



Capital Area Section of ITE
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President's Message

By Chad Wood, PE, PTOE



Hello TexITE neighbor. I sincerely hope that this has been another wonderful year for each of you. I know that it has certainly blown by for me, what with a new baby and returning to the “Dark Side of the Force” and all that goes into that. But every new challenge should be approached as an opportunity to improve, whether it is something we’ve done a hundred times or a new task that is completely foreign to us. I am confident we, as a Section, will continue facing our challenges in that manner because that is the attitude that has enabled our successes in the past. So again, I want to thank our past presidents for their leadership and each of you for your commitment to and enthusiasm for this organization.

“But Chad, what are these challenges?”, you ask. Well, a big hurdle has been following up on a great 2014. Continuing that momentum and finding new ways to grow was a challenge in and of itself. The Section’s leadership has strived to provide relevant and exciting learning and networking opportunities this year. Hopefully you were able to attend the April meeting on the City of Austin’s new Complete Streets program and policies or the June meeting with two local autonomous & connected vehicle experts. If not, maybe you were one of over 40 members that heard State Representative Celia Israel tell us about the transportation issues she has been working to solve during the past couple of legislative sessions. Additionally, building on the scholarship program awards was challenging. This year, rather than repeat the same skeet–shoot activity over again, we asked for your input so that

the fundraising event would be more about our members’ participation than just how much outside money we could generate...not that there’s anything wrong with outside money. I hope you had fun at Dart Bowl and got some of the best enchiladas in Austin, so I’m told. I know, at a bowling alley? Who’d a thunk it, right?

Another challenge our section continues to encounter is how we can continue to expand our membership ranks, especially with public sector transportation professionals and our student chapter at The University of Texas at Austin. While, the municipal folks have been fairly well represented, the large number of state transportation officials is a local resource our section has not yet tapped into successfully. I, for one, think our Section is missing out on their involvement and their perspectives. Greater involvement with the UT student chapter is another area where I feel our Section membership could be enriched. I would like to see our section make a concerted effort to better engage these two groups, and I am asking for your help. As I am moving out of the President position I’d like to restart our membership committee and focus it on those two goals. Please let me know if you will help with this work, if there’s one thing I’ve learned the past three years on this board it’s that no one does anything by themselves.

Please see *PRESIDENT* on page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President’s Message	1
CAS-ITE/STITE Joint Meeting	2
Legislative Update	3
2015 TexITE Fall Meeting & Inaugural Student Summit	3
Mobility Authority’s Program & NACTO Happy Hour	4
Scholarship Fundraiser	5
Member and Budget Status	6
Holiday Banquet/Election	7



June 26 Joint Meeting Autonomous & Connected Vehicles

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

CAS-ITE and STITE gathered together in San Marcos, TX to hear presentations on Autonomous and Connected Vehicles on June 26th, 2015 at City Hall. The meeting was well attended by 21 members of the Capital Area Section. **President Chad Wood, Brown & Gay**, opened the meeting by introducing himself and welcoming attendees, as well as thanking **Justin Clarke** and fellow South Texas section officers for their help in setting up the event. The South Texas section followed with announcements for their section. The Capital area section made mention of the newsletter program reboot, and the NACTO conference on October 28th-30th in Austin. **Secretary/Treasurer Valerie Kaiser, RS&H**, disclosed a record sponsors for the Capital Area Section this year and passed a sign-in sheet around for attendees of CAS-ITE. Chad Wood, followed announcements by introducing the speakers, Jason JonMichael of HNTB and Dr. Steve Dellenback of the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI).

Jason JonMichael gave an informative talk on the importance of connected vehicles (CV), with a special interest in federal regulations and safety improvements offered by the technology. The final



Dr. Steve Dellenback (left) and Jason JonMichael (right) respond to questions from CAS-ITE and STITE members.

rule on vehicle to vehicle communications is expected in 2016 and will likely drive key decisions about investment in the technology going forward. Many safety examples were covered, including train to car, transit to personal car, and pedestrian awareness situations. Many challenges for public agencies were discussed related to funding shortfalls, data use, and private sector impacts that may be unavoidable. The key to success in this process is to plan for national interoperability standards, similar to the efforts by WiFi alliance.

