

# THE COMPREHENSIVE ITEMS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS SECTION  
INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS.

ITEMs 2023, Issue 4  
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## **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE**

By Monica Shei, PE, PTOE (Jacobs)

Fellow ITE Illinois Section Members and Supporters,

We hope you have all had a fulfilling summer! The Illinois ITE Section has been busy these past few months and we are excited to share with everyone what our Section has been up to. Keep reading to find out what to look forward to as the weather cools down!

As we enter the holiday season, it is with bittersweet sentiment that I write my last ITEMs entry as your Section President. I started this term in January with a focused goal of providing more approachable ILITE events and networking opportunities and streamlining both internal operations and external branding for the section. Over the course of this year with our hardworking Board and dedicated Committee Leads, I am proud to report that we accomplished many of these goals. During this year, we



- Hosted nearly 20 engaging events throughout this year, bringing together professionals in both technical and social settings.
- Of these events, we hosted two engaging workshops (CDOT TSR/TS and Complete Streets Design Workshops) that sold out in record time
- Focused on expanding the variety and accessibility of social events: we hosted not one, but two bike tours this year, both of which saw more than 40 avid bicyclists in attendance!
- Expanded our mentorship match program – with our members' transition back to a flexible work/life balance, this program allowed participants to meet virtually or in person to continue developing professional relationships.
- Saw an increased interest in committee volunteers – we are so grateful for each and every one of you who has helped out with our Section events this year!
- Boosted our LinkedIn group numbers and engagement
- Streamlined our Sections' communications across the website, email campaigns, and LinkedIn posts.

### **Recent Events**

Our Salty Modal Bike Tour on September 7<sup>th</sup> was a huge success with 45 attendees rolling through the bike network in the Wicker Park neighborhood in Chicago. Thank you to everyone who came out and we are excited to continue our bike tours next year! Special thanks to the CDOT bike team for coordinating and leading this tour.

ILITE hosted the Complete Streets Design Workshop on September 14<sup>th</sup> with Conor Semler and Caitlin Mildner from Kittelson & Associates. This full-day workshop was packed with awesome content and even included an interactive activity in the Loop! Thank you to Cook County for hosting us and we hope to have more events like this in the future.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our October luncheon in Downers Grove with Adam Danczyk from Iteris to learn about using big data for transportation challenges. Adam's presentation highlighted use cases where big data were effectively deployed. Thank you Adam!

We had a happy hour on October 25<sup>th</sup> at New Line Tavern. The event had a great turnout and we were excited to see so many friendly faces, both new and familiar.

We were excited to host our annual Student Day at IIT on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all of the companies who attended and provided the opportunity for students to learn about your respective companies.

We held an End-Of Year Social for participants of the Mentorship Match Program on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time celebrating another successful year of the Mentorship Match program!

As our last technical event of the year, we partnered with the Chicago Department of Transportation to present the Complete Streets Design Manual on December 7th. CDOT shared a recap of the 2023 Complete Streets Program and an overview of policy developments. A virtual presentation was shared as well due to limited seating in person.

#### Upcoming Events

We hope to see you all at the WTS & Friends Holiday Party on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Join us and many of your favorite transportation professional organizations at Millennium Hall to celebrate another great year!

#### Elections

Elections for the 2024 Board positions are now underway. All active ITE members, please check your email inbox from Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for your electronic ballot! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the election, please reach out to Anmol Shrivastava at [illinoisite+secretary@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisite+secretary@gmail.com)

Finally, I could not be happier to hand the reins of the Illinois Section over to **Katelyn Hacker**, who will be assuming the role as President of the Section after she is sworn in at the ILITE Annual Banquet in January. Having been involved with the Illinois Section with Katelyn for nearly a decade in various roles, I have no doubt that the Illinois Section will thrive even more so in her capable hands.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you'd like to get more actively involved with the ITE Illinois Section at [illinoisite+president@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisite+president@gmail.com). What a year!

Sincerely,

Monica Shei, PE, PTOE

Illinois Section President

Jacobs





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## Illinois Section News and Announcements

### 2023-2024 Election Details

Election emails were sent out on **Tuesday, November 28th** to all active ITE members. Members are able to electronically vote for one President, one Vice-President, one Secretary and one Treasurer. Committee Chair positions at the end of term will be appointed by the President as non-voting members of the Board. Please follow the instruction in the upcoming email to cast your vote(s). Biographies of the nominated individuals can be found here: [2024 ILITE Election Candidate Bios](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: [illinois+secretary@gmail.com](mailto:illinois+secretary@gmail.com)

### 2023 Mentorship Match Program

*By Illinois Section Secretary Anmol Shrivastava*

The Mentorship Match Program has completed all monthly rotations and has come to an end. We hope that the monthly rotations as well as the themes have provided the opportunity to form deeper

relationships within the ILITE community over the course of this year.

