

**Tennessee Section ITE
2022 Annual Report**



The Tennessee Section of ITE is pleased to submit our Annual Section Report outlining activities in 2022 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.

2022 Officers

President	Luke Dixon	615-423-0993	luke.dixon@arcadis.com
Vice President	Kenneth Perkins	615-988-2883	kperkins@bennesch.com
Secretary	Lauren Gaines	615-252-4243	lauren.gaines@bargedesign.com
Section Administrator	Brandon Baxter	615-244-8591	bbaxter@ragansmith.com
Section Rep. (21-22)	Jason Carder	423-245-4970	jacarder@matternandcraig.com
Section Rep. (22-23)	Bryan Bartnik	865-594-2456	bryan.bartnik@tn.gov
Immediate Past President	Stephen Edwards	901-828-2674	sedwards@trekkdesigngroup.com

2022 Committee Chairs

Audit.....Kevin Cole	Traffic Bowl.....Trey Todd/Bryan Bartnik
Awards.....Stephen Edwards	Scholarship.....Stephen Edwards
Career Development.....Brian Haas	Section Relations.....Lauren Gaines
Legislative.....Michelle Nickerson	Technical.....Peter Kauffmann
Nominations.....Stephen Edwards	

Regular Meetings

Local Section Meetings in 2022

Local Section Meetings were allowed and encouraged in 2022 since conditions improved from the Covid-19 pandemic. In person meetings resumed in each of the larger cities, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City.

TSITE Quarterly Section Meetings in 2022

TSITE was able to host all four quarterly section meetings in person. The quarterly meetings rotate across the state and are typically full day events. They begin in the morning with technical presentations, lunch is provided, following with the business meeting, additional technical sessions and/or technical tour. In 2022, the summer and fall section meetings were three-day events. In 2022, the following quarterly meetings were hosted and well-attended:

Meeting #1 (Winter Meeting)
Cookville, TN at Tennessee Tech University

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Attendance: 71 participants

Meeting Presentations (3 PDHs):

- “MDOT Traffic Signal Asset Management & Preventative Maint.” Matt Davis / Wes Dean – Stantec
- “Campus Like Emergence Evaluation Modeling”; Ethiopine Choping – Tennessee State University

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- “Evaluating factors associated with Abandoned and Disabled Vehicle Incidents in Tennessee”; Hellen Shita – Tennessee State University
- “CMAQ award for deploying an NDOT Traffic Management Center and other emerging projects NDOT”; Brad Freeze – NDOT

Three (3) student teams competed in the Section’s Traffic Bowl Competition – The University of Tennessee, the University of Memphis and Tennessee Technological University. The Tennessee Technological University team advanced to the SDITE competition at the SDITE Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Meeting #2 (Spring Meeting)

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2022

Memphis, TN at University of Memphis

Attendance: 38 participants

Meeting Presentations (2.5 PDHs):

- “Creative Solutions to Improve Walking & Biking in Memphis”; Nicholas Oyler – City of Memphis
- “Evaluating the Impact of the Memphis Greenway Infrastructure”; Logan Sirbaugh – University of Memphis
- “I-40 Bridge Repairs”; Mike Welch and Ted Kniazewycz – TDOT
- “Memphis Innovation Corridor”; Kenny Monroe – Kimley-Horn and Associates

Meeting #3 (Summer Meeting)

Date: Wednesday, July 27 – Friday, July 29, 2022 (3 days)

Gatlinburg, TN at The Park Vista Hotel

Attendance: 108 participants + 33 guests

Meeting Presentations (7.5 PDHs):

Day 1

- “Safety and Congestion Scores of Selected First/Last Mile Freight Connectors”; Dr. Deo Chimba and Hellen Shita – Tennessee State University
- “City of Franklin Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) Deployment and Study”; Adam Moser – City of Franklin & Meredith Cebelak – Gresham Smith
- “Regional Traffic Operations Program, the Alabama Experience”; Kerry Nesmith – Arcadis

