

THE SUMMIT

ITE Mountain District Quarterly Magazine



SPRING 2026

ISSUE 22



ITE REBRANDING

SAY GOODBYE TO OUR OLD LOGOS AND WELCOME THE NEW!

UNM RESURGES

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MEET MARGARET HAYNES, CHRIS MILNER, AND MICHAEL SANDERSON

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- Safety Analyses
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- Bicycle Route Planning



TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DESIGN

- Traffic Signals
- Roadway & Pedestrian Lighting
- Uplighting / Artpad Lighting
- Pedestrian Signals (e.g. H.A.W.K.)
- Railroad Signal Crossings
- Roadway Signing & Pavement Marking
- Traffic Calming
- Traffic Control
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ON THE COVER

Newly retired Mountain District logos and the Navajo Nation

Photo by Jonathan Upchurch



FEATURES

ITE Rebranding

Say goodbye to our old logos and hello to the new!

Leading Today, Inspiring Mañana

Read about the resurging UNM Student Chapter

Change is Coming

You could be the next DA! Also, catch up on certification changes with TPCB.

Member Spotlight

Learn about Margaret Haynes, Chris Milner, and Michael Sanderson



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IBOD UPDATE

This month, we have an update from the International Board of Direction in place of our President's message. You will hear from our 2026 president in upcoming newsletters and issues of The Summit.

The ITE International Board of Direction (IBOD) held a two-day meeting in conjunction with the ITE Northeastern District meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. The meeting took place May 1st and 2nd.

During the official IBOD meeting, the Board took several important actions:

- Reviewed results from the All-member Survey and held a workshop focused on reviewing and commenting on the first draft of a 2027-2030 ITE Strategic Plan.
- Reviewed the final results of 2025 finances and had an update on the current 2026 finances that reflect the first quarter.
- Approved two new student chapters at this meeting: Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico San Juan and San Francisco State University.
- Approved (by proxy of the Executive Committee) the pursuit of two new Recommended Practices: (1) an update to the existing Neighborhood Street Design Guidelines, and (2) a new one on Implementing the Safe System Approach for Public Agencies (an initiative from the Safety Roadmap & Action Plan)

Other significant updates included:

- Reviewed an updated and streamlined process for the development of Informational Reports.
- Continued to receive briefings on the Safety Roadmap & Action Plan
- Continued to share best practices across the Districts, and shared ideas for solving problems or challenges that might be in progress across the Districts/Sections/Chapters.

Future Annual Meetings

- July 19-22, 2026 – Detroit, MI (with ITE Great Lakes District)
- July 25-28, 2027 – Calgary, Alberta (with ITE Canadian District)
- **July 23-26, 2028 – Albuquerque, NM (with ITE Mountain District)**

Update on U.S. Transportation Policy

- The board received an update and discussed the current state of U.S. transportation policy, reflecting on what has evolved over the past year and how it has or hasn't impacted ITE.

Some of the key points included:

- ITE's mission remains unchanged
- ITE continues to do contract work for USDOT; no tasks were canceled, but there was a natural slow-down due to changes in staff at the administration.
- USDOT has remained consistent in language concerning their strategies and areas of focus under the new administration. Consistency is critical in helping members react to and operate under any conditions that might have changed from the prior admin.
- USDOT has launched several new initiatives including Freedom to Drive, the AI Center of Excellence, and NHTSA's Pathways to Safer Streets. A post is on ITE's e-Community All Member Forum on these new initiatives.
- We are in the final year of U.S. federal funding authorization, and there remain several questions as to when and if a new authorization bill will be approved, and if not, when and if an extension will be passed in time to avoid funding gaps.

