



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

President's Message

By Rob Belarmino, PE



I am honored and privileged to be serving as this year's Capital Area Section President. Our Section has established a variety of goals in 2015, which the Board has been executing in 2016; and will continue to execute and improve upon for

the remainder of year. With your support, we will continue to provide interesting meeting topics and section activities to deliver on ITE's core purpose of advancing transportation knowledge and practices.

I want to welcome our newest board member Tom Gerrity, Secretary Treasure, and our re-elected Section Representative, Alex Reyna. The leadership and experience that both Tom and Alex will provide to our section is invaluable, and I'm excited to be working with them, along with Valerie Kaiser, to continue to shape and strengthen our section.

I want to thank the leadership that our past president Chad Wood has provided, and continues to provide to ensure our success. His leadership brought many firsts to our Section, including receipt of the 2015 TexITE Section Activity Award, record breaking sponsorship campaigns, and disbursement of \$3,000 in scholarship awards. I also want to thank Federico Mendoza for serving as our Section Representative to TexITE through 2015 and keeping us informed of decisions at the District level.

With that said, our Section has had a great first half into 2016. Our section meetings have been very well

attended, which is reflected on the demand that we recently saw at the annual joint meeting with the South Texas Section in San Marcos.

We plan on building on this momentum by developing initiatives to increase fundraising activities, volunteer opportunities, and expand social/networking activities beyond our regular section meetings. So be on the lookout for these activities as we roll them out over the coming months.

I also want to encourage our members to actively participate and join committees to improve our Section. The various committees within CAS-ITE are always looking for help and innovative ideas to provide services at the highest level possible. We only get what we put in; and the success that we are seeing can be largely attributed to the many volunteered hours by our members.

Finally, I want to thank our 2016 Ad sponsors. Your support keeps our section funded, which allow us to serve our members in the Capital Area. I hope that all of you have had a great 2016 CAS-ITE experience to-date, and I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

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February 19 Section Meeting 2016 Kick-Off & TBPE Ethics

By Rob Belarmino, PE

CAS-ITE kicked-off the 2016 section meetings on February 19, 2016, with a presentation on engineering ethics. The meeting was held at One Texas Center in the City of Austin. The meeting was attended by 43 affiliate and non-affiliate CAS-ITE members. **2016 President Rob Belarmino**, started the meeting with a roll-call and section business. Rob presented a brief summary on CAS-ITE's 2015 accomplishments, including winning TexITE's 2015 Section Activities Award. He also thanked the UT-Student Chapter for winning the 2015 TexITE Traffic Bowl and representing the District at the 2015 ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Grand Championship at the International Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Hollywood, Florida. Rob provided insight to the section's operations, income and expenses, and reported a year-end account total balance of \$1,605.17. He thanked all of the 2015 advertisement and scholarship sponsors, and encouraged everyone to continue their support to CAS-ITE. The sponsorships allowed CAS-ITE to award \$3,000 in scholarships in 2015. Finally, Rob thanked all of the contributors to the 2015 Annual Report, which can be can be downloaded from the website.

Secretary-Treasurer Tom Gerrity, discussed membership and reminded everyone to check their current status and update their contact information on the ITE website. This will help direct section dues



CAS-ITE Members participate in active discussion on recent TBPE board rule changes and legislative updates.



Mr. Robert Opiela, PE talks about Professionalism in engineering and updates on TBPE's Professional Practice.

from international members that recently moved into the area served by the CAS-ITE section. Section dues for 2016 is \$15, and 2016 ad sponsorship is \$100. Tom will be sending out reminders to organizations that would like to renew their sponsorships. Finally, Tom also reminded everyone that the registration for the TexITE Spring Meeting in Galveston, TX, is now open, and that CAS-ITE will sponsor a Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with the UT-Student Chapter on March 23 at The Varsity.

Following the section business, **Mr. Robert Opiela, PE**, Director of Licensing, from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) provided an overview and led discussions on TBPE's Professional Practice Update/Ethics. Mr. Opiela's presentation included insight to the TBPE board members and staff, defining professionalism, current outreach efforts, policy advisory, legislative updates, and board initiatives. Mr. Opiela started the discussion by presenting to the members the following quote regarding professionalism:

"It is one of the primary obligations of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to assure that Texas engineers are held to the highest standards of competency, integrity, and honesty. Public safety depends upon that standard and consistently achieving in our profession requires faithful and unwavering practice of honesty and integrity in all aspects of our lives not only when we sit at our desk."

