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### 2014 ITE Wisconsin Section Board

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## Legislature gives green light to new standalone traffic signal and ITS program

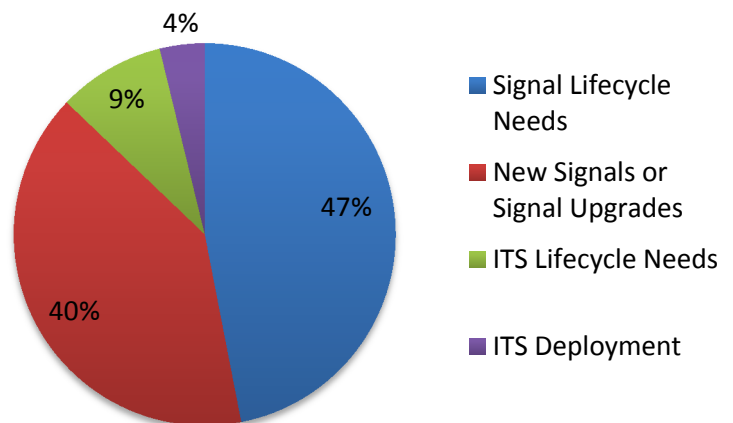
By David Karnes

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has a new program to fund standalone traffic signal and intelligent transportation system (ITS) projects. Legislation enacted in 2001 required projects that install or upgrade traffic signals, lighting, signs, pavement marking and ITS to be incidental to larger highway improvement projects. This provision restricted WisDOT's ability to adapt to changing technologies and meet the lifecycle needs of these systems, which often do not match highway lifecycles.

2013 Wisconsin Act 20, the 2013-15 biennial budget, created appropriations of \$10 million each in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for standalone traffic signal and ITS installation, replacement and rehabilitation projects. The state funded program, which is currently open to WisDOT sponsored projects, expires in 2019.

The main objective is to fund backlog traffic signal and ITS projects not addressed in the six year highway improvement program, including new signal installation, signal replacement, signal rehabilitation, signal retrofit, signal retiming including advanced signal systems, LED signal replacement, intersection communication, software upgrades, ITS device lifecycle replacement and new ITS device installation. The projects are

**Fiscal Year 2015 Award by Project Type**



implemented through the let and non-let process, relying heavily on statewide procurement and consultant contracts. In addition, several highway safety improvement program (HSIP) projects classified as standalone signal projects are funded through the program.

Projects funded in fiscal year 2014 are currently under design and construction. The hard work put in by WisDOT Region and Bureau of Traffic Operations staff to implement these projects is already paying off through the operational benefits of remote communication and optimized signal timing. In addition we are integrating central signal software with real-time performance metrics and deploying ITS elements such as freeway surveillance cameras and detection. Maintenance costs will be reduced by projects that replace aging equipment like LED signal modules and signal components. Safety plays a role in every project selected and is directly addressed by projects that install head per lane traffic signals on monotubes, flashing yellow arrows and retro-reflective signal backplates.



For fiscal year 2015, WisDOT developed a procedure to evaluate the project applications based on objective criteria, such as the anticipated operational improvements, lifecycle replacement needs, impacts to operation and maintenance resources and expected safety improvements. The evaluations also took into account WisDOT regional priorities and ease of implementation. Fiscal year 2015 projects were selected in June and are now in the initial stages of implementation.

This program provides a tremendous opportunity to improve several key performance measures including remote communication to every state owned traffic signal and re-evaluating traffic signal timing every three to five years. Standalone projects impact every region in Wisconsin and are implementing innovative and advanced technology to improve traffic operations statewide. The success of these projects has led us to request funding for standalone highway lighting improvements and to implement a multi-year program starting in fiscal year 2016.

In addition to the standalone program WisDOT is developing guidance to improve traffic signal operations and document operational goals with a Traffic Signal Management and Operations Plan. The plan will set goals and describe objectives, strategies and tactics used to meet those goals in the areas of mobility, accountability, preservation, safety and service, consistent with the department wide [MAPSS Performance Improvement program](#). The standalone projects and this plan will allow us to develop outcome-based (versus output-based) traffic signal performance measures through the use of real-time, high resolution data.

