrictions, and a neighboring hotel that decided to drastically reduce their hotel rates; therefore ITE was not able to meet its commitment of sleeping rooms at the Anaheim Marriott. The price competition resulted in ITE meeting less than 50% of its sleeping rooms, while it was contracted for 85%. The attrition resulted in ITE facing a \$312,000 penalty. To offset this penalty, Tom Brahms negotiated a settlement that allows ITE to pay nothing now, but requires ITE to host another conference at the Anaheim Marriott and Convention Center within 8 years (and at a reduced commitment of sleeping rooms). This settlement will require the shuffling of host cities (probably Toronto) for 2016. Ironically, the final attendance at the Anaheim will be one of the highest – over 2100 delegates.
- 3. Annual ITE Dues** – Annual Membership Dues will increase in 2009 by \$5 for the grades of Member, Fellow, and Institute Affiliate. The dues for Retired Members will increase by \$2.50. Dues will not increase for students.
- 4. New Mega Issue** – The IBOD has adopted a new Mega Issue – Energy, Environment and Land Use Issues (i.e., Sustainability) – to go along with our existing Mega Issues – Safety; Management and Operations; Designing for all Users; Workforce Development; Public Information/Public Relations; and, International Aspects of ITE.
- 5. Membership** – ITE Headquarters has a new

Membership Director - Bill Baldwin. He is an eager young man who is excited about the idea of working with all of us, across every district, section and chapter, to retain current members and to add new ones. He is eager to work with local sections and chapters to capture students as they enter the job market and shortly thereafter – when young engineers have finished "test driving" ITE and face their first real dues notices.

**6. Young Engineers** – ITE will be hosting a Student/Young Engineers Conference. Each District will nominate a student and/or young member to represent them at the meeting. ITE will bring them all together in conjunction with Strategic Advance (an annual meeting each April for the Executive Committee of ITE), then spend a day discussing issues vital to youth. More information will be forthcoming on this.

**7. Traffic Bowl Competition** – Starting next year, the ITE Annual Meeting will host a Traffic Bowl Competition, pitting teams from every district against one another in various "heats" culminating in a championship round. There will be awards for the competition. (MWITE will need to decide very soon whether we wish to host a qualifying traffic bowl competition at our Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. If so, we will need to work with ITE HQ and other districts to acquire or develop the equipment needed to hold the competition.)

**8. Elected Leadership Forum** – This annual forum is an opportunity for elected leaders from districts, sections and chapters to interact face-to-face with Tom Brahms, the International President, V.P., and Past President. I was proud that MWITE was the best represented district at this year's forum. In attendance were John Davis, Wayne Sandberg, Armapal Matharu, Matt Selinger, Tom Campbell and myself. In the past, dozens of people from across the country would sit in on this forum, and share ideas. This year, unfortunately, only

*(Continued on page 17)*



Multi-modal transportation  
California style

### MIDWESTERN ITE DISTRICT OFFICER FALL MEETING

The MWITE District Fall Officer Meeting is scheduled for December 10-11 in Delafield Wisconsin to coincide with the Wisconsin Section's Annual Meeting.

One of the purposes for the MWITE meeting is to continue working to develop new programs that were identified as part of the District's Strategic Plan. Other items to be worked on at the meeting by the District Board is to handle routine business items such as the District budget and review of the finances from the previous MWITE District Meeting (held in Chicago this past summer).



Quebec Transit network and improvements presented at ITE Annual Meeting in Anaheim



## ICT TRUCKERS PARK/REST FACILITY STUDY

The Illinois Center for Transportation (ICT) recently completed a study to examine the current state of truck parking and rest area facilities in the Northeast Illinois Region to determine if and how problems from truck parking affect freight transportation infrastructure, safety, and the region's economy and environ-

ment. The investigators completed a taxonomic study of truck traffic volume and truck parking availability and conducted interviews with state, county, and municipal authorities, and truck drivers.

