



Tennessee Transportation News

TENNESSEE SECTION INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

A Publication of the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

Spring 2010

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2010 ITE Meetings

INTERNATIONAL ITE

Technical Conference and Exhibit

March 14—17

Savannah, GA

Annual Meeting and Exhibit

August 8—11

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

SOUTHERN DISTRICT ITE

Annual Meeting

April 11—14

Portsmouth, VA

TENNESSEE SECTION ITE

Spring Meeting

May (exact date to be determined)

Jackson, TN

Summer Meeting

July 21—23

Chattanooga, TN

TCAPWA/TSITE Joint Meeting

Fall (exact date to be determined)

Nashville, TN

TAPA/TSITE Joint Meeting

September 29—October 1

Knoxville, TN

Letter from the Editor

Volume 14, Issue No. 1

Gerald Bolden

Over the past year or so, many of you have probably wondered what happened to the TSITE newsletter. I will have to admit, over the last few months, I wondered that myself. As I agreed to take the lead on such an important communications tool for our great section, I didn't realize the time it would take to get up to speed on background information, contacts and in general the overall substance to include in the newsletter.

My goal is to publish three newsletters per year filled with important information and solid technical articles. Now with that said, "I NEED YOUR HELP!" This is my first venture into "journalism" (if you want to call it that) and being a traffic engineer I have never claimed I can write interesting articles, so I am challenging each of you to help me keep the newsletter interesting.

If you have made or are making a presentation at a technical meeting, have written a transportation related article for a newspaper, community or technical publication, or would just like to be a contributor to the TSITE newsletter, please submit any comments, articles or suggestions to:

Gerald Bolden
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Savannah to Host ITE Spring Meeting

Held in cooperation with the U.S. DOT-FHWA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and in collaboration with the Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers, ITE will be hosting this year's Spring Technical Conference in Savannah.

The conference will feature technical sessions, conversation circles, seminars and interactive learning experiences to facilitate networking, understanding of national policy initiatives and application of state of the practice tools.

In addition, ITE is working collaboratively with the Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (T&DI) to coordinate the technical program for this conference. This will serve as a lead in to T&DI's Green Streets and Highways Conference, November 14-17, 2010, in Denver, CO, USA.

Join us in Savannah to share your ideas and experiences. Exhibits of transportation products and services will also provide a onestop shop for attendees to view and discuss the latest product and software advances in the industry.



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2010 SDITE Voting

If you are a member of SDITE, you should have received an email about the Ballots for 2011 Southern District Officers & Voting Instructions. This is the first year SDITE will use electronic voting for officer elections. You can access your election ballot at:

<http://www.sdite.org/sdite.asp?page=logon>

Former TSITE President, Cindy Pionke is a candidate for SDITE Secretary-Treasurer. Cindy is a long time, active member of both TSITE and SDITE. She has held various offices and worked on several committees at both the section and district levels. Let's all show Cindy our support as we cast our votes for the 2011 SDITE officers.

Traffic Maintenance Online Training -U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration

Maintenance of Traffic for Technicians and Supervisors are the latest in a series of free online training courses available from the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) National Highway Institute (NHI).



"The new Traffic Maintenance courses are a user-friendly training tool for work site traffic supervisors and technicians or engineers responsible for work zone traffic control. Because they are online, the courses are ideal for those in need of immediate training or information," says Christopher Newman of FHWA.

The self-paced 5-hour courses present information about the placement of, field maintenance required for, inspection of traffic control devices and the requirement of flagging operations. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the correct placement of work zone traffic control devices;
- Perform field maintenance of work zone traffic control devices;
- Inspect the placement or operational functions of work zone traffic control devices;
- Generate work zone traffic control plans;
- Identify acceptable temporary traffic control devices.

This course and other free Web-based training sessions developed by the TCCC are available for scheduling at any time through the NHI online course catalog at:

www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training/brows_catalog.aspx

This article was obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration monthly FOCUS newsletter.



Portsmouth Gearing Up...

Kirsten Tynch, Tim Foster and John Yorks (VA)

On behalf of the 2010 SDITE Local Arrangements Committee, it is a great pleasure to invite you to the 58th Annual Meeting of the Southern District ITE from April 11-14, 2010, in beautiful Portsmouth, Virginia.



The Southern District ITE has a tradition of bringing together transportation professionals from academia, government and private practice. It is a place where we meet to learn and to exchange practical ideas and experiences while socializing with colleagues, mentors, friends and family. As always, the conference will provide a variety of sessions led by our fellow transportation professionals. As we continue to work toward our meeting, we encourage anyone who would like to make a presentation to please contact us. **Our theme - "Trails, Rails, and Sails...Turning the Tide on Multi-Modal Transportation"** - will be interwoven throughout the presentations and events.

In your spare moments, Portsmouth awaits - offering strolls through the historic Olde Towne area and along the waterfront of the Elizabeth River. Excellent restaurants are just a walk or ferry ride away. The Children's Museum of Virginia, Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, Nauticus Maritime Museum and the Battleship Wisconsin are nearby for adults and kids enjoyment. April is a great time to visit Portsmouth as spring is in bloom.

The SDITE Annual Meeting is always a great opportunity for transportation professionals to come together. We look forward to seeing you in Portsmouth in 2010.

What is the MUTCD?

On December 16, 2009 a final rule adopting the 2009 Edition of the MUTCD was published in the Federal Register. With the adoption of the new MUTCD, I started wondering, "Do people in our industry really know about and understand the MUTCD?" So I started doing some research and looking through the FHWA MUTCD website. There are many interesting facts, questions and issues addressed on the website. Each person reading this article, should take the time to go to the website and scroll through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). If you do, you will probably learn something new about the MUTCD.