*The standalone traffic signal and ITS program is administered by WisDOT's Bureau of Traffic Operations, Dewayne Johnson – Director. Key personnel managing the program include, Anne Reshadi – Systems Operations and Electrical Engineering Section Chief, Don Schell – Electrical Engineering and Electronics Supervisor, Cody White – Program and Policy Analyst and David Karnes – Traffic Management Systems Engineer.*

## The President's Message

By Mike McCarthy

Having recently returned from the Annual Meeting and Exhibits in Seattle, Washington I have much to share about my experience. I had the opportunity to sit in on the Leadership Forum where many Section, District, and International Board members exchanged ideas and ways to advance our presence in the Transportation field.

At the international level, board members are taking action to increase membership and participation at the international level. New flat fee rates will be introduced for government and educational members. Young members will have the opportunity to join international at substantially reduced rates. At 23 years of age the membership will cost \$0, and then increase at \$30 per year until you reach the age of 30. These new fees are targeting select groups that are lacking membership and participation. More information on these fees will be coming shortly. Wisconsin Section members are asked to spread the word about these new opportunities to assist international at recruiting since you are the ones that have contact with these groups.

The International Board offered substantially reduced rates this year to nearby state and local government agencies to attend the Annual Meeting. They are considering offering these discounted rates to all government agencies for next year's Annual Meeting. I hope you take advantage of these discounts and make plans to attend next year's Annual meeting in Hollywood Florida. It would be great to see more members attend these events as they are excellent opportunities to hear from colleagues from other states as well as other countries. With the great variety of topics there is sure to be something of interest to you at each scheduled session plus fun at the evening theme party and Traffic Bowl.

I would like to congratulate Todd Szymkowski and Susan Paulus on their successful completion of the inaugural class of LeadershipITE. They were presented their diplomas at the Annual Meeting and recognized at the Awards banquet. If you are interested in signing up for the next session of LeadershipITE, please visit <http://ITE.org/leadership> for more information and application form. Please note the deadline to submit applications is September 15, 2014. Contact Todd or Susan if you have any questions on this program.

The Wisconsin Section would also like to increase member participation in Section Meetings and well as various committees. If you have an interest in volunteering your time on one of these committees please contact one of the committee chair's which can be found in the annual yearbook. I would like to hear from you if you have suggestions on how we can improve attendance at the Section meetings or if you have ideas on guest speakers or topics of discussion. Also, if you have ideas on how we can enhance our Annual Meeting in December I would appreciate those as well. My goal is to make the Annual Meeting more exciting and draw more attendance. I want to thank all of you that have made our Section meetings and Social events a success this year and look forward to your continued support.

As we move towards fall, it is time once again to think about our annual board elections. The section will be electing individuals for the Affiliate Director and Member Director positions. If you would like to nominate a candidate to be on the ballot, please let me know. As always, in order to be eligible to vote, your annual Section dues must be current. Be sure to check your inbox for upcoming dues notices, candidate biographies, and election notices.

One last request – if you read through my entire message please drop me an e-mail indicating so at [mmccarthy@emcsinc.com](mailto:mmccarthy@emcsinc.com). I will announce the total e-mails received in my final message in the November newsletter.

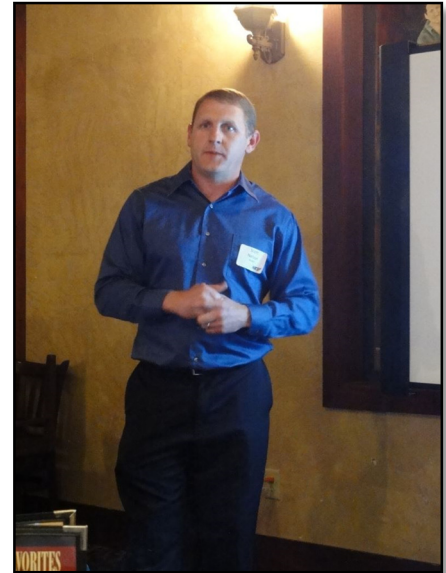
## Recent Meetings, Events & Awards

### Fox Valley Section Meeting May 14, 2014

By Stacey Pierce and Yang Tao

Our annual Fox Valley Section Meeting was held on May 15th. Approximately 20 members attended the meeting, which was held at Good Company Restaurant in Appleton.

