

Cara Odonnell

From: Colorado-Wyoming Section of ITE <greg@cowyite.ccsend.com> on behalf of Colorado-Wyoming Section of ITE <news@cowyite.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Cara Odonnell
Subject: April Newsletter

April Newsletter!



Hello Everyone,

As I write this, light snow continues off and on outside. How do you feel these days? I really hope you are calm and healthy. Staying at home is not as easy as people try to make it seem. If anything, it has made our lives a little bit more stressful, despite everything that is happening, please try to be positive and optimistic.

These days I feel so inspired by the people who are working on the front lines of this crisis. It's a tough job. Yet, they still feel privileged and humbled to help people when they are at their most vulnerable.

Moreover, people everywhere have been performing random acts of kindness. CO/WY ITE Section gave donations to Sock it To Em and Focus Point Family Resource Center early this year.

We thank all students who applied to our scholarship program. We will announce student scholarship recipients in May or sooner. Anik Das is selected as the winner of the CO/WY ITE Student of the Year Award for 2020, Congratulations on this achievement. Congratulations also to this year's Transportation Professional of the Year winner, Kari McDowell Schroeder, PE., PTOE.

Don't forget to participate in our recent program, Traffic Bowl Tuesday! It's a fun way to stay connected while we are all social distancing. Kudos to Victoria for championing this.

This year's Transportation Symposium is rescheduled to August 21, 2020. We canceled ski trip and May Luncheon. We are still evaluating other events: Golf Tournament and Meet 'n Greet Leadership.

Finally, please be prudent to the COVID-19 situation. Don't panic and stay safe.

Susi Marlina
President
Colorado-Wyoming Section ITE

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COWYITE Donates to Two Great Charities

In this time of need, COWYITE donated to two great local charities:

Focus Points Family Resource Center



Since 1995, Focus Points has been serving and advocating for families in the Greater Denver Area through a few key areas:

Early Childhood Education

Adult Education: English classes, soft skill development, and career readiness

Family & Community Development

From Focus Points: "Your donation will be used to help meet the urgent needs of our communities during this crisis, including delivering free meals to vulnerable children and families, individuals, and homebound seniors."

To learn more about Focus Points, and to donate, [please visit their website](#).

Sock It to 'Em Campaign



From the recipient: "Sock It To Em Sock Campaign would like to express our deep appreciation for the generous contribution from ITE Team. The funds you provided will go toward helping to purchase socks and to support our operation which is working hard to put socks on the feet of those experiencing homelessness. It's important to note that not only are socks the #1 clothing need of the those experiencing homelessness, but one of the #1 reasons a homeless person goes to the ER is a foot ailment and the #1 way to prevent a foot ailment is clean dry socks on a regular basis. Thank you again for helping us make a social impact one pair of socks at a time!"

To learn more about Sock It to 'Em, and to donate, [please visit their website](#).

Legislative Update:

Local Responses to COVID-19

- RTD has waived fare collection on all services and limited access-a-ride advanced booking to focus on essential trips and reduce unnecessary contact between drivers and patrons

- Denver is temporarily closing select roads to through traffic and providing more room for social distancing and accommodating physical exercise by emphasizing closures adjacent to parks and trails.
- Transfort has suspended all Fort Collins transit fares
- Denver and Boulder have modified their parking management and enforcement policies
- Colorado Springs bikeshare program is offering free 30 minute rides for all

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act & Transportation:

- FTA is allocating \$25 billion to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds, with \$22.7 billion to large and small urban areas and \$2.2 billion to rural areas. Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

Additional information about the various items addressed in the CARES act as summarized by

ACEC: <https://www.acec.org/default/assets/File/CARES%20Act%20summary.pdf>

Here are a few tools that provide insights into how COVID-19 is impacting mobility and the transportation industry:

- [Google COVID-19 Community Reports](#): The reports use information from Google Maps to provide insight (at the country, state and county level) of movement trends at retail, recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces and residential areas have changed over time.
- [NACTO COVID-19 Response Center](#): Includes a toolbox for city governments and transit agencies to provide policy guidance and provides daily transportation action updates that summarizes the actions taken by cities and transit agencies globally.