- **What is the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)?**

FHWA publishes the MUTCD, which contains all national design, application, and placement, standards, guidance, options, and support provisions for traffic control devices. The purpose of the MUTCD is to provide uniformity of these devices, which include signs, signals, and pavement markings, to promote highway safety and efficiency on the Nation's streets and highways.

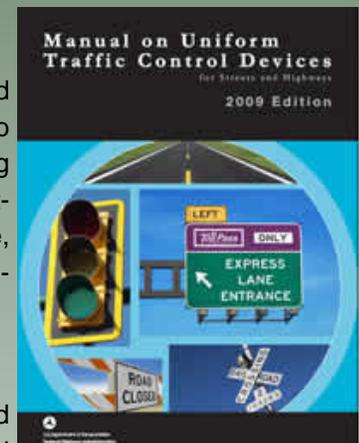
- **Why doesn't the MUTCD contain standards for the design and spacing of speed humps and bumps?**

Speed bumps and humps are considered "physical features" of a roadway rather than traffic control devices (TCDs), so the MUTCD does not address the height, width, length, or spacing of the actual humps and bumps.

- **Are strobe lights allowed in red signals?**

No, they are not allowed. There are no provisions in Part 4 of the MUTCD that allow the use of strobes within red traffic signals. Section 4D.18 requires the design, illumination, and color all signal indications, including those using LEDs, to meet the requirements of the "Standards for Vehicle Traffic Control Signal Heads" published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and those standards do not provide for strobes as part of the design. Research and experimentation over the years with white strobe lights as a circular "halo" outer ring around the red signal or as horizontal bar across the red signal has found no lasting safety benefit and, in some cases, the strobes resulted in increased crash frequency.

These are just a couple of the FAQs that can be found on the FHWA website. The website address is: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-faq.htm>





RECOVERY.GOV



Tennessee's total award from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was \$669 million in transportation related funds to agencies and entities including TDOT which was directly responsible for disbursing **\$518,414,293**.

TDOT Administered Funds (Info obtained from TDOT website on March 9, 2010)

Highways and Bridges: \$486,810,182	(100% obligated)
Airport Grants: \$4,568,353	(100% obligated)
Rural Transit: \$21,168,758	(\$17,993,437 obligated)
Discretionary Grants: \$5,800,00	(\$2,800,000 obligated)
Total: \$518,347,293	(\$512,171,972 obligated)

Direct Apportionments to Metropolitan Planning Organizations: \$85,823,861

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Direct Apportionments: \$52,076,084

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Direct Apportionments: \$12,966,517

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TSITE SPONSORSHIP

Purpose:

The purpose of TSITE sponsorship in the TSITE Newsletter (Tennessee Transportation News) and on the TSITE Web Site (<http://www.tsite.org>) is twofold.

First, sponsorship provides an opportunity for TSITE members wishing to show support of the organization and its mission. Numerous requests have been made in the past concerning the possibility of "advertising" in the Tennessee Transportation News. One purpose of the formulation of this policy is to provide this opportunity for members to provide and receive information about various products and services offered by participating TSITE members.

Second, monies collected through sponsorships help support the activities of ITE student chapters within the state of Tennessee. In an effort to encourage student participation, TSITE wishes to encourage financial aid to chapters and individuals outside of the annual scholarships.

Eligibility:

Sponsorship of TSITE publications is available to all regular and affiliate members of TSITE and the organizations they represent.

Contributions:

For a donation of \$50 per calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31), each participant/organization will be recognized in one (1) business card-sized space (2"x3½") in each published newsletter during the year. A firm/organization logo and its web site address link will also be posted on the TSITE web site.

Beneficiary:

The opening budget of most student chapters comes solely from membership dues collected each year. While this generally allows chapters to host regular meetings, assistance for participation in additional ITE activities is often unavailable. Funds collected from sponsorships will go into the TSITE general fund to offset such costs as student registration at TSITE meetings and travel/lodging costs for students invited to ITE functions.

Procedure:

To become a sponsor of TSITE publications, please send a \$50 donation (checks payable to "Tennessee Section ITE") to Steve Bryan, 2010 TSITE Secretary/Treasurer, noting its purpose.

In addition, please send the items for the TSITE newsletter and the TSITE web site to Jeff Hammond, TSITE Website Editor. These items include an electronic formatted submission (Acceptable formats are *.jpg, *.tif, *.bmp, or *.cdr) of the participant/organization information needed for the newsletter (2"x3½" finished size). The firm/organization electronic logo and its web site address link should also be sent for inclusion on the TSITE web site.

For more information regarding TSITE sponsorship, contact:

Steve Bryan, Secretary/Treasurer

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Email: sbryan@longeng.com

Thank you in advance for considering TSITE Sponsorship!

More ARRA News

The Tennessee Department of Transportation will use federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to provide rural residents with better access to daily public transit. Vice President Joe Biden announced federal approval of TDOT's plan to use \$3.1 million in Recovery Act funds to expand direct intercity bus routes on Friday, March 5. The funds will be used by existing intercity bus carriers to purchase 23 buses, security equipment, support vehicles, computers, intelligent transportation system software, for ADA enhancements to vehicles and preventive maintenance. TDOT announced the first intercity bus routes in the state in March 2009. The program provides fixed route public transportation services between rural areas and the state's urban centers.

Tennessee Transportation News — Newsletter of the Tennessee Section of ITE

“Tennessee Transportation News” is the official publication of the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Any comments, suggestions or technical articles for consideration of inclusion in the newsletter are welcome and should be submitted to Gerald Bolden, Editor (615) 370-8410, geraldbolden@rpmtraffic.net

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