Please see *ETHICS* on page 3

ETHICS from page 2

He then engaged CAS-ITE members in scenario discussions about Professionalism, Plan (Review) Requirements, Professional Services Procurement Act, and Industry Exemption. Mr. Opeila also outlined the bills that were filed, and passed during the 84th Legislative Session that affect the practice of engineering, including the repeal of the \$200 professional fee, licensing rules and exemption for active military members, the use of unmanned aerial vehicle for engineering and survey, and contract identification. The new legislation will be adopted by TBPE as Rule Changes. In addition, Mr. Opeila touched on upcoming rule changes, including the “decoupling” of the examination and requirements, which would allow the PE exam to be taken while candidates are gaining experience. Finally, Mr. Opeila discussed TBPE’s “Journey Towards Excellence” by providing initiatives that lead to better communication to customers, good use of resources, and improved visibility to the community.

March 23rd Traffic Bowl Scrimmage with UT-Austin Student Chapter

By Jake Gutekunst, EIT

CAS-ITE and the UT-Austin ITE Student Chapter gathered together in Austin, TX on March 23rd, 2016 at The Varsity Pizza and Pints to hold a practice competition with the local student team from UT-Austin for their competition at the Spring TexITE meeting. The meeting was attended by 5 members of the Capital Area Section and 12 students from the UT-Austin ITE chapter. **2016 President Rob Belarmino**, opened the meeting by introducing himself and welcoming attendees, and participated on the team of professionals with **Secretary-Treasurer Elect Tom Gerrity**, and other members of CAS-ITE.

Jake Gutekunst, CAS-ITE member, moderated the competition and provided the questions for the quiz.



The 2016 University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter Scrimmage with the with CAS-ITE professional prior to going to competing in the TexITE Spring Meeting in Galveston, TX.

The first game was won handily by the UT-Austin student team, and points were carried over into the second game to determine a final champion. The professionals made a strong comeback and squeezed out a narrow win by answering the final question correctly, propelling them to victory. The event brought together the local student chapter and the CAS-ITE for a fun and engaging time to connect, and continues as a tradition each spring.

March 30–April 1



By Valerie Kaiser, PE

The 2016 TexITE Spring Meeting was held on Galveston Island at the Moody Garden’s Hotel March 30–April 1. LAC Chair Matt Johnson and his team put together some terrific programming that the membership enjoyed. The four technical tours featured areas unique to Galveston, including a tour of the US Coast Guard Traffic Operations Center, a Bicycle Tour, a tour of the Galveston Ferry, and a tour of the Port of Galveston. Plenary Session 1 was an Ignite! Session, featuring ten of TexITE’s signal Please see *SPRING* on page 4

SPRING from page 3



The 2016 TexITE Spring Meeting. Photos Courtesy of TexITE and Greater Houston Section.

timing professionals who were challenged to present on specific topics within a short time frame. Plenary Session 2 gave the membership some technical knowledge regarding hurricane evacuation and recovery from a transportation engineering perspective, with case studies concerning Hurricanes Rita and Ike. Our Thursday Night Social included a tour of the Tall Ship Elissa, where members were able to independently tour the National Historic Landmark, which dates back to 1877. Our UT Student Chapter competed in the traffic bowl that evening and put forth a solid effort, but unfortunately succumbed to the Texas A&M team. We look forward to supporting the traffic bowl team next Spring. Several of our Capital Area Section Members and friends participated as moderators or speakers at the Spring meeting. Anna Martin (City of Austin) moderated the session entitled “How Can We Better Plan For the Future?”, a session focused on transportation planning. Speaking at this same session on the City of Austin’s Smart Cities application with the USDOT was Gordon Derr (City of Austin). “Safety First! How We Are Improving Safety in Our System” also featured our members Stephen Ratke and John Habermann. We truly appreciate these individuals for representing the Capital Area Section and sharing their knowledge with us. We look forward to coming together again for the TexITE Fall Meeting in Fort Worth.

April 29 Section Meeting Mobility35 Program Update

By Rob Belarmino, PE

The second section meeting was held on April 29, 2016, which included a presentation and discussion on the Mobility35 program. The meeting was attended by 28 affiliate and non-affiliate CAS-ITE members. **President Rob Belarmino**, started the meeting with a roll-call and section business. Rob thanked the current 2016 sponsors and informed the Section that attendance has been steady at both the Ethics and Traffic Bowl Scrimmage meetings. **Secretary-Treasurer Tom Gerrity** reported that the section has received four sponsors to-date and encouraged the members to renew their sponsorship for 2016. **Jake Gutekunst** provided a brief summary of the results of Traffic Bowl scrimmage, with the consultant group winning the scrimmage. Jake encouraged everyone to participate in future meetings and joint activities with the UT-Student chapter. **Section Representative Alex Reyna**, provided a status on CAS-ITE’s Tax Exemption filing/request. He is currently performing research and will be reaching out to previous board members to solicit information regarding previous filings. Finally, Tom encouraged everyone to attend the next Joint meeting that will be held in San Marcos, Texas. This meeting will discuss current efforts by San Antonio and Austin to become “smarter” cities.



