

Tennessee Section ITE

2019 Annual Report



2019 Officers			
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2019 Committee Chairs

Audit.....Kevin Cole
 Awards.....Greg Dotson
 Career Development.....Brian Haas
 Legislative.....Michelle Nickerson
 Nominations.....Greg Dotson

Traffic Bowl.....Greg Judy
 Scholarship.....Kevin Comstock
 Section Relations.....Nermine Nashed
 Technical.....Kenneth Perkins

For timely updates, please visit www.tsite.org.

Regular Meetings

TSITE continues to hold regular quarterly meetings that rotate across the state. TSITE meetings 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 2019, the following quarterly meetings were hosted and well-attended:

Meeting #1 (Winter Meeting)

Nashville, TN at Tennessee State University

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Attendance: 106 participants

Meeting Presentations (3 PDHs):

- “Public Engagement in Bikeway Projects”; Jeff Hammond and Peter Bird (Metro Nashville)
- “FHWA Safety Updates”; Jessica Rich (FHWA)
- “DSRC Deployment and Guidelines”; Brad Freeze (TDOT)
- “Special Event Signal Timing and Traffic Control”; Mike Blanchette (Kimley-Horn)

Three (3) student teams competed in the Section’s Traffic Bowl Competition – Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, and University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The UTK team advanced to the SDITE competition.

Meeting #2 (Spring Meeting)

Memphis, TN at Beale Street Landing

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019

Attendance: 35 participants

Meeting Presentations (4 PDHs):

- “Plough Boulevard Interchange and Realignment: Building a Gateway to Memphis Aerotropolis”; Ben Ledsinger (SSR)
- “The Future of TSMO Workforce: New Approaches for Attracting and Retaining Talent”; Dr. Stephanie Ivey (University of Memphis)
- “Memphis Innovation Corridor: Reimagining the City’s Major Commercial Corridor for Bus Rapid Transit and Smart City Infrastructure”; Kenny Monroe (Kimley-Horn)

The spring meeting aligned with the famous Memphis in May BBQ Fest! SSR hosted TSITE meeting attendees for a BBQ lunch at their annual BBQ Fest Tent just a short walk from the meeting venue right on the banks of the Mississippi River.

In the afternoon following the business meeting, representatives from the City of Memphis led approximately 10-15 people on an exciting multimodal technical tour on that beautiful but hot day. The “Big River Crossing: A Multimodal Tour into the Intersection of Transportation, Development, and Tourism” technical tour included walking, trolley ride, and B-cycle excursion through downtown streets and multi-use paths and across the Big River Crossing bridge over the Mississippi River.

Meeting #3 (Summer Meeting)

Gatlinburg, TN at The Park Vista Hotel

Date: Wednesday, July 31 – Friday, August 2, 2019 (3 days)

Attendance: 115 participants

Meeting Presentations (9.25 PDHs):

Day 1

- “ITE Today”; Bruce Belmore (ITE International President) via live video
- “Statewide Connected Vehicle Deployment Experience and Plan”; Alan Davis (Georgia DOT)
- “Active Corridor Management Lite During the I-440 Construction”; Luke Dixon (Arcadis)

Day 2

- “Freight and the Impact of Technology on Freight”; Dan Pallme (TDOT)
- “Case Studies of Transportation Issues”; Sarah McBride (Assistant General Counsel for TDOT)
- Student Paper Competition Presentations:
 - “Traffic Congestion Detection with Crowdsourcing Data” 1st Place; Zhihua Zhang (UTK)
 - “Examining the Role of Driving Volatility on Intensity of Crashes” 2nd Place; Ramin Arvin (UTK)

- “Southern District ITE Initiatives and Discussion”; Todd Long & Cindy Pionke (SDITE President & Secretary/Treasurer)
- “Small Things that Make a Big Difference”; Alan Childers (Cannon-Cannon)

Day 3

- “TDOT Updates since the Improve Act”; Steve Allen (TDOT)
- “Wildlife Shenanigans”; Zane Pannell & Michelle Hunt (TDOT)
- “The Lamar Avenue Project”; Stephen Edwards (City of Memphis)

After two days of postponement due to weather, the attendees were finally able to participate in the technical tour of the recently opened Gatlinburg Skybridge, which is the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in North America stretching 680 feet and a midpoint height of 140 feet and “glass panels”.

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.

TSITE Awards Presented during the 2019 Summer Meeting & Annual Banquet

Jack B. Humphreys Young Member Award	Lauren Gaines
Edward E. Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award	Chris Kirby
Tennessee Section Outstanding Individual Award	Brian Haas
Robert Stammer Student Chapter Award	University of Tennessee

Student Scholarship Recipients

John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship	Alexandra Boggs	University of Tennessee	\$2,000
William L. Moore, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	Nima Hoseinzadeh	University of Tennessee	\$1,200
T. Darcy Sullivan TSITE Scholarship	Zachary Jerome	University of Tennessee	\$1,200
Bill D. Kervin, Jr. TSITE Scholarship	John Zacher	University of Memphis	\$1,200
TSITE Undergraduate Scholarship	Wesley Darling	University of Tennessee	\$1,200

Total Awarded \$6,800

Meeting #4 (Fall Meeting)

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Chattanooga, TN at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown

Attendance: 65 participants

Meeting Presentations (4.5 PDHs):

