

# Michigan **ite**

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

## Letter from the President By Lia Michaels - Hubbell, Roth & Clark



MI ITE Section,

As 2020 is coming to an end, there are still so many unknowns of what life will be like and if we will ever return to how things were. In the meantime, our section of ITE has continued to do great things.

Our golf outing was a huge success this year! Pushing it back until September turned out to be great with the perfect weather and excellent attendance. Thanks to Aimee Giacherio and the entire golf outing committee for their hard work putting it together year after year.

We had our first virtual technical session which went off smoothly thanks to our amazing technical committee led by Ellen Nightingale and Julie Kroll. It was full of great safety information organized by Mark Bott.

One new item in the works this year is the development of the Michigan Section’s Young Professional Committee. The committee is open to those 35 years of age or younger. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Cole Villalobos ([cvillalobos@hrcenr.com](mailto:cvillalobos@hrcenr.com)) for more information on how to get involved.

I’m sure everyone is anxiously awaiting the election results . . . of the next ITE Director of course! We have two great candidates this year who I am sure will continue to lead our organization to great things. We are excited to announce the results at the upcoming December annual meeting to be held virtually on December 3rd. Hope you can join us!

As I pass on the torch to Matt Hunter, I look forward to the opportunity to stay involved in ITE and continue on the new Great Lakes District Board as your representative. You will be hearing from me and others about the great things the new District will have to offer in the coming months.

It has been a real pleasure serving as your President. I have truly enjoyed my time on the Board and having the opportunity to meet many of you at our events and more recently virtually. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of ITE!

- Lia Michaels

*Lia Michaels can be reached at (248) 454-6812 or [lmichaels@hrc-enr.com](mailto:lmichaels@hrc-enr.com)*

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## ONE ITE Update Fall 2020

By: John Davis, Great Lakes District Transition Team Chair

Greetings everyone! ITE District Commencement Day is now less than four months away. The day will be celebrated on January 1, 2021. It will mark the beginning of a new era for ITE by elevating the MOVITE section to the District level, and transfer of the remaining legacy Midwestern District sections into the Great Lakes District. The Great Lakes District will be comprised of the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Central, Ohio and Wisconsin sections that include ITE members in the named states as well as the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, which are encompassed by the North Central section.

The MOVITE District will be comprised of the Arkansas, Central Missouri, Gateway, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Ozarks sections. These sections will include ITE members in the named states with members in Missouri belonging to either the Central Missouri, Gateway or Ozarks sections, members of several Illinois counties near St. Louis having membership in the Gateway Section and in the Quad Cities area being members of the Iowa Section. The Kansas Section will also include 25 counties of Missouri and will have a Central Kansas chapter.

The realignment is part of the One ITE initiatives, which have the objectives to:

- **Deliver a consistent member experience** – Every ITE member should have a reasonably consistent experience in terms of access to resources, connection to other members, leadership opportunities, fees paid, representation at the District and International level, etc.
- **Provide effective member support** – Reducing inconsistency, eliminating bureaucracy, and streamlining operations will enhance the quality of member services and value for membership.
- **Ensure the long-term viability of ITE** – ITE must differentiate itself from its competitors and be the association of choice. Having a clear and consistent “brand” is essential.

Transition teams for both districts have continued their work to prepare for January 2021 and, to a degree, both districts have begun operations by conducting elections for district officers. The districts have worked with their sections to develop and approve new section charters and bylaws and have started making plans for next year’s district meetings.

The Great Lakes District transition team has submitted to the in-coming district board a draft operating procedure manual for their consideration and adoption. The District Board will review the manual with the objective to have it adopted in substance by the end of this year. The MOVITE transition team has been revising documents and procedures for use by the MOVITE District. The MOVITE Board is working to adopt these changes in the coming months.

New charters and bylaws have been prepared by each ITE section and chapter. These documents complement the revisions in the district charter and bylaws, and provide greater consistency across ITE.

For both Great Lakes and MOVITE, individuals from each section will serve as section representatives to the respective District Board. The transition plan for section representatives to the Great Lakes District Board calls for the individuals from the Michigan, Wisconsin and North Central sections who have represented their respective sections to the Midwestern or Great Lakes District Boards in 2020 to continue in that role in 2021, with elections to be held in 2021. In the coming months of 2020, the Indiana, Illinois and Ohio sections will select their section representatives to the District Board with these individuals starting their two-year term on January 1, 2021.

