



# INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

## Section Annual Report for the Tennessee Section (TSITE) January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

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### SECTION 1: INVOLVEMENT OF SECTION MEMBERS

The Tennessee Section of Transportation Engineers (TSITE) continued to maintain a full roster of the following Section officers and committee chairs in 2014:

#### **2014 TSITE Executive Board Officers**

President	John Hunter
Vice President	Mike Conger
Secretary/Treasurer	Brandon Baxter
Past President	Jason Carder
Section Representative (13-14)	Amanda Snowden
Section Representative (14-15)	Brad Waldschmidt
Section Representative (14-15)	Amy Burch
Affiliate Director	Tim Britt

**2014 TSITE Committee Chairs**

Audit	Chris Kirby
Awards	Jason Carder
Career Development	Brian Haas
Legislative	Brad Waldschmidt
Nominations	Jason Carder
Scholarship	Jason Carder
Technical	Brandon Baxter
Traffic Bowl	Greg Judy
Section Relations	Brandon Baxter (Chair) Beth Ostrowski (Membership Coordinator) Brandon Baxter (Newsletter Editor) Luke Dixon (Website Coordinator) Heather Kraus (Social Media)

**2014 TSITE Student Chapter Liaisons**

Tennessee State University	Luke Dixon
Tennessee Tech University	Brian Haas
University of Memphis	Rick Gafford
University of Tennessee	Brian Haas
Vanderbilt University	Luke Dixon

**2014 TSITE Local Chapter Meeting Coordinators**

Chattanooga Area	Steve Meyer
Knoxville Area	Cindy Pionke
Memphis Area	Greg Dotson
Nashville Area	Brad Waldschmidt
Tri-Cities Area	Jason Carder

### 2014 TSITE Membership Totals

Membership Grade	Membership		Section Annual Dues
	TSITE	Int'l ITE	
<b>TSITE Member Grade</b>			
Honorary			
Fellow	13	13	\$25
Fellow Life	22	22	\$0
Fellow Retired			
Member	229	229	\$25
Member Life	16	16	\$0
Member Retired			
Associate			
Associate Life			
Associate Retired			
Institute Affiliate	6	6	\$25
Institute Affiliate Retired			
Esteemed Colleague	0	0	\$0
<b>TSITE Affiliate Grade</b>			
Local Area Affiliate	8		\$25
<b>TSITE Student Grade</b>			
Student Member	45	45	\$0
<b>TSITE Membership Grand Totals</b>			
Total w/o students	304	286	
Total w/ students	349	331	

94% of TSITE members (not including students) are members of ITE International.

## 2014 TSITE Member Awards

TSITE recognizes the contributions of its members each year through the following awards. These awards were presented by Scholarship Committee member, Chris Rhodes at our Fall (October) 2014 meeting.

### Edward E. Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award

Purpose of Award: Presented to an individual who, over a period of years, has contributed outstandingly to the advancement of the transportation profession both at the Tennessee Section and at Southern District (District 5) levels.

Recipient's Name: Steven Allen, TDOT



Nermine Nashed & Steve Allen

### Tennessee Outstanding Individual Service Award

Purpose of Award: Presented to an individual who, over the previous year, has contributed significantly to the advancement of the transportation profession and at both the Tennessee Section and Southern District (District 5) levels.

Recipient's Name: Nermine Nashed, TDOT

### Jack B. Humphreys Young Member Service Award

Purpose of Award: Presented to an individual who, under 35 years of age and over the previous year, has contributed significantly to the advancement of the transportation profession and at both the Tennessee Section and Southern District (District 5) levels.

Recipient's Name: Brad Waldschmidt, Kimley-Horn



Brad Waldschmidt (L)

## 2014 SDITE Awards

Several TSITE members were selected as recipients of SDITE awards, presented at the 2014 SDITE Annual Meeting in Greensboro, Georgia. They were as follows:

- Craig Hanchey – Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award
- Dr. Jack Humphreys – Excellence in Transportation Engineering Education Award



## **SECTION 2: FINANCES**

TSITE manages its finances in two separate accounts: a checking account to cover operational costs, and a scholarship fund, managed by International ITE, where proceeds to and distributions of student scholarship are managed.

