

Tennessee Section ITE 2021 Annual Report

The Tennessee Section of ITE is pleased to submit our Annual Section Report outlining activities in 2021 that supported professional development, growth of the traffic and transportation industry, promoting safe and efficient flow of people, goods, and other services that support our mission.

2021 Officers

President	Stephen Edwards	901-828-2674	sedwards@trekkdesigngroup.com
Vice President	Luke Dixon	615-423-0993	luke.dixon@arcadis.com
Secretary	Kenneth Perkins	615-988-2883	kperkins@bennesch.com
Section Administrator	Brandon Baxter	615-244-8591	bbaxter@ragansmith.com
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Section Rep. (20-21)	Zane Pannell	615-371-2284	zane.pannell@brentwoodtn.gov
Immediate Past President	Nathan Vatter	615-741-0995	nathan.vatter@tn.gov

2021 Committee Chairs

Audit.....Kevin Cole	Traffic Bowl.....Trey Todd
Awards.....Nathan Vatter	Scholarship.....Nathan Vatter
Career Development.....Brian Haas	Section Relations.....Kenneth Perkins
Legislative.....Michelle Nickerson	Technical.....Peter Kauffmann
Nominations.....Nathan Vatter	

Regular Meetings

Local Section Meetings in 2021

All Local Section Meetings were postponed through the pandemic and not lifted until July 2021. Meetings began to resume in each of the larger cities, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City, as regulations allowed.

TSITE Quarterly Section Meetings in 2021

In 2021 due to COVID-19 we had 2 in person meeting and 2 virtual meetings. Two of the meetings were jointly held with Deep South ITE and ITS Tennessee.

Meeting #1 **Winter Meeting** Date: February 25, 2021
Virtual Microsoft Teams Attendance: 96

Meeting included 2 Presentations, Traffic Bowl, and Business Meeting

- "Governing Your Big Data" / Dr. Meredith K. Cebelak, Gresham Smith
- "TSMO Workforce Development" / Dr. Stephanie S. Ivey, University of Memphis
- Student Traffic Bowl - Vanderbilt University, Tennessee Tech University, University of Memphis, and the 2021 Champions University of Tennessee Knoxville

Meeting #2	Spring Meeting Virtual Zoom Webinar	Date: May 26, 2021 Attendance: 129
	Joint Meeting with Deep South ITE included 6 Presentations and Business Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Studying the Effects of Future Development Potential in the Cool Springs Area of Franklin, TN" / Adam Moser, City of Franklin and Beth Ostrowski, KCI• "Bringing the Turbo-Roundabout to the US" / Jaap Tigelaar, Arcadis• "Knoxville Signal Modernization Initiative" / Jeff Branham, Evan Hoffman, and Zach Roberts, City of Knoxville• "Loyola Interchange Improvements for the new MSY Airport Terminal" / Brandon Perilloux, Urban Systems• "Practical Applications of PG Routing" / Evan Wright, MDOT• "FHWA Updates" / Jeff Schmidt, FHWA	
Meeting #3	Summer Meeting The Park Vista Hotel Gatlinburg, Tennessee	Date: July 28-30, 2021 Attendance: 101
	Meeting included 11 Presentations, Young Member/Student Meet & Greet, Vendor Exhibition, Family Social Event, Committee Meetings, Award Banquet & Business Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Traffic Signal Maintenance & Modernization" / Stephen K. Bryan and Nathan Vatter, TDOT• "Understanding the Role of Faster Emergency Medical Response in Survival Pedestrians in Fatal Crashes" / Iman Mahdinia, University of Tennessee – Knoxville• "TDOT SmartWay Congestion Management Initiative" / Lee Smith – TDOT, Matt Davis – Stantec, and Luke Dixon – Arcadis• "Nashville's Sidewalk Master Plan" / Jeff Hammond – Metro Nashville Public Works and Jason Brooks – LDA• "Diverging Diamond Interchange at Interstate 26 and Boones Creek Road" / Andy Padgett, TDOT• "Why do people take e-scooter trips? Big Data and Unsupervised Machine Learning" / Nitesh Shah, University of Tennessee – Knoxville• "How are physical conditions and driving errors of commercial large truck drivers associated with injury severity in fixed-object collisions" / Amin Mahmamnazar, University of Tennessee – Knoxville• "Southern District ITE Initiatives and Discussion" / Cindy Pionke, SDITE President• "Case Studies of Transportation Issues" / Sarah McBride, Assistant General Counsel, TDOT• "Steve and the STIDS" / Steve Allen Strategic Transportation Investments Director, TDOT• "The Tennessee Department of Transportation Work Zone Field Guide Innovations" / Michelle Nickerson, TDOT	

