

Michigan **ite**

Official Publication of the Michigan Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

Letter from the President By Christopher Zull, City of Grand Rapids



Congratulations are in order! The Western Michigan University Traffic Bowl Team was invited to the ITE International Conference to compete in the 2011 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit on August 16, 2011 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Michigan Section of ITE wishes them good luck and looks forward to hearing about their experience at the October Technical session in Kalamazoo.

The hot summer is leading up to some cool ITE events including the fall golf outing, the Air Zoo technical session and a brand new event, MiTEC. September 22nd is the Fall ITE Golf outing at Willow Wood Golf Course in Portland. This beautiful course is tucked away from busy city life and is a great place to relax and enjoy the quiet atmosphere. Look for the sign up and I hope to see you there.

Did you miss the Air Zoo Technical Session three years ago? We've booked it again this year with the same great opportunity to attend the ITE Session as well as tour the exhibits afterwards. This is not an event you want to miss! So mark October 13th on your calendar and keep your eyes open for the sign-up coming soon.

This fall we are welcoming a new event in the transportation community. The Michigan Transportation Engineering Conference (MiTEC) is a new initiative coming November 10th to the Crystal Gardens Banquet Center in Howell. The one day event, sponsored by both ITE and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is designed to provide technical information on industry topics and will be presented by experts in the field. It is currently designed

on a two-track program, such that you can choose the topics that best fit your areas of interest. Curious about complete street initiatives and how to implement them? Ready for the new MMUTCD or 2010 HCM? Looking to enhance your private public partnerships? These topics and more will provide a unique learning opportunity that is strongly directed at continuing education in the Transportation Engineering practice.

ITE's efforts to educate and bring the transportation community together are successful because of the dedication and commitment of its members. I look forward to these great events and hope you do too.

Go Broncos!

Chris Zull can be reached at (616) 456-3065 or czull@grcity.us.

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March Technical Session By Danielle Deneau, P.E., Road Commission for Oakland County

The March Technical Session, hosted by Bob and Kim Lariviere, was held at the Days Inn in Lansing on March 10th. About 45 attendees gathered to hear presentations, network and enjoy lunch. The meeting started with Keith Ledbetter, the Director of Legislative Affairs for Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA), giving an update on the bridge to Canada and Governor Snyder's financial plans for this year. As there are many issues on the governor's plate right now, transportation will not be addressed until the fall.

Pat Harrington, an Activist for Bicycling, talked about "Valet Bike Parking for Special Events in Mid-Michigan". She started out talking about the need to make the community that we live a better place for all and to be physically active. In an effort to get more people walking and biking to events, she is part of an organization that valets bikes at about 20 events throughout the year in Mid-Michigan. There typically is no fee, but a donation is accepted. The next upcoming event is June 4th in Lansing: Be a Tourist in Your Own Town. It will be a great way to participate in activities and attractions right in your backyard. Also, the Great Lakes Folk Festival at Michigan State University is coming up in August. Last year, over 200 bikes were valet parked in a secure area. Be on the lookout for upcoming events and why not bike the next time you go!

Charles Hart, Senior Project Engineer for Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., took the opportunity to share his project "U of M Transit Center and Street Re-Design and Construction". This project is located on North University Avenue in the central campus of the University of Michigan and is being coordinated with the City of Ann Arbor. The overall scope of the project was to improve safety, capacity and ADA accessibility while creating an attractive multi-modal area for all. There was also water main and sewer work. The area is heavily traveled by students that are walking, biking and using the bus system. The project was on a very tight schedule, it could not start until students were out of school in May. The road had to be open for Art Fair traffic in July and completed by September, when the students returned to school. As with any project, there were delays and issues that arose, but in the end the area now looks great. New bus stop shelters were erected with improved technology to

inform students of bus schedules. New bike racks, brick pavers and greenery were also installed. The next time you are in Ann Arbor, stop by and see this new and improved area.