The final report is available on-line at <http://www.ict.uiuc.edu/Publications.asp>. The Princi-

**Illinois Center for Transportation**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1611 Titan Drive  
Rantoul, IL 61866  
  
(217) 893-0705  
Fax: (217) 893-0601  
[www.ict.uiuc.edu](http://www.ict.uiuc.edu)

## YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. WE HAVE ANSWERS.

The ITE Intelligent Traffic Signal Operations (ITSO) Committee is available to provide timely assistance on any traffic signal operations-related question to transportation professionals. The ITSO Committee was established under the Management & Operations/ITS Council. The specific goal of the committee is to provide assistance, but not consulting services or consensus opinions, directly to transportation professionals and practitioners by responding to their questions through an online system in a timely manner. Traffic signal operations-related questions can be sent directly to the ITSO Committee at [itso@ite.org](mailto:itso@ite.org). More information about the ITSO committee can be obtained through the committee homepage at <http://www.ite.org/councils/ITSOcommittee/default.asp>.

The committee is made up of more than 60 experts who have committed their time and expertise to provide opinions and suggestions to local transportation agencies and transportation professionals in an effort to improve their

traffic signal operations. The committee consists of experts from FHWA, state DOTs, local transportation agencies, leading consulting companies, leading transportation equipment manufacturers, vendors, academic researchers, and university professors. In addition to the experts in the United States, several experts from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Qatar, and Canada will also actively participate in the committee's activities.

Pei-Sung Lin, Ph.D., P.E., PTOE, FITE  
Chair, Intelligent Traffic Signal Operations (ITSO) Committee, ITE  
Program Director  
ITS, Traffic Operations and Safety  
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)  
University of South Florida  
Phone: (813) 974-4910  
Fax: (813) 974-5168  
Email: [lin@cutr.usf.edu](mailto:lin@cutr.usf.edu)



An ITS operator at the Lake County TMC



Tony Khawaja explains video detection as part of the Lake County Passage TMC, a fine example of ITSO

## 2009 INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Paul Eng-Wong who was elected the 2009 International Vice President. ITE looks forward to Paul's upcoming years of leadership and to working with him to serve the membership and the profession. The International Board expresses its appreciation to Gene Wilson for his candidacy and for his part in this spirited campaign. Gene has distinguished

himself by his many contributions to ITE and to the Transportation Professional Certification Board that span numerous years. In an election campaign with two excellent candidates, unfortunately, only one can prevail. Gene's second place finish does not diminish in any way his value to ITE, and we look forward to his continuing contributions of service to the ITE member-



Left to Right: VP Paul Eng-Wong, President Ken Voigt, Executive Director Thomas Brahms, Past President Alf Guebert





## DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY INDEX FOR EVALUATING HIGHWAY INTERSECTION RELATED SAFETY HARDWARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following article is a summary of a graduate research paper submitted by Sunil Madanu, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology. Sunil's faculty advisor is Dr. Zhongzi Li and the full version of his paper has been submitted for consideration as an inclusion in publication of the Transportation Research Board. If you are interested in the complete research paper, please e-mail smadanu@iit.edu.

### INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, state transportation agencies have developed various highway asset management systems such as pavement, bridge, maintenance, safety, and congestion management systems as analytical tools to make cost-effective investment decisions. However, most state transportation agencies have not developed adequate management systems to handle roadway safety hardware assets such as signs, signals, lighting, detecting devices, pavement markings, and guardrails. In particular, no explicit procedure was developed to estimate the impact of individual safety issues related to different types of safety hardware contributing to safety performance of a highway intersection, and to further assess the effectiveness of intersection safety hardware improvements on enhancing its overall safety performance. This limits estimating the true benefits of intersection safety hardware improvement projects and conducting cross comparisons of candidate investment options within and across different types of intersection safety hardware. This paper introduces a quantitative safety assessment methodology for computing the Safety Index (SI), in number of crashes per year by crash severity category—fatal, injury, and property damage only (PDO), that can be used to establish the potential for safety improvements (PSI) and life-cycle benefits of intersection safety hardware improvement projects. It could also help determine the

maximum PSI and the maximum life-cycle safety benefits for treating all identified safety issues within the intersection.