We are always open to suggestions to improve this program. Please reach out to ILITE Secretary, Anmol Shrivastava, at [illinoisite+secretary@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisite+secretary@gmail.com) with any suggestions you might have.

## Activities Group News and Announcements

By Activities Chairs Jakob Boxberger & Jim Kane

### Annual Holiday Party

Please join us on **Thursday, December 14** from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the WTS and Friends holiday party. The event will be held at the very festive **Millennium Hall**, the restaurant under "The Bean." The evening will be a great opportunity to see some old friends and make some new ones. Please bring an unwrapped gift to donate for Toys for Tots.

Registration details can be found here: [2023 Transportation Holiday Party at Millenium Hall](#)



### Annual Banquet

Please join us for our upcoming Annual Banquet Save the Date: **Thursday, January 25, 2024**, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at **Carnivale** in Chicago, IL. We are thrilled to announce our distinguished Keynote Speaker, David Smith, CDOT Complete Streets Director. The topic for the presentation is - **The Chicago Cycling Strategy: Building a Network for Everyday Biking.**

Registration details can be found here: [2024 ITE Annual Banquet at Carnivale](#)

## Student Affairs Group News and Announcements

By Student Affairs Chair Andrew Hein

### Annual Student Scholarships

The ITE Illinois Section is happy to announce our annual student scholarships and graduate paper award. There will be one undergraduate scholarship (\$2000), one graduate scholarship (\$2000), and one graduate paper award (\$1000). Applications were due December 1st. Stay tuned for notification of scholarship recipients.

### Discounted Dues: ITE Younger Member 30-to-30 Reminder

This is a reminder for all graduating seniors that they should consider professional ITE membership upon



graduation. ITE membership helps build your network by creating connections and growing your career. ITE provides a great platform for opportunities to meet transportation professionals and network with them. For younger members, ITE offers a reduced dues fee structure for members 29 and under.

More information is provided in the link below:

<https://www.ite.org/membership/become-a-member/young-member/>

Other benefits of being an ITE member can also be found here:

<https://www.ite.org/membership/become-a-member/benefits-of-membership/>

## Public Affairs Group News and Announcements

*By Public Affairs Chair Tyler Krage*

### Legislative Corner

- Law Requiring Illinois Employers to Provide Public Transit Benefits in Effect in 2024  
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2068&GAID=17&GA=103&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=145418&SessionID=112>
- National Scorecard Says Illinois Can do Better on Transportation  
<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/muhammed-patel/national-scorecard-says-illinois-can-do-better-transportation>
- CDOT Seeks Public Input to Help Shape Future of Chicago's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure  
[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot/provdrs/future\\_projects\\_andconcepts/news/2023/october/cdot-seeks-public-input-to-help-shape-future-of-chicago-s-electr.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot/provdrs/future_projects_andconcepts/news/2023/october/cdot-seeks-public-input-to-help-shape-future-of-chicago-s-electr.html)

## Operations News and Announcements

*By Operations Chair Katie Biggs*

If you'd like to stay up to date on all things Illinois Section ITE, please sign up for our complete mailing list via this link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/wFK5f75/maillinglist>.

### New ITE Members

The Illinois Section of ITE would like to welcome our new professional and student members:

#### Professional Members

Ali Issa - HMB Engineering  
Mateo Downey - HNTB  
Patricia Siders - WSP  
Michael Williamson - Indiana State University  
Kaela Worman - Civiltech Engineering  
Parth Soneji - Parsons  
Teddy Gerstein - Peralte-Clark

#### Student Members

Luke Vucic - UIC  
Benjamin Kontney - Valparaiso  
Nirmal Gadhavi - IIT  
Sean O'Rourke - UIC  
Dean Burton - UCLA  
Joseph Matusiewicz - UIC  
Fateme Hafizi - IIT

Sanaz Kazemzadehazad - IIT  
Hugo Richard - IIT  
Kyle Sussman - UIC  
Danesh Hosseinpanahi - UIC  
Pooria Choobchian - UIC  
James Ouano - UW Milwaukee

We encourage all new members to reach out our Operations Chair, Katie Biggs at [illinoisite+operations@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisite+operations@gmail.com) if they have any questions.