Arnold Weinfeld, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Federal Affairs of the Michigan Municipal League discussed "Complete Streets - Municipalities' Opportunity for the Future". Arnold talked about how congestion may actually be a good thing. Traffic slows down and may create a safe environment for all. Complete streets is a great training tool for planners and engineers to look around the areas in which they live to plan and create a community where residents want to work, live and play. This legislation is suggesting that as a community designs projects to look at traffic calming, bike lanes, bike paths, sidewalks, etc. Michigan needs to look at ways to be more multi-modal and this is a good place to start by trying to do projects differently.

Andy Kilpatrick, Transportation Engineer for the City of Lansing, showed us "Lansing's Complete Streets Experience". The city of Lansing has been very active in studies and traffic calming since the mid 1990's. Some of the traffic calming devices installed in the city include raised medians, traffic circles, speed humps, and raised crosswalks. In 2009, the city passed a complete streets ordinance. The city was also designated a bicycle friendly community in 2010. To the extent feasible, the city is setting a goal of designating 5 percent of funding in projects to have walk and bike friendly infrastructure. Projects are designed and planned to enable safe access for all users. While the majority of traffic is on the main street, using parallel streets with multi-modes and still forming a network is a good way for users to get around the community. The key to a successful complete streets project is getting all stakeholders involved. Starting two years in advance of a project, the city involves public officials, residents, transit, etc. to start talking about the design and needs of the project. The next time you are in Lansing, bike or drive around and see some of these improvements.

Jesse Ball from the MDOT Office of Communications filled us in on "MDOT's use of Social Networks to Communicate Project News". As with most public agencies,

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March Technical Session

MDOT's website is filled with useful information on construction projects, forms, and details. Starting in 2009, however, MDOT started to get involved in more ways to get the public up to speed on traffic alerts and construction information. When the bridge came down at 9 Mile and I-75 in July of 2009, MDOT went full speed ahead on getting the word out about detours through YouTube and Facebook. In a matter of minutes, the drivers could find out how to get around and how long closures would occur. Now, with a staff of seven that provide this information, MDOT can better inform the public about

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projects that are happening all over the state. Besides YouTube and Facebook, you can now follow MDOT on Twitter. Not only is MDOT providing information, but these outlets are also a way for MDOT to get feedback from the motorist, both good and bad. So the next time you are faced with the orange barrels, be sure to check out your traffic alerts from MDOT before you go.

Danielle Deneau can be reached at (248) 858-4730 or ddeneau@rcoc.org.

ITE Michigan Section Student Paper Winners for 2011

Congratulations to Brendan Russo from Wayne State University (WSU) for winning the 2011 ITE Michigan Section Student Paper Award! As winner, Brendan received a \$500 award. The abstract of his winning paper is shown below.

Analysis of Severity and Frequency of Michigan Highway-Rail Grade Collisions

A highway-railroad grade crossing is an intersection in which a roadway crosses a railroad track at the same grade, introducing the potential for a collision between a highway vehicle and a train. Although these collisions are relatively rare events, they are often severe when they do occur. Highway vehicle users are at an especially high risk for injuries and fatalities during these collisions. To analyze factors that affect both the severity and frequency of these crashes, two different models were developed utilizing data obtained from two databases maintained by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). An ordered logistic model was used to analyze factors that affect the severity of a crash. Statistically significant findings from this model were: faster train speeds increase the likelihood of injuries and fatalities, older drivers and female drivers are more likely

to be injured or killed, and motorists who did not stop at crossings are more likely to be injured or killed than those who stopped and proceeded or stopped and drove around the gates. A negative binomial model was used to analyze factors that affect the frequency of collisions at any given crossing. Statistically significant factors found to increase the frequency of collisions were higher train speed limits, larger number of traffic lanes, higher annual average daily traffic (AADT), higher daily train volumes, presence of preemption, and crossing angles greater than 60 degrees. Factors found to decrease the frequency of collisions were presence of warning gates and crossings located in a residential area.



