

Capital Area Section of ITE
texite.capital.section@gmail.com

President's Message

By Chad Wood, PE, PTOE



Welcome to the first issue of the 2015 Capital Area Section Newsletter! I am honored to have been elected to serve as the 2015 Capital Area Section (CAS-ITE) President. I want to start with a heartfelt thank you to the past several presidents – Vivek Deshpande, Eric Bollich,

and Anna Martin – their outstanding leadership put us on a path for new and continued growth. I hope to continue leading us on that path.

2014 was a very successful year by any measure. Our section membership increased by 29%, member participation at our bi-monthly meetings continued to increase, and our scholarship awards were raised to previously unimagined levels. We've surely set the bar high but with your help and the help of my fellow CAS-ITE officers I believe that 2015 will be another banner year.

I am happy to report that our section has been very busy over the past five-months. We had two successful, well-attended meetings in February and in April. Our section was well represented at the TexITE Spring Meeting in Bryan/College Station, where the UT Student Chapter cemented their legacy by winning the District Traffic Bowl for a second consecutive year. As they prepare to represent TexITE at the ITE Annual Meeting, our Section will be scheduling scrimmages/happy-hours over the summer. Your invitations will be coming soon.

In another first, we were selected as the winner of the 2015 TexITE Section Activity Award based on our 2014 Annual Report. Our report has been submitted for International level competition and we

will be presented with a plaque and \$1000 at the TexITE Business Meeting in San Antonio this fall. Special thanks go to Rob Belarmino for putting an outstanding document together.

Of course our core goal is to arrange great meetings with relevant topics, providing professional development hours and networking opportunities for our members. To that end, our next meeting will be a Joint Section Meeting with the South Texas Section in San Marcos on June 26. This meeting will highlight topics on "Connected and Autonomous Vehicles".

Finally, I would like to thank Valerie Kaiser for monitoring our finances, getting our meeting invitations out, and following-up with potential section sponsors. We should all thank our 2015 sponsors; their support keeps our section going strong. As always, our section welcomes sponsorships from Public and Private Organizations.

Lastly, I want to challenge you to be more involved in your section. We are always looking for members interested in leading our Section. We are a relatively small section and your involvement is important. Please contact any officer if you are interested. I look forward to seeing you at the next section meeting!

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February 20 Section Meeting 2015 Kick-Off & TBPE Ethics

By Rob Belarmino, PE

CAS-ITE kicked-off the year with a Section Meeting on February 20, 2015. The meeting was held at One Texas Center in the City of Austin. The meeting was well attended by 44 affiliate and non-affiliate members. **2015 Vice President-Elect Rob Belarmino, HNTB**, started the meeting with a roll-call and Section Business. Rob passed around a copy of the 2014 Annual Section Report and provided a brief summary of the record breaking year and thanked all of the 2014 advertisement and scholarship sponsors. He also congratulated the UT-Student Chapter for winning the 2014 International ITE Traffic Bowl and encouraged for the members to support the 2015 team by participating in this year's upcoming CAS-ITE/UT scrimmage and happy hour event. Rob also provided insight to the Section's operations, income and expenses. He reported a total year-end account balance of \$1,913.78 for both PayPal and Compass Bank. Finally, Rob added that this year's annual report is in contention to win the TexITE's 2015 Section Activities Award.

2015 Secretary-Treasurer-Elect Valerie Kaiser, RS&H, thanked everyone in the Section for electing her to serve as this year's Secretary-Treasurer. She discussed the membership fee increase to \$15 per year, and reminded everyone that CAS-ITE is actively



Ms. Val Olfers & Ms. Debbie Trevino discuss current TBPE board rule changes and insight to legislative updates.

seeking advertisement sponsors for at a cost of \$100 per year. Valerie also encouraged each section member to actively participate in section activities by joining or leading a committee. Finally, she reminded everyone that the next TexITE Spring Meeting is March 11-13, 2015 in Bryan/College Station, TX.

