

NCSITE INVOLVER



June/July 2007

President's Message



GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD!!! Exciting changes are underway – changes that serve to enhance the benefits each of us receive from membership in our professional organization of choice, NCSITE.

You may recall the Board's decision to move forward with securing administrative services in the form of an Executive Associate. Over the past few weeks, the special committee assigned to this task received applications and conducted interviews of six well-qualified candidates. At the time of this report, a recommendation to extend an offer of employment has been forwarded to the Board for approval. The committee hopes to finalize terms with the chosen candidate in July and have our Executive Associate on board and ready to serve our members August 1, 2007.

The Board has received a recommendation to enhance our scholarship program and will be taking a final vote on this proposal at our next meeting in August. At present, five - \$1000 scholarships are awarded in the fall of each year at our Annual Meeting. These scholarships are usually awarded to undergraduate upperclassmen and graduate students. The proposed enhancements include an increased number of awards, along with the offer of awards to all students of higher education. Another proposed change would move the timing of the awards to the spring of each year, a change that would serve students

better as they plan their finances for the coming school year.

Among other changes, our Membership Committee is in the process of kicking off a membership drive that will extend through October 2007. Exciting prizes will be awarded for those that are champion recruiters!! Our Operations Committee is finalizing the details that will provide the option for electronic meeting registrations and payments for future events. Among other benefits of this enhancement, our members will realize a significant increase in the speed of processing registrations and payments.

As you will see as you read ahead, our committees and councils have been hard at work to organize technical training event opportunities. I hope each of you will be able to attend one or more of the upcoming events. Also, make plans now to attend the ITE Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA August 5-8. I want our NC section to be well-represented at this event, one of the largest gatherings of transportation engineering and planning professionals nationwide. And as always, I encourage each of you to participate in a council or committee of your choosing. Feel free to contact me (and note my new e-mail address) should you have any questions at dprivette@WilburSmith.com.

Dale Privette

NCSITE President - 2007

Welcome New Members

Peter Ohlms, AICP,

City of Greensboro DOT

Ashton Watson, E.I.,

City of Charlotte DOT



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Mark your calendars for the
2007 MPO Conference!
 October 24 - 26, 2007
 Greensboro Marriott Downtown

The Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is pleased to announce that the annual conference of the North Carolina Association of MPOs will be in downtown Greensboro this fall. The MPO Conference attracts a diverse range of transportation planning professionals each year and features a comprehensive array of high-quality technical sessions, special speakers, and timely agency updates. For 2007, we expect over 250 participants from MPOs, RPOs, NCDOT, the consultant community, and other organizations. Transportation planners, engineers, and consultants make up the core audience, and the conference is also of interest to transit administrators, elected officials, land-use planners, students, and others.

Make plans now to attend! More information, including registration forms and sponsorship rates, is available online at www.guampo.org.

Hold These Dates

July 11th

Planning Council Organizational Meeting and Social Hour

Kimley-Horn (Cary) and Sunset Grill

July 13th

Eat n' Educate

Golden Corral, Dillard Dr. Cary

July 19th

Engineering Council Organizational Meeting
 TRTMC (Raleigh)

August 5-8th

ITE International Annual Meeting & Exhibit
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 8th

Planning Council Organizational Meeting and Social Hour

Kimley-Horn (Downtown Raleigh)

August 16th

Engineering Council Organizational Meeting
 TRTMC (Raleigh)

August 21st

NCSITE Accessibility Workshop

Fletcher Theater (Raleigh)

September 12th

Planning Council Organizational Meeting and Social Hour

Kimley-Horn (Downtown Raleigh)

September 20th

Engineering Council Organizational Meeting
 TRTMC (Raleigh)

For more information about upcoming meetings, please visit our web site at <http://www.ncsite.org/meetings.html> and be on the lookout for email announcements.



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2007 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF JULY 1

What does membership in NCSITE mean to you? Opportunities for technical training? Networking with colleagues and clients? Catching up with old friends? Well, it's all of these things, and more. Membership also represents professional credibility, integrity, leadership and service.

I want to thank everyone who worked to make 2006 a banner year for expanding our membership. We added over 70 new members, from a variety of transportation engineering and planning disciplines, encompassing state and local government officials, consultants, suppliers and vendors, educators and students. Such diversity is an attribute that makes our organization among the strongest and most active in the Southern District, and indeed throughout International ITE.

