

Letter from the President

By: Bonnie Wood, PE, PTOE



Hello ITE Michigan Section! I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. I have been fortunate to spend a portion of my summer in Detroit at the 2026 Joint ITE International and Great Lakes District Annual Meeting and Exhibition. It was great to see everything Detroit has to offer and participate in a wide variety of sessions, tours, exhibitions and social activities provided over the 4-day conference. I enjoyed seeing my friends from the Michigan Section and the Great Lakes District and meeting transportation professionals and students from around the world. I had a “Proud Mom” moment seeing award winners from the Michigan Section being honored at the conference. These included Lauren Hull, P.E., RSP1 for Young Leader to Follow and Rising Star recipient; Alexander Rucinski, P.E., PTOE a 2026 graduate of LeadershipITE and the crew at Macomb County Department of Roads and their consultant AECOM for their Innovating Signal Safety Project. Magdalena Cavka won an award for her poster and Western Michigan University won the GLD Design Competition and the Outstanding Student Chapter Award.

Many thanks to all who participated and assisted with the Local Arrangements Committee, especially our co-chairs Lia Michaels and Carrisa McQuiston- Perry. I was happy to see them presented with shiny hardware at the awards luncheon. It is not too early to think about 2027, when the ITE Great Lakes District Annual Meeting will be in Chicago, IL and the ITE International Meeting will be in Calgary, Alberta.

It is very exciting that our new international border crossing is now open. Keep a look out for an ITE Michigan Section meet up to cross the Gordie Howe Bridge. Other upcoming events to add to your calendar include Adopt a highway clean-up tentatively set for September 19, 2026, Fall Technical Session to be held at Western Michigan University on October 7, 2026 and our Winter Technical Session and Annual Meeting to be held on December 3, 2026. This will be at the Farmington Hills HAWK Center. Registration for these events will be available on the website as we get closer to the date.

In conjunction with the technical sessions, a 2-day MDOT approved Road Safety Audit workshop is planned for October 8-9 and is to be held on WMU campus. Also, we will elect a new director for the ITE Michigan Section Board. Elections will be held in the month of November, and the election results are shared at the Winter Technical Session. The candidates and their biographies will be released to you soon for your consideration.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see you soon at one or several of the upcoming events.

-Bonnie Wood



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UPCOMING DATES:

ITE Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup - September 19, 2026

Fall Technical Session - October 7, 2026

Road Safety Audit Workshop - October 8-9, 2026

ITE Michigan Section Annual Meeting - December 3, 2026



2026 Executive Board & Committee Chairs

President:

Bonnie Wood
Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Bonnie.Wood@metroparks.com

Vice President:

Julie Kroll
Fleis & VandenBrink
jkroll@fveng.com

Treasurer:

Heather Zull
Michigan Department of Transportation
ZullH@michigan.gov

Secretary:

Cole Villalobos
Hubbell, Roth & Clark
cvillalobos@hrcengr.com

Director:

Alex Rucinski
Road Commission of Oakland County
arucinski@rcoc.org

Immediate Past President:

Steve Stramsak
Spalding DeDecker
sstramsak@sda-eng.com

District Representative:

Steve Stramsak
Spalding DeDecker
sstramsak@sda-eng.com

Affiliate Director:

John Carrier
Carrier & Gable
John@carriergable.com

Great Lakes District Director:

Danielle Deneau
Road Commission of Oakland County
ddeneau@rcoc.org

Technical Committee:

Ellen Nightingale
Michigan Department of Transportation
NightingaleE3@michigan.gov

Communications Committee:

Matt Keyes
ROWE
mkeyes@rowepsc.com

Webmaster:

Maxwell Smith
Michigan Department of Transportation
SmithM173@michigan.gov

Education & Scholarships:

Tim Haagsma
Kent County Road Commission
thaagsma@KentCountyRoads.net

Awards Committee:

Hailey Savola
ROWE
HSavola@rowepsc.com

YPC Committee:

Lauren Hull
OHM
lauren.hull@ohm-advisors.com



2026 Spring Technical Session

By: Matt Keyes, EIT, RSP₁

Members of the ITE Michigan chapter assembled once again at the MSU Union in April for its annual Spring Technical Session, which kicked off with a welcome by Magdalena Cavka, the President of the Michigan State Student Chapter of ITE. Although the schedule was altered slightly to account for interstate flooding from a downpour in the morning, the session still held several presentations from professionals across the state.

