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# THE 2017 TENNESSEE SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

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“Advancing Transportation in Tennessee” is our tagline from the 50th Anniversary we celebrated last year. During 2017, TSITE membership embraced, followed and lived those words. There has never been a more exciting time for ITE or for TSITE.



Reflecting back over the past year I am left in awe and am truly honored by the accomplishments of our TSITE membership. TSITE set goals for this year for the organization to build a strong foundation moving into the future. These goals focused on new and innovative programming, a firm financial foundation, organizational stability as well as outreach within our communities. Success is easy when you have a great team of dedicated professionals as we do in the TSITE Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Committee representatives.

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING:

TSITE continues its commitment to development of its membership in their skills and abilities. This year the Tennessee Section was privileged to send eight participants from across the state to join with the Alabama Section in a Southern District ITE Leadership Training Session.

TSITE further sponsored three webinars on very timely and topical subject matter. These were held in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville and the Tri-Cities areas of the state.

- The ITE program entitled, “*Safety Fundamentals: Introduction to Traffic Safety Data*” at five locations across the state on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The ITE program entitled, “*Street Space – Not Just For Moving Cars*” at five locations across the state on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers program entitled, “*Connected Vehicles, Smarter Cities & Modern Signal Timing*” at five locations across the state on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## FINANCIAL STRENGTH:

TSITE is in excellent fiscal shape. During the past few years, TSITE partnered with several other organizations such as the Tennessee Chapter of ITS America (ITS-TN), the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Associations (TAPA), and the Tennessee Section of American Public Works Association (APWA). These partnerships have provided a windfall to TSITE, and positioned us to undertake more fiscally responsible budgeting practices.

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During the spring and summer meetings this year the idea of a budget with a contingency fund were discussed with membership. It was well received by the group and will become a work effort in 2018 to update the Bylaws and Operations Manual to reflect these changes.

Additionally, TSITE filed its IRS -1023 form to be considered under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code in September. Their decision has yet to be revealed but is anticipated shortly after January 1, 2018.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY:**

TSITE voted overwhelmingly to have a Section Administrator effective in Fiscal Year 2019. With 96% of the vote, members indicated the need for that position. The Section Administrator position will be defined during the 2018 calendar year. Changes in the section Bylaws and Operational Manual will also take place to incorporate this position.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

TSITE has been well represented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs across the state. Current President Kevin Comstock and TSITE/SDITE Past-president John Van Winkle have been asked to speak at various events regarding STEM.

Dr. Stephanie S. Ivey has been named as Director of the Southeast Transportation Workforce Center in conjunction with the University of Memphis to assist Shelby County Schools (Memphis) to develop their own T-STEM program. TSITE member, Dr. Martin Lipinski also serves with that group.

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#### **OFFICERS FOR 2017**

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TSITE maintained a full roster of Executive Board members during 2017. The TSITE Executive Board governs the annual and special activities of TSITE as established in the TSITE Operations Manual and Bylaws and is responsible for reviewing and approving changes to the TSITE Operations Manual and/or Bylaws. The Executive Board members for 2017 are shown below.

President	Kevin Comstock
Vice-president	Greg Dotson, P.E.
Secretary/Treasurer	Amy Burch, P.E.
Immediate Past-President	Brandon Baxter, P.E., PTOE
Section Rep (16-17)	Karen Trowell, P.E.
Section Rep (16-17)	Ben Ledsinger, P.E.
Section Rep (17-18)	Chris Kirby, P.E.
Affiliate Director	Tim Britt

TSITE has nine (9) active committees with duties and responsibilities to support the Executive Board and/or provide services to the TSITE membership. Each committee and the 2017 chairman of that committee are shown below.

Audit	Kevin Cole, P.E.
Awards	Brandon Baxter, P.E., PTOE.
Career Development	Brian Haas, P.E.
Legislative	Michelle Nickerson, P.E.
Nominations	Brandon Baxter, P.E., PTOE
Scholarship	Brandon Baxter, P.E., PTOE
Section Relations	Amy Burch, P.E. and Nermine Nashed
Technical	Luke Dixon, P.E.
Traffic Bowl	Greg Judy, P.E.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Tennessee Section continues to exceed 300 persons representing various occupational sectors including public, private, academic, student, and retired members. Table 1 below shows a tabulation of TSITE member types and totals.