With almost 600 members, growth isn't just about numbers, but we do rely heavily on our members to bring in new candidates. To encourage this, we will again conduct a membership campaign, running from July 1 through October 15. This campaign challenges all current members to recruit at least one new member for 2007, and provides you with opportunities to share your NCSITE experiences with others. Your participation can be as easy as a phone call to a friend or associate who may not be aware of the benefits NCSITE membership offers. It might be as simple as walking to the office next door or down the hall to invite a co-worker to join. At the very least, identify a potential new member, send their name and contact information to me at the email address below, and the Membership Committee will do the rest.

At the mid-year meeting on Friday June 15, the Board approved funding for incentives to support this campaign and to reward our top recruiters (more details in future editions of the *Involver*). Membership applications are posted on our website, www.NCSITE.org. Please note that our New Member rate remains very affordable at \$15.

Again, thank you for making our organization the best it can be for our members and our profession. If you have ideas for the campaign, I'd love to hear from you.

Mark V. McDonald, P.E., 2007 Membership Chairman
336-883-3231, mark.mcdonald@highpointnc.gov

The **SimCap** User Group is looking for your input! The '**Simulation and Capacity Analysis User Group**' of the North Carolina Section of ITE brings together users of different traffic operations software programs to exchange information, answer questions and share insights related to these analysis tools. Our goal is to offer support, guidance and a platform for peer exchange about these modern software tools including SYNCHRO, VISSIM, CORSIM, SIDRA and many others.

The objective of this survey is to get an overview of the types of software tools engineers and planners in North Carolina use for different applications and to determine common needs and questions practitioners have with regard to these tools. If you work in the area of traffic operations or have an interest in this area, please take the time to fill out this 10-minute survey. Feel free to forward this survey to others you think may have an interest in this subject.

To access the survey, go to

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rKZmA9JRzj2H5bEnIA_2fYAg_3d_3d

Note that survey responses cannot be saved, so please make sure that you have time to complete the whole survey in one sitting. It should not take more than 10 minutes. For any questions regarding this survey, please contact the chair of the SimCap User Group, Bastian Schroeder (919.515.8565, Bastian.Schroeder@ncsu.edu).

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey! The SimCap Steering Committee



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Engineering Council Eat n' Educate

Please join the Traffic Engineering Council for the first of many Eat n' Educate programs...

"NC 511 – The Past, Present, and Future"

Leader: Jo Ann Oerter from NCDOT ITS Operations Unit

When: Friday, July 13th from 12:00 to 1:30, the presentation will begin at 12:30

Where: Golden Corral, 5707 Dillard Drive in Cary (corner of Walnut Street and Dillard Drive)

Cost: \$9.50 for the buffet, pay the cashier as usual and bring your food to our reserved room

The presentation will discuss how the NC 511 telephony system has evolved from its beginning to today. It will cover what features the system has, changes that have been made to the systems and why, statistics about usage, and system feedback from our users. Information about new features that are coming in the near term and where we are looking to go in the future will be discussed. 1 PDH credit will be given.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to KevinW.Smith@kimley-horn.com by July 10th.

In addition, if you have any questions about the Eat n' Educate series or have suggestions for future programs, please contact Kevin Smith (kevinw.smith@kimley-horn.com) or Sunny Nandagiri (sreekanth.nandagiri@earthtech.com).



Wilmington MPO Coastal Pender County Collector Street Plan By Joshua D. Mello, AICP

During the past year, the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) has been working on a collector street plan for a 33,167-acre area in fast-growing southeast Pender County. Downtown Wilmington is about 15 miles to the southwest and the area has become a significant home to Wilmington commuters and retirees. The population of the study area grew by 61.6% between 1989 and 1999 and is projected to grow by another 23.0% between 1999 and 2009. The population of the area in 2000 was 10,200 with 72% of the land still undeveloped or used for agriculture or forestry.

In May of 2006, WMPO staff organized a steering committee composed of local residents, business leaders, land owners, county officials, council of government staff, and NCDOT representatives. This committee developed a set of goals and a project schedule. The team also developed a map of potential collector street connections. These corridors were then narrowed down and adjusted using environmental data, existing land use, parcel boundaries, roadway ownership, existing rights-of-way, and other constraints.

The steering committee presented its maps to the general public at a meeting in August. At this meeting, committee members also solicited feedback and collected comments. The meeting was advertised in two of the area's three newspapers, on local signboards and at all local churches. The local homeowners associations also proved to be a valuable outreach tool. In general, the comments were extremely positive. The committee had made a concerted effort to work closely with area land owners prior to the meeting, so as to make them aware of any plans that may affect their property.