Presentation of Award to Brendan Russo by ITE Michigan Section Past President Colleen Hill & WSU Assistant Professor Timothy Gates

Brendan Russo can be reached at (313) 577-8288 or ar9031@wayne.edu.

Have you checked out the ITE Michigan Section website (www.itemichigan.org) lately?
Is there anything you want to see added to make it more useful?
Contact our webmaster: Lou Davenport at (616) 574-8377 or Lou_Davenport@URSCorp.com.

The Board of Directors is looking for someone to take over Kelly Ferencz's position as Chairperson of Technical Programs.
If interested, please contact Christopher Zull at (616) 456-4639 or czull@ci.grand-rapids.mi.us

2011 Great Lakes District Annual Meeting

The Great Lakes District Meeting took place in Columbus, Ohio on April 14-15, 2011. For those unable to attend the meeting, some of the participants have kindly provided a summary of the meeting's events. Thanks to everyone who took time to fill us in on what happened. A special thanks to Zaki Mustafa, from the City of Los Angeles, for taking all the wonderful pictures from the day.



**Great Lakes District Board Members
& Annual Meeting Organizers**

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An Overview of the Meeting
By Jennifer M. Alford, P.E., PTOE,
McCormick Taylor, Inc.

I recently attended my first ITE Great Lakes District Annual Meeting. Though I've been a member of ITE for about two years, I had not had the opportunity to attend the gathering of traffic professionals from our district. The name is a bit of a misnomer when you consider that so much was offered to the attendees. First, there were a number of booths with traffic equipment suppliers and consultants. It was interesting to see the many different methods that are being developed to assist us with counting vehicles. Anything from heat sensitive imagery to radar to tube counts were demonstrated.

Several interesting topics were presented throughout the meeting including Complete Streets, Continuous Flow Intersections, Super Streets and a Department of Transportation (DOT) Roundtable. I was particularly curious about what the DOTs would have to say considering the economic climate in the region and the budget challenges as a result of federal legislation. The creative ways that Michigan and Indiana DOTs are trying to improve transportation budgets were a highlight for me.

I will be interested to see how Ohio ends up absorbing and adapting their ideas in the future.

Another great part of the meeting was the opportunity to mingle with the other professionals. So often when I have attended ITE luncheons there seems to be a focus on marketing how each person's company is doing. I found that at this meeting the attendees were talking more about the kind of work they were doing and interesting challenges they have encountered. This was a welcome distinction as I find it helpful to get to know the specialties of others when making connections. There was still a fair bit of talk about workload within the various companies and how we all wish traffic work would pick up, but everyone seemed to be more tuned into the technical focus of the meeting. Overall I found the meeting to be quite interesting and felt that I made some valuable connections to my fellow members. I am certainly planning to attend next year's meeting and hopefully next time I'll get to watch the students compete in the Traffic Bowl!

Jennifer Alford can be reached at (614) 436-1700 or jmalford@mccormicktaylor.com.

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Mr. Wunderlich's Presentation to Students
By Omar Kanaan, Western Michigan University

Prior to the 2nd annual Great Lakes District Traffic Bowl, ITE's International President, Robert Wunderlich, gave a presentation entitled "Transportation Careers and ITE" to the participating students. The presentation covered numerous topics within transportation engineering that are not typically covered in undergraduate curriculum. Introductory courses give students an understanding of such topics as alignment, delay and signal warrants. It is not often that students are able to learn about the interrelations and collaborations between the many special-



**Mr. Wunderlich Presents to
Students from OSU, UofD & WMU**

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2011 Great Lakes District Annual Meeting

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ists of their future field from the president of their professional society.

Mr. Wunderlich's presentation began by defining transportation engineering as a people science; predicting, influencing, changing and evaluating human behavior with the aim of making a difference. He pointed out his own career background, which began as a researcher, and used it to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the many positions he held in the various subdivisions of transportation engineering.

Students then learned that the problems faced by professional transportation engineers are not as simple as the one paragraph problems found on final exams, and neither are their solutions. Mr. Wunderlich discussed the numerous factors that have to be addressed when tackling a transportation problem and emphasized continuous education, knowing community goals, and collaborating with stakeholders as keys to success.