The Section business was then followed by an engaging presentation from Ms. Valarica (Val) Olfers and Ms. Debbie Trevino from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE). Val provided a brief history on TBPE and discussed responsibility, professionalism, and ethics. She also provided a summary of changes to the Texas Engineering

"PEs are required to know the Act, Board Rules, applicable state laws and local codes."

Practice Act and Board Rules (i.e. Criminal History Background Checks, Fingerprinting, Penalty/Fine). She then engaged the Section by discussing different cases and scenarios for Continuing Education, PE designation, Sealing Rules, Professional Services Procurement Act, and Engineering work review. This provided an opportunity to discuss and interpret the board rules. She also informed the Section that TBPE is tracking and reviewing the bills before the 84th Legislature that may affect engineering practice.

Please see *ETHICS* on page 3



ETHICS from page 2

Finally, she outlined TBPE's initiatives to continue to provide excellent service by providing excellent communication and outreach.

Following the presentation by Ms. Val Olfers, announcements were made by Section members Gordon Derr and Jake Gutekunst. Gordon promoted the upcoming Designing Cities 2015 Conference presented by NACTO during the dates of October 28–31, 2015 in Austin, TX. Jake followed with a call for volunteers to participate in a charity event for H.A.N.D. (Helping the Aging, Needy, and Disabled). The event is the first annual Grand Prix Go-Kart Racing at K1 Speed on May 16th. The proceeds from the event will go to helping pay for and provide transportation services for the elderly and disadvantaged citizens in Austin.

March 11–13 2015 TexITE Spring Meeting

By Rob Belarmino, PE



CAS-ITE was well represented at the TexITE Spring Meeting. Several of our local section members actively participated by attending technical sessions, making presentations, moderating the meetings, participating in plenary sessions, student poster sessions, social and networking events. Some of the members that attended the spring meeting include: **Federico Mendoza**, Brown and Gay Engineers, Inc., **Ronnie Bell**, City of Austin, **Stephen Ratke**, Federal Highway Administration and eight members from the University of Texas–Austin Student Chapter.

Kristie Chin, University of Texas–Austin, received this year's Outstanding Student of the Year Award for her demonstrated academic and leadership excellence.



The 2015 University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter TexITE Traffic Bowl Champions. Members of this year's team (from left to right): Ben Wallach, Venktesh Pandey, Solomon Nyanhongo, and Rachel James (alternate).

Four of the University of Texas Students were members of the UT-ITE student chapter Traffic Bowl Team. Led by their coach **Meredith Cebelak, PE**, this year's team defended their Traffic Bowl Championship Title at the TexITE District Spring Meeting on March 12. The team won the first round against the University of Texas at Arlington to earn a place in the final round against Texas A&M. The team defeated Texas A&M ensuring that the title defense will continue in Hollywood, Florida at the ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit in August 2015. Members of this year's student chapter team will go on to represent the Texas District include: Ben Wallach, Venktesh Pandey, Solomon Nyanhongo, and Rachel James (alternate).

April 3 Section Meeting COA Complete Streets

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

The second CAS-ITE Section Meeting was held on April 3, 2015. The meeting was held at Waller Creek Center in the City of Austin. The meeting was well attended by 28 affiliate and non-affiliate members. **2015 Vice President-Elect Rob Belarmino**, HNTB, started the meeting by passing out a sign-in sheet and addressing Section Business. The newly elected 2015 officers were sworn in at the beginning of the meeting by **2014 Past President Vivek Desphande**, Kimley-Horn, as per the Section by-laws.