Day 2

- “Human Factors in Traffic Engineering”; Bryan Bartnik – TDOT
- “SDITE Leadership Development: Managing Conflict as a Leadership Competency”; Greg Dotson – Barge Design Solutions and Stephen Edwards – TREKK Design Group, LLC
- Student Paper Competition Presentations:
 - “Application of Crowdsourced Waze Data in Pavement Maintenance and Management” 1st Place; Yangsong Gu (UTK)
 - “Findings from e-scooter demand and supply analysis” 2nd Place; Nitesh Shah (UTK)
- “Strategies to Attract and Retain Female Talent in Transportation”; Sarah Davis – LVI Assoc.
- “SDITE Leadership Development: How Leaders Gather Information”; Chris Kirby and Cindy Pionke

Day 3

- “Blue Oval, Oracle and General Fund Transfer projects”; Steve Allen – TDOT
- “Smyrna ITS”; Michael Nichols – Stansell Electric, Tom Rose – Town of Smyrna and Meredith Cebelak – Gresham Smith

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The summer meeting stretched over three days. The summer meeting offers lots of opportunity for member networking and fellowship with a welcome reception held on the first evening and the annual awards banquet and student scholarship live auction on the second evening. It also included a student meet and greet with TSITE Officers that provided the students an opportunity to ask questions about TSITE and learn how they can become involved.

TSITE Awards Presented during the 2022 Summer Meeting & Annual Banquet

Jack B. Humphreys Young Member Award	Emily Burgess
Edward E. Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award	Kevin Cole
Tennessee Section Outstanding Individual Award	Kevin Comstock
Robert Stammer Student Chapter Award	University of Memphis

Meeting #4 (Fall Meeting) Date: Wednesday, October 26 – Friday, October 28, 2022 (3 days)
Knoxville, TN at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Attendance: 293 participants (190 TAPA/103 TSITE)

TSITE’s Fall meeting was cohosted with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association (TAPA). The conference focused on topics and projects that reflected the importance of planning for equity in transportation infrastructure, land use, and policies. The meeting included three technical tracks with over 25 Presentations and three technical tours. For a complete list of the presentations see <http://tsite.org/news-events/agendas-meeting-minutes/> Wednesday’s session included a conversation with TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley & FHWA Tn Division Pamela Kordenbrock, several presentations, the KAT Electric Bus and Charging Tour and ended with a welcome and awards reception. Thursday included keynote speaker Benito Pérez, the Policy Director for Transportation for America, several presentations, the South Waterfront / Sevier Ave. Redevelopment Bike Tour and the Urban Renewal Impact Tour, and an offsite social event at Knoxville’s iconic Sunsphere. Friday concluded the meeting with a networking lunch and several presentations.

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

In 2022 TSITE Board maintained scholarship funding levels for student scholarships and delivered all 6 awards in 2022 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 2022 to support our next generation of Transportation Professionals.

TSITE Scholarships for the 2022-2023

William L. Moore, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Nitesh Shah	University of Tennessee	\$2,000
John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship	Logan Sirbaugh	University of Memphis	\$2,000
Bill M. Hart Memorial Scholarship	Antora Haque	University of Tennessee	\$2,000
T. Darcy Sullivan Scholarship	Yangsong Gu	University of Tennessee	\$1,500
Bill D. Kervin, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Mohammad Taherkhani	University of Tennessee	\$1,500
TN Section Undergraduate Scholarship	Lauren Mitchell	University of Memphis	\$1,500
Total Awarded			\$10,500

TSITE also awarded \$750 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 2022

1 st Place	Yangsong Gu	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$500
2 nd Place	Nitesh R. Shah	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$250

TSITE had 5 active student chapters in 2022. The board scheduled socials or happy hours in conjunction with the quarterly section meetings to provide an opportunity for students to network with TSITE professionals. Vanderbilt’s Student Chapter is currently inactive, but liaisons are working to reactivate it.

The Career Development Committee provided outreach and support for each of the student chapters throughout the year. TSITE provided financial support for up to 2 students from each student chapter to attend the 2022 SDITE Student Leadership Summit held February 25 - 27 at Virginia Tech.

