

The **INTERCHANGE**

President's Message

By Don Adams, P.E., PTOE



Is there any single skill in our profession, or life for that matter, that carries as much importance as the ability to communicate? Communication, the act of sharing ideas and information, is what drives the success of our professional efforts, projects, ITE and the success of this newsletter.

In an effort to improve communication, the Section has taken advantage of technology to distribute meeting announcements and registration materials, information on professional development opportunities and *The Interchange* all electronically. At the international level, ITE has excelled by providing members with webinars, technical committee email distribution lists and an outstanding website which includes a host of information. Technology can also be used to communicate back to ITE, so please take a moment and click on my address and send me a message. Let me know what you like and do not like about *The Interchange* and Section activities. You can also provide us with information you would like to share with other Section members. Send me a message to let me know that you opened up and read *The Interchange*. dadams@cmellp.com

Engineers have traditionally struggled with communication, and technology has added another twist to maintaining effective communication. We now communicate on a regular basis without talking to each

other, which some engineers may prefer. Mobile telephones and PDAs provide us with the opportunity to be in continuous contact with others, but this does not necessarily mean that effective communication is taking place. If you consider that in a face-to-face conversation 60% of the communication is conveyed visually, and on the telephone 80% of the communication is conveyed through tone of voice (*Professional Development Group, Rochester, NY*) it becomes evident that the intent of our message may be lost when we send an email or hold a meeting on the telephone. I am an advocate of both forms of communication and it is a part of the way business is conducted, but we need to be conscientious of the consequences and put the effort forward to communicate effectively. See "Tips for Effective Email" at the end of my message for some pointers on how to improve your "technical communication."

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The INTERCHANGE

A quarterly publication of the New York Upstate Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Send comments or articles to:

Christina L. Douglas - Editor
c/o Clough Harbour & Associates LLP
III Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12205
tel: (518) 453-4586
fax: (518) 453-3967
email: cdouglas@cha-llp.com

2006 NY Upstate Section Officers

President.....Donald Adams, P.E., PTOE
Vice President.....Paul Pflueger, C.E.T.
Secretary.....Amy Dake, P.E., PTOE
Treasurer.....Eric Logan, P.E.
District Delegates.....Lorenzo Rotoli, P.E., PTOE
Timothy Faulkner, P.E., PTOE

Local ITE Coordinators

Albany

Shelly Johnston
Creighton Manning Engineering LLP
17 Computer Drive West
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 446-0396
sjohnston@cmellp.com

Buffalo

Robert Miller
Nussbaumer & Clarke
3556 Lake Shore Rd.
Blasdell, NY 14219
(716) 827-8000 ext. 230
rmiller@nussclarke.com

Rochester

Keith Mortimer
Fisher Associates
135 Calkins Rd
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 334-1310
KMortimer@fisherassoc.com

Southern Tier

Cynthia Paddick
Binghamton Metro Trans. Study
PO Box 1776
Binghamton, NY 13902
(607) 772-2443
CPaddick@co.broome.ny.us

Syracuse

Jim Napoleon
Jim Napoleon & Associates
104 Kreisler Road
Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 452-9611
jimnap@choiceconemail.com

Also find us at: www.itenyupstate.com

Thank you Steven Gayle!

Once again Steve Gayle has served as an outstanding role model for the New York Upstate Section by chairing the District 1 Annual Meeting in Cooperstown. Steve has served on both the International Board of Direction and as ITE International President. Thank you for making the choice to stay involved with local ITE activities.



NY Upstate Section Executive Board

Note: See Page 6 of this newsletter for an article written by Steve recapping the District 1 Annual Meeting.

Welcome New Members

The ITE NY Upstate Section is proud to welcome our newest members. Below is a list of members that have joined the Section since our last publication. We look forward to meeting you at our next event!

Michael E. Hartman, P.E.
The Chazen Companies
Troy, New York

William E. Logan, P.E.
The Chazen Companies
Troy, New York

Timothy N. Logue
City of Ithaca
Ithaca, New York

Nathan C. Miller
McGill University, Student
Plattsburgh, New York

Aaron T. Zimmerman
FRA Engineering
Buffalo, New York

Effective Communication Tips (Self Help, Management)

- ★ Express your thoughts clearly – Think through what you plan to communicate
- ★ Be willing to express your feelings
- ★ Put yourself in the place of the other person
- ★ Be to the point
- ★ Listen actively
- ★ Ask questions to clarify
- ★ Try to understand participants' points of view
- ★ Be considerate
- ★ Paraphrase key points that the other person made
- ★ Postpone evaluation of the other participants view
- ★ Be honest
- ★ Communication continues after you deliver the message – “follow-up” is an important part of communicating

WANTED Newsletter Submissions

Are people opening the electronic copy of *The Interchange*? Each issue is distributed to approximately 200 members of the NY Upstate Section. Is there a particular article or piece of information that people look forward to reading each issue? Membership spotlight? Company adds? Job advertisements? Upcoming events? The newsletter has traditionally provided the service of distributing information about events, ITE announcements and technical information.