### **2014 TSITE Operational Summary**

**Information not available.**

## SECTION 3: LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The TSITE Legislative Committee is responsible for reviewing the Tennessee State House and Senate Transportation Committee and Subcommittee calendars and providing reports to our membership at our TSITE meetings. These reports can include the State Legislature's current activity especially the pending bills that pertain to transportation-related issues that affect TSITE.

The TSITE Legislative Committee brought a few pieces of proposed legislation to the attention of the TSITE Board and membership and most were determined to not require formal input. There was one proposed bill related to bicycles that generated discussion about possible submission of TSITE testimony, which was SB 1758/HB 1470 reading "As introduced, authorizes bicycle riders without stopping completely to turn at and to proceed through red lights when such actions can be done safely." The TSITE Board was concerned about this legislation which would allow bicyclists to be exempted from basic traffic laws applicable to all other motor vehicles of coming to a complete stop at red lights before turning right. It was felt that the safety issues should outweigh the issues of convenience for bicyclists. Prior to formalizing comments on the legislation the TSITE Board was going to seek input from proponents of the bill and other groups such as the League of American Bicyclists to hear both sides of the issue. It was subsequently determined however that the legislation had not proceeded beyond the sub-committee levels and was effectively dead for this legislative session rendering the need for comments from TSITE a moot point.

## SECTION 4: MEETING/TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

### TSITE Quarterly Meetings

TSITE meetings occurred on a quarterly schedule and with locations rotated throughout the state. The following is a summary of the TSITE meetings in 2013:

Winter Meeting: February 26, Nashville  
 Spring Meeting: May 7, Memphis  
 Summer Meeting: July 30 - August 1, Gatlinburg  
 Fall Meeting: October 7, Clarksville (joint meeting with ITS-TN)

### Winter Meeting

Date: February 26, 2014  
 Location: Nashville (Tennessee State University)  
 Attendance: 92 (including 28 students)

The TSITE Winter Meeting is hosted every year by a TSITE Student Chapter to coincide with the annual TSITE Traffic Bowl competition. In 2014, Tennessee State University hosted the meeting at their



Nashville campus (Elliott Hall). Teams from two of the five student chapters competed for the honor of representing TSITE in the SDITE Traffic Bowl. The teams competing were Vanderbilt University and the University of Memphis. The team from the University of Memphis won the competition, and subsequently represented TSITE at the SDITE Traffic Bowl held in conjunction with the 2014 SDITE Annual Meeting in Greensboro, Georgia.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- Tennessee 25-Year Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Larry McGoogin, TDOT
- Nashville MTA - The “Amp” Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Update – Mike White, Nashville MTA and Bob Polk, Volkert, Inc.
- TSITE Traffic Bowl Competition
- TSITE Business Meeting
- Tennessee’s Integrated Traffic Analysis Network (TITAN) Electronic Crash Record System - Chris Osbourne, TN Dept of Safety & Homeland Security
- Tennessee 2014 Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update - Brian Hurst, TDOT