Representatives of AECOM held two informative topics in the morning. Firstly, Pam Blazo presented on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, which was entering its final year of the 5-year program. This initiative promised \$1 billion in annual funding, and prioritized public infrastructure. Pam Blazo also displayed different applications that these funds can be used for. The second presentation from AECOM was a case study of two different Road Diet projects, presented by Sarah Binkowski and Saumil Shah. In this presentation, Sarah and Saumil informed the audience about two different proposed Road Diets in Tawas and Manistee respectively. While the two locations exhibited staggeringly similar conditions (LOS, land use, etc.), the people of Tawas were vehemently opposed to the development and rejected it, while Manistee welcomed and approved it. The juxtaposition of the public feedback between the two cities despite their analogous conditions goes to show how important it is to inform the public of developments coming to their community.

With the session taking place near Michigan's capital, four presentations throughout the day were led by MDOT engineers. In the morning, Brandan Maurer discussed Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Engineer role, and discussed some of their focus areas. Maurer also identified remediations that can be deployed in our communities to make them safer for pedestrians.



Later in the afternoon, three MDOT representatives presented one after another regarding different key topics. The first reviewed Model Inventory Road Elements Fundamental Data Elements (MIRE FDE) by Austin Himmelein. MIRE is inventory of all things relating to our roadways, including intersection types, road ownership, roadway type, among many others. The second was an overview on MDOT's Roundabout Design Aid by Austin Kerby, which had recently been updated to match the Guide for Roundabouts (NCHRP 1043). Kerby also touched on MDOT's updated preferences and practices to improve roundabout operations. The final presentation from MDOT was by Nathan Miller, who discussed the 7th Edition of the AASHTO Green Book and how roadway design may be more flexible going forward, instead of following rigid design principles outlined in previous versions of the Green Book. Miller emphasized the Substantive Safety Approach, which relies on predicted or existing safety performance to determine investment strategies for future safety measures.

Michigan State also had representatives presenting on this day, both professors and students alike. Alyssa Ryan emphasized the importance of the social aspect of road design in her presentation, and how comparatively disadvantaged communities experience more frequent and dangerous crashes. Meanwhile, Kakan Dey focused on road users' understanding of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, and what supplementary signage has been proven to be the most effective. Finally, every year at the Spring Technical Session, there is a poster session where students inform members of their findings in various studies on a plethora of topics, from road safety analysis to the effectiveness of certain road features on its users.

The last presentation of the day was presented by James Smith and Matthew Wagner of Colliers Engineering. They reported on the geographically-relevant US-127/I-496 project in Lansing, which had completed its first phase. Smith and Wagner discussed the reconstruction and realignment of the roadway, as well as the many structure replacements.

The session ended, as always, with a mock Traffic Bowl match between MSU's Traffic Bowl team and ITE members. Thank you to all who attended!



34th Annual ITE Educational Fund

Golf Outing

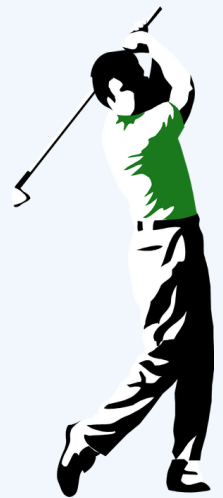
By: Aimée Giacherio, P.E.