### CALCULATION OF THE SAFETY INDEX FOR A HIGHWAY INTERSECTION

The SI gauges the relative safety performance of a highway intersection (Ogden, 1996; De Leur and Sayed, 2002; Transfund New Zealand, 2003; TAC, 2004; Montella, 2005; Cafiso et al., 2006; Lamm, et al., 2006). The SI of a highway intersection is calculated by combining the traffic exposure factor, crash frequency factor, and crash severity factor as

Where

$$SI_s = TEF_s \times \sum_{r=1}^R [P(\text{Crash Type } r) \times CFF_{rs} \times CSF_{rs}]$$

$SI_s$  = Safety index of a highway intersection for crash severity category  $s$ , crashes per year

$TEF_s$  = Overall traffic exposure factor for crash severity category  $s$

$P(\text{Crash Type } r)$  = Probability of occurring type  $r$  crashes

$CFF_{rs}$  = Overall crash frequency factor for a highway intersection measuring the risk of increasing the crash frequency for crash type  $r$  in crash severity category  $s$

$CSF_{rs}$  = Overall crash severity factor for a highway intersection measuring the risk of increasing the crash severity for crash type  $r$  in crash severity category  $s$ .

The traffic exposure factor (TEF) measures the exposure of highway users to intersection safety hazards. It is calculated by crash severity category  $s$  as a function of average daily traffic on intersection major and minor approaches.

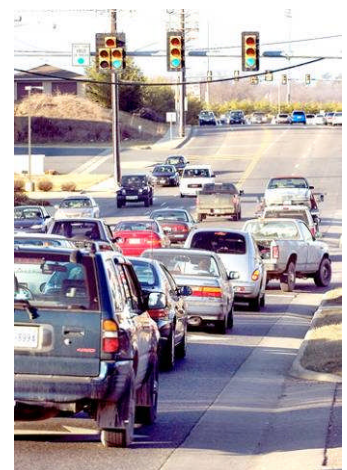
The crash frequency factor (CFF) reflects the probability of a vehicle being involved in a crash. The crash frequency factor by crash type

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### HEADSPEED / HEADWAY INFLUENCE ON CRASHES

The National ITS Implementation Research Center—a consortium of George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech—has released a report that examines a new crash risk predictor, safe headway distance, to estimate traffic crash likelihood by using individual vehicular information and applying it to basic sections of interstates in Virginia. The paper can be accessed online at [http://trb.org/news/blurb\\_detail.asp?id=9430](http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=9430)







**DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY INDEX (CONTINUED)**

*(Continued from page 8)*

r and severity category s for a highway intersection, CFFrs, is computed as the production of crash frequency factors by crash type r and severity category s for multiple safety issue types i concerning geometric design, traffic operations characteristics, safety hardware conditions, and roadside features.

The crash severity factor (CSF) represents the consequence after being involved in a vehicle crash. The crash severity factor by crash type r and by crash severity category s for highway intersection, CSFRs, is computed as the production of crash severity factors by crash type r and by crash severity category s for multiple safety issue types i concerning roadside features. The crash severity factor needs to be adjusted to represent the operating conditions by taking the ratio between the 85th percentile speed and the speed limit.

Of all intersection-related vehicle crashes, only a fraction can be classified as a specific type of crashes. The distribution of vehicle crashes by crash type can be readily determined using historical crash data. However, such distribution reflects the crash occurrences in the past and only represents the crash possibility distribution. It needs to be transformed into crash probability distribution according to the uncertainty invariance principle. The commonly used possibility-probability transformation approach is log-interval transformation with detailed applications in Klir (2006).