Most residents voiced support for alternatives to US Highway 17 and NC 210, the only thoroughfares in the study area. The public also asked for more bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There was a slight concern regarding some of the corridor alignments and their proximity

to existing homes. The steering committee and WMPO staff used the input from the public meeting, as well as 100+ surveys to further refine the plan.

The draft plan included quite a few recommendations for Pender County, the WMPO and NCDOT. These recommendations include:

- Update other transportation plans, including the Pender County CTP
- Make spot safety improvements identified by NCDOT district staff and local residents
- Reclassify several existing roadways as collectors
- Use the subdivision ordinance to build the new collectors that are identified in the plan
- Preserve the rights-of-way for all collectors through changes to the zoning ordinance
- Inventory stub-out streets and easements using GIS
- Allow roadway design guideline flexibility in the subdivision process, specifically the use of the NCDOT Traditional Neighborhood Design Guidelines in denser planned developments
- Require the construction of bicycle facilities along new collectors identified in the plan
- Work to receive authorization to maintain sidewalks from the legislature, subsequently requiring the construction of sidewalk in the denser zoning districts

The draft plan was unveiled to the public at an open house in February. There were about 100 attendees throughout the evening. Again, comments and feedback were solicited and documented. Only slight adjustments to the plan were required after these meeting.

"You really can't go anywhere in Hampstead for the most part without getting on US Highway 17. The idea is to get some of the local traffic off of 17," said Pender County Commissioner David Williams, who was in attendance.

"We have been a member of the WMPO for some time now. We are taking on more urban characteristics in this part of the county and we need effective transportation planning."

The plan was recommended by the Planning Board for approval and adopted by the county commissioners in May 2007. Since then, the WMPO staff has been working closely with the Pender County Planning Department and NCDOT to implement the various aspects of the program.



What's Happening in Raleigh (Dealing with Federal Rescission of Funds)

Recently there has been frequent use of "Rescissions" of Highway Budget Authority by the US Congress to pay for new spending. These rescissions have greatly concerned some state DOT's and interest groups. These rescissions have allowed the Appropriations Committees to offset new appropriations for the Department of Transportation. From an accounting standpoint, this is simply a gimmick — using the cancellation of *potential* spending authority (contract authority cannot be spent without corresponding obligation authority from a separate process) to offset new *actual* spending authority. It is an "offset" in name only — the rescinded contract authority **does not reduce real spending** (the outlay of dollars from the Treasury into non-federal hands) by one dime, while the new appropriations offset by the rescission almost always are turned into real spending in short order.

How do these rescissions impact North Carolina? Generally speaking we receive about 2.9% of the non-discretionary federal apportionments. So North Carolina's share of a \$ 1 B nationwide rescission would be roughly \$ 29 M. The key issue in these rescissions is that they have been of Budget Authority (Apportionment) not Obligation Authority. Each year Congress grants North Carolina by formula a certain amount of Budget Authority or Apportionments in the various federal aid program categories. In fiscal 2007 this is estimated to be \$ 968 million. Then, in order to restrict the actual outlay for money from the Federal Highway Trust Fund they create a budget ceiling called an obligation limitation. For fiscal 2007 this figure is expected to be about \$ 880 million. So each year there is a gap between what is apportioned to our state and what we can actually obligate (or spend) on projects.

Because we cannot "spend" all of the funds apportioned to us each year, some of these funds carry over. This is anticipated and federal law generally gives these apportioned funds a 4-year life. As we fund projects we use the oldest funds first in order to avoid lapsing them or having them expire. Also because the federal program distribution rarely matches our state priorities and

project delivery, some categories of funds get utilized at a greater rate than others.

When faced with a decision on returning budget authority to Washington, the first objective is to insure that the decisions we make will have minimal impact on our ability to deliver the TIP as adopted by the local MPOs and our Board. This leads us to look at those categories of funds where the annual flow into the state exceeds our past and expected future need. Once we have identified those areas where our apportionments exceed our anticipated need, we then start looking for the oldest funds or those that have the greatest possibility of lapsing before they can be used. In the most recent rescission activity, we were asked to identify some \$ 97 M in contract authority to be returned to Washington. To comply with this request we allocated 41% from the Bridge Replacement Program, 20% was allocated from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, 8% from the Surface Transportation Program – Enhancements, and 31% from Interstate Maintenance. All funds rescinded are "old money", from fiscal 1997 to 2006, and no current year (2007) apportionments were affected. Applying the rescission across all programs would result in us leaving older funds that are not immediately needed available in some areas while returning 2007 funds that are promised to projects in others. We believe that the rescission action we took will not have a negative impact on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as recently adopted by our Board. **There is already an additional \$ 871 M rescission being promoted in Washington. North Carolina's share of this rescission should be about \$ 25 M.**

So far the Department has been able to deal with rescissions in a manner that has not negatively impacted our ongoing STIP programs, and we feel that our decisions have reflected good and prudent fiscal management. And while no rescission activity to date has had a negative impact on our program, the concern is that if the use of rescissions to finance additional spending by Congress continues, that sooner or later it will start to impact our ability to fund our STIP.