Other Resources:

- [Colorado Legislative Staff Research and Resources](#)
- [Colorado COVID-19 Business Resource Center](#)
- [Colorado State Government COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Denver Department of Public Health and Environment](#)

Announcement from the Technical Committee:

Buried amidst the chaos of that past few months, TRB published the final report for NCHRP 20-24 (112) "Connected Road Classification System (CRCS)" The report and presentation are available on the [TRB website](#).

Getting infrastructure ready for connected and autonomous vehicles is not a singular action - rather it is a complex set of actions that has many dependencies and situation-specific needs. The CMM approach that proved so highly successful in helping agencies absorb and adopt the TSM&O culture is a natural for helping agencies now begin to assess infrastructure readiness for CAV.

Transportation Professional of the Year:



Kari McDowell Schroeder has been selected as our Section's 2020 Transportation Professional of the Year. She continually makes significant contributions to our Section while running her own engineering firm and managing a busy life and family outside of her profession. Her career has slowly moved her west, from her roots in Iowa to the Denver / Boulder area, and eventually to Eagle, CO where she resides and has built her firm's headquarters focusing on serving the mountain and Western Slope communities of Colorado.

Many of you may know Kari from her role representing ITE on the organizing committee for the Spring Transportation Symposium. The Symposium is a major effort, bringing 500 to 600 transportation professionals together in Denver annually. Although she recently stepped down from this role, her support of our section has morphed into becoming a champion for our mountain and Western Slope membership and outreach. She began and continues to organize the fall Mountains and Western Slope luncheon in Glenwood Springs for the past five years. This meeting typically draws over 50 members each year, on par with luncheons along the Front Range. She has also participated in the Local

Arrangements Committee for the last two ITE Western District meetings held in Colorado. Her knowledge of the mountain communities was helpful in planning and executing the successful 2018 meeting in Keystone. Kari has also volunteered with the USDOT's Women & Girls in Transportation Initiative (WITI) and participates in WTS - Colorado, ACEC Colorado, and APA Colorado.

Kari's professional career began with a cooperative education internship with the Iowa Department of Transportation during college. After graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering as an Iowa State Cyclone, she relocated to the Denver / Boulder area and worked for engineering consulting firms. She moved to the mountains in 2008 and took the leap to open her own engineering company. Her firm, McDowell Engineering, provides various traffic and transportation engineering solutions and currently has five employees. Rosie, their canine snack eating machine, also spends a significant amount of time in the office.

Kari grew up in Iowa in a family with many civil engineers, including her father and uncles. Hence, transportation engineering has always been a part of her life. She is married to Greg (also an engineer and company employee) and they have three children. Outside of her professional efforts, she spends her time with her family playing in the mountains. McDowell Engineering has recently moved to a new office in downtown Eagle. Kari's office, the children's school, and the local brewery are all walkable from her home. She also uses an e-bike for longer trips around town.

Having a passion for traveling, Kari has attended many ITE Western District and TRB Roundabout conferences. One of her proudest traveling moments was watching her seven-year-old daughter take the helm of a 46-foot, 24,000-pound sailboat on a return trip from Anegada in the British Virgin Islands. Kari is equally content playing in her backyard, by rowing the family raft on the Upper Colorado. She is currently planning to take another motorcycle trip to Alaska this summer with her dad.

How did you become interested in transportation? Civil engineering was always around me. My dad would always point things out in the car when we were growing up, and that led me to an engineering program in college. I love the direct impact that engineering has on communities. My Iowa DOT internship during college was a natural progression. I used that experience to find full-time job in Colorado after I graduated, and I've been in the industry ever since.

You've worked on many interesting projects over your career, which ones stand out as especially interesting? I have multiple memorable mountain projects. I love the satisfaction from completing projects in smaller communities as many times the project is a showcase of the Town. The benefits of these projects are tangible and

immediate. I get to use a broader skill set blending engineering, planning, and community involvement.

I am most proud of organizing the Colorado Transportation Symposium because it brings people together, builds relationships, and furthers educational learning in the transportation profession.

What differences have you seen between transportation engineering industry along the Front Range versus your time in the Mountains? With Colorado's strong tourism industry, many of our beloved small mountain towns' populations can multiply ten-fold for peak ski season and summer festivals. Understanding the local towns' expectations, desire for community, and balancing the accommodation of 'red plates' and keeping our small-town character is paramount to our business.