Steve Miller, PE discusses the Mobility35 Program Update with the CAS-ITE section members and affiliates.

Please see *MOBILITY* on page 5

MOBILITY from page 4

Following the section business, **Steve Miller, PE**, HNTB, provided an overview and update to the Mobility35 program. Steve described the 65-mile program, and highlighted the key challenges, which include a constrained urban environment, maintenance of traffic during construction, diverse stakeholders, providing east-west connectivity, and funding. The program aims to add capacity, improve traffic flow, enhance safety, unclog intersections, improve connectivity, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and maximize the use of infrastructure.

Since the Mobility35 program began in 2011, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and regional partners have made it a priority to involve the community in the development process. This resulted in over 300 stakeholder, community, and public outreach meetings. The process helped develop a “string of pearls” approach to meet the identified challenges. This approach introduced a series of stand-alone projects with specific benefits. It also introduced sets of comprehensive projects, including express lanes and improved ramps, frontage roads, and intersections, that would link the stand-alone projects to provide a cumulative benefit to the I-35 corridor. To date, the 10-year program has identified over 40 projects to complete the I-35 corridor improvement.

As of 2016, the TxDOT and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) have dedicated over \$110.7 million of Proposition 1 funding. The Texas Transportation Commission also committed \$158.6 million in Congestion Relief Initiative funding. These funding initiatives allowed for construction to begin for four projects in 2015, and three projects in 2016, which would deliver a combined total of \$210.9 million in construction projects. Between 2016 and 2020, the program has identified several stand-alone projects that total at \$663.5 million. In addition, the program has identified three comprehensive projects for the north, central, and south sections of Travis County, which are projected to cost between \$1.23 and \$1.53

billion. Steve noted that the Travis county comprehensive projects are currently in the environmental and schematic phase. Overall, the Mobility35 program cost estimate is between \$4.3 and \$4.6 billion. The cost will vary based on the selected improvement of either 1) modifying the existing elevated section, or 2) lowering the freeway for the segment of I-35 between 8th Street and Cesar Chavez.

Finally, Steve highlighted the project for the segment of I-35 between Rundberg Lane and US 290E. This project will include three new flyover ramps, modifying an existing flyover, and improving main lanes, frontage road, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Steve invited everyone to attend the public hearing for the project in May; and fielded questions from the section members about the program.

June 24 Annual Joint Meeting Smart Cities

By **Derek Mueller, PE**

The Capital Area and South Texas Sections held their annual Joint Meeting on June 24 in San Marcos. After discussing section news and upcoming events, Ronnie Bell, City of Austin, was honored for his service with the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.



CAS-ITE and STITE members at June 24 Joint Section Meeting

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ANNUAL from page 5

The speakers for the meeting were **Jim Dale, PE**, Assistant Director for the Austin Transportation Department, and **Marc Jacobson, PE, PTOE**, Senior Engineer in the City of San Antonio Traffic Management group.

Jim Dale's Presentation, "Tale of a Smart City: Austin" focused on the City's proposal for a USDOT smart cities grant. Of 78 cities to submit for the grant, Austin was selected as one of the seven finalists. Mr. Dale discussed the major



Jim Dale, PE discusses City of Austin Smart Cities.

goals of becoming a smart city: improved safety, enhanced mobility, and enhanced ladders of opportunity to support underserved residents. For their proposal, the City collaborated with public, private, and research sector partners. The proposal focused on innovative new services such as family transportation plans, electric fleets, and connected traveler initiatives. Mr. Dale also emphasized the importance of a data ecosystem that focused on end users and contained open data.



Marc Jacobson, PE, PTOE discusses City of San Antonio ITS and Signal Upgrades.

Marc Jacobson presented on ITS and signal upgrades in San Antonio. He noted that the City currently operates 1400 traffic signals, 1000 school flashers, and 50 CCTV cameras. A major focus to improving traffic management abilities is communication to this equipment. Mr. Jacobson said that at one point, only 30 percent of the signals had communication to the traffic management center, but that they are now at 98 percent. The City has also recently upgraded their traffic management software, allowing them to

have access to more and better data. He noted that data is key for improving the signal operations. He mentioned vehicle detection systems capable of detecting discreet vehicles such as radar detectors and CCTV cameras as implementation that can greatly improve the City's ability to collect data and monitor operations.