Application of Technical Knowledge – Technical sessions at our meetings included applications of cutting-edge transportation elements. This included discussion on Traffic Signal Asset Management, Traffic Management Centers, Campus Traffic Modeling Evaluation, Disabled Vehicle Incidents in Tennessee, Solutions to Improve Walking & Biking in Memphis, Memphis Greenway Infrastructure, Emergency Repair of the Hernando de Soto Bridge, Memphis Innovation Corridor - Bus Rapid Transit, Safety and Congestion Scores Freight Connectors in Tennessee, Adaptive Signal Control Technology (ASCT) Deployment and Study, Alabama Regional Traffic Operations Program, Human Factors in Traffic Engineering, Application of Crowdsourced Waze Data in Pavement Maintenance and Management and E-scooter demand and supply analysis. TSITE sessions also included presentations on 7 active research projects.

Networking Events – Events for networking in 2022 included:

- TSITE members actively participated in SDITE’s Mentorship Sessions.
- Chairing and participating in SDITE committees.
- Hosting joint meetings with TAPA, ASHE, GA ITE.
- Networking meetings in the local area sections (Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville)
- 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. Additional info here: www.memphis.edu/setwc/tstemplaybook.pdf

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. Additional info

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here: www.memphis.edu/setwc/womenintransportation.pdf This document focuses on developing and implementing a strategy of encouraging the growth of women in all transportation fields beginning in K-12. Members 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.

New Member Recruitment – TSITE membership continues to grow each year. The section utilizes joint meetings, social events and strong engagement with our student chapters to recruit new members. Engaging retired members to retain their knowledge and experience was also a top priority. Throughout 2022 TSITE members volunteered as mentors, participated in networking events and hosted multiple joint meetings with ASHE and TAPA to grow interest in ITE. TSITE’s LinkedIn page has also been used to reach and recruit new members. In December, TSITE held a membership renewal drive that included gift card drawings for members that renewed early and for recruiting new members. The drive encouraged 111 members to renew their 2023 ITE membership early and 22 first time members to join 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 – TSITE held joint meetings with TAPA, ASHE and GAITE. These meetings provided a total of 30 sessions and 29.5 professional development credit hours. Throughout the year TSITE sent out notifications and reminders for free webinars available from ITE through email and social media platforms.

Field Trips/Technical Tours – TSITE’s joint Fall meeting with TAPA included three technical tours.

- **Tour #1 KAT Electric Bus / Charging Infrastructure Tour** – The Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) team showcased Knoxville’s new electric bus infrastructure. Participants rode a KAT bus to a charging station while transportation officials described the logistics and numerous benefits of this investment in sustainable mobility.
- **Tour #2 South Waterfront / Sevier Ave. Redevelopment Bike Tour** – The tour included views along the Sevier Avenue corridor, including new developments, and an ongoing streetscape project.
- **Tour #3 Urban Renewal Impact Tour** – Participants took a walking and driving tour of significant sites, as Rev. Renee Kesler provided historical context and shared the work being done to preserve, teach and continue Black history and culture in Knoxville.

Service Projects – The Section did not promote a specific program for 2022 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 has a Tiered Annual Sponsorship program and a call for sponsorship occurs in January of each year. The 2022 Annual Sponsorship Total was \$15,500, which went towards supporting

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the activities of ITE student chapters including the traffic bowl and leadership summit travel. TSITE members also contributed to the student scholarship fund in 2022, through hosting and participating in two golf tournaments, a scholarship auction during the Summer Meeting, and private donations.

LeadershipITE – Most of TSITE’s six LeadershipITE alumni currently hold a committee chair position or officer position for TSITE or SDITE. Mrs. Beth Ostrowski participated in the LeadershipITE 2022 class. While TSITE has not offered financial support for LeadershipITE tuition, our board has agreed to sponsor future candidates on a as 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 section meetings. TSITE worked with TDOT on contacting legislators regarding items of particular concern.

Photos from 2022