**VALIDATION OF THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

The SI value for a highway intersection estimated by the proposed methodology is compared with Empirical Bayesian (EB) estimates for validation using Spearman's rank correlation test, Mann-Whitney U test, Chi-square test, and linear regression analysis. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient is a measure of association between the ranking of SI and EB

crash estimates calculated on each highway intersection. (Siegel and Castellan, 1988). The Mann-Whitney U test (also known as the Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test, Wilcoxon rank-sum test or Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test) is a non-parametric test for assessing whether two samples of observations come from the same distribution (McCullagh and Nelder, 1989). The Chi-square test is a statistical test commonly used to compare observed data with data one would expect to obtain under the hypothesis of no significant difference between the expected and observed values (Neter, et al., 2004). The EB and SI estimates for multiple highway intersections could be used to construct a linear regression model that establishes the correlation between the two sets of estimates. The adjusted R2 could be used as an indicator for their correlation significance (Neter, et al., 2004).

**CASE STUDY FOR METHODOLOGY APPLICATION**

The proposed methodology for estimating the highway intersection-related SI values was applied to 226 intersections on state maintained highways in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin for period 2002-2006. Detailed data items for each intersection generally cover information on crashes, classified turning counts on major and minor approaches, details of geometric design, posted speed limit, cross section details, terrain, access control, turning lanes, channelization, conditions of safety hardware including signs, signals, lighting, pavement markings, and guardrails, and roadside features.

Of the 226 highway intersections, 190 are located in urban area and 13 out of 36 rural intersections are interchange ramps. There are 106 three-leg stop-controlled intersections in the urban area, which constitutes 47 percent of total number of intersections. Increasing trend

*(Continued on page 10)*





## DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY INDEX (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 9)*

of annual average daily traffic (AADT) is observed from 2002 to 2006 for all types of intersections. The traffic volumes are higher for urban intersections, particularly for urban 4-leg signalized and stop-controlled intersections. In total 6 fatal, 183 injury, and 728 PDO crashes occurred on all intersections during 2002-2006. Annual average injury and PDO crashes per intersection varied from 0 to 2, and 0 to 4 crashes depending on the intersection configuration and control. In total, 4 crashes occurred per intersection per year.

The Spearman's rank correlation test results for each of the five-year analysis period maintain the lowest z-statistic values of 12.16 for fatal crashes, 13.87 for injury crashes, and 14.50 for PDO crashes. This reveals that the ranking of SI and EB estimates for all highway intersections agrees at 99 percent confidence level.

The Mann-Whitney test generally produces similar results. The highest Chi-square statistic values for each of the five-year analysis period are 4.15 for fatal crashes, 5.53 for injury crashes, and 11.17 for PDO crashes. All of which are far lower than the Chi-square critical value of 277.27 for 99 percent confidence level. This concludes that the differences in EB and SI estimates for fatal, injury, and PDO crashes respectively are insignificant. All fitted regression models have relatively high adjusted R<sup>2</sup> values.

### CONCLUSIONS

The proposed methodology has a few practical applications. It follows a disaggregated attempt to estimate the SI value of a highway intersection so that it offers opportunities to assess the impact of every detailed safety issue item on the safety performance of the highway intersection. This methodology could directly help evaluate the benefits of intersection safety hardware improvement projects. If thoroughly improving the safety hardware (i.e., signs, pavement markings, and lighting) conditions to reduce frequencies of all types of crashes, all related

crash frequency factors would be reduced to 1.00. This would trigger reductions in the overall crash severity factors by crash type and severity category, thus reducing the SI estimates for fatal, injury, and PDO crashes, respectively. The annual potential for safety improvements (PSI) as percentage reductions in fatal, injury, and PDO crashes per year can then be determined. The annual PSI values for fatal, injury, and PDO crashes could then be converted into dollar amounts and expanded to safety hardware useful service life-cycle to establish intersection safety hardware improvement project life-cycle benefits. This would help compare safety hardware improvement projects for different highway intersections in a consistent manner.