Dr. Steve Dellenback gave a riveting presentation on the myths and realities of autonomous vehicles (AV). The basic purpose, like CV technology, is to improve safety. The background of AV is rooted in funding by the defense sector and many high profile tech firms like Google and Apple, which have gained much attention from the media. Although these are high profile endeavors, many of the vehicles are not practical due to mapped environment needs and expensive equipment for fully autonomous vehicles. However, semi-autonomous driving is available today and many features are already working their way into mainstream production vehicles like parking and braking features. Military experiments were explored by Steve at SwRI are pushing the envelope, but he also stressed that these AV technologies are far out and depend on CV becoming deployed for it to become reality.



CAS-ITE and STITE Section Meeting Attendees participate in Autonomous and Connected Vehicle discussion.



August 21 Legislative Update

By Neil Going, EIT

The August Regular Section Meeting was held at Mimi's Café in Austin, TX with special guest, **State Representative Celia Israel** (House District 50).



State Representative Celia Israel (House District 50) discusses the results of the Transportation Legislation following the 84th Legislative Session and some of her Transportation Agenda.

Rep. Israel, who is a member of both the House Transportation Committee and the Transportation Subcommittee on Long-term Infrastructure Planning, provided a very informative update on the status of transportation and transportation funding legislation, following the **84th Legislative Session** that ended this past June.

Some of the discussion included: Dedicating general and motor vehicle sales tax to the State Highway Fund, Ensuring gas tax revenue meant for transportation is spent on transportation, and Reviewing state policies on toll roads. She also provided insight and discussed some of her Transportation Agenda for reducing congestion through telecommuting, requiring DMV to keep track of electric and hybrid vehicles, Hard Shoulder Running, and incentivizing large trucks to use the toll roads for by-passing Central Austin.

Following the update, Rep. Israel opened up the floor to Q&A from meeting attendees. The meeting was well attended by 42 affiliate and non-affiliate members.

September 2-4 2015 TEXITE Fall Meeting & Inaugural Student Summit

By Kristie Chin, EIT

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS CAS-ITE was well represented at the TexITE Fall Meeting. Several of our local section members actively participated in technical sessions, presentations, student poster sessions, social and networking events. Some of the members that attended the Fall meeting include:

Federico Mendoza, Brown and Gay Engineers, Inc., **Stephen Hanuscin**, City of Cedar Park, **Jim Dale**, City of Austin and **Sabas Avila**, City of San Marcos.

In addition, the UT Austin ITE Student Chapter in collaboration with TAMU, TSU, UTSA, and UTA co-founded the inaugural TexITE Student Leadership Summit. Fifty students and twenty professionals, including several CAS-ITE members, came together to network, collaborate, and compete in an event designed to prepare students in becoming the next generation of leadership.

The Summit kicked off the TexITE Fall District

Please see *SUMMIT* on page 4





SUMMIT from page 3



Participants of the Inaugural 2015 Student Summit at the TexITE Spring Meeting

Meeting in San Antonio Texas and featured three activities: First, in the **Research Showcase**, student representatives presented the latest research and technology initiatives from five of the top Texas universities. Second, in **Speed Interviews**, students strengthened communication skills and prepared for the job market in a series of small group mock interviews led by industry professionals, including CAS-ITE members James Schwerdtfeger, Mason Gamer, Jake Gutekunst, and Valerie Kaiser. Finally, in the **Transportation Hackathon**, teams of students worked together to develop a concept solution to a modern transportation problem and pitched their ideas to a panel of industry judges. The top three innovative teams – including UT students Rachel Hure, first place, and Patrick Jordan, third place – were awarded for their ideas regarding emergency response, logistics and distribution, and smart cities.