Table 1 TSITE Membership Numbers And Fees		
Level	Count	Dues
Fellow	12	\$25
Fellow Life/Retired	23	\$0
Member	205	\$25
Member Life/Retired	18	\$0
Institute Affiliate	7	\$25
Student Members	50	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>315</b>	

**FINANCIAL**

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 scholarships are managed.

For U.S. entities, does your district have a Federal Employer Identification Number?

Yes  No FEIN # - 33-1015132

Table 2 below presents a summary of the 2017 TSITE income and expenses related to Section operations and activities.

TABLE 2	
2017 TSITE OPERATIONAL SUMMARY	
<b>Beginning Balance (as of January 1, 2017)</b>	<b>\$10,091.89</b>
<b>Income Summary:</b>	
ITE Membership Dues	\$3,258.00
Meeting Receipts	\$42,056.16
Sponsorship Income	\$3,100.00
Scholarship Income	\$5,976.00
SDITE Traffic Bowl Reimbursement	\$274.59
ALSITE/TSITE Joint Leadership Training	\$6,156.16
Other (Sponsorships or Job Posting fee)	\$571.80
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$61,392.71</b>
<b>Expenditures Summary:</b>	
Meeting Expenditures	\$25,565.02
ITE TN Scholarship Fund	\$7,000.00
TSITE Member Awards	\$370.87
TSITE Sponsored Webinars	\$1,886.00
TSITE Traffic Bowl	\$400.00
SDITE Traffic Bowl	\$549.18
ALSITE/TSITE Joint Leadership Training	\$5,004.67
Website Design/Hosting	\$306.94
Student Paper and Chapter Awards	\$850.00
Deposits for 2019 Summer Meetings	\$500.00
Misc. (printing, supplies, etc.)	\$2,630.32
SDITE Train the Trainer	\$538.66
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$45,601.66</b>
<b>Ending Balance (as of December 31, 2017)</b>	<b>\$25,882.94</b>

TSITE has also invested money with ITE International for the operations of our Scholarship program. Through the generosity of our membership, our scholarship fund matched last year's amount of \$7,000.00. TSITE has awarded \$6,800 this year in scholarships awards.

The beginning scholarship balance on January 1, 2017 was: \$29,845.90

The scholarship fund balance as of September 30, 2017 is: \$32,543.20

Do you reimburse committee chairs for travel and expenses?

Yes  No

Greg Dotson was sponsored for the SDITE Communications Train-the-Trainer sessions earlier this fall. A reimbursement totaling \$538.66 was paid out for this purpose.

Was there a change in the Section Bylaws during this reporting period?

Yes  No

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## MEETINGS AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

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**2017 Winter Meeting and Traffic Bowl:** This year was the first in many years to be held at the Roaden University Center on the Tennessee Tech Campus in Cookeville, TN. The program was attended by 82 participants. The highlights in the Technical program included a very timely presentation by Phillip “Brad” Freeze, Director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s (TDOT) Traffic Operations Division on the state of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Tennessee. This was followed by two presentations on specific transportation projects in the Cookeville area.

Tennessee Tech, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis participated in this year’s Traffic Bowl with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville winning the competition and moving on to the SDITE competition in Columbia, SC in March. Figure 1 shows the Traffic Bowl Emcee Steve Allen (far left) and Traffic Bowl Chair Greg Judy (far right) with the 2017 UT team. The student holding their award certifications are (from left to right) Nirbesh Dahal, Pankaj Dahal and Behram Wali.



Figure 1

**2017 Spring Meeting:** The Spring meeting was held in Franklin TN and was attended by 62 participants. This meeting contained several high profile subjects in Tennessee. The first session was from Eddie Curtis of FHWA and Dr. Airton Kohls who presented on the Advanced Traffic Signal Performance Metrics under the “Every Day Counts 4” initiative. Other topics for this technical program included presentation of Data Collection, TDOT’s Updated Work Zone Safety and Mobility Manual and a local presentation on Flashing Yellow Arrows (FYAs) in use in Franklin, TN including a “field trip” provided by Franklin Transit Authority to an intersection within that community utilizing the FYA.

**2017 Summer Meeting:** After the Gatlinburg Fires of November and December, 2016 that devastated that community, TSITE reached out to our Summer Meeting Venue the Park Vista by Doubletree to offer assistance and to confirm our intention of our continued relationship for our summer meetings. The commitment to the Park Vista was very well received and TSITE signed a new contract with them continuing our summer meeting with them through 2019.