Job Postings



Ramey Kemp & Associates, Inc. is a growing employee-owned transportation engineering firm headquartered in Raleigh, NC with branch offices located in Richmond, VA, Winston Salem, NC, and Wilmington, NC. We offer very competitive compensation and benefits as well as a flexible work environment. We currently have the following positions available:

BRANCH MANAGERS for start up offices in Wilmington, NC and Tampa, FL. 8+ years experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate must possess excellent written/oral communication skills, a BSCE, and PE registration. Masters in Transportation and PTOE certification a plus. Public speaking and project management experience is essential.

SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER with 4+ years experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sectors. Ideal candidate will have excellent written/oral skills, a BSCE, and PE registration. Masters in transportation and PTOE certification a plus. Positions available in Richmond, VA and Wilmington, NC.

TRAFFIC ASSOCIATE with 0-4 years experience in traffic engineering/transportation studies for both public and private sector projects. Ideal candidate will have a BSCE, registered EI/EIT or PE, good communication skills and knowledge of traffic engineering concepts and analysis software. Masters in transportation a plus. Positions available in Richmond, VA, and Wilmington, NC.

*E-mail resume along with a cover letter to hr@rameykemp.com.



TRAFFIC ENGINEER (HRSS) - VACANCY #07-212 - ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT - Normal starting salary range: \$49,836.80 - \$82,222.40, depending upon qualifications, plus excellent benefits. The Town of Cary is seeking a highly motivated traffic engineer to help lead the Town in addressing the growing traffic demands on the transportation system. For job responsibilities and minimum requirements or to obtain an application, please visit www.townofcary.org or call (919)469-4070. **To ensure consideration, a completed Town of Cary application must be received in Human Resources by 5 PM Monday June 25, 2007.**



PBS&J, in business since 1960, is an employee-owned firm headquartered in Tampa, FL. PBS&J's office network spans the nation from California to Puerto Rico, providing

transportation engineering services for both public and private clients. Our local offices include Raleigh, NC; Charlotte, NC; Columbia, SC; Richmond, VA; Newport News, VA; Chantilly, VA and Alexandria, VA. PBS&J offers a competitive compensation package with outstanding employee benefits.

We are seeking highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Senior Transportation Engineers for our Raleigh office. These positions require a North Carolina PE, knowledge of NCDOT procedures and 5 to 10 years of experience in traffic operations analysis and simulation, traffic forecasting, traffic impact studies and parking studies. Candidates must have a broad knowledge and firm grasp of the fundamentals of transportation engineering services and processes. Additional requirements are outlined on our website (reference ID# 11513 and 11381).

CHECK US OUT at www.pbsj.com. Please go to the "Careers" section and look under North Carolina openings for the reference ID numbers noted above.

INVOLVER 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, 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 Christine Kuchta for more information at CKuchta@WilburSmith.com.

Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, PLLC (M/A/B), a growing transportation planning and traffic engineering firm located in Raleigh, North Carolina is seeking a qualified **Transportation Planner/Modeler** and an **Entry Level Transportation Engineer**.

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Entry Level Transportation Engineer

Assist project managers in conducting transportation planning studies, traffic impact studies, and travel demand forecasting. Perform traffic data collection tasks, level of service (LOS) analyses, geometric design, traffic signal design; and prepare spreadsheets and reports. B.S. or B.A. in Civil Engineering, specializing in Traffic and Transportation Engineering or related field with 0 to 5 years of experience, EI/PE registration preferred. Knowledge of traffic and transportation planning practices and methods; traffic analysis software; and CAD. Good communication and computer skills such as Synchro, CORSIM, HCS, ArcView, AutoCAD, MicroStation, TransCAD, and Microsoft Office applications.

To apply: E-mail resume with cover letter to cyndisiebach@mabtrans.com

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

New Hires and Promotions

Dale W. Privette, PE has recently been hired by Wilbur Smith Associates as Director of Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning.

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 CKuchta@WilburSmith.com

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 Christine Kuchta at Wilbur Smith Associates. She can be reached at CKuchta@WilburSmith.com or by phone at (919)755-0583. Please send all advertisements, comments and submissions to Christine.



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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