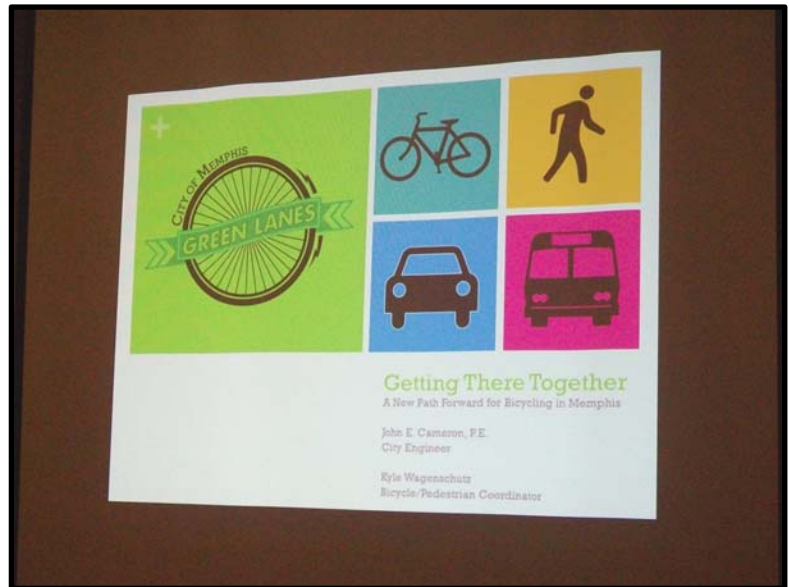
## Spring Meeting

Date: May 7, 2014  
Location: Memphis  
Attendance: 40

The TSITE Spring Meeting was held in Memphis and included several informative technical sessions.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- TDOT Smartway Maintenance - Memphis Update - Michael Rebick, Gannett Fleming
- City of Memphis Traffic Signs Management Application: Case Study on Integrating Technology into City Traffic Operations – Stephen Edwards, City of Memphis Traffic Engineering
- Creating Community Connectivity through Transportation Design in Jackson, TN (TSITE 2014 Student Paper 2nd Place Winner) – Jim Merserau and Kelsey Ford, University of Memphis Graduate Students
- The Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project – Robert Knecht, City of Memphis Public Works
- TSITE Business Meeting
- The Green Lane Project: A New Path Forward for Bicycling in Memphis, John Cameron and Kyle Wagenschutz, City of Memphis



## Summer Meeting

Date: July 30 - August 1, 2014

Location: Gatlinburg

Attendance: 73

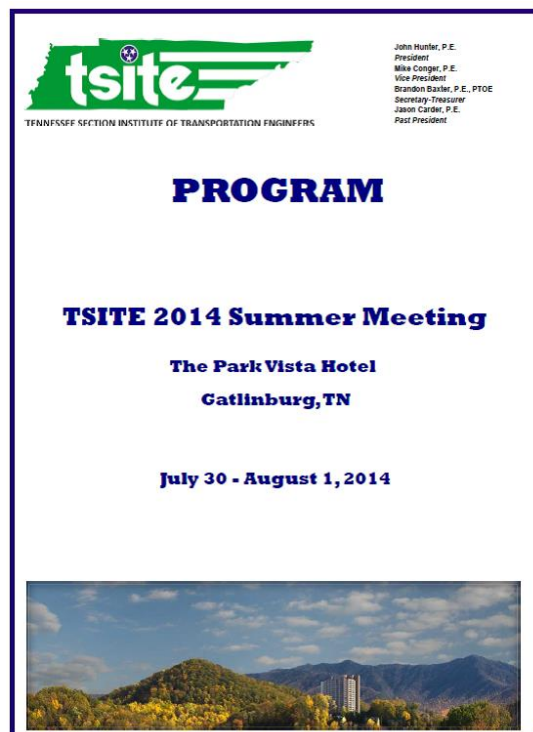
In addition to the annual awards banquet and scholarship auction, the Summer meeting agenda also offered technical presentations, social events, and the Executive Board meeting.

The awards banquet and scholarship auction was held on the evening of July 31. TSITE members bring items to donate for auction, and

then bid on those items. The proceeds from the auction fund our student scholarships. The 2014 auction saw \$5,000 raised for the scholarship fund. In addition, the awards banquet recognizes student paper winners, student scholarship winners, and the best overall student chapter.

The results of TSITE 2015 officer elections were announced at the business meeting. The new officers for 2015 were Kevin Comstock (Secretary-Treasurer), Jonathan Cleghon (Section Representative) and Tim Britt (Affiliate Director).