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## IL ITE Recent Events

### October 2023: Luncheon

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Section of ITE hosted our October Luncheon at Cooper's Hawk in Downer's Grove, IL. The luncheon featured a presentation on big data applications in transportation by Adam Danczyk from Iteris, Inc.

Adam Danczyk is a Senior Engineer with Iteris' Mobility Consulting Solutions. He has over 17 years of planning and engineering experience, working on some of the most pressing transportation challenges of our time. His professional work experience includes emerging technology and traffic operations projects across the United States.

We had a fantastic time catching up, eating great food, and listening to Mr. Danczyk's informative presentation! Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to see you at our next event!



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### October 2023: Student Practitioner Event

The Student-Practitioner Event (corresponding with TES) was hosted on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at UIUC. There was a great student turnout with approximately 40 students showing up to participate in an informal Q&A session with 10 professionals.



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## October 2023: Happy Hour

IL-ITE had its October Happy Hour on October 25<sup>th</sup> at New Line Tavern. The event had a great turnout and was an excellent chance for members to hang with the board, meet other members from the section, and have some cold beverages while doing it. We look forward to more of these events next year, stay tuned for more info on those when we get closer!

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## November 2023: Student Day

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ILITE Student Day was hosted at IIT on Wednesday, November 1st. The event was kicked off with a career fair in the morning, with 14 firms/agencies participating. After the career fair, there was a luncheon which presented an opportunity for students and professionals to network more in a less formal setting. A special thanks to RC Associates for providing free resume review services to students before the event.



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## November 2023: Mentorship Match Social

We celebrated the completion of the Mentorship Match program with a happy hour at Big Mini Putt at the end of November! For those who missed this year's celebration, don't worry! We'll be back next year with another exciting round of the Mentorship Match program. Whether you're looking to participate in the mentorship program or just join the end-of-program social, it's an excellent opportunity to network and learn from seasoned members in the industry.



Keep an eye on your inbox for updates and information about next year's program.



## Professional Development Seminars

### TRB Webinars

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) hosts several conference recording and webinars on their website. The recordings and webinars cover a wide range of topics in the transportation field. Select, live webinars are available for Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Check out the TRB Webinar and Conference Recording Program [HERE](#).

### ITE Web Seminars

Several ITE webinars are available through the [ITE Learning Hub](#). Log in today to check out upcoming events.

### T3 Webinars

Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars are designed to help agencies feel confident about deploying ITS technologies as a means to address challenges in their transportation systems. These free, 90-minute, interactive online meetings offer knowledge sharing on topics related to ITS planning, design, procurement, deployment, and operations. T3 current and archived webinars are available [HERE](#).

## Upcoming ITE Events

Check out the following calendars and events pages to stay updated on future Illinois Section, Great Lakes District, and International ITE Events:

[Illinois Section ITE Event Calendar](#)

[International ITE Event Calendar](#)

### Hey Section Member!

Get involved! There are open positions in the Student Affairs Group, the Activities Group, the Technical Group, the Public Affairs Group, and the Operations Group. To volunteer on an ILITE committee, contact the group's director.

### Do you have a news-worthy story?

Tell ITEms all about it! Send your article submissions to the editor: Jayesh Dongre [Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com)

### Follow and Like us on Social Media



### Refer a Friend!

The Illinois Section will send an issue of ITEms to your friend or business acquaintance who may be interested in joining ITE. Email the contact information to the editor at: [Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Illinoisite.editor@gmail.com) The contact will be provided membership information and acknowledgement of your referral.



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### ILITE Committees

The success of the Illinois Section is due to the hard work of our volunteers who serve on the Executive Board and as a Committee Chair.

### [EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEES](#)

You can read more about our Committees and the officers' Roles & Responsibilities and download the many materials that they produce to keep our section running by clicking on the link above.

As our committees transition to the new structure outlined in the 2021 Bylaws, be on the look out for more information posted to our website early 2021.



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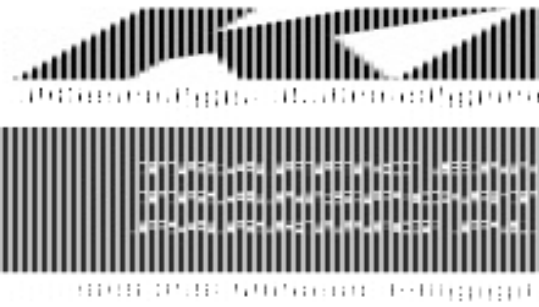
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