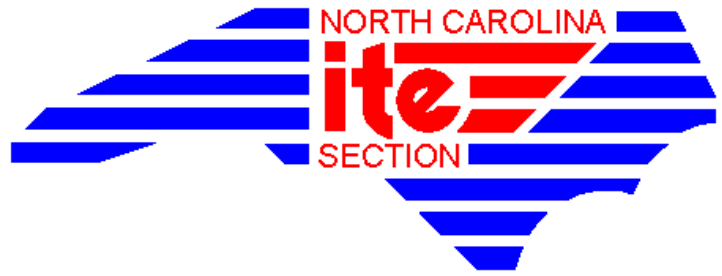
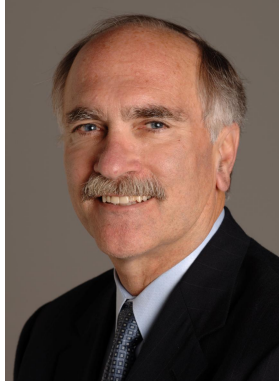


NCSITE INVOLVER



June 2006

President's Message



Update on Strategic Initiatives

I told you earlier in the year that your NCSITE Board of Directors was working hard to make NCSITE more valuable to you. Here is a brief update on the status of some of the key initiatives being pursued by the Board.

Member Survey - Purpose is to gauge what we are doing well and what needs improvement. First draft of survey to be administered via computer is under review and should go to membership in late July/August.

Improvements to Involver Newsletter - You should already have noticed more varied topics. We have secured some "reporters" from various geographies of the state to look for subjects of interest and write about them.

Improved Topics at Meetings - All Council chairs are focusing on finding better topics, better speakers and more convenient times and locations for meetings.

Paid Staff - We are continuing to explore needs and are contemplating hiring a retired NCSITE member at reasonable cost for some part-time work. We are also asking some questions on the member survey on this subject. We expect to make a decision on whether and, if so, how to proceed by the annual meeting.

Two-Day Events - We are trying a two-day event format in the hopes of providing some more social time and attract spouses. Our first "test" was the mid-year meeting last week. We'll be reviewing information from the event questionnaire to see how folks feel about two-day events.

Improvements to Web Site - We've added the capability for web-based picture albums. Be careful when you see cameras at NCSITE events!!

Future Cities Competition - We participated in this year's statewide event which targets attracting interest of 8th graders to the transportation field.

Transportation Forum - We initially wanted to organize an event similar to the one held in Charlotte in 2004 that would attract a wide variety of transportation interests and be in conjunction with the opening of the new Light Rail Transit line. The Light Rail line is now expected to open late in 2007, so we are targeting 2008 for the event.

Update Chapter History - Burt Tasaico volunteered to update our history. This hasn't been done for several years and is always useful.

Joint Meeting with Another Section - We thought a joint event with another Section would broaden subject matter and attendance and be something different for members. We are beginning the process for soliciting another Chapter's interest in a 2007 meeting, potentially to replace the mid year meeting.

SDITE 2012 - North Carolina has been selected for the site of the 2012 Southern District ITE meeting. The Board recently chose Charlotte as the city to host the event.

Of course, work with the Councils, Committees and Student Chapters is ongoing. I hope you feel our Section is providing services that are valuable to you, our most important customer. Let me know if you have any ideas for improvement at jhumphrey@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

Jim Humphrey
NCSITE, President
jhumphrey@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Welcome New Members

Ivo Dernev, NCDOT
Missy Dickens, NCDOT
Karen Roberson, NCDOT



New Hires and Promotions

Mr. Carl A. Hultgren, P.E. has been promoted to Associate at Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

If your office has a recent new hire or promotion to announce, please let us know by sending a short (one or two sentences) announcement with the person's name, company/agency name, and position to stacie.phillips@kimley-horn.com.

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Want a Free IPOD Nano?

The NCSITE Membership Survey Committee has decided to entice participation in the upcoming web surveys by entering everyone that responds in a drawing for an IPOD Nano at the Annual Meeting. In July, you will begin receiving announcements and links to some short online surveys evaluating the focus of NCSITE and the members' services provided to you. We encourage feedback and the committee plans to develop action plans based on the feedback we receive. If you have not been involved to date, now is your chance to make your opinion count and let us know what NCSITE can provide you as a member.