Scott Nelson, the WisDOT NE Region Safety engineer gave a good perspective on safety improvements to reduce crashes, and especially severe crashes in Wisconsin. He talked about some of the mitigation treatments that are becoming more popular, such as roundabouts and cable median barrier, and how they are performing. Although there are a lot of contributing factors, transportation engineers have certainly contributed to the trend that crashes and severities have declined in the last ten years in Wisconsin.



Special thanks to Allan Pacada for coordinating the meeting arrangements. We look forward to next year's Fox Valley meeting, which will return to the Green Bay area.

### Joint Lunch Meeting with ITS Wisconsin July 16, 2014

By Yang Tao and Jeff Roemer

On July 16, 36 members of both the Wisconsin Section of ITE and ITS–Wisconsin held a joint lunch meeting at the Joey Buona's Restaurant in downtown Milwaukee. Thank you to Allan Pacada of EMCS, Inc for organizing the event.

Carolynn Gellings, project manager from WisDOT SE Region, gave a presentation on movable concrete barrier for the Hoan Bridge Project. The rehabilitation project is currently utilizing a movable barrier and swift gate system to add capacity in the peak direction during the morning and evening peak periods. The system is being used for the duration of the two-year project during all four seasons. Carolynn described the design analysis leading to



the decision to use the movable barrier and how it's operating in construction. The swift gate system, which is an automated lane closure system being used in conjunction with the movable barrier for the first time in the U.S., was also presented.

Special thanks to ITS Wisconsin for another great meeting. It is nice to be able to bring together our organizations to discuss transportation issues that affect all of us.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual ITE Wisconsin Social Activities – June 10, 2014 and July 23 2014

By Yang Tao and Stacey Pierce

This summer there were two ITE Wisconsin social events to enjoy. On June 10, we attended the Madison Mallards game against the Lakeshore Chinooks. Although the Chinooks prevailed, the attendees enjoyed the craft beers, the food and the fabulous door prizes. On July 23rd there was a gathering at the Evolution Gastro Pong in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Everyone enjoyed the

friendly competition playing ping pong and the great food and drinks. Many non-members attended that will hopefully be future members! Please let any board member know if you have any ideas for next year!

The ITE Wisconsin Section would like to thank the corporate sponsors of the event. The sponsorship was used to help with door prizes and appetizers and reduce the price per ticket. The ITE Wisconsin Section would also like to thank Stacey Pierce of WisDOT, Allan Pacada of EMCS, Inc., Tyler Tkachuk of AECOM, and Jeff Otto of EMCS, Inc. for their help in organizing the event.



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## Wisconsin Section in the 2014 Joint Western/Midwestern ITE District Annual Conference - June 29-July 2, 2014

By Yang Tao

The 2014 Midwestern District conference was held in Rapid City, South Dakota in conjunction with the Western District from June 29th to July 2nd. This is the first joint meeting between the two districts, and over 600 transportation professionals, vendors and guests attended the conference. Wisconsin Section members actively participated and contributed to the conference.