Finally, Mr. Wunderlich talked about ITE's role in improving professional practice through conferences, webinars, publications, on-line resources, certifications, and most importantly professional friendships and the sharing of knowledge.

Omar Kanaan can be reached at omar.kanaan@wmich.edu.

Complete Streets Concepts & Performance Measures By Stephen J. Welk, P.E., E.P. Ferris & Associates

A large and attentive audience enjoyed an excellent presentation on Complete Streets Concepts and Performance Measures by Michael Moule, P.E., PTOE, a Principal with Nelson|Nygaard Consulting Associates, who was representing the National Complete Streets Coalition.

Mr. Moule stated Complete Streets is a Transformative Movement because of a faltering national economy, increasing gas prices, the obesity epidemic, a growing awareness of quality of life, a concern for climate change and sustainability, and a new generation who wants to

drive less.

Complete Streets are about providing safe, comfortable and convenient travel via auto, foot, bicycle and transit, are about using existing resources differently (meaning additional funding may not be needed), and are wise investments that enhance the community. He cited surveys that indicate what Americans want to have, i.e. Bike/Walk – 22%, Public Transit - 41%, and More Roads – 37%. This modal preference is not reflected at levels presently being budgeted: Bike/Walk – 1%, Public Transit - 20%, and More Roads – 79%.

The presentation was not a lecture, as Mr. Moule kept the audience totally involved by frequently stopping his presentation to ask the audience questions, such as What do you think?, or What's your experience? Do you have examples you could share with us?

More information on Complete Streets can be found at www.completestreets.org.

Stephen Welk can be reached at (614) 299-2999 or swelk@epferris.com.



Great Lakes Traffic Bowl 2011 By Ryan Bush, P.E., MS Consultants, Inc.

The 2nd Annual ITE Great Lakes District Traffic Bowl was held in April at the District Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The ITE Traffic Bowl is a Jeopardy-style competition for transportation engineering students. In quiz show format, the student teams tested their knowledge of traffic and transportation subjects, such as the MUTCD, the ITE Traffic Engineering Handbook, and other resource materials. The event had a true game-show look, complete with a video gameboard and a buzzer system featuring



Traffic Bowl Competition

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real traffic signal heads and pedestrian pushbuttons for the contestants to ring in.

Each student chapter in the Great Lakes District was invited to field a 3-person team of students to compete in the event. Three student chapters competed in the 2011 Great Lakes Traffic Bowl: the University of Dayton, Ohio State University and Western Michigan University. The winner of the District game earns a trip to the Annual Meeting in St. Louis and gets to compete for the ITE International Traffic Bowl Championship.

In a closely-fought contest, Ohio State University prevailed with the win. Unfortunately, due to some scheduling conflicts, the winning Ohio State University team members are unable to compete at the International competition. Therefore the runners-up, Western Michigan University, will represent the Great Lakes District for the opportunity to become the 2011 ITE Traffic Bowl champion. Congratulations to both schools, and good luck to Western Michigan University in St. Louis!

Despite some rather difficult questions, all the teams had a fun time participating and demonstrated an impressive knowledge of traffic and transportation topics. We look forward to having even more teams compete in the 2012 Great Lakes Traffic Bowl.



Winning Team from Ohio State University

Ryan Bush can be reached at (614) 898-7100 or rbush@msconsultants.com.

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ITE Great Lakes District Annual Meeting Dinner By Tony Jones, P.E., USI Consultants, Inc.

After an afternoon of technical sessions and watching the 2nd Annual ITE Great Lakes District Traffic Bowl, meeting attendees were invited to attend a dinner held at the conference hotel, the Hyatt on Capitol Square. It

was an excellent night to network with fellow ITE professionals and enjoy a great meal.