For the MOVITE District, the transition plan calls for representatives to the District Board to be elected from the Central Missouri, Iowa, Gateway and Nebraska sections this year with representatives to the Board from the Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Ozarks sections to be appointed this year and then elected in 2021.

*continued on page 3...*

## ONE ITE Update *... continued from page 2*

A section representative to either the Great Lakes or MOVITE District Board will serve two years in their position and will also serve as a voting member on their respective section's board. If you desire to serve in one of these roles now or in the future, please express your interest to your section's officers.

Both districts are preparing for their respective

2021 meetings and activities. MOVITE will conduct its first district meeting in April and is planning for the meeting to be held in Arkansas. Great Lakes is planning for its first district meeting to be held in Columbus, Ohio in April as well.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the current district officers or your section representative to the district board.

### ITE Educational Fund Golf Outing By Aimee Giacherio, Wade Trim

The 28th Annual ITE Educational Fund Golf Outing was held at Mystic Creek Golf Club in Milford, Michigan on Thursday, September 3rd. It was rescheduled from our annual spring date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few changes had to be made this year in order to comply with all State and CDC guidelines, but overall turned out to be a terrific event. The fall weather cooperated for a gorgeous day of golf and dinner outdoors on the patio.

The Michigan Section ITE Golf Committee would like to extend our thanks to all the firms that generously supported this year's benefit golf tournament. This year's golf outing was a great success with a total of 81 golfers and 27 hole sponsors. All of our sponsors are listed below. Additional thanks are extended to all of the outing participants. Many of you dug deep into your pockets to participate in the on-course challenge holes, raffle, and flagging tape which contributed to almost 20 percent of the total profit.

This year, profits from the event totaled \$10,370. All the proceeds are 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 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 huge success!

*Aimee can be reached at [AGiacherio@WadeTrim.com](mailto:AGiacherio@WadeTrim.com)*

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**\*Indicates Hole and Lunch Sponsor**

#### Other Contributors:

- Gary Piotrowicz
- Joseph Marson
- Tim Haagsma

## ITE Fall Technical Session - October 8, 2020 Virtual Meeting By: Joyce Yassin, WSP

On the morning of October 8th, 2020 the Fall Technical Session was held virtually for the first time. With the help of Mark Bott from MDOT, the Technical Committee was able to hold a successful event focused on Traffic Safety.

Mark Bott, MDOT, presented the opening session about Crashes are not Accidents detailing why there is a need for a change in safety culture. This was followed by a presentation from Carissa McQuiston, MDOT, detailing the changes to the new Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Jenya Abramovich, SEMCOG, presented on safety at the MPO level, followed by a presentation from Jeff Bagdade, Atkins, who answered the question, "What can you do to make a difference on that roadway?" using data from crash analyses. To get a different perspective, we heard from Matt Penniman, League of Michigan Bicyclists on The Customer's Viewpoint on Safety. Heidi Spangler, MDOT, then discussed what MDOT is doing for safety. The final presentation of the

morning was presented by Dr. Timothy Gates and Dr. Peter Savolainen, sharing with us What's new in Safety Research at Michigan State University. The session was concluded with closing remarks by our president Lia Michaels and the ITE Award recipients.

For an added bonus, attendees received three Continuing Education Hours. Thank you to all the speakers and volunteers who helped make this first virtual session a success. I'd also like to send a special thank you to our Technical Committee for their effort in coordinating and behind the scene operations:

- Ellen Nightingale
- Ganapathi Badireddi
- Hailey Savola
- Julie Kroll
- Matt Hunter
- Steve Stramsak

### New Members of ITE Michigan Section

Brian Bradley, Traffic Engineer  
City of Grand Rapids, MI

Benjamin Palevsky, Urban Planner  
MKSK

Jon Buckles, Head of Operations  
Siemens Mobility

Adam C. Mitchell, PE, Engineer  
OHM Advisors

Samuel Fitzer  
RCOC

Elizabeth Harding  
Access Engineering Inc.