**Tennessee Section ITE
2021 Annual Report**



Meeting #4 **Fall Meeting**
Marriott Downtown Hotel
Chattanooga, TN

Date: Oct 27-29, 2020
Attendance: 67

Joint Meeting with ITSTN with 4 presentations and Business Meeting

- “Statewide TSMO Integration Efforts” / Jon Storey, TSMO Integration Manager, TDOT
- “Smart Cities: Chattanooga Smart Corridor and Intelligent Traffic Management” / Austin Harris, Center for Urban Informatics and Progress and Jibril Babatunde, University of Tennessee – Chattanooga
- “Rural ITS Deployments: Using Analytics to Maximize Resources” / Greg Dyer, TDOT ITS Office and Matt Davis, Stantec
- Multi-resolution Platform to Verify and Validate Cooperative Driving Automation Functionalities in Contested Environments” / Arman Sargolzaei and Shriin Noei, Tennessee Tech University

Students and Younger Members Support (Scholarships, Student Leadership Summit and Mentoring)

In 2021 TSITE Board maintained scholarship funding levels for student scholarships and delivered all 6 awards in 2021 for \$10,500. All awardees were offered the opportunity to attend the Summer Meeting at no charge. The TSITE Board shared the appreciation with our membership who made contributions in 2021 to support our next generation of Transportation Professionals.

TSITE Scholarships for the 2021-2022

William L. Moore, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Logan Sirbaugh	University of Memphis	\$2,000
John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship	Carmen Harvey		\$2,000
Bill M. Hart Memorial Scholarship	Iman Mahdi Nia		\$2,000
T. Darcy Sullivan Scholarship	Maya Mayes		\$1,500
Bill D. Kervin, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Zach Wisniowski		\$1,500
TN Section Undergraduate Scholarship	Crystal Cheng	Vanderbilt University	\$1,500

Total Awarded \$10,500

TSITE also awarded \$850 for the student paper competition. All recipients of student scholarships and paper competition were invited to attend and present at the Summer Meeting. The summer meeting offers networking and technical knowledge opportunities for students.

TSITE Student Paper Competition 2021

1 st Place	Nitesh Shah	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$500
2 nd Place	Amin Mohammadnazar	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$250
3 rd Place	Iman Mahdinia	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$100

In 2021 TSITE welcomed a new student chapter at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga bringing us to 6 active student chapters. The Fall Meeting was hosted in Chattanooga to welcome the new chapter and provide an opportunity for the students to network with TSITE professionals.

Tennessee Section ITE 2021 Annual Report

TSITE was represented at the 2021 UT Showcase for CE Graduates. This included a presentation and conversation about joining professional organizations and beginning their careers.

The Career Development Committee provided outreach and support for each of the student chapters throughout the year and TSITE supported attendance for 2 students from each student chapter to attend the 2021 International Virtual Student Leadership Summit.

Application of Technical Knowledge – Technical sessions at our meetings included applications of cutting-edge transportation elements. This included discussion on Big Data, Turbo-Roundabouts, Diverging Diamonds, Shared Mobility, Signal Modernization, TDOT SmartWay Congestion Management Initiative, TDOT’s Work Zone Field Guide Innovations, Statewide TSMO Integration Efforts, Chattanooga’s Smart City platform, and Rural ITS Deployments. TSITE sessions also included presentations on 6 active research projects.

Networking Events – Events for networking in 2021 included:

- Sponsoring awards for UTK Senior Design Project.
- TSITE members actively participated in SDITE’s Mentorship Sessions.
- Chairing and participating in SDITE committees.
- Hosting joint meetings with Deep South ITE and ITSTN.
- Local networking meetings in the larger communities as COVID restrictions lifted.
- Student/New Member meet and greet with TSITE Board at the Summer Meeting.
- Social/networking activities for all members at quarterly meetings.
- Two annual golf tournaments benefiting the scholarship fund.
- Members attended multiple student chapter meetings.