Please see *COA* on page 4

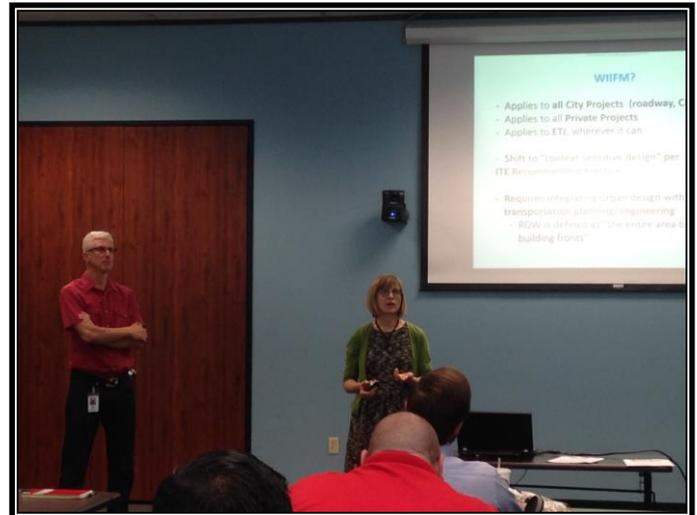
COA from page 3

Following the Section Business, newly sworn in 2015 **President Chad Wood**, City of Round Rock, welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the speakers, Mrs. Katherine Gregor and Mr. Scott Gross, from the City of Austin (CoA) Transportation Department. They gave a very informative presentation on the upcoming revisions to the Austin Design Criteria Manual and policy changes to reflect a move towards “Complete Streets” or “Green Streets”. The main theme of the presentation centered on revising Transportation and Right-of-Way (ROW) design for a compact and connected city, utilizing context sensitive design per ITE recommended practice. It was exciting to see the use of ITE’s publications as a basis for public policy, with



*The 2015 CAS-ITE Elected Officers take the Oath of Office (from left to right): **Chad Wood**, City of Round Rock, **Valerie Kaiser**, RS&H, and **Rob Belarmino**, HNTB.*

Mrs. Gregor emphasizing a desire to engage and work together with local professionals within our Section for updates to CoA policies. Mrs. Gregor discussed the 8 principles of complete streets and what guides the decision making process for future policy. Mr. Gross followed with a discussion of the implementation timeline and specific examples of projects that reflect what type of design will be expected in future projects within the City’s



*The presenters discuss the upcoming Complete Streets Policy (from left to right): **Scott Gross**, City of Austin, and **Katherine Gregor**, City of Austin.*

jurisdiction and specific code revisions, such as striking the “fee in lieu of sidewalks” option for private developments. Many members raised questions regarding impacts to design manuals in other jurisdictions in Central Texas that defer to the CoA design criteria, and others raised questions regarding the Green Streets Rating System and future design requirements due to the new policy.

Chad Wood concluded the meeting with announcements regarding future meetings for the Section. A call for topics and speakers at future events was made, with many good suggestions. Additionally, the next Section meeting, to be held on June 26th, will be in San Marcos for the annual joint meeting with the South Texas Section.



CAS-ITE April 3 Section Meeting Attendees engages in City of Austin Complete Streets discussion.

Members On the Move

By Viginia Sapkota, Ph.D, AICP, LEED AP BD+C



Anna Martin, PE, PTOE has recently joined the City of Austin Transportation Department as South Area Engineer in the Traffic Division. In this position, Ms. Martin will be responsible for handling City Council requests, citizen concerns, planning for future transportation and development projects, and mitigating the numerous existing problem areas in the City. Prior to this position, Ms. Martin served as project manager at HDR Engineering for over 12 years. During her time with HDR, Ms. Martin has worked on all types of traffic engineering projects for TxDOT, various municipalities, and private developments on projects of varying scope including large corridor studies for I-35 through Austin and San Antonio, FM 1431, RM 620, and US 79 for which she developed recommendations for short-term fixes and long-term planning-level solutions. Ms. Martin had previously worked for the City of Austin Transportation Department's Traffic Signal Division as her first position after graduating from college. She is excited to be back in a different and more challenging role.