The proposed methodology could also help establish the maximum PSI for each highway intersection. If the problems of all identified intersection safety issues are fixed, all concerning crash frequency factors and crash severity factors would be reduced to 1.00. Hence, the overall crash frequency factor and crash severity factor by crash type and severity category would become 1.00. This yields the ideal SI estimates for fatal, injury, and PDO crashes, correspondingly. The maximum annual PSI for the highway intersection as the highest percentage reductions in fatal, injury, and PDO crashes per year could then be computed. The annual maximum PSI values for fatal, injury, and PDO crashes could be converted into dollar amounts and expanded to the highway intersection useful service life-cycle to establish the overall life-cycle safety benefits for treating all safety issues identified for the highway intersection. This would facilitate cross comparisons of projects for comprehensive highway intersection safety improvements (including those for intersection safety hardware improvements) with projects for the broader context of safety improvements on equal basis.



*(Continued on page 11)*



**DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY INDEX (CONTINUED)**

*(Continued from page 10)*

**REFERENCES**

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The Illinois Section will send a complementary issue of ITEMS to your friend or business acquaintance who may be interested in joining ITE. E-mail the contact information to your ITEMS editor at: [Mark.Rinnan@jacobs.com](mailto:Mark.Rinnan@jacobs.com) or fax the information to 312.251.3015. The contact will be provided membership information and acknowledgement of your referral.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**

**ITE WEB SEMINARS**

Registration for the ITE web seminars listed below closes 3 days prior to course date. Visit <http://www.ite.org/education/webinars.asp> to register. A copy of the presentation and a student supplement are provided two days prior to the web seminar.

**PROFESSIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNER REFRESHER COURSES**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 9–25, 2008, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. CDT Credits 9 PDH/.9 IACET Price: \$750/Nonmember Price: \$900

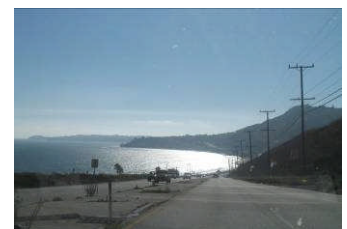
**PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ENGINEER (PTOE) REFRESHER COURSES**

Thursday, October 23 to November 20, 2008, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. CDT Credits 7.5 PDH/.75 IACET Price: \$575/Nonmember Price: \$600.

**ACEC-IL IDOT SEMINAR –BEST PRACTICES IN A/E FIRM PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Extended seminar series, September 16 & 17, 2008 ~ Hilton Suites, Chicago, IL. Check <http://www.acec-il.org/events.cfm> for additional information as it is developed.

Registration forms will be made available by the American Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois (ACEC-IL) by calling 217/529-7430 or e-mailing [acec-il@acec-il.org](mailto:acec-il@acec-il.org).



Pacific Coast Highway (known as the PCH to the locals) just north of Malibu, California



## CONFERENCE CALL

A list of conferences is provided for your consideration:

### TRANSPORTATION COALITION FOR ILLINOIS ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, September 22, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois.

For more information visit <http://www.tficillinois.org/Calendar-Events.htm> or e-mail [Heather@filson-gordon.com](mailto:Heather@filson-gordon.com).

### IDOT FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE

Thursday and Friday, October 2 & 3, at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Moline, Illinois. For more information phone Betsy Tracy at 217-785-2368 or e-mail [Elizabeth.Tracy@illinois.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Tracy@illinois.gov).

### AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday to Wednesday, October 5-8, at the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California. For more information visit <http://apta.ntpshowsites.com/exhibition.html> or phone 202-496-4800.

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday to Monday, October 16 to 20, at the Hartford Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut. For more information visit <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2952&q=379710> or phone Richard Jankovich at 860-594-2702 or e-mail: [Richard.Jankovich@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Richard.Jankovich@po.state.ct.us)

### 57TH ANNUAL TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 22 pre-conference workshop on Highway Safety Manual for Multilane Highways and golf outing. Thursday and Friday, October 23 & 24, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 1001 Killarney Street, Ur-

bana, Illinois. For additional information visit <http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=151> or contact Mitzi Greene at 217-333-2880 or e-mail [trafficsafety@ad.uiuc.edu](mailto:trafficsafety@ad.uiuc.edu).