What we are lacking is technical information that is relevant to Upstate New York. So, we are asking you to please contribute your technical findings, lessons learned, project highlights, etc., especially when they are relevant to Upstate New York! What a great opportunity to advertise your expertise and invite other professionals to build on your findings.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

I have included a couple other “Tips” sections on communication throughout this newsletter. For additional information you may also want to check out *Effective Communications for Transportation Professionals* in the ITE Bookstore at <http://www.ite.org/bookstore/index.asp>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Don

Tips for Effective Email (Mind Tools)

- ☒ The message should be clear and concise, including the subject line
- ☒ Include any action item you desire, such as a follow-up telephone call or email
- ☒ Include your contact information
- ☒ Return emails in a timely manner
- ☒ Think before you write and send – you can send information faster than ever now, but it doesn't always mean you should
- ☒ You can always deny what you said but once you write it in and email you are accountable
- ☒ If the topic is personal or emotional you may want to consider a form of communication other than email
- ☒ Email is not confidential
- ☒ Take time to proofread your message

Before you send that next email, take the time to consider whether or not those who get the message will be able to understand what you mean. The recipient must rely on their own perceptions of what you are trying to say, what you want them to do and why they should do it.

The Cost of US Congestion

*from "Tips and Trends in Transportation "
Volume 12, Issue 3 (Summer)*

Compiled by Jim Harris and W. Martin Bretherton Jr., P.E.

Calling congestion one of the single largest threats to the economy, US Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta has announced a new national initiative to tackle highway, freight and aviation congestion.

During remarks to the National Retail Federation, Mineta said that "congestion kills time, wastes fuel and costs money." He noted that **America loses an estimated \$200 billion a year due to freight bottlenecks and delayed deliveries. The Secretary added that consumers lose 3.7 billion hours and 2.3 billion gallons of fuel sitting in traffic jams** and that airline delays waste \$9.4 billion a year.

"Congestion is not a fact of life. It is not a scientific mystery, nor is it an uncontrollable force," Mineta said. "We need a new approach and we need it now."

The new initiative, the **National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network**, provides a blueprint for federal, state and local officials to tackle congestion, Mineta said. He noted that over the coming months, the US Department of Transportation will focus its resources, funding, staff and technology to cut traffic jams, relieve freight bottlenecks and reduce flight delays.

The initiative will seek Urban Partnership Agreements with a handful of communities willing to demonstrate new congestion relief strategies and encourages states to pass legislation giving the private sector a broader opportunity to invest in transportation. It calls for more widespread deployment of new operational technologies and practices that end traffic tie ups, designates new interstate "corridors of the future," targets port and border congestion, and expands aviation capacity.

The Secretary also announced that he would convene the Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission for its first meeting on Wednesday, 24 May. He said he would task the commission with finding solutions that not only raise revenue for highway and transit projects, but also reduce the cost of congestion by focusing more on system performance.

Mineta acknowledged that some of the measures in the plan would be considered controversial by those he called "wedded to the status quo." But he added that new solutions were needed to successfully reduce congestion.

"The bottom line is that every person and every business in American has a vested interest in reducing congestion," Mineta said. "We don't have to let traffic delays put our lives on hold any longer."

To download a copy of the National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network plan, visit: <http://isddc.dot.gov/OLPFiles/OST/012988.pdf>.



What can we do to prevent this?!

2007 International Vice Presidential Candidates Wanted

Dear Fellow ITE Member:

It is my honor to serve as chairperson of this year's ITE Nominations Committee seeking prospective candidates for next year's international officer elections. I encourage anyone interested in running next year for the position of International Vice President to contact me at tim.harpst@ci.slc.ut.us or your District representative on the Nominating Committee listed below:

Kim Hazarvartian, Dist. 1	Rory Grindley, Dist. 6
Ed Papazian, Dist. 2	Joanna Musters, Dist. 7
Michael Cline, Dist. 3	Peter Daly, Dist. 8
Wayne Higgins, Dist. 4	Robert Wunderlich, Dist. 9
Ken Voorhies, Dist. 5	Ed Mierzejewski, Dist. 10

To be eligible, you must obtain the membership level of Fellow within the Institute by the close of nominations, September 1, 2006. Members of the Nominating Committee can provide an information packet for prospective candidates explaining the nominations process and the duties of the position. Additionally, we are pleased to answer any questions about the nominations process and the commitment to serve.