Hold These Dates

June 14th

Transportation Planning Council Meeting
4:30-5:30 Kimley-Horn (Cary Office)
6:00-7:00 Bonefish Grill
Raleigh, NC



June 15th

Traffic Engineering Council Meeting
6-8 p.m.
Triangle Regional Transportation Management Center
Raleigh, NC

Simulation Model Users Group

11:30— 1:30 p.m.
Golden Corral, 9430 South Boulevard
Charlotte, NC

NCSITE Simulation Model Users Group

The use of traffic simulation is growing in North Carolina and across the country, primarily due to the idea that it costs much less to simulate multiple alternatives rather than to build out a project and "hope for the best"! In North Carolina we are fortunate to have a significant number of transportation professionals who are proficient in the current traffic simulation packages such as Synchro/SimTraffic, CORSIM and others —but we also have many who have not even heard of such packages, or, maybe they have heard of them but do not know much about them.

NCSITE, under the auspices of the Traffic Engineering Council, is developing a Simulation Model Users Group (S.M.U.G.) that will serve all who are interested in traffic simulation. For the more experienced professionals, SMUG will serve as a central source of information and a body that will work with transportation agencies to develop acceptable statewide simulation standards. SMUG will also serve those in the transportation community with any level of interest in simulation. Everyone, from the "curious onlooker" to a simulation user and even up to a manager who would just like to increase their knowledge of simulation in general, are encouraged to join.

For more information, please contact Matthew Davis at matthew.davis@urscorp.com or call him at 919.461.1596. Join the growing list of professionals statewide who are already "SMUG"!

June 16th

NCSITE TPC Summer Social Event
Durham Bulls Baseball Game
7:00 game time

Simulation Model Users Group

11:30— 1:30 p.m.
Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC

July 12th

Transportation Planning Council Meeting
4:30-5:30 Kimley-Horn (Cary Office)
6:00-7:00 Bonefish Grill
Raleigh, NC

July 20th

Traffic Engineering Council Meeting
6-8 p.m.
Triangle Regional Transportation Management Center
Raleigh, NC

Charlotte Lunch 'n Learn Recap

The Charlotte area hosted its first Lunch 'n Learn session on May 25th at the Golden Corral on South Boulevard. Mr. Willie Noble, P.E., the Senior Project Manager for the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) Streetcar Project, and Ms. Kiera Terrell also with CATS, gave an in-depth presentation on the current and future status of the Charlotte Center City Streetcar project that will serve the center city and its adjacent neighborhoods. A 50/50 raffle was held with proceeds to benefit the NCSITE Scholarship Fund. \$41 was raised for the Fund and \$41 went to winner Mr. Tommy Harrelson, EarthTech who generously donated his winnings back to the Fund, resulting in a total donation of \$82. An audience of approximately 45 professionals and students were entertained and well-fed and all look forward to the next Charlotte Lunch 'n Learn, tentatively scheduled for the early Fall. The PowerPoint presentation will be available at www.ncsite.org very soon.

If you have any questions or comments about this Meeting, please contact Mr. Radha Krishna Swayampakala, RS&H at radha.swayampakala@rsandh.com.

Traffic Engineering Council Update

The Traffic Engineering Council continues to move forward on the initiatives set at the beginning of the year. We are trying to create opportunities for our membership to be more involved in NCSITE and therefore contribute to their profession. These opportunities come in the form of user groups, lunch and learns, local area meetings, task forces, and the future formation of a safety committee. If you would like to get more involved in NCSITE, chances are that the TEC has a spot for you. Here is a list of recent activities with a contact if you would like to participate.

- ⇒ Signal System Users Group –Recently the SSUG held another meeting in Cary showcasing the new Cary signal system and its effectiveness. Other topics included Signal Design Standards across the Southeast, 2005 Signal Maintenance Report, and Polycarbonate Signal Heads. This user group continues to grow as we had around 90 folks sign up for this meeting. For information contact Buddy Murr at gmurr@dot.state.nc.us)
- ⇒ Simulation Model Users Group –Matthew Davis is working on forming this users group and has already garnered significant support. If you would like to participate, you can contact Matthew at Matthew.Davis@URSCorp.com.
- ⇒ Local Meeting –In April, the city of Hickory hosted a local meeting that included a wide range of participants. Topics included the City of Lenoir's Downtown Streetscape Project, Wireless Traffic Control and Data Transmission Solutions, and Transportation Improvements for the NASCAR Hall of Fame. If you would like to host a meeting or participate please contact Todd Brooks at jtbrooks@pbsj.com.
- ⇒ Local Meeting Packet –the TEC is currently working on an informational packet that will assist Local Arrangement Chairs with respect to the logistics of hosting a meeting. For information, contact Lisa Moon at lmmoon@pbsj.com.
- ⇒ ITE Trip Generation Task Force –Will Letchworth is spearheading this task force. Hopefully, you have recently received an informational letter concerning this through the listserv. If not, contact Will at wletchworth@wilbursmith.com.