The ITE Michigan Section held its 34th Annual Educational Fund Golf Outing on Thursday, May 28th at Mystic Creek Golf Course. We had the most beautiful day for the event which had a total of 127 golfers. 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 again a huge success with 37 sponsors! All of our gracious sponsors are listed below. Additional thanks are extended to all of the outing participants. Each year participants dig deep into their pockets to participate in the on-course challenge holes, raffle, and flagging tape sale which contributes to the total profit.

Congratulations to the team consisting of Terry Martin, Ron Worthington, Travis Rose, and Jarrett Gerring who captured first place at the event!

Profits from this year's event totaled \$14,767. All the proceeds are deposited into the Michigan Section ITE Educational Fund. This fund is used to provide a reduced student attendance fee 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, Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.

Thanks to all who made this event such a huge success!!



Sponsors:

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Other Contributors:

Gary Piotrowicz
Joseph Marson
Steve Stramsak
Tim Haagsma

ITE Trivia Night

By: Matt Keyes, EIT, RSP₁



The 2026 ITE Michigan Trivia Night on February 24 was a blast! Members assembled at four different locations throughout Michigan (Farmington Hills, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo) to compete in a friendly game of trivia. It was a close game, with the top two teams scoring 128 points after the final. This year's winners, Grand Rapids' team "Defending Champs" (pictured left), eked out the victory over Farmington Hills' "The Hillz Have Mindz" by a single point in our Tiebreaker round!

Thanks go to all those that attended this year at any of the four locations. We are looking forward to next year!

YPC Activities

Annual Pistons Outing

By: Jordan Hankin, PE

For the fourth consecutive year, the Michigan Section Young Professionals Committee joined forces with the young professionals of ASCE and APWA for an exciting Detroit Pistons networking event. More than 100 professionals from across the industry attended, making it another successful evening of relationship-building and camaraderie.

The evening began with a pre-game networking social at Bookie's Bar & Grill, where attendees connected with peers, exchanged ideas, and expanded their professional networks before heading to Little Caesars Arena to watch the Detroit Pistons take on the Denver Nuggets. The game did not disappoint, as the Pistons secured a thrilling 124-121 victory over the Nuggets. Attendees enjoyed premium tickets that included unlimited ballpark-style food and an exclusive Pistons hat, adding to an already memorable experience.

The event continues to be a highlight for young professionals across Michigan, providing a unique opportunity to strengthen industry connections while enjoying one of Detroit's premier sports venues.



Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

By: Austin Detweiler, EIT



On Saturday, April 11, YPC members arrived to their meeting spot in Rochester Hills. They suited up, got their garbage grabbers and trash bags, and headed down Avon Rd.

Twice a year, YPC members participate in the Road Commission for Oakland County's Adopt-A-Road program. As part of the program, the ITE Michigan YPC is cleaning up both sides of Avon Rd between Rochester Rd and John R Rd.

These mornings are a great chance to give back to your local community, so reach out to anyone on the YPC if you are interested in helping out!

ITE Great Lakes District Student Leadership Summit

By: Austin Detweiler, EIT

The 2026 ITE Great Lakes District Student Leadership Summit (SLS) took place on Saturday, right before the annual meeting began. Students from all over the district arrived on Friday evening to check into their lodging and attend a duckpin bowling kickoff social event.

Saturday kicked off with a brief welcome and introduction to the summit by the hosts and quickly dove into some student presentations. Chapters were asked to prepare a brief presentation going over how they run their chapters, which evolved into some excellent discussions on how to improve turnout, fundraise, and get more utility for their members. This was followed by the student design competition and discussion, then some tips from ITE leaders about networking and attending the conference itself. Professors from Michigan State University (MSU) and Wayne State University (WSU) then took the opportunity to start some discussion and receive feedback from students about what faculty can do to better support students.

After lunch and the student poster session, a transportation career panel consisting of four professionals opened up to some questions from the student audience. The professionals were selected such that there was someone in their early, mid, and later career paths as well as experience in both the public and private sectors to give a holistic overview of what students can expect from a career in transportation.