I hope you will give this opportunity strong consideration. Becoming a member of the Institute's Executive Committee is a professionally and personally rewarding experience. It is a unique opportunity to not only give something back to our profession, but to help identify and direct the vital services that ITE provides its members. If you wish to have your name considered, please contact me or your District representative on the Nominating Committee at your earliest convenience. Prospective candidates will need to provide their resume, a letter of support from their employer and a response to several questions from the Nominating Committee no later than September 1, 2006.

Thank you,
Tim Harpst
Immediate Past International President
Chairperson,
2006 International Officer Nominations Committee

Tips for Making Effective Technical Presentations

(Nazir Lalani and Steven B. Colman)

- ✓ Know the audience
- ✓ Identify what the audience needs to know and the message you want ringing in their ears as they leave
- ✓ Be presentable
- ✓ Provide an idea that your audience can take away and implement immediately
- ✓ Delivery – Do not read a paper or summary of the paper. Tell a story by highlighting points from your agenda.
- ✓ Length – Presentations should be as short as possible to convey the main message. You should be considerate of time constraints
- ✓ Audience Attention – Slide should not be left on the screen for more than 20 seconds.
- ✓ Enthusiasm – Animation, enthusiasm and voice inflection are important to communicating to the audience.
- ✓ Pace – Try to speak slower than normal conversation, pausing between major points.
- ✓ Dynamic Techniques – Use quotes and surprises
- ✓ Eye Contact – Look at the audience when you are speaking
- ✓ Nervousness – It is acceptable to be nervous...it shows you care about what you are doing.
- ✓ Rehearsal – Rehearse your presentation at least three times, one of which should be in the room you will be presenting.



District 1 Annual Meeting Hits a Home Run By Steven Gayle

The NY Upstate Section had the honor of hosting the 37th annual ITE District 1 meeting. More than 18 months ago, the District Board accepted our proposal to hold the meeting in Cooperstown, and to appoint Steve Gayle as the Chair. Steve said at that time to the Section “I’ll be glad to chair the Local Arrangements Committee and work with the hotel, since I live near Cooperstown. But we need a great committee to do all of the real work.” And as Steve acknowledged at the Awards banquet when he and District Chair Lynn LaMunyon distributed certificates of recognition to the LAC members, they really had been a great committee and worked incredibly hard to engineer a memorable meeting.



ITE International President Rich Romer addresses the meeting

We could hardly find a better venue than the Otesaga Hotel. A grand resort hotel of the last century, guests were impressed by everything from the Georgian columned entrance to the grand veranda overlooking beautiful Otsego Lake to the wonderful service and excellent food to the free wifi throughout the building! What could top that except a Welcome Reception at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, visiting with friends and dining on excellent food in the shadow of the greats of the American pastime.

Typically one member of the ITE Executive Committee attends each District meeting, but we were excited to have both International President Rich Romer and International Vice President Earl Newman join us.



Met Section winning Traffic Bowl team (from left) Mayer Horn, ITE VP Earl Newman, Gordon Meth, and Leon Goodman

Something about not being able to resist an opportunity to come to Cooperstown. They were joined by Vice Presidential candidates Rod Kelly from Dallas and Alf Guebert from Calgary, and Lisa Fontana-Tierney from ITE staff. Lisa was excited to come home to Upstate, taking the opportunity to visit her family in Buffalo. Together, they reacquainted our members with news of ITE at the highest levels.

There were excellent technical sessions on topics ranging from older drivers to roundabouts to expert

(Continued on page 7)



Members of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst award winning student chapter

District 1 Annual Meeting *Continued...*

witness crash investigation, and an update on SAFETEA-LU that included the Deputy Assistant Secretary of USDOT and the Associate Administrator of FHWA. We had 14 vendors to share with our members the newest in traffic control products and traffic engineering software. A bike tour for which the weather held and only two riders got lost. Wonderful consultant support. A political comedy revue, "Only in New York," that poked fun equally at Republicans Pataki and Bruno and Democrats Clinton and Spitzer, and had everyone roaring.

