

# CAPITAL AREA SECTION ITE NEWSLETTER



Midyear Update, August 2020, *written by Kelley Burkett, Derek Keller, Cody Stone, Anamaria Torres*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year it has been so far. The world has been turned upside down, but we hope our CAS-ITE engagements have brought you some transportation distraction and much-needed social connection. We have had over 200 people attend our virtual events! We are continuing to reach out to students and sponsored two students to attend the 2020 virtual ITE Annual Meeting. We will be issuing scholarship applications for 2021 shortly. We will be hosting webinars and social events through the rest of 2020 and we hope to see y'all there! (cameras on!)

- Cody Stone

## HOWDY CASITE

2020 has been full of twists and turns. The Capital Area Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (CAS-ITE) community hope you and your loved ones are happy and healthy as we navigate these unfamiliar times. In March, in-person events were put on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We were able to host some great in-person meetings at the start of the year, including an Ethics meeting, social mixer with other transportation organizations, and a Capital Metro presentation. After work and life shifted to the home, we were able to put together a few webinars and happy hours to keep the transportation community connected. The 2020 ITE Annual Meeting went virtual! We hope you were able to enjoy the event. We will continue hosting virtual events for 2020 with exciting webinars and social events.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has increased from last year and we have grown from about 190 members to approximately 200 members. We are proud to see the growth and look forward to expanding membership even more throughout 2020, while providing top-notch events.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Sponsorship and Membership** - Anamaria Torres and Adam Kaliszewski

**Social** - Will Lisska, Rachel Cook, and Sabrina Hossain

**Newsletter** - Derek Keller, Cody Stone, and Kelley Burkett

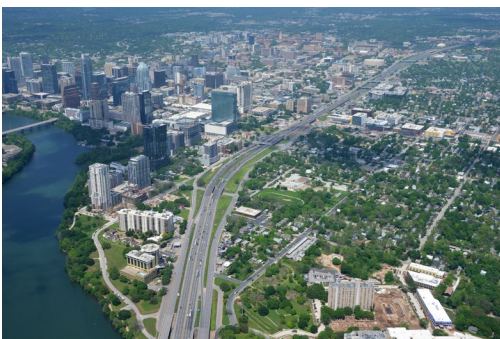
**Student/STEM/Scholarship** - Garrett Scott, Adam Nodjomian, and Ben Wallach

**Website** - Amit Kumar Singh

**Fundraiser** - James Schwerdtfeger, Claire McKinney, and Randel Lenz

**Technical (Speakers)** - Anamaria Torres and Gonzalo Camacho

**Marketing** - Gregory Go, Anamaria Torres, and Cody Stone



*Photo to Left: I-35 – No Congestion in End of March, 2020*

## 2020 EVENTS

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### ETHICS MEETING – JANUARY 31, 2020

Our year began like any other with our traditional Ethics Presentation. Virginia Essary, TBPELS Compliance & Enforcement Division Investigator, presented updates on engineering ethics, Code of Conduct, Board initiatives and activities, and rule and statutory changes. The 34 attendees received PDH hours towards their Texas P.E license.



### ASCE MIXER – FEBRUARY 17, 2020

This year, in celebration of Engineers Week, CAS-ITE partnered with ASCE's Young Member Forum, EWRI, SEI, YPT, EWB, WEAT, AWWA, The Rios Group, and Black & Veatch for a mega networking happy hour at Abel's on the Lake. It was a great turn out and wonderful event for networking!



### CAPITAL METRO MEETING – MARCH 5, 2020

In March, Sam Sargent spoke to us about upcoming Cap Metro projects. He shared a presentation about Project Connect and the long-term plan for high capacity transit. The event had 28 attendees and great participation. Sam is an engaging speaker and stuck around to answer all our tough questions!

Project Connect has progressed immensely since the start of the year. The \$7 Billion mass transit plan has been approved by Capital Metro and the Austin City Council. It is progressing toward being on the ballot for November's election. Vote and have your voice heard!



### TxDOT CAROLINE MAYS– MAY 8, 2020

In May, we were happy to have Caroline Mays, TxDOT Director of Freight, Trade, and Connectivity Section, join us for our first virtual meeting. Caroline discussed TxDOT’s plan for mobility and connectivity of people and goods in Texas including the recent COVID-19 impact on truck freight. There were 42 attendees who participated in this virtual meeting.



### VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR– MAY 22, 2020

The Capital Area Section hosted a happy hour and enjoyed trivia games via Kahoot! About 10 people joined in to partake in the competition and enjoy some Friday beverages. It was a great way to catch up with members and have interaction from home.



### City of Austin, JEN DUTHIE – JUNE 24, 2020

Jen Duthie, Managing Engineer for the Arterial Management Division of the Austin Transportation Department, joined us for in June for our second virtual meeting. Jen presented on the City of Austin Arterial Management Initiatives and COVID Impacts including changes in traffic patterns, signal timing changes implemented, COVID testing site involvement, and new healthy streets initiatives. There were 56 attendees at this virtual meeting.



### CAS-ITE/STITE JOINT MEETING – July 29, 2020

As is tradition, the Capital Area and South Texas Sections held a joint meeting in July; however, this year we went virtual. Chris Georges from the City of San Antonio and Jason JonMicheal with the City of Austin joined us to discuss the city initiatives with future technology and autonomous vehicles as well as exciting insight regarding Connected Vehicle Technology. We have a lot to look forward to in Central Texas! This meeting proved to be as popular as ever, even with it being virtual, and had nearly 100 attendees.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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We will continue to have virtual events through the remainder of 2020. Stay tuned for dates on future webinars and information regarding social events. There will also be updates regarding scholarships in lieu of changes to scholarship fundraising events. Thanks to everyone for their participation and adaptability during these strange times!

## Zoom Meeting

Audio only

With video



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**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS! WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

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### PLATINUM



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### GOLD



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### SILVER