Awards & Recognition

By City of Austin

On June 24, 2016, the CAS-ITE recognized **Ronnie Bell, PE** for his dedicated service to the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). This committee provides recommendations to FHWA on additions, deletions, and modifications to the MUTCD. The National Committee consists of a wide range of dedicated volunteers that have an interest in the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of traffic control devices. This includes employees from state, county, and municipal governments, consulting firms, manufacturers/distributors, professional organizations, tollway authorities, railroad companies, and others. Many members continue to volunteer their time and expertise even after they retire.



Ronnie Bell, PE receives an award plaque from Jim Dale, PE for his service to the NCUTCD.

Ronnie became a member of the Signals Technical Committee in 1988 and became a member of the ITE delegation to the National Committee in 1992. In 2002, Ronnie was appointed Vice Chair of the Signals Technical Committee. He was appointed Please see *AWARD* on page 7

AWARD from page 6

Chair of that committee in 2006 and served as Chair through the January 2016 meeting. Although he has “retired” as the Chair, Ronnie remains an active member of the Signals Technical Committee.

During his tenure, Ronnie has seen many changes to the Manual, including the major reformatting that appeared in the 2000 version and the introduction of Interim Approvals. Some of the items that have changed in Part 4 include:

- Flashing yellow (and red) arrows for permissive turning movements
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons
- Emergency Hybrid Beacons (although not included in the Texas MUTCD)
- Revision of the assumed pedestrian walking speed
- Countdown pedestrian signals
- Accessible pedestrian signals
- U–turn signal indications
- In–roadway lights
- Rectangular Rapid flashing Beacons (Interim Approval)
- Bicycle Signal Faces (Interim Approval)

Member & Budget Status

By Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE

Capital Area Section of ITE membership registration slightly decreased compared to last year, although our account balance is as expected.

TABLE 1: CAS-ITE Membership Breakdown	
75	International Members
27	Student Members
1	Institute Affiliate
14	Fellows
18	CAS-ITE Members (Non-International)
135	Total CAS-ITE Members

As of July 2016, we have a total of **135 ITE members** as listed on the ITE website (www.ite.org). The membership grade breakdown is shown in **Table 1**. This is a decrease from the previously reported 155 ITE members at the end of 2015. This decrease is

TABLE 2: CAS-ITE Balance Sheet		
Total 2016 Balance Forward		\$1,644.07
Income		
	Section Dues Disbursements (ITE International)	\$921.75
	Section Dues CAS-ITE	\$150.00
	Annual Sponsorships	\$400.00
Total Income		\$1,471.75
Expenses		
	Guest Speaker Lunches	\$8.70
Total Expenses		\$8.70
Account Balance		\$3,107.12

due a reduction of student membership and International Members.

Table 2 currently shows the CAS–ITE Balance Sheet. The current CAS–ITE balance is **\$3,107.12**. Current income to–date is from membership dues (both section and disbursement from ITE) and annual sponsorships for a total of \$1,471.25. We have collected \$1,071.75 in Section Dues and \$400 in annual sponsorships as of this month. Expenses are under–reported at this time, showing only \$8.70 on speaker lunches. We expect to pay out reimbursement for an award plaque and a short–fall (if any) from the Joint Meeting.

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 that are being discussed include adopting a street via Keep Austin Beautiful, and coordinating with other engineering organizations on social events.

Upcoming Events

1. ITE 2016 International Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Anaheim, CA –	Aug 14–17
2. CAS–ITE Regular Section Meeting –	Aug/Sep
3. TexITE 2015 Annual Fall District Meeting in Fort Worth, TX –	Sep 21–23
4. CAS–ITE Regular Section Meeting –	Oct/TBD
5. Scholarship Fundraiser –	Nov/TBD
6. Holiday Banquet and Election–	Dec/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
TomGerrity@trafficware.com
- **Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE** – Section Representative
alex@reynainc.com
- **Chad Wood, PE, PTOE** – Past President
cwood@browngay.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 on the CAS-ITE website: <http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/>

Thanks to Tom Gerrity for continuing to maintain the Capital Area Section website. Please contact him 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
- **Jake Gutekunst, EIT** – Member
jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com
- **Cody Stone, EIT** – Member
CStone@emailatg.com
- **Derek Mueller, PE** – Member
DMueller@pape-dawson.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, 2012 Holland Avenue Unit A, Austin, TX 78704** 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

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