The ITE Great Lakes District Traffic Bowl then commenced, with the combined Purdue University and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign team claiming victory, meaning that they would go on to represent the district at the national level. The SLS then closed out with a restaurant networking event where students could interact more casually with some transportation professionals.

This event would not have been possible without the MSU Student Chapter planning the summit, or without the WSU Student Chapter's use of their engineering building to hold the summit. Both student chapters stepped up and delivered an excellent experience for all involved!



Newsletter Throwback - Spring 1975

By: Austin Detweiler, EIT

FOUR WAY STOP CONTROLS

by
William T. Lebel, Traffic Engineer
Michigan Department of State Highways
and Transportation

William T. Lebel, an MDOT traffic engineer, wrote to the ITE Michigan Spring newsletter in 1975 outlining the agency's recent experimentation and successful deployment of four way stop controls at rural intersections. At the time, four way stop controls were considered "as an intersectional control applicable only in moderate volume, low-speed, urban - sub-urban environments." The results of these installations were hugely successful, and dramatically improved safety at the four locations. Check out M-57 at M-52 - there is still a four way stop control at this location!

See our full
newsletter archive at
www.itemichigan.org

M-58 (State) at M-47 (Midland),
Saginaw County, installed 12-17-71

M-57 at M-52, Saginaw County, in-
stalled 2-6-74

US-27 BR (State) at US-27 BR
(Lincoln), Gratiot County, installed
10-12-72

M-57 at M-13, Saginaw and Genesee
Counties, installed 2-21-74

LOCATION

BEFORE

AFTER

Accidents Injuries Fatalities Accidents Injuries Fatalities

M-57 at M-13	17	26	2	3	0	0
M-57 at M-52	15	12	3	2	1	0
M-58 at M-47	15	5	0	5	0	0
US-27 BR at US-27 BR	9	10	1	2	3	0
TOTAL	56	53	6	12	4	0

ITE Annual Meeting - Detroit 2026

By: Lauren Hull, PE, RSP₁

Cole G. Villalobos, PE, PTOE, RSP₂IB

Sunday

The ITE Annual Meeting kicked off Sunday with several great workshops. A variety of workshops were held on topics including ethics, roundabouts, TSMO, video analytics, V2X deployment, complete streets, and building connections to name a few. A new workshop emerged this year called “Improv for Transportation Professionals”. This workshop encouraged professionals to work on their soft skills through small group activities and improv exercises. The ITE International Young Member Committee also held a workshop called “Shifting Gears in Detroit: Tuning Up Your Transportation Career as a Young Professional or Student”. This workshop consisted of two panels and small group discussions. The panelists were comprised of a mix of experiences, public vs private, and researchers to encompass different perspectives. The small group discussions allowed attendees to select a topic where they wanted to learn more and ask any remaining questions to the panelists.

In addition to the workshops, the GLITEY race was held. This scavenger hunt type of activity is extremely competitive, and this year was no different. Teams must race to various checkpoints based on clues and compete in activities to win the title. Congratulations to Victoria Edington, Preston Judkins, Beverly Thompson Kuhn, and Jeff Young for winning this year’s race!

The evening ended with a first-timer’s orientation followed by the opening reception in the exhibit hall. The first-timer’s orientation is a great way for attendees to connect with others attending the conference for the first time. The opening reception gave everyone a chance to walk around and talk with exhibitors as well as connect with other professionals attending the conference.



“[My highlight was] Connecting with colleagues and learning from so many great people, and the Leadership ITE Graduation”

*-Neal Styka, PE, RSP₁, PTOE
Kapur and Associates
Milwaukee, WI*

ITE Annual Meeting - Detroit 2026

By: Lauren Hull, PE, RSP₁

Cole Villalobos, PE, PTOE, RSP₂IB

Monday



The first full day of the conference kicked off with the opening business and plenary session. ITE CEO and Executive Director, Stephen Kuciemba, and ITE president, Gordon Meth, welcomed everyone to the conference and shared various updates from the past several months. Proceeding that, Bradley Wieferich the Director of MDOT, spoke on how advancements influence the design of streets and emerging vehicle technologies.