If you would like more information about the Traffic Engineering Council would like to get more involved, please contact me at bobby.croom@ci.raleigh.nc.us. We are always looking for great ideas and great folks to work with.

NCSU Student Chapter Picnic Recap

The NC State Chapter of ITE held their annual spring picnic on May 6, 2006 at Lake Johnson. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and a variety of other dishes, including some traditional Indian fare were served to the 15-20 people in attendance. It was a good chance for everyone to unwind from the semester and spend some time together before taking off for the summer. Some pictures of the event are shown to the right and below.



Retirement of Bill Finger, Assistant Director for Charlotte DOT

William B. (Bill) Finger retired effective May 31, 2006. He served Charlotte's citizens for 28 years after being hired as a Traffic Engineer II in 1978. A retirement gala was held on May 18 in his honor.

Bill is known for his story telling and ability to communicate transportation issues effectively. Mayor Pat McCrory called Bill the best communicator for transportation in the nation. Various civic groups have echoed that sentiment as Bill has communicated a multitude of complex transportation related issues in old fashion, common sense terms. He often references his childhood and the advantages of a well connected grid of streets and access to land uses, like where his Grandmother lived, just out of the center city. When he communicates, he does so with energy and enthusiasm that engages the listener.

Barry Moose, NCDOT Division 10 Engineer, presented Bill with the Long Leaf Pine Award from Governor Easley and talked about his knowledge of federal and state transportation funding.

Bill Coxe, a transportation planner from Huntersville, talked about Bill's willingness to give of his energy and wisdom to young transportation professionals and said Bill's legacy will be those who he has mentored.

Bill's daughter, Kathy, spoke of how great it was to have Bill as a dad. How many dads actually had the keys to controller boxes and could change the timing of signals while she waited in the car?

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Bill took the lead or contributed greatly to a lot of unique projects for the City, such as the reversible lane signal system for the Tyvola Road Coliseum, traffic control plans for the football stadium and new basketball arena, developing a way to use future HOV lanes on Independence Boulevard for exclusive bus use and work with the NCDOT on the I-77 North HOV project and state-of-the-art Signal Control Center.

Upon his retirement, Bill and his wife, Linda, plan to travel. One of his retirement gifts was a GPS system, so we are sure he can find his way back to visit occasionally. If you see Bill, please wish him well or send him an email at his home, bandlfin-ger@yahoo.com.

Signal System User Group Recap

Greg Fuller presented a status report on the R-4701 (Signal Maintenance Funding) and noted that slight improvements were made state-wide over the last report. Ron Fairbanks, NC One Call Marketing Representative, presented to the group on the importance of accurate locates and benefits of becoming a member organization. Sreekanth "Sunny" Nandagiri, presented a compilation of signal design practices around the southeastern United States. Madison Phillips presented on the latest benefits being realized by the use of latest technology in polycarbonate signal heads. Milton Dean and Mark Harrison informed the Group about various performance and safety issues related to traffic signal equipment.



Dale Privette and Wesley Vo gave an update on the nearly complete Cary Signal System. Stacie Phillips presented on the travel time improvements that have been realized currently. A tour of the Cary Traffic Management Center followed. Excellent discussion was realized with each topic.



Internal Capture Task Force

The NCSITE Traffic Engineering Council (TEC) would like to announce the formation of a new task force and request your assistance in making this task force a success.