There were opportunities for members to engage in social events as well. A new meeting format was tried that included a first-ever Wednesday night family social event. Sponsor donations were required in order to cover the costs of the use of an outdoor pavilion and catering of drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Several generous sponsors came through and made the event possible and a great success. The outdoor, mountain setting was an ideal location for this event and there was perfect weather to boot. Probably the best part of the event was seeing the several young children playing with each other and making new friends. Several of the outdoor toys that were used were subsequently placed in the scholarship auction the following evening!



The agenda for the Summer 2014 meeting was as follows:

- Regional Greenway Planning - Connecting Knoxville, Alcoa and Maryville to the Smokies – Ellen Zavisca (Knoxville Regional TPO)
- A Micro-Measure for Automobile Driving Volatility (2014 TSITE Student Paper Competition 2nd Place Winner) – Jun Liu, University of Tennessee (student)
- Improving traffic forecasting accuracy using spatial temporal dynamics (2014 TSITE Student Paper Competition 1st Place Winner) – Jiangjiang Yang, University of Tennessee (student)
- Flashing Yellow Arrow Implementation – Bryon Fortner, City of Sevierville and Brian Haas, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
- Highway Safety Manual Workshop – Dr. Stephen Richards (U.T. Transportation Center) and Dr. Jennifer Ogle (Clemson University)
- Overview of the Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) with a Focus on Travel Time Reliability: What Engineers Need to Know – Richard Margiotta, Cambridge Systematics
- Accessing TDOT's Roadway Inventory Management System with E-TRIMS – Jeff Murphy, TDOT
- Knox County Strategic Transportation Plan Update – Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering & Public Works and Kevin Cole, CDM Smith
- Interchange Safety - Steve Allen, TDOT and Houston Daugherty, Cannon & Cannon
- Interactive TSITE Visioning Session
- TSITE Business Meeting
- TSITE Executive Board Meeting
- Family Social Event
- Awards Banquet and Scholarship Auction

## Fall Meeting

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Clarksville

Attendance: 65



The TSITE Fall Meeting was a joint meeting with the Tennessee Chapter of ITS America and held at the Freedom Point Convention Center in Clarksville, TN. The meeting contained technical presentations by both TSITE and ITS-TN members and there was discussion about future collaborations between the two groups which share many aspects in common with one another. Additionally, the annual TSITE awards were presented.

The agenda for the Fall 2014 meeting was as follows:

- Update of the TN Traffic Design Manual – Airtion Kohls, UT Transportation Center
- TSM&O in Tennessee – Brad Freeze, TDOT
- Nashville Public Works Signal and ITS Communications Infrastructure Update – Mark Washing, Gresham, Smith & Partners
- Aggressive Driving – Burl Johnson, Metro Nashville Police Department
- Adaptive Signal Control - When is it the Right Choice? – Gerald Bolden, Atkins
- FHWA ITS Initiative Update - Nick Renna, FHWA-TN Division
- TSITE Awards Ceremony
- TSITE Officer Installation Ceremony
- TSITE Business Meeting

## **TSITE Local Chapter Meetings**

TSITE also holds local chapter meetings on a monthly basis in the larger metropolitan areas (Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis, & the Tri-Cities). These meetings are informal and provide our membership with additional opportunities for networking, sharing information, and distributing news among the membership. Attendance varies, but a typical local meeting will have between 4 and 20 members in attendance.

## **TSITE Sponsored Training**

In 2014, TSITE sponsored a webinar for our membership. This webinar was held after the fall meeting but before the holidays at four locations across the state, in order to accommodate as many of our members as possible. TSITE sponsored the webinar “Flashing Yellow Arrow Implementation” on October 29, 2014. IT was hosted by TSITE members in Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis and Chattanooga. Attendance was around 50 members.