Dakotah  
"Joining together in friendly compact"

Presentations from the Wisconsin Section included:

- *Peter Lynch, Specialized Freight Solutions* – Overview of the Wisconsin OSOW Network and Important Lessons Learned
- *Mark Johnson, MTJ Engineering* – Roundabout Design Tips and Opportunities it Provides for Public Streets
- *Susan Paulus, Lakeside Engineers* - US 12 Madison Beltline Yahara River Bridge Work Zone Capacity
- *John Ash, University of Wisconsin* – Safety Evaluation of Wisconsin's Roundabouts
- *Mark Johnson, MTJ Engineering* - Business Access and Associated Benefits Provided by Roundabouts
- *Jeff Held, Strand Assoc. & Yang Tao, City of Madison* – University Avenue Corridor in Madison – Multimodal Strategies to Manage Travel



Susan Paulus from Lakeside Engineers served as a moderator in the Leadership Session discussion, and Todd Szymkowski from Lakeside Engineers also served as a moderator in the Ethics Session discussion.

The Wisconsin Section members also helped make the Traffic Bowl event possible. John Davis chaired the event, Ken Voigt worked to develop the clues/questions, and Rich Coackley served as a judge.

Thank you to all the Wisconsin members who participated and supported the annual conference, and we look forward to seeing more Wisconsin Section members at the future annual conferences!



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## University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter Wins ITE Midwestern District's Student Chapter of the Year Award July 1, 2014

By Yang Tao

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter was awarded the ITE Midwestern District's annual Student Chapter of the Year Award at the Midwestern District Conference on July 1, 2014. This award is an acknowledgment of the quality events organized throughout the year by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter.



UW-Madison Student Chapter is also called the UW-Madison Transportation Society (UWiTS). It is committed in taking part in community service activities. The chapter has been involved in activities such as Science Expedition, Math Counts and Safe Routes to School among others.

Congratulations to the UW-Madison Student Chapter!



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Are you interested in advertising in our quarterly newsletter? Advertising is a great way to sponsor the Wisconsin Section and promote your firm/agency to hundreds of fellow Wisconsin Section members! Advertising options start at just \$50 per issue. Contact Yang Tao, Newsletter Editor, at (608) 266-4815 or [ytao@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ytao@cityofmadison.com) for more details.

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## Wisconsin places 2nd in the 2014 Midwestern District Traffic Bowl

By John Davis

Congratulations to the University of Wisconsin-Madison ITE student chapter team, which placed second to the University of Kansas student chapter in the 2014 Midwestern District Traffic Bowl at the recent annual conference of the Midwestern District (MWITE) in Rapid City, South Dakota. This was Wisconsin's 6<sup>th</sup> appearance in the District's Traffic Bowl, having participated in every district traffic bowl since its inception in 2009. Wisconsin is one of only three schools to have done so in the Midwestern District! A total of 15 of the 23 student chapters in the District have fielded a team for at least one of the annual competitions over the six year history of the event.



The Wisconsin team of **Hannah Silber**, **John Ash**, and **Beau Burdett**, were seeded third in the competition, advanced to the final game by defeating both Saint Louis University and defending champion, Iowa State. In the final game they faced top seeded Kansas and second seed, North Dakota State. However, Kansas was victorious to win their third district traffic bowl, and earned a spot to make their second appearance in the ITE Traffic Bowl Grand Championship held in Seattle, Washington, USA.

In addition to the Wisconsin, the six other teams participating in the MWITE event were

- Iowa State University
- North Dakota State University
- Saint Louis University
- South Dakota State University
- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- University of Kansas

Thank you to all the students and members who supported and made this event a success! Special recognitions to Wisconsin Section members - **Rich Coakley**, who served as a judge, **Ken Voigt**, who worked to develop the clues/questions, and **John Davis**, who chaired the event for the sixth year.

Plan now to attend the 2015 District Traffic Bowl that will be held during the Midwestern District Conference from June 28 to July 1 in Branson, Missouri.



## Midwestern District Update

### Joining Together in Friendly Compact – The Success of the Rapid City Joint District Meeting

by Steve Manhart, Midwestern District Co-Chair, 2014 Local Arrangements Committee



Earlier this summer, NCITE and Rapid City, SD, played host to over 600 traffic and transportation professionals, vendors and guests who attended the first-ever Joint Western/Midwestern District Meeting of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The Joint District Meeting brought together transportation professionals from the eleven-state Midwestern District and the thirteen-state Western District for their first-ever joint meeting that was held June 29-July 2 at the Rushmore Convention Center.