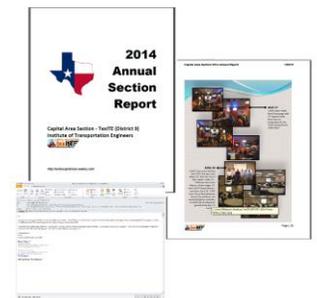
Stephen Hanuscin, PE has recently joined the City of Cedar Park's Traffic Signal and Street Light Maintenance Department as senior engineer. Mr. Hanuscin will be responsible for supervising the City's traffic management center and signal maintenance staff in addition to managing engineered systems involving traffic signals, street lighting, and traffic control devices and addressing signal related requests from citizens. Prior to this position, Mr. Hanuscin served as traffic engineer for Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc. where he provided engineering and design services for public

sector projects throughout the State of Texas. He has conducted optimization of corridor-wide signal timings in the Austin and Houston areas, developed field timings for innovative and complex intersection designs including "crossover left" and diverging diamond interchanges. He is experienced in developing plans for traffic signal, highway illumination, and roundabout construction. In addition, Mr. Hanuscin has performed various engineering studies, including roundabout feasibility, signal warrant, speed zone, and traffic impact analysis. Stephen has over 10 years of professional experience after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Houston in 2006.

Section Award

By Rob Belarmino, PE

The Capital Area Section was selected as this year's recipient of the 2015 TexITE Section Activity Award based on the 2014 Annual Report. We will be presented with a plaque and a check for \$1000 at the TexITE Business Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on September 4, 2015. Our report was submitted to ITE International, and will represent the TexITE District for this level of the competition.



This recognition is a significant milestone for our Section since this is the first time that the TexITE District selected the Capital Area Section to receive this award. It represents the hard work, commitment, pride, and dedication that each member, committee chair, and leadership are willing to contribute to make the Section successful. The report outlines the progress made, milestones reached, and future plans of CAS-ITE. A copy of the report can be found in the Section website at <http://textitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>.

Member & Budget Status

By Valerie Kaiser, PE

I am pleased to report that the Capital Area Section of ITE membership is at a steady pace and our account balance is continuing to move in an upward trajectory. As of May 2015, we have a total of **155 ITE members** as listed on the ITE website (www.ite.org). The membership grade breakdown is shown in **Table 1**. This was a slight decrease from the previously reported 159 ITE members at the end of 2014. This decrease is due to the slight reduction of student membership. We expect this to pick-up again when school resumes in August.

TABLE 1 CAS-ITE Membership Breakdown	
87	International Members
37	Student Members
4	Institute Affiliate
14	Fellows
13	CAS-ITE Members (Non-International)
155	Total CAS-ITE Members

The current CAS-ITE total balance is **\$2,957.73**. Our current income to-date came from membership dues and annual sponsorships for a total of \$1,138.53. We have collected \$638.53 in Section Dues and \$500 in annual sponsorships as of this month. We have also spent \$49.58 on speaker lunches and paid \$45 on bank account fees for a total of \$94.58 in expenses. We are currently working with the BBVA Compass Bank to waive the monthly checking fee, which will allow us to maximize the utilization of our funds for Section Activities. **Table 2** currently shows the CAS-ITE Balance Sheet to date.

The CAS-ITE Board is developing fun, interactive events and fascinating meeting topics to continue to increase member participation and attract sponsorship funding to our events. Current events on the table that are being discussed include Bowling Night Out, Skeetshoot, and Student Chapter Happy Hours.

CAS-ITE was also selected to receive the 2015 TexITE

**TABLE 2
CAS-ITE Balance Sheet**

Total 2014 Balance Forward	\$1,913.78
Income	
Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)	\$443.53
Section Dues CAS-ITE	\$195.00
Annual Sponsorships	\$500.00
Total Income	\$1,138.53
Expenses	
Bank Charges*	\$45.00
Guest Speaker Lunches	\$49.58
Total Expenses	\$94.58
Account Balance	\$2,957.73
NOTE:	
* - CAS-ITE is working to remove the BBVA bank charges.	