- “Use of LBS Data to Conduct Origin Destination Studies”; Jody Peace (Arcadis)
- “Road Diets in TN”; Jason Carder (Mattern and Craig) and Andy Padgett (TDOT)
- “I-75 Interchange Design Build Project”; Joe Deering (TDOT) and Jonathan Haycraft (Barge Design Solutions)
- “I-75 Express Lanes”; Joe Gillis (AECOM) and Kelly Patrick (Cobb County)
- “Innovative Intersections and Low-Cost Improvements” GA/TN Panel Moderated by Mark Lentners (Kimley-Horn)
 - Jason Oldham (TDOT)
 - Steve Allen (TDOT)
 - Chris Raymond (GDOT)
 - David Adams (GDOT)

This was a joint meeting with GAITE conveniently located in Chattanooga, TN.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, monthly and bi-monthly meetings are generally held in the local areas. Nashville now holds bi-monthly lunch meetings with a technical presentation and breakfast get-togethers without speakers on the opposite months. Knoxville typically has a lunch meeting every month or so with a technical session. Memphis, Chattanooga, and Tri-cities also hold 2 or 3 local area meetings per year. Coordinated through TSITE's Technical Committee, TSITE hosts and sponsors approximately 2 webinars across the state, offering more opportunities for members to earn PDHs at no cost.

Student/Younger Member Support

TSITE supports and coordinates with five (5) student chapters. In 2019, TSITE awarded five (5) student scholarships totaling \$6,800! TSITE also awarded \$500 for 1st Place and \$250 for 2nd Place in the student paper competition. All recipients of student scholarships and paper competition were invited to attend the Summer Meeting at no charge – registration and lodging was covered by the Section. The summer meeting offers networking and technical knowledge opportunities for students.

In 2019, TSITE sponsored a Senior Design Project Award for the University of Tennessee's Senior Day for Spring and Fall semesters. TSITE members reviewed the senior design projects and selected a team to receive the TSITE Award. Also, a TSITE representative attended the events and awarded the winning team members with \$25 gift cards and TSITE swag.

The Career Development Committee provided outreach and support for each of the student chapters throughout the year.

Application of Technical Knowledge

TSITE did not directly address a transportation issue or collaborate with industry on a project or program.

Networking Events

TSITE's 3-day summer meeting offers an abundance of networking opportunities during the daytime and evening schedules. All of TSITE's meetings include time allotted for networking since they are full-day events.

Additionally, the annual John Harper Memorial Golf Tournament offers opportunity for networking while raising funds for student scholarship.

K-12 STEM Outreach

Several TSITE members, particularly in the Memphis area, regularly engage with high school students at the T-Stem Academy ("T" for Transportation). The University of Memphis student chapter also participated in outreach with the T-Stem Academy.

New Member Recruitment

TSITE did not have a member recruitment event in 2019.

Diversity and Inclusion

TSITE aims to offer a diverse technical program at all meetings to appeal to all transportation professionals.

Training/Professional Development

Outside of the technical sessions during the quarterly meetings and local meetings, TSITE did not host/hold any targeted training events. In 2019, TSITE's meetings and webinar sponsorship offered approximately 22 PDHs for members. Some members also have the opportunity to receive PDHs at local monthly or bi-monthly meetings.

Field Trips/Technical Tours

Two of TSITE's quarterly meetings included technical tours.

The Spring Meeting in Memphis culminated in a multimodal tour into the intersection of transportation, development and tourism led by Stephen Edwards and Nicholas Oyler with the City of Memphis. Approximately 10-15 tour participants walked from the meeting to a downtown trolley station for a short ride down South Main Street past the National Civil Rights Museum to one of Memphis' B-cycle stations. The tour continued on bike along local streets and greenway paths to and across the Big River Crossing, which is the longest pedestrian and biking bridge over the Mississippi River from Memphis to West Memphis, Arkansas.

During the summer meeting, TSITE arranged for a technical tour of the Gatlinburg Skybridge – a newly constructed pedestrian suspension bridge and the longest in North America. The skybridge tour offered some bridge construction stats, but mostly notably some incredible views of The Great Smokey Mountains and town of Gatlinburg plus a little adventure on a beautiful day walking over the "glass panels" at the midpoint of the bridge.

Service Projects

TSITE did not participate in any community service projects in 2019; however, the Section began planning for its SDITE Service Project targeting the Prevention of Distracted Driving at the end of 2019 to be completed in 2020. TSITE completed the application for SDITE funding to support the service project, which includes a public service announcement (PSA) competition between the student chapters.

Funding Support

In 2019, 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 2019 Annual Sponsorship Total was \$13,750, which went towards student traffic bowl travel and the summer meeting social activities. Without the significant support from TSITE sponsors, meeting registration costs would be higher for attendees.

The newly organized local meetings in Nashville have provided a new resource for student scholarship funding. Lunches are sponsored by a local firm or organization and the registration is a nominal \$10 per meeting. In 2019, these Nashville meetings contributed an additional \$1,100 towards the student scholarship fund.

LeadershipITE

Nearly all of TSITE's LeadershipITE alumni currently hold a committee chair position or officer position for TSITE or SDITE. TSITE does not currently offer financial support for LeadershipITE tuition, but we would be interested in best practices for application and review for distributing financial support in the future should the TSITE Board decide to begin providing support.

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. Typically, these updates are provided during the business meetings at the quarterly meetings.



Picture 1: Traffic Bowl Competition (UT, U of M, TSU Teams)



Picture 4: Amy Burch, Nathan Vatter, & others on the Big River Crossing multimodal tour in Memphis



Picture 2: TSITE Attendees during Winter Meeting at TSU



Picture 5: Skybridge Gatlinburg Technical Tour



Picture 3: Memphis in May BBQ Fest Lunch at Spring Meeting in Memphis overlooking the Mississippi River



Picture 6: TSITE Members at the Skybridge Gatlinburg Technical Tour on the last day of the Summer Meeting