

CAPITAL AREA SECTION ITE NEWSLETTER

2019 Year in Review, *written by Garrett Scott, Gregory Go, Cody Stone, and James Schwerdtfeger*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I couldn't have asked to be part of a more exciting year as CASITE's president. We hosted the ITE 2019 Annual Meeting and Exhibit Conference in our own backyard, we've continued to increase our membership, established committees to ease the burden on our officers, and participated in more social events than ever before.

A huge thank you to Rob Belarmino and Brian Van De Walle for the effort they put into leading the Local Arrangements Committee. The meeting was a huge success with a final attendance of well over 1,500.

We held several Traffic Bowl Scrimmages with the UT Student Chapter that helped lead them to be our 2019 International Champions. Even this Aggie is proud of their big win!

CASITE has also continued our Adopt-a-Street program (Keep Austin Beautiful), which is an amazing opportunity to interact with the UT Student Chapter. I still remember two years ago when I fielded numerous questions from an eager UT student that wanted to understand what really happens at an engineering office.

We held another successful annual scholarship fundraiser at Urban Axes. Thanks to the fundraiser and our annual sponsors we've been able to pay for UT Student Chapter members to attend the International Meeting and will continue to do so in 2020.

Thanks to our 2019 Vice President, Cody Stone, we've also established committees for the first time. Committee involvement has allowed our growing section and increasingly active members to get more involved than ever before. This has also allowed us to be more immersed with the UT Student Chapter, schedule more social events and (believe it or not) keep our website up to date.

I want to challenge each of our members in 2020. Don't just stand on the side-lines and watch the world pass you by. Volunteer on one of our committees, come to our Keep Austin Beautiful pickup, run for office or simply bring a co-worker to the next CASITE meeting. It's this participation that has allowed us to grow into the fun and exciting section we've become.

Thanks to Cody Stone, Adam Kaliszewski and Vivek Deshpande for their service in 2019. Congratulations to Anamaria Torres as our new secretary-treasurer. I am excited to see where this young and energetic group of leaders take our organization.

Best Regards,

James Schwerdtfeger, P.E. – 2019 CASITE President

HOWDY CASITE!

It was a wonderful 2019 and we want to share all the great events hosted by Capital Area Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (CASITE). Thank you all for being part of a great year!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership increased by over 20% this year and we have grown from about 171 members to approximately 208 members! We are proud to see the growth and look forward to expanding membership even more throughout 2020, while providing top-notch events.



2019 COMMITTEES

Sponsorship and Membership

- Chair – Jake Gutekunst, Deputy Chair – Cody Stone

Social

- Co-Chairs – Will Lisska and Adam Nodjomian, Deputy Chair – Jake Gutekunst

Newsletter

- Co-Chairs – Cody Stone and Gregory Go, Member - Garrett Scott

Scholarship

- Co-Chairs – Sam Higgins and Ben Wallach

Website

- Chair – Adam Kaliszewski, Deputy Chair – Gregory Go, Member - Amit Kumar Singh

Fundraiser

- Chair – James Schwerdtfeger, Member – Valerie Kaiser

EVENTS

Ethics Meeting – February 1, 2019

As we have done historically, our first meeting was an ethics seminar provided by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers which allows for our members to meet their Professional Development Hour (PDH) requirement in ethics to maintain their Texas licensure. This seminar was led by David Howell, P.E., the Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers. This meeting was attended by 35 members.



Keep Austin Beautiful Street Cleanup – March 9, 2019

The Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt-a-Street Cleanup was held as part of the Section's community service efforts. This event was well-attended with 13 members, including both professionals and students, helping to clean up 45th Street from Burnet road to Guadalupe. After the cleanup, the group enjoyed a social hour at Hopdoddy Burger Bar.



congratulations to team members William Alexander, Christine Cheng, and Krishna Murthy Gurumurthy on defending “home turf” and bringing the trophy back to the Texas District.

Traffic Bowl Scrimmage – April 5 and July 12, 2019

ITE professionals took on student members from the UT student chapter in a rousing game of ITE Traffic Bowl. This annual event brings everyone together in order to help the student chapter prepare for the ITE Texas District Traffic Bowl where they took on rival teams from other Texas universities. This effort was fruitful, as the UT Traffic Bowl team won the International Meeting Traffic Bowl. An additional scrimmage was held in July ahead of the Traffic Bowl Grand Championship held at the ITE International Meeting. After a nailbiter of a semi-final round, the UT ITE student chapter team gave a dominant performance in the final round to take home the grand prize! A huge