Following the opening session poster sessions were held in the exhibit hall. A variety of posters were presented from researchers and students from all over the country. After that, concurrent technical sessions and technical tours were held. Attendees could select a specific track to follow if desired. These tracks include TSMO, technology and innovation, safety, traffic engineering, complete streets, rural, and planning. Technical tours included: The American Center for Mobility tour, the Joe Louis Greenway Biking tour, the Macomb County COMTEC Tour and Connected Signals Demo.

Lastly, the most anticipated event of the year, the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl Grand Championship was held. Everyone grabbed their popcorn and cheered on the winning team from their district. A joint team of members from Purdue University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign represented the Great Lakes District. In the semi-finals it came down to final jeopardy, where the University of Washington took the win. The final round consisted of teams from the University of Arizona, the University of Florida, and the University of Washington. After some fierce competition, the University of Washington ended up taking home the trophy. Congratulations to the University of Washington and to everyone that competed!

"[My highlight was] Organization and how staff handle everything. They were very accesible and friendly."

-Joshua Hernandez
City of Orlando
Orlando, FL



ITE Annual Meeting - Detroit 2026

By: Lauren Hull, PE, RSP₁

Cole Villalobos, PE, PTOE, RSP₂IB

Tuesday & Wednesday

Highlights from the last two days of the Annual Meeting included events such as a 5K Run, international award presentations, LeadershipITE Graduation, the ITE Great Lakes District (GLD) Awards, and a Joint Social at Ford Field.

Award Winners:

- Alex Rucinski - LeadershipITE Graduate
- Lauren Hull - GLD Rising Star Award
- Magdalena Cavka - GLD Poster Competition Winner
- Western Michigan University - GLD Design Competition Winner
- Western Michigan University - GLD Outstanding Student Chapter
- Macomb County Department of Roads - International ITE & GLD Transportation Achievement Award: Safety

Huge thanks to everyone on the Local Arrangements Committee for your time and effort to hold a outstanding Annual Meeting!

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • Lia Michaels | • Ellen Nightingale |
| • Carissa McQuiston-Perry | • Sara Merrill |
| • Cole Villalobos | • Lauren Hull |
| • Joe Bartus | • Steven Lavrenz |
| • Lori Pawlik | • Dani Booms |
| • Colleen Hill-Stramsak | • Steve Stramsak |
| • Ellen Nightingale | • Matt Hunter |
| • Jordan Hankin | • Bonnie Wood |



"Great networking opportunities!!!!!"

-EC Hagel
MDOT
Lansing, MI





Summer 2026

Official Publication of the ITE Michigan Section

MICHIGAN SECTION

New Members

Joined January-July 2026

Private Sector

Aaron Wildrick
Alexa Sorenson
Ahmad Jawad
Christopher Haymond
Colin Walker
Justin LaLonde
Karl Plattenburger
Nick Betz
Simon Peter
Thuyen Dang
Will Bagley

Student Members

Amelia DiCicco
Devin Saxon
Jayden Lee
Jeremiah Lee
Lia Goodell
Luke Kozianowski
Mahsa Tavasoli
Maitham Ammari
Maya Osseili

Meera Ramaswami
Myles De Jongh
Noah Millin
Noah Proctor
Sri Swetha Somepalli
Stephen Knight
Suphanat Juengprasertsak

Public Sector

Aaron Berkholz
Joshua Porath
Kristin Bennett
Ronald Rangel

**Welcome to the
ITE Michigan
Section!**

Do you want to become a member? Visit www.ite.org to join!