K-12 STEM Outreach – TSITE members sit on the Professional Advisory Board for the T-STEM Academy at East High School. In this capacity they assist in the development of the school’s curriculum, special projects, speaker series, and technical field trips. As part of this effort the TSITE Board and other section members provided comment and recommendations for the development of [“Transportation-STEM Academy \(T-STEM\): A playbook for developing transformational educational experiences through industry-academia partnerships”](#) and continue to provide assistance in expanding these programs across the United States.

Members have also remained actively involved with the Southeast Transportation Workforce Center (SETWC) at the University of Memphis since 2017. TSITE took an active support role in the development of [“Women in Transportation Playbook: Inspire, Engage and Empower”](#) for the USDOT. This document focuses on developing and implementing a strategy of encouraging the growth of women in all transportation fields beginning in K-12. With the playbook published members are continuing to support the initiative by attending and presenting at events, participating in school visits, serving on advisory boards, and providing internships and mentors for young students.

Across the State of Tennessee, TSITE members represent the Section through active participation in the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network. These hubs are based out of 7 cities with a regional reach. Members participating with this program speak with K-12 classrooms, work with teachers on incorporating real world applications into daily instruction, allow teachers to shadow them through a work day, provide apprenticeships for work study, and assist in professional development programs for teachers.

Tennessee Section ITE 2021 Annual Report



New Member Recruitment – TSITE membership continues to grow each year. The section is focused on joint meetings to increase our visibility with transportation professionals, strong engagement with state universities, and engaging retired members to retain their knowledge and experience. Throughout 2021 TSITE members volunteered as mentors and participated in networking events to grow interest in ITE.

Diversity and Inclusion – TSITE embraces diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our organization including valuing a balanced and diverse Executive Board to serve our members and by providing inclusion for STEM activities in diverse areas of our State. TSITE remains involved with the Southeast Transportation Workforce Center’s objective to increase women and minorities in transportation and actively participate in the Annual Choosing Transportation Summit.

Training/Professional Development - In 2021 TSITE held both in person and virtual meetings due to COVID-19. Two of the meetings were jointly held with Deep South ITE and ITS TN. These meetings provided a total of 23 sessions and 16.5 professional development credit hours. Throughout the year TSITE sent out notifications and reminders for free webinars available from ITE and other organizations through email and social media platforms.

Field Trips/Technical Tours – 2021 Opportunities for Field Trips were limited as the Section moved back to in-person meetings after travel restrictions and other regulations from COVID-19 were lifted. To encourage attendance at meetings technical tours were not included in the agenda to help attendees feel comfortable.

Service Projects – In 2021 TSITE continued to support the distracted driving PSA student contest that was picked up as an annual competition for high school students by the West Tennessee STEM Hub. The program expanded in 2021 to include a logistics modeling competition. The Section did not promote a specific program for 2021, but supported members efforts in their communities by helping raise money, providing help with marketing, and helping find members to actively participate in activities.

Funding Support - TSITE instituted a Tiered Annual Sponsorship program, which is now included in an updated Operations Manual. Previously, TSITE would make various requests for sponsorship of meetings and events throughout the year. Now a call for sponsorship occurs in January and sponsorship is received and recognized according to specified tiers. The 2021 Annual Sponsorship Total was \$10,250, which went towards supporting the activities of ITE student chapters including the traffic bowl and leadership summit travel. TSITE members also contributed to the student scholarship fund in 2021, through hosting and participating in 2 golf tournaments, a scholarship auction during the Summer Meeting, and private donations.

LeadershipITE - Nearly all TSITE’s 5 LeadershipITE alumni currently hold a committee chair position or officer position for TSITE or SDITE. Mr. Terrance Hill participated in the 2021 class and Beth Ostrowski was nominated and accepted to participate as in the 2022 class. While TSITE has not offered financial support for LeadershipITE tuition, our board has agreed to sponsor future candidates on a needed basis.

Advocacy - TSITE’s Legislative Committee tracks and provides updates about national and local issues, legislation, and regulations that may be of interest or impact the transportation industry. These updates are provided during the business meetings at the quarterly meetings. TSITE worked with TDOT on contacting legislators regarding items of particular concern.

Tennessee Section ITE 2021 Annual Report

Photos from 2021