We are very happy to report that Gatlinburg is “OPEN FOR BUSINESS” and treated us well as always. This year’s attendance was 83 participants (figure 2) and we hosted a very good selection of technical topics which included:

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With the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains as our backdrop, our summer meeting began with welcoming remarks and two timely vendor presentations. Paul Mistacawi of McCain, Inc. presented on Updates on Using Bluetooth Technologies for Travel Time. Paul was followed by Matt Zinn of EDI, Inc. who presented on Accessing and Reporting Real-Time Intersection and Arterial Data.

The late afternoon of day one is are typically dedicated to the Student Paper winners. This year we had three exceptional submittals. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place papers were:

2nd Place Paper winner - Behram Wali – “Exploring Non-Linear Dependencies in Correlates of Rural Two-Way Two-Lane Roadway Crashes”

3rd Place Paper winner - Bumjoon Bae – “Gray Areas in Isolated Intersection Control Type Selection: A Complementary Decision Support Tool”

## Day 2

Day two started with our 1st Place winner of the student paper completion, Ms. Ali Boggs – “Tennessee’s Truck Parking Shortage and its Influence on Fatal Interstate Crashes.” Ms. Boggs also had the distinction of winning the “Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Runner-Up Award” at the Southern District meeting in SC.

Ms. Boggs was followed by TSITE President Kevin Comstock on TDOT’s Traffic Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Program Plan. That was followed by a presentation on Innovative Safety Applications in Tennessee presented by Bryan Bartnik and the 2018 Secretary/Treasurer elect Nathan Vatter. The day closed out with the Executive Director of the American Civil Engineer Consortium and Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, Ms. Kasey Anderson on the gas-tax initiative to fund transportation project called the “IMPROVE Act” and its passage in Tennessee.



*Figure 2*

The evening of Day 2 included our Annual Awards Banquet and Auction to support our Scholarship program. This year’s awardees included”

Jack B. Humphreys Young Member Award - Bryan Bartnik (TDOT)

Tennessee Section Outstanding Individual Award - Steve Bryan (TDOT)

Ed Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award - Greg Judy (Neel-Schaffer)

Robert Stammer Student Chapter Award - University of Tennessee Knoxville

The 2017 Scholarships totaling \$6,800 went to the following winners:



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T. Darcy Sullivan TSITE Scholarship: Meng Zhang, UTK  
William L. Moore, Jr. TSITE Scholarship: Mojdeh Azad, UTK  
Bill D. Kervin, Jr. TSITE Scholarship: Kwaku Boakye, UTK  
TSITE Undergraduate Scholarship: Dillon Randolph, VU  
John R. Harper Memorial Scholarship: Behram Wali, UTK

The Annual Awards Banquet concluded with the “live” and very animated Scholarship auction. This year the auction raised over \$4,800 with an additional \$2,000 being raised by the Annual John R. Harper Memorial Golf Tournament.

### Day 3

A staple of the Friday morning session is TDOT’s Steve Allen the Director of the Strategic Transportation Investments Division and the activities TDOT will be working on under the “IMPROVE Act.”

**2017 Fall Meeting:** This meeting was held in Memphis at the FedEx Institute of Technology facility on the University of Memphis Campus. 26 attendees were present. Highlights of the technical sessions included presentations by Dr. Stephanie S. Ivey on the Southeast Transportation Workforce Center, Justin Abart on Memphis’s GIS program, Dan Pallme the TDOT Director of Freight and Logistics on the State of Freight in TN. The day was wrapped up with Linda Brashear conducting a technical tour of the Shelby Farms Park and Greenline.

### TSITE’s Technical Outreach Activities:

In response to a request by Dr. Stephanie S. Ivey, Director of the University of Memphis’s Southeast Transportation Workforce Center (SETWC), TSITE aided in the development of a Transportation – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (T-STEM) with the Shelby County School System (Memphis, TN) at East High School (figures 3 & 4). In January, 2017 TSITE President Kevin Comstock and TSITE member Dr. Martin Lipinski presented at the first introductory session where industry and corporate leaders spoke to eighth graders interested in the program. Dr. Lipinski, and Mr. Comstock were later brought in to subsequent steering committee meeting to help define the curriculum. The T-STEM program was launched during the 2017-2018 Fall Semester at East High School with great success.



Figure 3



Figure 4

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The program initially focuses on three program areas; Aviation, Engineering and Transportation, and Distribution and Logistics. Future plans will expand the program to include Diesel Technology. The high school program creates an opportunity to introduce transportation careers while highlighting corporate missions, values and career options and to be engaged in an innovative approach to educating the next generation workforce.

