



A COMMUNITY OF TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS

Spring Technical Session – Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 East Lansing, MI

Location:

MSU Union

49 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824

Parking: <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/ParkingDowntown/>

Hosted by the Michigan State ITE Student Chapter



Meeting Schedule

Check-In/Registration		
8:00 am	Doors Open: Registration, Coffee & Networking	
Morning Session		
Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:00 AM	Welcome	Moderator: Magdalena Cavka, MSU ITE President
9:05 AM	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program	Pam Blazo, AECOM
9:25 AM	Vulnerable Road Users (VRU)	Brandan Maurer, MDOT
	<i>This presentation will discuss the new MDOT Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Engineer role and some of its focus areas.</i>	
9:35 AM	The Tale of Two Road Diets – Tawas and Manistee	Sarah Binkowski, AECOM Saumil Shah, AECOM
	<i>This presentation discusses two road diet studies in northern lower Michigan that have very similar land use and transportation characteristics, however, had very different results. Saumil and Sarah will discuss roadway operations, safety, and outcomes of the study and eventual design.</i>	

10:05 AM	Break	
10:15 AM	Understanding Variation in Traffic Safety Outcomes Across Communities	Alyssa Ryan, MSU
	<p><i>This session will present the uneven distribution of traffic safety outcomes across the United States and what it means for practitioners. By combining quantitative analysis with qualitative insights, it shows how infrastructure, demographics, and institutional decisions interact to shape crash risk. The results will be discussed as they pertain to the effectiveness of uniform safety strategies and point toward targeted, data-driven approaches. Attendees will leave with a clearer framework for identifying where interventions are most needed and how to align policies and design decisions with the goal of reducing severe crashes across varied contexts.</i></p>	
10:35 AM	Improving Driver Understanding of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons Through Supplementary Signage	Kakan Dey, MSU
	<p><i>Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) have been used to improve pedestrian safety at midblock and unsignalized intersections, facilitating pedestrian crossings. However, drivers' understanding of the various PHB intervals remains limited, especially the Flashing Red interval. This research investigates drivers' comprehension of the PHB intervals and their preferences between Alternating and Simultaneous Flashing Red indications. The effectiveness of the current MUTCD (2023) supplementary sign and several other alternatives was studied in conveying correct driving action during the Flashing Red interval.</i></p>	
10:55 AM	Break	
11:10 AM	Student Poster Session	MSU Graduate Students
	<i>Noise and Vibration of Shoulder Rumble Strips: Comparison of Sinusoidal and Traditional Rounded Corrugations</i>	<i>Sakar Pahari</i>
	<i>Evaluation of Driver Speeds After Implementation of Speed Limit Reduction on Urban Streets</i>	<i>Gagan Gupta</i>
	<i>Development and Validation of a Region-Specific Winter Severity Index for Michigan Based on Maintenance Material Costs</i>	<i>Ardeshir Fadaei</i>
	<i>The Family Support Paradox: Mediating Effects of Licensure Timing on Crash Risk</i>	<i>Yuxi Shen</i>
	<i>Multi-Objective Planning of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Tourism Along Wisconsin's Shoreline</i>	<i>Sajjad Vosoughinia</i>
	<i>Effect of Centerlines and Edgelines on Driver Speed Selection and Lane Positioning on a Low-Speed Urban Collector Street</i>	<i>Akshay Suresh Babu</i>
	<i>Dedicated Gating Strategy for Multi-Variate Traffic Flow Streams</i>	<i>Zohreh Doroudian</i>

	<i>Analysis of Crash Risks in Speed Transition Zones Through Communities Located Along Rural, Two-Lane Highways</i>	Samuel Goodluck
	<i>Safety & Speed Implications of Roadside Feature Placement on Highways</i>	Mohammad Karasneh
	<i>A Roadmap for Fleet Electrification and Public EV Charging at Michigan State University</i>	Behdad Ghafarnezhad
12:15 PM	Lunch	
	ITE Update	Bonnie Wood, Huron-Clinton Metroparks Julie Kroll, F&V Heather Zull, MDOT Cole Villabolos, HRC Alex Rucinski, Road Commission for Oakland County Steve Stramsak, Spalding DeDecker
Afternoon Session		
Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1:30 PM	Model Inventory Road Elements Fundamental Data Elements	Austin Himmelein, MDOT
	<i>The federal Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act established seven transportation performance measures (TPM) for states to set targets and meet. Tied to the safety TPM is Federal Register 13722, laying out a safety data item collection requirement called the Model Inventory of Roadway Elements Fundamental Data Elements (MIRE FDE). The MIRE FDE is a set of data items that must be collected based upon the National Functional Classification (NFC) and surface type of all public roads in Michigan. This establishes a collection of data that supports Michigan’s data-driven safety program.</i>	
	Roundabout Design Aid Update	Austin Kerby, MDOT
	<i>As the experience of roundabout design in the United States have expanded, the geometric design elements for those roundabouts have evolved. The updated MDOT Roundabout Design Aid takes the old Roundabouts: An Informal Guide (NCHRP 672) design values and updates them to match the Guide for Roundabouts (NCHRP 1043) values. In addition, MDOT preferences and practices were changed in the aid to match MDOT’s current policies. These updates have the goal of making roundabouts safer and operate more efficiently.</i>	
	Performance-Based Practical Design in the Road Design Manual	Nathan Miller, MDOT
	<i>The 7th Edition of the AASHTO Green Book allows for adopting agencies to increase design flexibility by utilizing existing performance data to govern design parameters. This will be a brief overview of how MDOT is incorporating this flexibility in the Road Design Manual.</i>	

2:15 PM	Break	
2:30 PM	US-127/I-496 Phase 1	James Smith, Colliers Engineering & Design Matthew Wagner, Colliers Engineering & Design
	<i>Lansing's major freeway overhaul is well underway-with Phase I, the largest and most complex now complete. This phase included complete reconstruction and partial realignment of the roadway and multiple structure replacements with the most complex being the new Trowbridge Road Exit Ramp bridge comprised of curved steel girders constructed over two active rail lines. The presentation highlights this transformative project and the collaborative spirit which facilitated its success.</i>	
3:00 PM	Break	
3:10 PM	Traffic Bowl	Facilitated by Jordan Hankin, Spalding DeDecker
	<i>Participate in a practice game of ITE's famous traffic bowl. Students will play in the first game and subsequent games are open to professionals.</i>	
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks	

Fees:

Includes lunch and continuing education seminars with up to **4.0 hours** of Continuing Education Hours (CEH). CEH records will be available online following the event. Please make sure to sign-in at the event.

Payment Due:	ITE Member/ Public Agency	Non-Member Private Industry	Students
EARLY BIRD PRICE (Ends March 25 th)	\$45	\$55	\$10
Regular Payment/Registration	\$55	\$65	\$15

Registration: https://itemichigan.org/?page_id=12580

Continuing education credits: https://itemichigan.org/?page_id=12694

POST-EVENT SOCIAL

Join us on the Graduate hotel's rooftop bar. Great views of East Lansing and a chance to continue to network with professionals and students. Bar opens at 4:00pm. Drinks are **not** included with registration.

Graduate East Lansing
 133 Evergreen Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823



Michigan State University Union
 Second Floor, Ballroom