Section Activities Award. This distinction includes an award of \$1000, which we expect to receive in September.

Lastly, our section is continuing to work with ITE International Executive Director and their CPA regarding our application for a group exemption filing with the IRS. We originally, started this process in June 2013 and we were informed earlier this year that our application for Tax Exemption is currently under review by the IRS. We hope to receive a response from ITE Headquarters later this year to allow us to resume taking online payments (i.e. PayPal) for our major events.

Upcoming Events

1. STITE and CAS-ITE Joint Meeting - Jun 26
2. Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with UT Student Chapter - Jul/TBD
3. ITE 2015 Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Hollywood, FL - Aug 2-5
4. CAS-ITE Regular Section Meeting - Aug 15
5. TexITE 2015 Annual Fall District Meeting in San Antonio, TX - Sep 2-4
6. CAS-ITE Regular Section Meeting - Oct 23
7. Scholarship Fundraiser - Nov/TBD
8. 2015 Holiday Banquet and Election- Dec 5

Announcements

By City of Austin

Interested in Serving as an *Urban Transportation Commissioner*?

Austin Transportation Department encourages interested community members to participate in local government by serving on the City's [Urban Transportation Commission](#) (UTC).

The City of Austin has established a set of boards and commissions that enable citizens to participate in Austin's government processes. Their activities help shape and influence public policy, because they lend a more diverse viewpoint for the City Council to consider. Appointments are made by the Mayor and Council. To submit an application, visit the online [Boards and Commissions Information Center](#). Interested applicants also should contact the office of their Council Member, other Council Members with open UTC appointments, or of the Mayor.

Below are Austin Transportation Department's responses to questions we have received.

Where can I find requirements for service?

Please see the City Code [2-1-185](#) - Urban Transportation Commission.

What kind of background would be helpful to serve as an effective transportation commissioner?

Austin is a big city, in a metro area approaching 2 million people, and we are grappling with complex big-city transportation issues. The challenge for our city is "total mobility" – providing people with a range of travel choices – as we build a sustainable transportation system to connect us all. An Urban Transportation Commissioner thus will find it helpful to understand the issues, trade-offs, options and solutions employed by both our local and regional transportation organizations and other big cities like Austin.

An applicable background could include:

- Experience with both Austin and peer-city transportation systems and issues.
- Experience addressing transportation-related public safety concerns.
- Knowledge of the full range of mobility solutions being utilized in the 20 largest cities in the U.S. (Austin is #11).
- Direct professional experience with (or expertise in) the planning, design, operation and/or evaluation of large urban multimodal transportation systems.
- A depth of understanding of the interplay of land use and transportation issues, and a commitment to implementing the related



goals and policies adopted within the City's Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

- Ability to advise Council and the City Manager about how the transportation network impacts Austin's current and long-term economy, development patterns, energy consumption and sustainability, neighborhood concerns, and environmental issues.

- Experience safeguarding the public welfare. Transportation Commissioners are charged with ensuring that people of all ages, abilities, income levels and backgrounds are provided with safe, affordable transportation options.

What kinds of issues come before the Commission?

The [bylaws for the Urban Transportation Commission](#) describe the issues on which its citizen members advise the City of Austin. These include:

- Safety – reducing traffic injuries and fatalities – and mobility – including reducing congestion.
- Sustainable transportation (e.g. measures to reduce the energy consumption, carbon footprint, and costs to households of Austin’s transportation sector and system).
- Public investments – review of projects included in the City’s Capital Improvements Program, and the regional/federal budget of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The City’s street network – its design, condition, and use, including a Complete Streets approach to meeting the needs of people of all ages and abilities, traveling by all modes. Commissioners also may address issues related to the State roadways and State/Federal highways that pass through our city.
- Providing reliable travel times, and a range of convenient mobility choices, to Austin travelers.
- Providing people with equitable access to homes in diverse neighborhoods, jobs in employment centers, schools and job training, health care, parks and natural spaces, and other amenities and destinations.
- Issues of concern to people as they use each mode of travel – drive, ride–share, take transit, bike, walk, or as pedestrians – and the planning and design of our transportation system to accommodate everyone, including children, seniors, and the disabled.
- Integrating land use and transportation planning and urban design for our city and region.