Having left the Front Range and moved up to the mountains in 2008, I miss the easy access to our Section's luncheons, trainings, and networking events. This is why I'm so focused on bringing ITE meetings to the mountain and Western Slope communities - to give local agencies and consultants better access to the expertise available within our Section.

What do you think the future holds? We are in a time of change. It is difficult to understand how the current COVID-19 pandemic will affect commuting and shopping over the long term, and these are two key trip types on our roads today. As an industry, we need to understand where to focus our energy moving forward. That could be embracing alternative forms of travel, implementing new technologies, and supporting remote work/school strategies.

What is the most surprising or unexpected thing you have learned about traffic engineering? No calculus! Although many of our tools and guides use complex formulas and equations, calculus is not something we use often. Outside of the technical engineering tasks, understanding clients' needs and giving them sound engineering recommendations will allow local communities to make well-informed decisions.

If you were speaking to future engineers while they're in high school or college, what would you tell them about our profession? Our culture revolves around transportation. This includes the trucks that deliver groceries to the supermarket, shipping companies that bring packages to our doorstep, commuters taking the transit to work, students walking/biking to school, as well as many other interconnected elements. I love the direct impact that engineering has on communities.

Is there a hero or mentor, someone you look up to, either personally or professionally? My father has always been a hero and mentor. He made his role as a transportation engineer seem fun and interesting, and shared how it affected my daily life when I was growing up. This inspired my passion for our industry. I'm looking forward to thousands of miles of stories on our adventure touring ride to Alaska this summer!

Do you have ideas for the COWY ITE Section? We need to expand our professional reach across the Section. Although many of our members live and work along the Front Range, transportation is important across Colorado and Wyoming. We have a successful annual Mountains and Western Slope meeting but need additional inclusion. I would love to see more luncheon and trainings available remotely. This would benefit more remote transportation professionals, community decision makers, as well as other organizational partnerships and universities.

Student of the Year:



Congratulations to Anik Das, the recipient of the CO/WY ITE Student of the Year Award for 2020! Anik is currently a student at the University of Wyoming and is working towards earning his PhD.

Anik's research for his dissertation is focused on improving safety in adverse weather conditions through an in-depth investigation of trajectory-level driver behavior data to provide recommendations to enhance Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), Advanced Traveler Information Systems (ATIS), and updating weather-based microsimulation models. His research, among other things, is helping the Wyoming Department of Transportation to improve their existing Variable Speed Limit System.

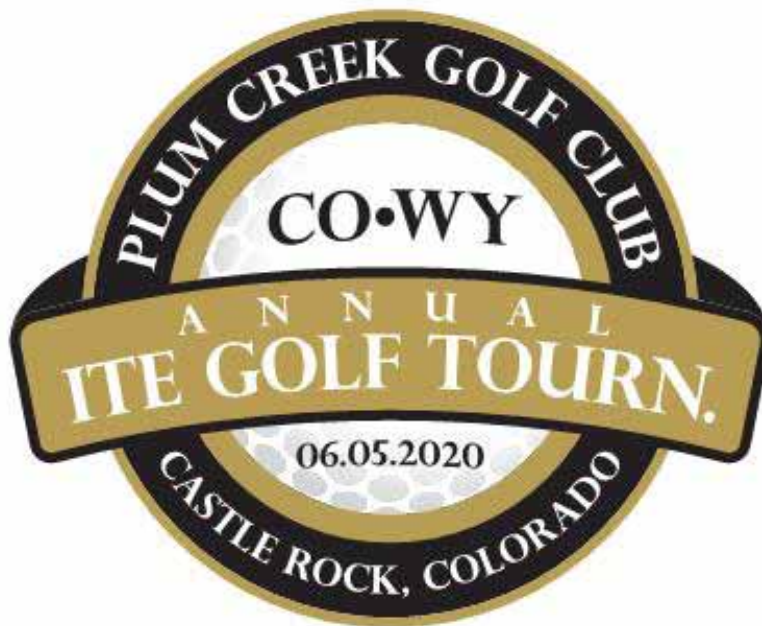
Anik has published and presented his work through TRB on multiple occasions, and he is a young member of the TRB committee on Surface Transportation Weather (AH010). Anik is an active member of the ITE University of Wyoming Student Chapter. He presented at the Colorado/Wyoming Section Meeting held on the University of Wyoming Campus in November 2018 and at the 16th Annual Colorado Transportation Symposium.