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### LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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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.

This year's big story was the Legislature's approval of the IMPROVE Act. The IMPROVE Act is an acronym for "Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy Act," a proposal that Governor Bill Haslam introduced in January in an effort to help fund the state's \$10 billion backlog in road projects.

The legislation is estimated to provide \$250 million to the state Department of Transportation, \$70 million to counties and \$35 million to cities, all of which would be used specifically to address transportation needs.

TSITE supported the IMPROVE Act, but took no direct action beyond individual members contacting elected officials to indicate the respective constituency support of the bill.

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### STUDENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

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#### UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE

Over the last year, the University of Tennessee's Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter hosted 10 meetings with the maximum attendance being 36 students and faculty members. A total of 10 UTK ITE Vols graduated and are either working in the field or working towards a higher education. The membership of under-graduates students increased by 29%, and women memberships increased by 5%.

UTK also won the SDITE Student Chapter award at the Southern District Annual meeting held in Columbia, SC. Figure 5 shows Kwaku Boakye accepts the award from Chris Kirby SDITE Leadership Chair.



Figure 5



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#### UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

The U of M chapter was very active again this year. They hosted numerous meetings, including the TSITE Fall meeting. Each meeting featured engaging speakers (including the most recent meeting highlighting the engineering design involved in the innovative Crosstown Concourse). They were also very active in K-12 outreach including support of the annual transportation activity with the Campus School (elementary), Construction (featuring a transportation theme for 2017), the Choosing Transportation Summit (served as mentors to high school students), the summer Transportation Academy (high school), and hosting the Transportation Challenge for EDAY (over 50 elementary, middle, and high school teams competed this year!).

#### TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

The ITE student chapter at Tennessee Tech University has not been very active post-graduation. During the spring 2017 semester though, TTU hosted the annual TSITE Winter Meeting, which included the Traffic Bowl. Tennessee Tech University (TTU) fielded a team that participated/competed in the Traffic Bowl. The meeting was a success.

#### TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY AND VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Nothing reported from either Tennessee State or Vanderbilt University.

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### OTHER ACTIVITIES

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#### TSITE HONOREES AT SOUTHERN DISTRICT

During the SDITE meeting in Columbia, SC this year two of TSITE's own were acknowledged with very prestigious awards.



Figure 6

Edward E. Watt (left in Figure 6) was awarded the Private Sector Employee Outstanding Service Award. Ed has been an institution in Tennessee and Alabama. TSITE has one of its annual awards named for him. The photo is of Ed and the 2016 recipient of the Ed Watt Volunteer Distinguished Service Award, Mr. Steve Meyer. This recognition is given to a TSITE member who has contributed both to the advancement of the transportation profession and to ITE at the Section and district levels. Established in 1975, this high award is only presented to an engineer active in the profession for more than 10 years and who has exhibited outstanding service above and beyond the normal duties of his position over a number of years.

Cynthia “Cindy” M. Pionke (Figure 7) TSITE Past President (2002) and graduate of the 2017 Leadership ITE Class, was awarded the Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award which was created to recognize persons who untiringly and unselfishly contributed to our profession and our organization, and who by personal integrity, leadership and example

inspired fellow professionals to greater service. The very personification of Cindy.



Figure 7

#### OTHER MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Tennessee had 8 participants at the joint Alabama Section/Tennessee Section Leadership training session. The group met twice, first in Huntsville, AL (Figure 8) in September and again in Franklin, TN in November. The group was represented by several members from both public and private sector, and one from academia. TSITE members also participated as module instructors during these sessions.



Figure 8

This Fall, Gregory Dotson, P.E. (2018 TSITE President), Andy Padgett and Past President Chris Kirby attended a SDITE sponsored “train-the-trainer” session on communications with Dr. Beverly Langford an MBA Professor in Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business.

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*Comment from 2018 TSITE President Greg Dotson on SDITE Communications workshop:*

*“There were so many aspects of the training that were beneficial to me...too many to name. My plan is to use the takeaways from the training in my day-to-day interaction with clients and colleagues. I also plan to conduct a condensed version of this training with members of TSITE during one of our TSITE summer meetings.”*

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2017 was an exceptional year and because of some very exceptional students and members, the Tennessee Section of ITE will remain a strong, well organized and financial viable organization well into the future.

Best Regards! - 2017 TSITE President