There is an emerging trend in retail developments toward the development of shopping centers anchored by several big box retailers and surrounded by smaller stores and outparcels. One primary aspect to consider when determining the impact that these developments have is the amount of vehicle trips that they produce. Currently, the ITE Trip Generation manual is vague on the trip generation characteristics of these developments. There are several land use codes in the manual that may be applicable to such developments, and several different methods that can be used to determine the potential trip generation of the development as a whole. Additionally, while it is reasonable to expect that some trips will be taken internally (internal capture) the ITE methodology for determining the amount of internal capture requires that the development consist of office, retail, and residential land uses, which is often not the case in such developments. This lack of knowledge of how the trip generation characteristics of such developments causes confusion among developers, traffic engineering consultants, and municipal and state agencies on how to best plan for these developments.

The proposed task force, as outlined by the members of the TEC, currently plans to perform traffic counts at several representative developments and compare these counts with various ITE land use types and methodologies. The research will be done in such a fashion that if it is determined that these developments warrant a new land use code, the data collected will be suitable for the creation of a new code. The expected outcome of this task force is some recommendations regarding how best to calculate the trip generation of such large developments.

However, the task force cannot succeed without your participation! Help will be needed to perform a literature review for studies related to this issue, develop criteria for site selection, to overcome the technical challenges associated with the collection of trip generation data, to collect the data, to analyze the data, and to produce various reports and presentations outlining the results of the task force. The TEC hopes to get participation from both the public and private sectors so as to be able to address all perspectives on this issue.

If you have an interest in this area and wish to volunteer in some capacity to tackle this issue, please contact Will Letchworth at wletchworth@wilbursmith.com. In late June or early July a meeting will be set up for all interested parties so that the work can begin!

Thanks you very much for your time and consideration.

Job Postings

RAMEY KEMP & ASSOCIATES, INC. TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

Ramey Kemp & Associates, Inc. has openings for the following positions in our Winston-Salem, NC and Richmond, VA offices:

ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER with 4+ yrs experience in roadway design for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have BSCE, PE registration, and project management experience. Microstation/Geopak experience and knowledge of NCDOT requirements essential. Autocad experience a plus.

ROADWAY DESIGN INTERN with 0-4 yrs experience in roadway design for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE and have passed FE/EIT exam and ready to take PE exam. Microstation/Geopak experience and knowledge of NCDOT requirements helpful. Autocad experience a plus.

SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER with 8+ yrs experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE and PE registration. PTOE certification a plus. Excellent written/oral communication skills, ability to work with private/public sectors. Public speaking and project management experience is essential.

TRAFFIC INTERN with 0-4 yrs experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE, registered FE/EIT or PE, good communication skills, and knowledge of traffic engineering concepts and analysis software.

For more information on any of these positions, please visit: <http://www.ncsite.org/employment.html>



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Listserv Information

Information regarding the two Listserv's (official and optional) is available on the NCSITE website at: <http://www.ncsite.org/memberlistserv.html>

Involver Newsletter

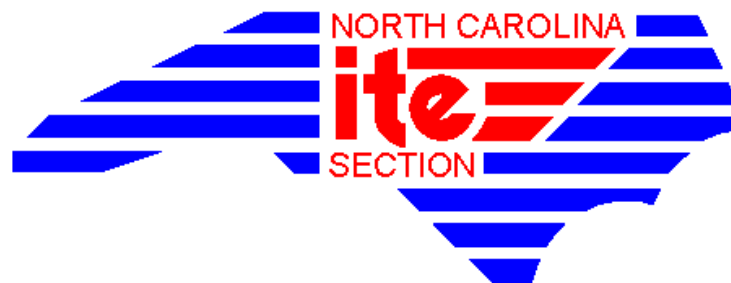
The editor of the NCSITE Involver is Stacie Phillips at Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. She can be reached by phone at (919)653-2957 or by email at stacie.phillips@kimley-horn.com. Please send all advertisements, comments or submissions to Stacie.

This Space for Rent

We are looking for companies that would like to participate in our Involver and web page advertisements. If you decide to participate in 2006, your ad would appear in two issues of the Involver (on a rotating basis). Your company logo and a link to your website would also appear on the NCSITE website (www.ncsite.org).

If you are interested in advertising in the Involver, please contact Stacie Phillips for more information at stacie.phillips@kimley-horn.com.

We're on the Web!
<http://www.ncsite.org>



The North Carolina Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, known as NCSITE, is a professional society of persons involved in transportation engineering activities. It is affiliated with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), an international professional society of transportation engineers.

The NCSITE membership includes a broad range of transportation personnel--engineers, planners, educators, administrators, and technicians. Many modes of transportation are represented in the organization's membership.

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