NEWS FLASH...MET SECTION WINS THE TRAFFIC BOWL!!!

The Met Section victory is not necessarily unheard of, but we did have an exciting Traffic Bowl first – an all student team from U Mass Amherst. While they did not win the Traffic Bowl, they did take home the Student Chapter Award, while the New England Section was recognized as our best Section.

NEWS FLASH...MICHAEL SALATTI WINS HARVEY BOUTWELL AWARD!!!

The Harvey B. Boutwell Distinguished Service Award is District 1's most prestigious. It celebrates individuals who have demonstrated a long history of working hard for the District, as did its namesake. Harvey was part of the ITE Constitutional Convention that created the district structure, he was part of the founding of District 1, and he served as our first District Administrator for ten years. Mike Salatti is very deserving. An active member of the Met Section, he has chaired a number of District annual meetings, served on the District Board, and has helped us immeasurably.



District Vice Chair Mike Schauer (l) presents Outstanding Section award to the New England Section, Past President Ken Petraglia and President Neil Boudreau

We owe an immeasurable debt to all of the members of the Local Arrangements Committee:

Lorenzo Rotoli	<i>Finance Chair</i>
Mike Schauer	<i>Technical Program Chair</i>
Michael O'Rourke	<i>Technical Program</i>
Don Adams	<i>Continuing Education Certification</i>
Cindy McCormick	<i>Registration</i>
Aileen Maguire Meyer	<i>Registration</i>
Shelly Johnston	<i>Graphics and Publication</i>
Cyndi Paddick and Cecelia Laurendeau	<i>Companion Program</i>
Scott Reigle	<i>Companion Program</i>
Mary Rowlands	<i>Bike Tour</i>
Bill Moore	<i>Gifts</i>
Frank Dolan	<i>Vendor Coordinator</i>
Peter Plumeau	<i>Consultant Support</i>
Jim Pond	<i>Consultant Support</i>
Rod Emery	<i>Technical Support</i>
Dennis O'Malley	<i>Traffic Bowl</i>
Jim Napoleon	<i>Golf</i>
	<i>Entertainment</i>

For INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT of ITE
Alfred A. Guebert, P.E., PTOE, Fellow
TSH Associates Ltd, Calgary, AB



I am honored to have been nominated again for the position of International Vice President of ITE. During the past 76 years, ITE has appealed to transportation professionals as their organization of choice. It has done that by providing great value to its members. The key characteristics that are critical for a leader in this organization include: vision, leadership, experience, knowledge, and passion.

My Vision is to build on and strengthen the Value of the Institute to members by keeping you *informed* about, and *engaged in*, the programs, products and services that ITE produces. This Vision is fairly simple and straight-forward, but it centers on communication and participation.

As the next International Vice President, my specific goals for ITE include...

Technical Excellence... ITE must continue to provide us with relevant, high quality, up-to-date materials... these are the tools of our trade... *My priority is to engage the members from every District in the specialty councils, and to communicate the value of those materials to our members.*

Transportation Safety... ITE must provide the tools we need to ensure safety-focused design practices, and review processes... *My priority is to encourage global input to these best practices, communicate them to our membership, and promote them to the public agency decision-makers and to the general public.*

Workforce Development... We need to encourage young men AND young women to consider engineering and planning as career options... and continue to expand the professional development opportunities for our members ... *My priorities are: to get the message out that we need a highly qualified workforce capable of meeting the demand; and to expand the professional development opportunities.*

International Growth... We must first strive to understand the needs in other parts of the world... then take steps to meet those diverse needs... *My priorities are: to provide members from around the world with opportunities to learn from each other; and to encourage international participation in the development of our products and services.*

I have developed the **Leadership** skills needed to lead the Institute: as a VP Candidate (2005, 2006); on the International Board of Direction (2001-2003); all positions of the District 7 Exec Committee (1993-2001); and as the Founding President, SK Section (1989-1993).

I have the professional **Experience** required for the position: as a traffic engineer with 21 years in the public sector; and 6 years in the private sector.

I also have the **Knowledge** to help guide ITE's technical programs: with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering; and an M.S. in Civil Engineering; as well as certification as a PTOE.

... and I have the **Passion** to take on this role. I have a passion for the Profession; for the People in the Profession; for the Institute; and for the Public we serve... ***I am committed to keeping you informed about and engaged in ITE!***

With an emphasis on **Technical Excellence, Transportation Safety, Workforce Development and International Growth**, ITE will become more valuable to all of us, and it will continue to be our organization of choice. Check out my website (www.alf4ite.com), or contact me directly (aguebert@tsh.ca).

For INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT of ITE

Rodney W. Kelly, P.E., Fellow

Vice President, Parsons Transportation Group



I believe that ITE exists for the benefit of its members. As a transportation engineer and planner for over 41 years, I have been on the receiving end of the many technical and professional services provided by ITE. I have spent 35 years serving in a broad range of leadership roles at all levels within ITE to provide those same services to other ITE members. If elected, I will be dedicated to making sure

that ITE continues to function as an organization dedicated to the needs of its members.

Vision: For ITE to be a stronger, more vital, growing organization, focused on providing services that benefit all of its members and the transportation profession.

Campaign Theme: “Providing Membership Services for You”

Five Major Areas of Emphasis:

1. Know What the Members Want and Expect

- Seek constant input
- Use a variety of electronic and interactive inquiry methods
- Make input simple, quick, and easy for members to provide

2. Respond with Specific Actions

- Fully implement ITE role in addressing Mega Issues:
 - Transportation Management and Operations
 - Safety
 - Workforce Development:
 - ♦ Recruit – Promote – Retain
 - ♦ Provide Continuing Education - Expand & refine Webinars

- Fully develop new issues - including Designing for All Users
- Identify other issues – with input from members.

3. Increase Programs for Members Under 35

- Special group for Young Professionals to provide:
 - Technical, Management, and ITE Leadership Training
 - Advice on Professional Registration and Certification

4. Increase Interaction among Members Worldwide

- Support work of existing advisory committee
- Promote technical information exchange

5. Increase Involvement in Council Activities

- Create more incentives to attract volunteers
- Focus on Recruitment, Management, and Recognition

Qualifications and Experience to Fulfill Vision

- ✓ Served at all levels of ITE, including the International Board of Direction, representing two different Districts.
- ✓ Current member of the Coordinating Council and Chair of the Transit Council
- ✓ Have dealt with multimodal transportation systems (Roads and Highways, Transit, Pedestrians, Bicycles, Goods Movement)
- ✓ Have experience in the transportation system areas of Planning, Design, and Operations
- ✓ Have significant public, private, and some academic sector experience
- ✓ Have filled numerous other professional and private life leadership roles

For more detailed information, please visit my website at www.ite4you.com.

Exercise your right to determine the future leadership of ITE by casting your ballot online when voting is available on June 29th. Your vote for Rod Kelly as International Vice President will be a vote for **“Providing Membership Services for You.”**



Rochester
1.800.724.1168

Buffalo
1.800.580.7834

Albany
1.518.458.8500

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1.800.724.9330

Elmira
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AD-C/M/C 2006MAY16P1V1

Happy Fourth of July!!



Have a fun and safe holiday

DID YOU KNOW?

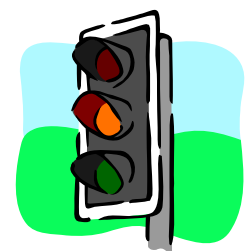
Traffic signals were in use before there were motorcars!

Traffic signals were used before the advent of the motorcar. In 1868, a lantern with red and green signals was used at a London intersection to control the flow of horse buggies and pedestrians.

When motorcars were introduced to the US in the late 1890s, Police Officer William Potts used railroad signals for street traffic, adding the amber light. His electric traffic lights were installed in 1920 in Detroit, Michigan, USA. They were manually controlled. The first automatic traffic light was invented later in 1920 by Garrett Morgan and first used in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Isn't it amazing that, after all these years, the only thing that can stop a 30-ton truck is a traffic signal?

Source: <http://www.didyounow.cd>



Call for Speakers

We are looking for topics and speakers for the 2006 ITE NY Upstate Section Meeting Annual Meeting, which will be in Buffalo this Fall. Please email me at dadams@cmellp.com if you have any ideas.



Thank you,
Don



INSTITUTE OF
TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERS

NEW YORK UPSTATE SECTION

c/o Christina L. Douglas
Clough Harbour & Associates LLP
III Winners Circle
Albany, New York 12205

Dates to Remember.....

August 6-9, 2006 2006 ITE Annual Meeting & Exhibit
Milwaukee, WI

October 2006 2006 NY Upstate Section Annual Meeting
Buffalo, NY (date and location TBD)

October 23-24, 2006.. Transportation and Planning Symposium
Latham, NY