UT Austin was recognized as the Outstanding Student Chapter of 2015 for its critical role in the Summit's development. Alice Chu, Venkatesh Pandey, and Kristie Chin served as the UT representatives on the organization committee. Key sponsors included Pape-Dawson, who hosted the event, Kimley Horn, CEC, Parsons Brinckerhoff, South Texas Section, and the Capital Area Section. Building upon these partnerships, the student chapters look forward to working with TexITE in the future to put students on a path for professional involvement.

October Meeting/Events

Mobility Authority's Program & NACTO Happy Hour Event

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

October was a busy month for CAS-ITE. The section held a regular meeting on October 23 at the Waller Creek Center and had the privilege of hearing an overview from Mr. Sean Beal of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority about the Mobility Authority's Program and recent projects. Some of the projects that were discussed included: US183A, US290/Manor Expressway, MoPac Express Lanes, and SH71 Express. In addition, Mr. Beal also provided insight to some of the mobility solutions beyond pavement, including the Carma app, MoPac Phone app, and HERO Service Patrol Program. This meeting was attended by 21 affiliate and non-affiliate members in attendance.

Following the October regular meeting, CAS-ITE joined with Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), American Society of Civil Engineers – Younger Members Forum (ASCE YMF), and Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) to host a happy hour event during Better Streets Week, a series of social events related to the NACTO Conference held in Austin October 28–30. The happy hour was held at Ten Oak Bar and



Katherine Gregor, City of Austin, discusses Complete Streets Policy and promotes other Better Streets Week Events.

Please see *OCTOBER* on page 5



OCTOBER from page 4

Lounge in the warehouse district and **Katherine Gregor** from the City of Austin opened the event by welcoming all the attendees and promoting other events for NACTO.

Stephen Stansbery of Kimley-Horn followed with an interesting discussion of complete streets and how



Stephen Stansbery, AICP, Kimley-Horn, presents on Complete Streets to local transportation professionals.

they impact design practice for transportation professionals.

Approximately 45 people were in attendance at the event, including members of the aforementioned organizations (including CAS-ITE) and employees of the City of Austin, TxDOT, and Travis County. **Rob Spillar**, Director of the Austin Transportation Department, also made some comments about Complete Streets Policy for the attendees. Many were able to converse about how Complete Streets design will impact development and design practice as well as enjoy an evening of mingling with those from other transportation organizations over food and drink.

2015 Scholarship Fundraiser

By **Rob Belarmino, P.E.**

The 2015 scholarship fundraiser was another success and CAS-SITE could not have done it without the support from this year's sponsors. This event was also special since this was the first time that the CAS-ITE board had section members vote on the

fundraiser activity. The members voted for a bowling tournament at Dart Bowl, and the Board sold thirty-six (36) bowler tickets and received eight (8) sponsors.

In addition, CAS-ITE also held a raffle and gave away cool door prizes, including Starbucks Gift Cards, Restaurant Tickets, Holiday Banquet pass, and a Yeti Cooler. Everyone had a great time and the scholarship event generated \$1100 in scholarship funds.

PRESIDENT from page 1

These challenges are important, not just because they're what's in front of us, but because working together to move through them and beyond will be what defines us in the years to come. The people that do the work on these will be doing that defining. That's why I hope that each of you will find a way to get more involved with your Capital Area Section. I know that this organization is strong because of its members, but I know we can become stronger still. Another thing I know is that no matter how involved you get, no matter how much of your time and energy you give to a team, you will receive more in return than you can imagine - that's just the nature of service.

With that, I want to say thank you for letting me serve this group for the past three years. I look forward to the next three, and hopefully the twenty-seven after that, just with someone else driving the bus.