What are the duties of a commissioner? (*From the Boards and Commissions Information Center*)

It takes time and work to be a good board or commission member. You will be expected to read and study materials in advance of meetings. You will have to listen to hours of discussion and testimony at public meetings from your colleagues and the people of Austin. You will make recommendations that impact Austin’s residents, including your friends and neighbors.

Sometimes City Council decisions will directly incorporate your recommendations into their decisions, while at other times your input will be only one of many factors that must be weighed by the Council in its final decision. Your job is to support the democratic process by considering the broadest set of perspectives on issues. You will no longer just consider your own perspective, but must consider the perspectives of all the stakeholders involved in any particular issue. Ethical behavior, good judgment, dignity and respect are required.

Do your job well and you can help City Council do its job and shape the future of Austin.



2015 CAS-ITE Officers

Please contact any of the following officers, if you have questions about the Capital Area Section, TexITE, or ITE.

- **Chad Wood, PE, PTOE** – President
cwood@roundrocktexas.gov
- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – Vice President
rbelarmino@hntb.com
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE** – Secretary-Treasurer
valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- **Federico Mendoza, PE, PTOE** – Representative
fmendoza@browngay.com
- **Vivek Deshpande, PE, PTOE** – Past President
vivek.deshpande@kimley-horn.com

ITE Website Addresses

If you are interested in the latest developments at ITE or TexITE, please check out the following websites:

- ITE – www.ite.org
- TexITE – www.texite.org

You can find section meeting information at this website: <http://textitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>

Thanks to Valerie Kaiser for continuing to maintain the Capital Area Section website. Please contact her if you would like to join the website committee.

Communications Committee

Please contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the Capital Area Section Newsletter:

- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – Editor
rbelarmino@hntb.com
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE** – Member
valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- **Virginia Sapkota, Ph.D, AICP, LEED AP BD+C** – Member
vsapkota@walterpmoore.com
- **Jake Gutekunst, EIT** – Member
jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com

- **Santiago Araque, EIT (GA)** – Member
santiago.araque@kimley-horn.com

The Communications Team is always looking for article contributions, upcoming events, employment opportunities, or legislative updates. Please contact any of the members of the Communications Committee if you would like your submittal or story to be included in the next newsletter issue.

UT Student Chapter

If you would like to speak at one of the [Student Chapter](#) meetings, please contact their officers at utexasite@gmail.com.

Membership Information

Interested in becoming a CAS-ITE member? Please send a completed form below to **Valerie Kaiser, 8140 North MoPac Expy, Bldg. 2 Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78759 with \$15.00 annual dues payment**, or bring both to the next section meeting. Section membership can also be paid with your annual TexITE and/or [ITE](#) dues.

General Information	
Name (full name plus professional designation; i.e. PE, AICP, EIT, M.S., etc.):	
Job Title and Employer:	_____
Business Mailing Address:	_____
Daytime Phone:	_____
Daytime Fax:	_____
E-mail Address:	_____

ITE Membership Information	
Please mark all that apply:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a member of TexITE, the Texas Section of ITE
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like information on ITE membership

2015 Section Business Sponsors:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

If your firm/organization is interested in sponsoring CAS-ITE, please contact **Valerie Kaiser** at valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com. The cost of sponsorship is **\$100 annually** per firm/agency and your logo will be featured on two newsletters, e-blast and on the CAS-ITE website for a 12-month period.