The meal was a compliment to the hospitality shown by our hosts in Columbus, Ohio as the dinner served was the Columbus Heartland Buffet. The buffet included homemade style entrees of BBQ chicken and baked meatloaf served with buttermilk biscuits, baked beans, and mashed potatoes and included various other salads and fresh vegetables. This was not your usual conference banquet chicken dinner!

A presentation was given at the dinner by the ITE International President, Robert Wunderlich. He presented a summary of International ITE's 2011 Initiatives and Actions. The presentation included Mr. Wunderlich's four key areas of emphasis and the ITE strategic work plan. Mr. Wunderlich emphasized that ITE is working to make sure that public leaders understand that ITE and its members are integral and vital to solving transportation problems. He introduced the new ITE Community, which was recently launched as a virtual network for transportation professionals. It can be found at www.community.ite.org. Mr. Wunderlich's dinner presentation is available in the ITE Community.

Mr. Wunderlich also explained how ITE is dedicated to providing meaningful opportunities for students and younger members to grow in our profession. Mr. Wunderlich promoted his own "cell-free" driving initiative. He asked attendees to join him in driving "cell-free" as part of the move toward zero fatalities. Lastly he emphasized that "It's Your ITE!" ITE is not just an office and a staff in Washington D.C. It is an organization of individuals acting together for the public good. We all do have something to add to the profession, and our efforts matter. We do make a difference in the quality of life of all citizens.



ITE International President Makes Dinner Presentation

ter. We do make a difference in the quality of life of all citizens.

Tony Jones can be reached at (317) 544-4996 or tjones@usiconsultants.com.

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A Note from the ITE Great Lakes District Director By David L. Samuelson, P.E., E.P. Ferris & Associates

Three years ago I started out as District Director with some new challenges, many were fun and some were 'not so fun'. But throughout the three years, I have had a great time serving as Director.

The biggest 'not so fun' challenge was and is the problems with our economy, and concerns of how it affects membership and meeting attendance. During that time, though, membership in ITE remained strong, essentially staying the same over the past two years, and for my three year term we may yet show a net increase by the end of 2011. I believe that reflects the value of ITE to our membership.

One of the fun challenges has been trying a variety of District meeting formats over the past three years. Our 2009 meeting in Michigan followed a traditional meeting format. Attendance, despite the economy that year, still resulted in attendance levels consistent with prior years. Last year, in Indianapolis, additional effort was needed to incorporate our District Collegiate Traffic Bowl Competition. Attendance at that meeting was up 20 percent. And last April, in Columbus, we tried a different meeting format, and the result was an even larger attendance, 75 percent higher than average. But it has been the hard work of many volunteers in making those meetings successful. Volunteerism is the key to the success of our meetings and the many activities of ITE.

If you want to become more involved within our District, don't hesitate to contact ITE leadership at the District, Section or Chapter level. There are many tasks which you can help to make our organization even better.

Being District Director in our District is also unique compared to the other Districts. Besides serving on the International ITE Board of Directors I am also District President, which creates a series of workload challenges. All other districts separate those positions. We have addressed this by designating a District Administrator, who for the past few years has been Tony Jones (tjones@usiconsultants.com). If the past is any indication of the future, the District Administrator position will be a great

help to future Directors.

Also, by setting up a website (greatlakesite.com), communication of District information has also been greatly simplified. The website is hosted by the University of Cincinnati and is maintained by the student chapter.

Next year, the District Director will rotate to Michigan. When you get a chance, please congratulate our incoming District Director, Colleen Hill. Although she will formally take over Director duties in 2012, she has already been involved in several District challenges. One of those challenges has been to help with the organization of our 2012 District meeting which will be a joint meeting with the ITE Southern District, to be held next April in Lexington, Kentucky.

If you have any questions regarding ITE International or ITE District issues, do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you this August at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

David Samuelson can be reached at (614) 299-2999 or dsamuelson@epferris.com.