Happy Holidays everyone,
Chad





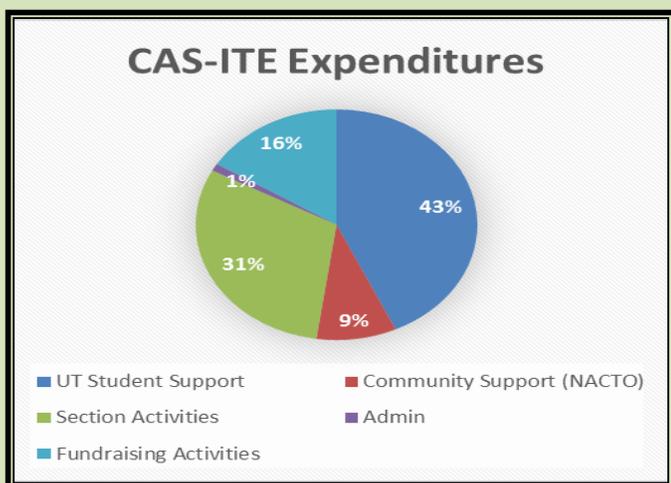
Member & Budget Status

By Valerie Kaiser, PE

Since my last report in the May edition of this newsletter, our Capital Area Section has gained one new member due to relocation, for a total of 160 members. Membership is steady but we would like to continue to grow. I encourage you to bring a friend or colleague to one of our events.

I am happy to report that CAS-ITE is ending the year with a healthy balance sheet. We began the year with a balance of \$1913.78 and we are ending the year with a balance of \$1579.17.

Figure 1: CAS-ITE 2015 Expenditures



As an organization, we truly reached out to support both the UT Student Section through the Traffic Bowl Scrimmage, providing financial support to attend the Annual Meeting for Traffic Bowl, acting as a sponsor for the first annual TexITE Student Leadership Summit, and providing \$3,000 dollars in scholarships. Engagement with the UT Student Section accounted for 43% of our budget this year and we consider it an investment in the future TexITE and CAS-ITE.

The second biggest portion of our budget is our Section Activities, this includes our annual joint meeting with the South Texas Section, lunches for our excellent guest speakers who volunteer their time, awards for past officers, and our year-end banquet. If there is ever an event you would like to

do, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or one of the other officers. This is your organization and we want it to continue to reflect your interests and values.

This year, our organization reached beyond TexITE to the larger civil/transportation community. We partnered with WTS, TSPE, ASCE's YMF, and YPT to create a fun event that kicked off the NACTO conference in Austin. I would like to thank Jake Gutekunst for spearheading the event. I hope that engaging with the larger transportation community remains a priority for years to come.

I have summarized our balance sheet below. As always, if you have questions please don't hesitate to ask me or incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Gerrity.

Table 1: CAS-ITE 2015 Balance Sheet

Total 2014 Balance Forward	1913.78
Income	
Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)	855.7
Section Dues CAS-ITE	195
Annual Sponsorships	1300
Reversed Bank Charges	45
Joint Meeting Payments	440
Section Activities Award	1000
Reimbursements (NACTO Event)	524
Scholarship Fundraiser	2398.87
Year-End Banquet	995
Advance Payment - 2016 Sponsorship	100
Total Income	7853.57
Expenses	
Bank Charges*	75
Guest Speaker Lunches	134.31
General - Office Supplies (Raffle Tix)	10.81
Joint Meeting - Expenses	602.63
NACTO Event	749.12
Scholarship Fundraiser	1320.69
Year End Banquet	1587.5
Past Officer Awards	176.12
UT- Student Section Traffic Bowl Support	432
UT - Student Section - Student Leadership Summit	100
Scholarships	3000
Total Expenses	8188.18
Balance Forward Year End 2015*	1579.17
* Reflects Cash Basis and does not include:	
1) Estimated \$100 in receivables for Sponsorship	
2) Estimated \$90 in Year-End Banquet Receivables	



Year-End Banquet/Election

By Rob Belarmino, P.E.

The 2015 CAS-ITE Year-End Banquet/Election was another awesome success! The event was held at **Stiles Switch BBQ** and was attended by over 35 members. 2015 President **Chad Wood** opened the meeting with a roll call, and thanked all the members and the sponsors for making this another successful and record breaking year for CAS-ITE. He summarized the key events that have taken place this year including the successes of the recent NACTO Happy hour event and the scholarship fundraiser. He also reminded everyone about the upcoming **2016 TexITE Spring Meeting** and the current request for presentation topics and speakers. This event will be held in Galveston, TX and the sporting clay shoot-out will be replaced by a Fishing Tournament.