Outside of ITE, he is a leader of the Bangladesh Students' Association at the University of Wyoming, helping to organize many of their events such as a Bangladesh New Year ceremony.

As the winner of the Student of the Year Award, Anik will receive a plaque, a monetary award for \$500, and a small stipend to attend the 2020 ITE Joint Mountain/Western District Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI, this summer. Congratulations Anik!!!

Events:

2020 ITE Golf Tournament



Stay tuned for more info on this event. **The original date of June 5th will not be maintained**, but we are hoping to re-schedule!

If you have any questions about the tournament, please contact Matt Ciarkowski at matt.ciarkowski@kimley-horn.com.

Spring Transportation Symposium



New Date: Aug 21, 2020

Location: Sheraton Downtown Denver

We've got a new date - August 21st! Same place, same great content!

Our agenda is posted and registration is open.

[Click here to register!](#)

Join over 600 of the region's transportation planners, engineers, and decision makers from both the public and private sectors to share information and lessons learned from innovative and successful transportation projects throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Space is running out for sponsorship opportunities, if you are **interested in sponsoring** the symposium or participating as a vendor, please contact John Hansen at jhansen@2itshelp.com.

[Visit our website for more information on this exciting event!](#)

Traffic Bowl Tuesdays!!!

Every Tuesday, we will post a category and a series of ITE Traffic Bowl-style "answers" on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Comment with what you think the "answer" is and compete for prizes! We will post the correct "questions" on Sunday after people have had a chance to respond. The first step is to follow us on both [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Don't cheat! Use your noggin!

This weeks traffic bowl theme is transportation acronyms, so be sure to take a lunch break and try some Alphabet Soup!

Here's an example: For the clue "ITE", the 'question' would be "What is Institute of Transportation Engineers"

Good luck! Correct 'questions' will be posted Sunday.

#cowyite #trafficbowltuesday #socialdistancing

 ALPHABET SOUP	\$200 MPO
\$400 FHWA	\$600 +3 AASHTO

Traffic Effects of COVID-19:

While it might be slightly premature to assume that traffic fatalities have seen a significant decrease since stay at home measures have been enacted, **it's clear that traffic has decreased**. Here's a few data sources to help you nerd-out while stuck in the house:

ITE International is pulling together data from a range of sources, and posting it on the site below. Local examples include Loveland and Ft. Collins.

<https://www.ite.org/about-ite/covid-19-resources/covid-19-traffic-volume-trends/>

Google is also pulling data, which is broken out per state, and per land-use:

<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

And finally, here's an easy to read graphic out of **Overland Park, KS** showing traffic reduction:

Overland Park Traffic Volume (% of normal)							Weekly Average
MARCH 2020							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 97%	2 105%	3 97%	4 103%	5 99%	6 100%	7 99%	100%
8 97%	9 99%	10 97%	11 104% <small>* WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic</small>	12 84%	13 86% <small>* Trump decaleres national emergency * Start K-12 Spring Break</small>	14 66%	90%
15 63%	16 74%	17 56% <small>* KS Governor prohibits all mass gatherings and sets social distancing reqs.</small>	18 58%	19 54%	20 55%	21 52%	59%
22 49%	23 62% <small>* Last day K-12 Spring Break</small>	24 34% <small>* Johnson County public health order to stay at home unless essential function</small>	25 40%	26 43%	27 44%	28 45%	45%
29 45%	30 49% <small>* KS Governor executive order to stay at home unless essential function</small>	31 45%	April 1 47%	2 43%	3 44%	4 42%	45%
5 46%	6 45%	7 44%	8	9	10	11	

Note: Count data collected from continuous count stations located on local thoroughfare and collector roadways in Overland Park.
Last updated: 04-08-2020 by AJM

Employment Opportunities

[Please check out our website for the most recent job postings!](#)

Thank you to our Section sponsors! To find out more about Section Sponsorship, please contact [Lisa Truong Nguyen](#).

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