Golf Outing Summary By Aimee Giacherio, P.E., Wade Trim

The ITE Educational Fund Golf Outing held its 19th annual benefit golf outing at Mystic Creek Golf Club in Milford, Michigan on Thursday, May 26th. The Michigan Section ITE Golf Committee would like to extend its thanks to all participants and firms that generously supported this year's benefit golf tournament. This year's golf outing was a success despite the cold weather. We had a total of 122 golfers. To see pictures of all the participants, check out the photos section of the ITE Michigan Section website at www.itemichigan.org. There were 27 hole sponsors and numerous door prize contributors, which are all listed below:



**Golf Outing Winning Team:
Alonso Uzcategui, Joe McAttee & Merv Teague**

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Indicates Hole and Lunch Sponsor

- | | |
|--|---|
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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| - HNTB | - Gary Piotrowicz |
| - ITS Michigan | - Michigan Tech – Bill
Sproule |
| - Mansell Associates, Inc. | |

This year, profits from the event totaled \$9,445, all of which is deposited directly into the Michigan Section ITE Educational Fund. This fund is used to provide free attendance at Michigan Section meetings, to provide monetary awards for the annual student research paper competition, to help defray students' costs for attending national ITE and Transportation Research Board meetings, and to provide scholarships to worthy transportation engineering students at Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, and Wayne State University. Thanks to all who made this event a success!

Aimee Giacherio can be reached at (616) 363-8181 or agiacherio@wadetrim.com.

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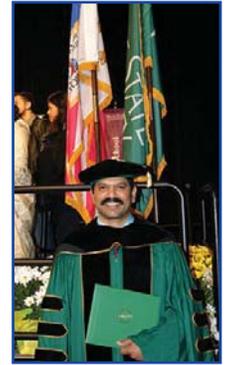
Industry News

Paul Carrier passed away on June 4, 2011. Paul started working at Carrier & Gable on July 15, 1970 and after 25 years retired on May 31, 1995. During his time at Carrier & Gable, he was an active member of ITE. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Paul.



Two of our fellow ITE members recently tied the knot:
Colleen Hill & Steve Stramsak.
Congratulations and we wish you a lifetime of love and happiness!!

Prasad Nannapaneni recently graduated from Wayne State University with his Ph.D. Prasad's dissertation was entitled "Evaluating the Use of Steady Burn Warning Lights on Drums for Work Zone Safety". He studied under Dr. Timothy Gates, Assistant Professor in the College of Engineering. Congrats Prasad!!



Do you have news about an ITE member that you would like to share with the Section? Please contact the MichiganITE Editor, Lia Michaels at (248) 454-6812 or lmichaels@hrc-engr.com.

New Members of ITE Michigan Section

John Katers

Project Engineer, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.

Haryono Prawiranata, Transportation Modeler,
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

John Abraham

Associate Vice President, Iteris

Jason Kelly

Traffic System Engineer, City of Grand Rapids

Welcome to the Michigan Section of ITE!!

Do you want to become a member of the Michigan Section of ITE?

If so, please contact the Section Secretary, Steven Loveland at (734) 522-6711 or Steven.Loveland@ohm-advisors.com.

Save the Dates!!!

The **Fall Golf Outing** is scheduled for September 22, 2011 at the Willow Wood Golf Club in Portland, Michigan. Cost is \$35.00 for golf with a cart and steak dinner afterwards. Contact Aimee Giacherio at agiacherio@wa-detrtrim.com or (616) 363-8181 for details.

The **October Technical Session** is schedule for October 13, 2011 in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the Air Zoo. Contact

Matt Hill at (313) 310-8239 for further details or to provide suggestions for presentations.

The **December Annual Meeting/Technical Session** is scheduled for December 1, 2011 in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Contact Mark Saksewski at (248) 871-2554 for further details or to provide suggestions for presentations.

Are you looking for a qualified candidate to fill a position at your organization??

Advertise in the *MichiganITE* and reach hundreds of Michigan Transportation Professionals and their colleagues!!

For rate information, or to begin your search for candidates, contact Lia Michaels at (248) 454-6812 or lmichaels@hrc-engr.com.

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