Rapid City was selected for the location of the meeting because it is near the border between the two districts, and because it is an exciting venue. The planning for this joint meeting began nearly six years ago, and was met with some skepticism about holding a meeting so far from our traditional membership base, but through hard work by the local arrangements committee, the turn-out exceeded expectations. There were members and students from every state in our two districts, and over forty vendors who displayed the latest devices and technology to assist our professionals in managing ever-changing traffic conditions.

While some sessions of the conference focused on traditional vehicular traffic issues, there were also presentations that focused on transit, bike lanes and pedestrian traffic impacts. One main topic of the meeting was the recent release of the NACTO Guide to Urban Street Design. The keynote speaker was Roy Goudy from Nissan USA, who discussed the latest efforts car manufacturers are taking in crash avoidance.

There were also presentations that addressed issues relevant to the Dakotas. The Monday Luncheon speaker was Wayne Zacher from the North Dakota Department of Transportation. He spoke on the planning, designing and maintenance of roadways under the pressure of the booming oil industry. The Joint Meeting also welcomed Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker to discuss local traffic and transportation issues at the conference.



Holding the meeting in Rapid City allowed many North and South Dakota DOT and local agency members to attend. This was a secondary, but more long-term goal of this meeting – to capture the interest and potential ITE membership of traffic and transportation professionals from this remote portion of the NCITE territory. With their participation, it is reliant on us to cultivate their interest and participation in future activities, either through webinars or other regional meetings.

International President of ITE, Hibbett Neel, attended the Rapid City meeting along with Midwestern District Director to the International Board Shawn Leight. Midwestern District President Kristi Sebastian and the MWITE Board of Directors attended, as well as several members of the NCITE Board, including this year's president Mike Anderson.

In an exciting change-of-pace, teams representing universities and colleges from both the Western and Midwestern ITE Districts competed in Collegiate Traffic Bowls to determine each District's student team to move on to the ITE International Meeting. These "Jeopardy-style" events pitted teams of students from opposing universities in a competition to test wits and transportation knowledge. The winning MWITE team was from the University of Kansas, while the winning team from the Western District was from Brigham Young University. These winning teams will advance to the Collegiate Traffic Bowl Grand Championship to be held in Seattle, WA, this August.



There were also several events for students beyond the Traffic Bowls. On Sunday, student attended the James A. Kell Competition, in which they tried to solve a transportation-related mystery design challenge (-- this year based on bus loading). Later that day, students interacted with local Boy Scout troops doing hands on transportation engineering activities. This was a community outreach activity designed to increase awareness of the traffic and transportation engineering profession. On Tuesday, students participated in the Student Poster Competition, in which they presented posters based on a transportation project or paper they have worked on.



There were several other special events that also occurred. On the Saturday prior to the meeting, several teams of students, friends and family participated in the MiteY Race. This event is modeled after the TV show, "The Amazing Race", and provided teams the ability to race through downtown Rapid City. Banking on Rapid City's theme as "The City of Presidents", teams were given clues to find statues of various presidents found around the downtown area. Once found, the teams had to perform challenges before moving on. In the end, "The Mighty NCITERS", consisting of Kristi and Claire Sebastian, Tom Campbell, and Steve Manhart,

came in 2nd Place in the Friends and Family Category – the only team representing the Midwestern District to participate.



On Monday night, attendees and guests were bussed to the Fort Hayes Chuckwagon Dinner and Showplace for a real Chuckwagon barbeque (-- on tin plates!), and lively musical show. After the show, everyone boarded the busses and was taken to Mount Rushmore to see the sunset lighting of the presidents. It was very cool (-- as in windy and cold)! Seeing Mount Rushmore at night was remarkable.



On Tuesday night, attendees and guests enjoyed the States Banquet, at which everyone was invited to dress either in western attire, as a president or as a Sturgis biker (or some combination thereof). After the meal, everyone danced the night away to the outlaw country rock music provided by The Dirty Shame.