### RAIL-VOLUTION 2008

Wednesday to Saturday, October 26 to 30, at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, San Francisco, California. For more information visit <http://www.railvolution.com/>, phone 800-788-7077 or e-mail [info@railvolution.com](mailto:info@railvolution.com).

### ITS MIDWEST 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday and Friday, October 30 & 31, 2008, at the Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium in Columbus, OH. For additional information visit <http://www.itsmidwest.org/events/2008/index.shtml>.

### TRB 88TH ANNUAL MEETING

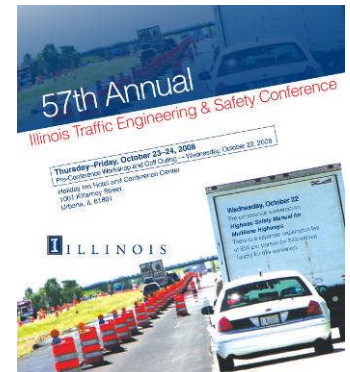
Sunday to Thursday, January 11-15, 2009 held in Washington, D.C., at the Connecticut Avenue Collection hotels: Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington. For more information visit <http://www.trb.org/meeting/2009/default.asp>

### ATSSA 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AND TRAFFIC EXPO

Sunday to Thursday, February 1-5 (Traffic Expo February 3-5), 2009 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, California. For additional information visit <http://www.atssa.com/cs/atssa-2009-traffic-expo> or call toll free at 800-272-8772.

### ITE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT

Sunday to Wednesday, March 22-25, 2009 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. For information on this and other planned meetings visit <http://www.ite.org/meetcon/index.asp>. More detailed information will be provided at a later date.







**SEPTEMBER 2008**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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28	29	30				

**OCTOBER 2008**

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**NOVEMBER 2008**

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30						

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **September 18** – Illinois Section Luncheon, Maggiano's, Chicago, IL
- **September 22**—Transportation Coalition for Illinois 5th Annual Meeting, Bolingbrook Golf Club, Bolingbrook IL
- **October 2 & 3** – Illinois Department of Transportation Fall Planning Conference, Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Moline, IL
- **October 16** – TENTATIVE Illinois Section Student Welcome Back Luncheon at IIT, Chicago, IL
- **October 22 to 24** – 57th Annual Traffic Engineering and Safety Conference at Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Urbana, IL
- **November 15**—ITEMS Deadline
- **November 20** – Illinois Section Monthly Luncheon, Cliffbreakers, Rockford, IL

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**CALL FOR PAPERS AND RFPS**

**TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FORUM—50TH ANNUAL FORUM**

Abstracts and Panel Session proposals for the 50th Annual Forum are due October 31, 2008. The 2009 conference themes include:

- **Transportation and the Environment**
- **Ports and International Freight**
- **Transportation Finance**
- **Public Transportation**

The forum is to be held March 16 to 18, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel—Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon. For more information visit <http://www.trforum.org/callpapers/>

**NCHRP REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS—GUIDELINES FOR TIMING YELLOW AND ALL-RED INTERVALS AT SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS**

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has issued a request for proposals for NCHRP Project 03-95 Guidelines for Timing Yellow and All-Red Intervals at Signalized Intersections. Twenty copies of the proposal are due no later than 4:30 PM (Eastern Time Zone) October 8, 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=2489>



## ILLINOIS SECTION '08-'09 PLANNER

Please note all dates, locations, and topics are tentative. Check the section calendar in future editions of ITEms or on line at [www.ilite.org](http://www.ilite.org) to verify details.