### Student Members

Lauren Hull  
Michigan State University

Tanner R. Herald  
Michigan State University

Travis Holpuch  
Michigan State University

### 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 Joyce Yassin at (313) 963-4923 or Joyce.Yassin@wsp.com.*

## ITE Winter Technical Session - December 3, 2020 Virtual Meeting By: Matthew Kolis, GHD, Inc.

Thank you to our speakers and attendees for another successful virtual meeting! The program was held on December 3rd, 2020, and focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on the transportation industry, including streetscape conversions, a panel on public outreach, and budget implications, as well as many other great topics!

Erin Schlutow and Derrick Schueller, City of Berkley, presented the opening session about Creative Solutions to Supporting Berkley's Businesses discussing how Open Streets have been embraced by communities in Michigan and across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was followed by a presentation from Chris Hundt, MDOT, examining traffic count data from 2020 to assess how COVID-19 has impacted travel in Michigan. Following announcements by our ITE President, Lia Michaels, two concurrent panel discussions were

held. A big thank you to HNTB's Nate Ford and HRC's Cole Villalobos for moderating these discussions! Throughout the sessions, many great thoughts were shared on public involvement project strategies and how we can continue to develop future leaders in the field of transportation engineering. During the final two presentations of the afternoon, MDOT's Jason Garza outlined MDOT's response to the May 2020 Midland Dam Breach in the Bay Region and SEMCOG's Steve Brudzinski provided an overview of how COVID-19 has affected the amount of transportation funding available.

A big congratulations to **Steve Stramsak** for winning the election for next year's ITE Michigan Director position! Steve will be featured in the Spring 2021 MichiganITE newsletter so everyone can "Meet Your Director".

### Joke of the day...

Zoom meeting,  
audio only



Zoom meeting  
with video



## ITE Michigan Section Awards By Matthew Kolis, GHD, Inc.

ITE Michigan had another great year with recognizing people and projects that contributed to the transportation field in 2020. Congratulations to the 2020 recipients!

- **Hailey Savola** was presented with the **Young Member of the Year Award** to acknowledge her impact on the profession, demonstrated ability to lead the next generation and innovative techniques to solve transportation projects while still under the young age of 35 years old.
- The **Road Commission for Oakland County's Cellular Communications** project was presented with the **Transportation Achievement Award** to acknowledge the excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs. **Ahmad Jawad (RCOC)** accepted the award on behalf of RCOC and the project team.
- **Paul Shumejko, PE** was presented with the **President's Award** to acknowledge his outstanding contribution to the practice of traffic engineering.

The Awards Committee, consisting of the following members: Hailey Savola, HRC - Chair; Mike Lodes, HNTB; Heather Zull, TEA; Steve Stramsak, RS; Lisa Whitehead, Bergman; and Christopher Zull, Progressive, is looking forward to another great year of applications and awards. Information will be posted soon to the ITE Michigan website.



**Hailey Savola**  
*Young Member of the Year*



**RCOC Transportation Achievement Award**



**Paul Shumejko, PE**  
*President's Award*

**Treasurer's Report - September 2020**  
**By Mark Saksewski, City of Farmington Hills**

<b>Treasurer's Report: September 2020</b>	
<b>Section Fund Balance (As of 9/1/2020)</b>	<b><u>\$22,617.59</u></b>
Section Fund Balance	\$ 22,617.59
<b>ACTIVITIES for January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020</b>	
<b>Income- Section Regular Fund</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,130.79</u></b>
Dues	\$ 737.75
Meetings	\$ 1,998.04
Member Contributions	\$ 200.00
Golf Outing: Golfer Fees	\$ 5,695.00
Golf Outing: Sponsor Fees	\$ 6,500.00
<b>Expenses- Section Regular Fund</b>	<b><u>\$ 5,587.06</u></b>
Postage and Supplies	\$ 51.09
Website	\$ 189.30
Meetings	\$ 102.57
General Liability Insurance	\$ 1,491.00
Bank Charges/PayPal Fees	\$ 38.23
PayPay Refunds for Canceled Meeting	\$ 1,575.00
Student Section Meetings/Support for TRB	\$ 2,139.87

## 2020 Executive Board & Committee Chairs

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