

**Tennessee Section ITE
2023 Annual Report**



The Tennessee Section of ITE is pleased to submit our Annual Section Report outlining activities in 2023 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.

2023 Officers

President	Kenneth Perkins	615-988-2883	kperkins@benesch.com
Vice President	Lauren Gaines	615-252-4243	lauren.gaines@bargedesign.com
Secretary	Karen Trowell	423-510-1139	Karen.trowell@tn.gov
Section Administrator	Brandon Baxter	615-244-8591	bbaxter@ragansmith.com
Section Rep. (21-22)	Carmen Harvey	423-643-5967	charvey1@chattanooga.gov
Section Rep. (22-23)	Bryan Bartnik	865-594-2456	bryan.bartnik@tn.gov
Immediate Past President	Luke Dixon	615-423-0993	luke.dixon@arcadis.com

2023 Committee Chairs

Audit.....Kevin Cole
 Awards.....Stephen Edwards
 Career Development.....Brian Haas
 Legislative.....Michelle Nickerson
 Nominations.....Stephen Edwards

Traffic Bowl.....Trey Todd/Bryan Bartnik
 Scholarship.....Stephen Edwards
 Section Relations.....Lauren Gaines
 Technical.....Peter Kauffmann

Regular Meetings

Local Section Meetings in 2023

Local Section Meetings were allowed and encouraged in 2023 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 2023

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 2023, the summer and fall section meetings were three-day events. In 2023, the following quarterly meetings were hosted and well-attended:

Meeting #1 (Winter Meeting)
 Chattanooga, TN at UT Chattanooga

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
 Attendance: 68 participants

Meeting Presentations (3 PDHs):

- Roundabouts: Putting a Creative Spin on a Unique Intersection; Daniel Dobry – Croy Engineering
- Student Traffic Bowl; Memphis vs. TSU vs. UTC vs. UTK

Tennessee Section ITE 2023 Annual Report



- Hitting the Road with TDOT Project Delivery; Michael O’Donnell – TDOT Region 2
- Corridor K Updates; Brad Winkler, Brad Thompson, & Rachel Gentry – STV/TDOT

Four (4) student teams competed in the Section’s Traffic Bowl Competition – UT Knoxville, the University of Memphis, Tennessee State University and UT Chattanooga.

Meeting #2 (Spring Meeting)
Nashville, TN at TN State Library

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Attendance: 87 participants

Meeting Presentations (5 PDHs):

- “RITIS and Quarterly Bottleneck Reports”; Jon Storey, PE, PTOE – TDOT Traffic Operations
- “Applying Bottleneck Data: TN Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan Update”; Dan Pallme – TDOT Freight & Logistics and Peter Kauffmann, PE, PTOE, AICP – HDR
- “Workforce Development”; Kevin Comstock – KCI Technologies, Inc
- “City of Franklin Downtown Study – Using and comparing O/D data from various vendors”; Adam Moser, PE and David Chang, PE – City of Franklin, TN
- “What the hell is going on at TDOT?”; Jay Norris, PE, Shane Hester, PE, and Shaun Armstrong, PE – TDOT Region 3

Meeting #3 (Summer Meeting)
Gatlinburg, TN at The Park Vista Hotel

Date: Wednesday, July 26 – Friday, July 28, 2023 (3 days)
Attendance: 115 participants

Meeting Presentations (7.5 PDHs):

Day 1

- *TDOT Traffic Design Division Update*; **Andy Barlow & Steve Bryan (TDOT Traffic Operations)**
- *Continuous Flow Intersections: A Multimodal Alternative to Grade Separation?*; **Matt Davis (Stantec)**
- *When Planning and Engineering Meet, Good Things Happen!*; **Jason Carder & Megan Allphin (Mattern & Craig)**
- *AP Research on Barriers to Walking to School*; **Elaina Conger (Farragut High School)**