### 2008

December 18 Year End Wrap-up (details to be provided)

### 2009

January 23 Annual Awards Dinner at The White Eagle, Niles, IL  
February 20 Engineer's Week Washington Banquet  
March 19 Monthly Luncheon at Downtown Chicago Maggiano's  
March 22 - 25 ITE Technical Conference and Exhibit , Phoenix AZ  
April 16 Monthly Luncheon at Downtown Chicago Maggiano's  
May 21 Monthly Luncheon at Downtown Chicago Maggiano's  
June 11 Suburban Maggiano's - Joint Meeting, ASCE (Tentative)  
June 17-19 Midwestern District Annual Conference hosted by the Wisconsin Section  
July 16 Golf Outing - Joint Outing with the Irish Engineers Group  
July 23 Location TBA, Joint Meeting, WTS  
August 9-12 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit , San Antonio TX  
September 17 Holiday Inn, Naperville - Joint Meeting (Dinner), ISPE  
October 22 Student Day - UIC  
November 19 Cliffbreaker's, Rockford  
December 17 Year End Wrap-up (details to be provided)

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## DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

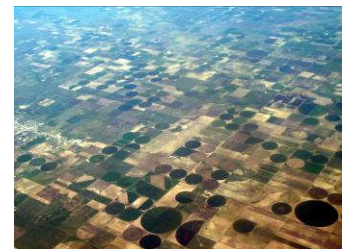
*(Continued from page 6)*

a handful of people outside of MWITE members bothered (or remembered) to attend. I realize that this meeting gets buried with all the other sessions and meetings people attend, but it can be one of the most informative and memorable opportunities our elected leadership can have. I will work with ITE staff to see that this forum is more heavily promoted in the future.

**9. MWITE Welcome Reception** – Our district hosted another successful reception this past Monday night. While the number of attendees was down from the Pittsburgh meeting (+ 60 vs. + 75), the event was well received by those who attended. I even heard from two new vendors (Siemens and Trafficware) who say they would be willing to help sponsor the event next year. Regarding next year's Welcome Reception in San Antonio, we may need to move our welcome reception to a different night because the Texas District may be hosting a Texas BBQ or Roadhouse Dinner that Monday night. Stay tuned.

**10. Potential Joint District Meeting Opportunity** – While in Anaheim, I was in conversation with several members of the Western District

(formerly "District 6") regarding the various locations of their Annual Meetings. They enjoy holding meetings throughout the West, and look forward to ways of teaming with other districts. For example, in an upcoming year, they will be holding a joint Western/Canadian District Meeting in Alaska. I mentioned that it would be fun for the Western and Midwestern Districts to hold a joint meeting sometime. We thought the location would have to be somewhere adjacent to our common border. I suggested Mount Rushmore, and everyone thought that would be cool! I did a little more exploring, and learned that Rapid City, SD, does have a small convention center and several hotels from which to choose. The Western District's next available date is in 2014, which happens to coincide with NCITE's year to host the MWITE Annual Meeting. Since South Dakota is in the North Central Section, that works out with our rotation. I know it is a long way off, and I know it is "thinking outside the box", but everyone I talked to, from both districts, was excited about the prospect of holding a meeting there. We even thought of a catchy slogan – "Districts Six and Four at Mount Rushmore!" I bring this item to you for discussion.



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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### **BAXTER & WOODMAN OPENS CHICAGO OFFICE**

[April 18, 2008. Chicago, IL] Baxter & Woodman, Inc., Consulting Engineers announces the opening of the firm's 10th regional office located at 39 S. LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois. Providing public-sector clients with engineering planning, design and construction services for more than 60 years, Baxter & Woodman is one of the largest Midwest-based engineering firms. The Chicago office will serve the firm's growing clientele throughout the greater Chicago region.

Regional Manager John Mick II, PE, F-NSPE, F-ITE is named to lead the Chicago staff. Mr. Mick brings over 30 years of experience in infrastructure improvements, with an emphasis on transportation system planning and analyses. He is supported by a staff of civil engineers with expertise in transportation, water, wastewater, GIS, Control Systems and related municipal engineering services. "The Chicago location adds to our expanding network of offices and provides our clients with a local presence and responsive service," says Mick..

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