## SDITE Leadership Training Program

TSITE sponsored another session of the SDITE Leadership Training Program in the Fall of 2014 to a group of 11 TSITE members. Altogether there have been 35 TSITE members that have received the training as 2014's group joins the 12 students trained in both 2011 and 2012. The feedback received from participants on this program has been tremendous and TSITE will continue to explore providing this opportunity in the future.



**2014 TSITE Leadership Class:**

**Front L-R - Andy Padgett, Tarren Barrett, Amy Burch, Hollis Loveday, Tim Elsea, Stephen Edwards  
Back L-R - Jason Oldham, Luke Dixon, Tim Britt, Ben York, Brandon Baxter**

## SECTION 5: STUDENT MEMBERS

One of TSITE's primary purposes is to engage transportation students. Currently, TSITE has five Student Chapters, at the following universities:

- Tennessee State University (Advisor: Dr. Deo Chimba)
- Tennessee Technological University (Advisor: Dr. Daniel Badoe)
- University of Memphis (Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Ivey)
- University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Advisor: Dr. Stephen Richards)
- Vanderbilt University (Advisor: Dr. Robert Stammer)

Each of the student chapters has a dedicated TSITE liaison that coordinates and communicates directly with the faculty advisor and student members, sharing information about upcoming TSITE events and informing them of the student paper competition and scholarships. Student members are encouraged to attend TSITE meetings at no cost to the student. TSITE members also occasionally act as guest speakers at the student chapter meetings.

TSITE awarded five scholarships of \$2,000 each in 2014. Of the applications received, four of the five universities were represented, and there were a mix of undergraduate and graduate students. In the end, four of the scholarships went to UTK students and one went to a student from Tennessee State University. Each of the scholarship winners was invited to attend the TSITE Summer Meeting, where their registration and hotel cost was paid for by TSITE.

This year all five scholarship award winners were able to attend the 2014 Summer Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg and they were presented with certificates by Scholarship Committee Chair Jason Carder. Below are the names of the scholarship recipients and pictures of each receiving their award from Jason are on the following page:

- Hyeonsup Lim, UTK – T. Darcy Sullivan Scholarship
- Jun Liu, UTK – William L. Moore Scholarship
- Kristina King – TSITE Undergraduate Scholarship
- Evarist Ruhazwe, TSU – John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship
- Jianjiang Yang – TSITE Section Scholarship



**Hyeonsup Lim**



**Jun Liu**



**Kristina King**



**Jiangjiang Yang**



**Evarist Ruhazwe**

TSITE also awarded three student paper awards in 2014 (\$500, \$250 and \$100 for first, second and third places respectively). The student paper winners were also invited to attend and present their paper at the TSITE Summer Meeting, and their expenses were also paid for. Two of the winners attended, and presented the topics of their paper as a technical presentation. TSITE feels that this provides an invaluable opportunity for our student members to gain experience in public speaking and potential networking as they begin their career paths in transportation engineering. The three Paper Award Winners for 2014 are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Student Paper – Jiangjiang Yang, UTK
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Student Paper – Jun Liu, UTK
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Student Paper – tie, Taekwan Yoon, UTK and Jim Merserau, UM

The TSITE Winter meeting is held annually at one of the five universities, in conjunction with the annual TSITE Traffic Bowl. In 2014, the meeting was held at the campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville. TSITE also reimburses each of the student chapters for their travel expenses to the Winter meeting, to encourage participation in the TSITE Traffic Bowl. The University of Memphis won the TSITE Traffic Bowl in 2014, which earned the right to

represent TSITE at the SDITE Traffic Bowl.

Pictured below are the participants on the winning Traffic Bowl team from the University of Memphis along with the Traffic Bowl emcee Steve Allen from TDOT: (Left to Right - Kelsey Ford, Darrin Nelson, Annie Wise)



**UM Traffic Bowl Team (L to R) Kelsey Ford, Darrin Nelson, Annie Wise**

TSITE also presents a certificate and \$100 award to the winner of the Robert Stammer Student Chapter Award. This award is based upon the annual report submitted by each student chapter.