Day 2

- *STID Oyster Cult*; **Steve Allen & Staff (TDOT Strategic Investments)**
- *GEODIS Park’s Multimodal Match and Infrastructure Enhancements to the Nashville Fairgrounds*; **Chris Rhodes (Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.)**
- Student Paper Competition Presentations:
 - Yangsong Gu – Ph.D. Student (University of Tennessee), TSITE Paper 1st Place - " Is detour a good choice to reduce commute delay caused by crash? A case study of I-24 smart corridor in Tennessee.
 - Jing Guo – Ph.D. Student (University of Tennessee), TSITE Paper 2nd Place " Evaluating Equity: A Method for Analyzing Transit Accessibility of Affordable Housing Units with a case study from Memphis, Tennessee "
- *State Route 343 Corridor Improvements*; **Chris Kirby and Melody Butler (CDM Smith), Troy Ebbert and Michelle Christian (TDOT Long Range Planning), and Rich DesGroseilliers (LAMTPO)**
- *Planning Division Update*; **Preston Elliott (TDOT)**
- *Evaluating Permissive Operations on Dual-Left Turns at Signalized Intersections*; **Airton Kohl (UTK Center for Transportation Research)**

Day 3

- *Modernization ; Steve Borden & Amanda Snowden (TDOT Region 1)*
- *Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A); Jessica Rich (FHWA)*

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 2023 Summer Meeting & Annual Banquet

Jack B. Humphreys Young Member Award	Trey Todd
Edward E. Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award	Becky Bottoms
Tennessee Section Outstanding Individual Award	Jason Carder
Robert Stammer Student Chapter Award	U of M and UT Knoxville

Meeting #4 (Fall Meeting) Date: Wednesday, October 25 – Friday, October 27, 2023 (3 days)
 Memphis, TN at the Hilton Double Tree Attendance: 240 participants (220TAPA/20 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/>

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

In 2023 TSITE Board maintained scholarship funding levels for student scholarships and delivered all 6 awards in 2023 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 2023 to support our next generation of Transportation Professionals.

TSITE Scholarships for the 2022-2023

William L. Moore, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Jing Guo	University of Tennessee	\$2,000
John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship	Logan Malotte	Tennessee Tech	\$2,000
Bill M. Hart Memorial Scholarship	Logan Sirbaugh	University of Memphis	\$2,000
T. Darcy Sullivan Scholarship	Saurav Parajuli	University of Tennessee	\$1,500
Bill D. Kervin, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	A. Latif Patwary	University of Tennessee	\$1,500
TN Section Undergraduate Scholarship	Tanner Keck	Tennessee Tech	\$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 2023

1 st Place	Yangsong Gu	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$500
2 nd Place	Jing Guo	University of Tennessee – Knoxville	\$250

TSITE had 5 active student chapters in 2023. 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 2023 SDITE Student Leadership Summit held March 3 - 5 at Mississippi.

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.

Networking Events – Events for networking in 2023 included:

- TSITE members actively participated in SDITE’s Mentorship Sessions.
- Chairing and participating in SDITE committees.
- Hosting joint meetings with TAPA, ASHE.
- 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 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 2023 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 100+ members to renew their 2024 ITE membership early.

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. These meetings provided a total of 10 sessions and 10 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 four technical tours.

- **Tour #1 Downtown Walking Tour** – Tour through the brand new Tom Lee Park, the Downtown Mobility Center, and Central Station
- **Tour #2 Innovation Corridor Mobile Workshop** – The tour included a ride one of MATA’s new electric buses down the future Innovation Corridor bus rapid transit route.
- **Tour #3 Binghampton Mobile Workshop** – Participants explored the Binghampton Neighborhood, seeing the Memphis Greenline, bicycle infrastructure, and housing through the Community Land Trust.
- **Tour #4 Uptown Mobile Workshop** – The tour included a tour of this North Memphis neighborhood where we’ll discuss sidewalks, affordable housing, TIF revenue, and fighting blight.

Service Projects – The Section did not promote a specific program for 2023 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 2023 Annual Sponsorship Total was \$15,500, 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 2023, through hosting and participating in two golf tournaments, a scholarship auction during the Summer Meeting, and private donations.

Tennessee Section ITE 2023 Annual Report



LeadershipITE – Most of TSITE’s six LeadershipITE alumni currently hold a committee chair position or officer position for TSITE or SDITE.

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 2023