Following the reminders, Vice President **Rob Belarmino** and Secretary-Treasurer **Valerie Kaiser** awarded appreciation plaques to Vivek Deshpande for serving as 2014 President/Past President, Federico Mendoza for serving as Section-Representative, and Chad Wood for three years of service on the CAS-ITE Board. Chad then called up Tom Gerrity to award \$3000 dollars in student scholarships to **Venktesh Pandey, Rachel James, and Zhe Han**.

After the award ceremony, the election votes were tallied and the new 2016 officers - **Rob Belarmino, Valerie Kaiser, Tom Gerrity, and Alex Reyna** - were announced and sworn into office by **James Kratz**. Everyone then enjoyed an awesome Central Texas BBQ meal!



2016 CAS-ITE Elected Board Members, (left to right) Tom Gerrity, Valerie Kaiser, Alex Reyna, and Rob Belarmino.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Section Ethics Presentation - | Feb/TBD |
| 2. TexITE 2016 Spring Meeting - | Mar 30-Apr 1 |
| 3. Regular Section Meeting - | Apr/TBD |
| 4. CAS-ITE/STITE Joint Meeting - | June/TBD |



2016 CAS-ITE Officers

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

- **Rob Belarmino, PE** – President
rbelarmino@hntb.com
- **Valerie Kaiser, PE** – Vice President
valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- **Tom Gerrity, P.E., PTOE** – Secretary-Treasurer
tjgerrity@lan-inc.com
- **Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE** – Section Representative
alex@reynainc.com
- **Chad Wood, PE, PTOE** – Past President
cwood@roundrocktexas.gov

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 on the CAS-ITE website: <http://texitecapitalarea.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
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- **Virginia Sapkota, Ph.D, AICP, LEED AP BD+C** – Member
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- **Jake Gutekunst, EIT** – Member
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- **Santiago Araque, EIT (GA)** – Member
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- **Cody Stone, EIT** – Member
CStone@emailatg.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 **Tom Gerrity, 8911 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. Bldg. 2, Suite 2300, Austin, TX 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.

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Please mark all that apply:	
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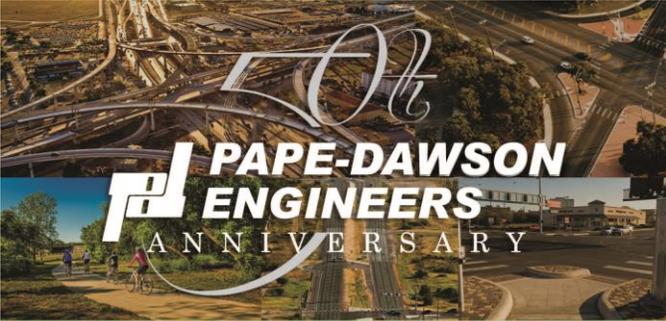
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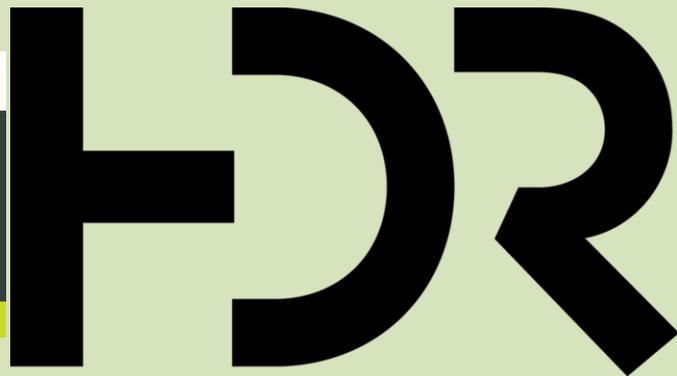
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