In all, the Joint Western/Midwestern District Meeting was a rousing success. Many people enjoyed sharing ideas and fellowship with people outside their own district. Several people were heard stating that they look forward to opportunities to hold a joint meeting again in the future. Although remote, Rapid City was a great venue – small, but not too small; historic, but hospitable; fun without being too expensive; and with a nearby attraction that many had not experienced prior to this meeting.

## 2014 Midwestern District Annual Meeting Reflections

By Steve Manhart, MWITE Co-Chair for the Joint District Meeting and Kristi Sebastian, MWITE President and Co-Chair for the Joint District Meeting

The 2014 Western/Midwestern Joint District Meeting in Rapid City, SD was a great success! We want to express to you our sincerest thanks for attending and especially to everyone who volunteered during the meeting and supported the planning effort the years leading up to this event. We had 600 total registrations (member, vendors, students, guests and children), nearly 1,400 people attending over 30 technical sessions, a sold-out vendor exhibit and over 500 unique web page hits per week, the meeting blew past our goals for participation and attendance.



Early survey results are showing a high level of satisfaction with the meeting, the vendor exhibits, the student programs and the locale. Even the hotel got high marks! With conducting a joint meeting this was the first time for several elements of the program. If there was something you thought was especially note-worthy you want to see Midwestern District include in our future meetings please let us know by contacting either Steve or Kristi or any of the other board members.

We should feel proud that our organization had the opportunity to "join together in friendly compact", to network and learn from each other, and to have a good time!



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## **2015 Midwestern District Annual Meeting June 29-July 2, 2015, Branson, Missouri**



2015 Midwestern District Annual Meeting will be held in Branson, Missouri. Branson is truly a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination — and an incredible value — with dozens of live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, championship golf courses, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, an Historic Downtown district, shopping galore, a full range of dining options, and a host of hotels, motels, resorts, RV parks, campgrounds and meeting and conference facilities.

Practically at the center of the United States, Branson is less than a day's drive for one-third of Americans, and with low-cost flights to the Branson Airport, as well as Springfield-Branson National Airport, it's never been easier for your family or group to get to Branson.

Branson, Missouri, nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains, is America's affordable, wholesome family entertainment capital that emphasizes fun, comfort and the feeling of being right at home. Featuring an array of live theaters and attraction venues and active recreational pursuits, the community embodies essential American values such as patriotism, faith, courage and generosity of spirit in a warm inviting atmosphere that is truly genuine and heartfelt.

Mark your calendar now for the 2015 Midwestern District Annual Meeting!

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## **2015 Midwestern District Election Results**



Congratulations to Rebecca Szymkowski, our Secretary / Treasurer for 2015 from the Wisconsin Section.

Thank you to Susan Paulus for running and being an active member of ITE including being a part of the inaugural class of Leadership ITE. We look forward to Susan's continued involvement in ITE at the various levels in the years to come.

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## Upcoming Events

**September 10**      WTS/ITE Joint Breakfast Meeting  
Pewaukee, WI

7:30AM at Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. Jess Billmeyer from AECOM and John Bridwell from WisDOT will speak about diverging diamond interchanges. Cost is \$15 per person for professionals and \$8 for students. Register [online](#) or RSVP to [wtswisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:wtswisconsin@gmail.com) by **Friday, September 5**.



**October 2**      The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ITS Forum  
Madison, WI



**October 15**      UW-Platteville/UW-Madison Student Night  
Madison, WI



**December 3**      Annual Section Meeting, Distinguished Service Award, Harvey Shebesta Award,  
and Young Professionals Award  
Delafield, WI

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Do you have some information or great ideas to share? The ITE Newsletter is an excellent medium for reaching section members. If you would like something published in the upcoming newsletter, please contact the 2014 Wisconsin Section Member Director, Yang Tao at (608) 266-4815 or [ytao@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ytao@cityofmadison.com).

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