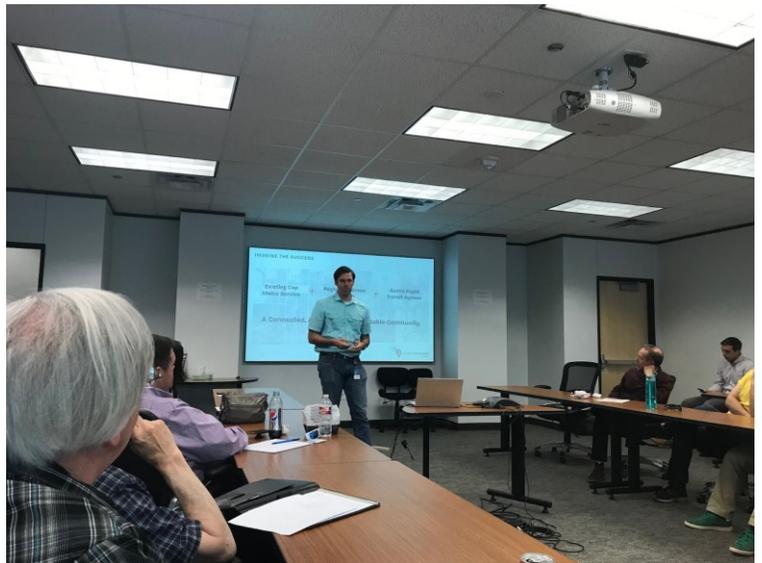
TexITE Spring Meeting – April 15 to 17, 2019

Approximately 300 attendees from across the state converged upon San Antonio for this year's Spring Texas District Meeting. The conference featured numerous valuable workshops and presentations covering topics ranging from innovative intersections and new traffic signal technologies, to big data and connected / autonomous vehicles. CASITE highlights included the UT student ITE chapter winning the TexITE traffic bowl competition, as well as CASITE member and former UT student, Adam Nodjomian, winning the TexITE student member of the year award for 2018.



Capital Metro Meeting – April 26, 2019

Our April meeting featured Jacob Calhoun, Long Range Transportation Planner from Capital Metro, who gave a great presentation on Project Connect. Project Connect is Capital Metro's long-term vision plan for Austin's public transportation network, and includes dedicated transit pathways and transit priority treatments along several major corridors throughout the city. This meeting was attended by 25 members.



CASITE / WTS-HOT Bike 'N Brunch – June 1, 2019

At this event, professionals from both CASITE and Women's Transportation Seminar – Heart of Texas Chapter wrapped up a successful May bike month in Austin with a joint bike ride through downtown and central-east Austin. More than 30 total attendees took advantage of this opportunity to network across organizations, enjoy a leisurely ride through town, and share a tasty brunch at Polvo's. The bike ride afforded the participants the opportunity to discover the kinds of bicycle facilities Austin has to offer. CASITE looks forward to collaborating with WTS-HOT for many events in the future!

CASITE / STITE Joint Meeting – June 28, 2019

As is tradition, the Capital Area and South Texas Sections held a joint meeting in San Marcos, and this year's edition proved to be as popular as ever, with over 80 attendees present. The meeting featured presentations from John Nevares and Jorge Ramos from TxDOT Austin and San Antonio Districts, respectively, who spoke about the current and planned ITS projects happening in their districts.



ITE International Meeting – July 21 to 24, 2019

Austin had the honor of hosting this year's ITE International Meeting, with over 1,500 transportation professionals in attendance to network and exchange ideas related to the meeting's theme of Transportation Transformed. Some of the CASITE highlights included the UT ITE student chapter winning the Traffic Bowl Championship, and the IH 35 at 51st Street roundabout here in Austin being named the inaugural TexITE Norman Hogue Roundabout of the Year.



Micromobility and Microbrews Social Event – August 29, 2019

Over 30 CASITE members got a unique, inside look at the JUMP operations and maintenance facility that helps keep Uber's hundreds of scooters and bikes on the streets of Austin. David Forbes, general manager of JUMP's Austin operations, led groups through the warehouse, allowing attendees to see first-hand how their fleet is stored, maintained, and deployed day-in and day-out. The tour was followed by a demonstration of their fleet monitoring system and a Q&A session. After the tour, attendees headed to Hi Sign Brewing for some beers and networking.

Scholarship Fundraiser at Urban Axes – September 27, 2019

CASITE traded golf clubs for axes at our annual fundraising event this year, which proved to be one of our biggest in recent memory! Thanks to our scholarship sponsors and event attendees, we were able to raise well over \$2,000 in scholarship money for students interested in transportation and their attendance at upcoming ITE events and conferences.





TxDOT Meeting – October 25, 2019

At this well-attended event, Joe Hunt, Director of the Traffic Management Section at TxDOT, gave an informational presentation on the DOT's Cooperative Automated Transportation (CAT) Plans. Through these planning efforts, TxDOT is preparing for the safe integration of connected and autonomous vehicle technologies into the state's multi-modal transportation system.

Keep Austin Beautiful Street Cleanup – November 16, 2019

Our first street cleanup was so nice, we decided to do it twice! CASITE members and family took to the streets for a second time to pick up trash along 45th Street between Burnet and Guadalupe. After the cleanup, the group enjoyed a social hour at Hopdoddy Burger Bar.



End of the Year Banquet – December 13, 2019

Over 45 CASITE members came out to enjoy our end of the year banquet at Stiles Switch BBQ. We gathered to announce scholarship winners and CASITE officer election results, while enjoying some of Austin's best BBQ. Anamaria Torres won Secretary-Treasurer, while Adam Kaliszewski won Vice President/President-Elect. In addition, UT students Matthew Dean, Ekin Ugurel, and Erick Hernandez won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, respectively, for the scholarship awards. The scholarship award includes attendance of ITE conferences with travel stipends. 2019 CASITE President, James Schwerdtfeger was also awarded a plaque for his service. Congratulations to all the winners!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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