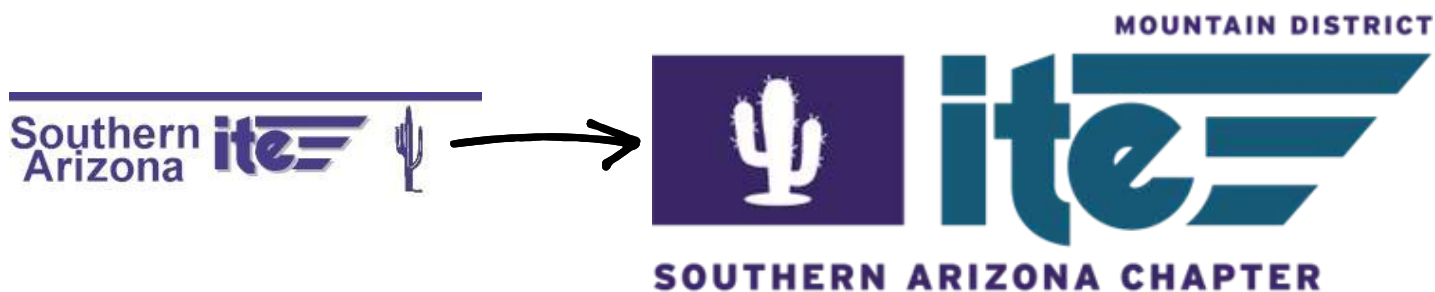
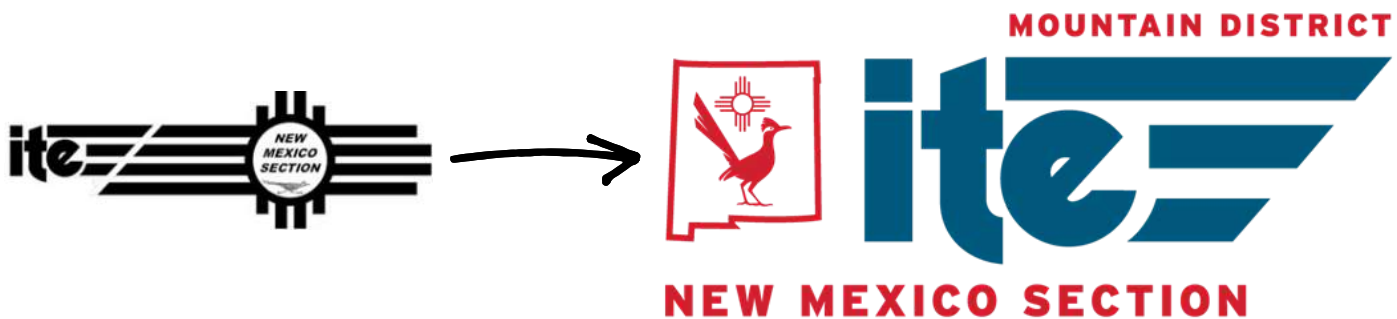
ITE BRAND EVOLUTION UPDATE

As you may recall, ITE has been conducting a Brand Evolution Initiative to strengthen its identity, enhance visibility, and ensure consistency across all levels of the organization. Over the past two years, a task force of volunteers from across the ITE Mountain District has been hard at work reviewing documents and website content, revising messaging statements and working closely with ITE members at all levels to create new logos that capture the character of each group while ensuring consistency with the ITE brand identity.

Thanks to the efforts of the ITE Mountain District Brand Evolution Task Force, that work is complete and we are officially launching the new approved logos in this edition of The Summit alongside a final look at our old logos, which served us well.



ITE BRAND EVOLUTION UPDATE



ITE BRAND EVOLUTION UPDATE



I would like to thank the following Task Force members who led all the coordination and outreach efforts within their respective organizations to get the necessary reviews, approvals and graphics work completed in a timely manner: Denise Baker (AZ), Peter Jager (UT), Brett Kohring (ID), Cody Luper (ID), Ian Machen (NV), Sarah Nicolai (MT), Rae Stephani (CO/WY), Carl Vermillion (NM) and Darlene Yellowhair (AZ). I would also like to thank Kathi Driggs, Deputy Executive Director and COO, and Bridget Wendling, Senior Director of Communications, for their patience, support and guidance during this effort, not just on behalf of the Mountain District, but for the entire ITE Community of Transportation Professionals.

David Lucas, ITE Mountain District Past President and Brand Lead

2026 ANNUAL MEETING – COMING SOON!

The Arizona Section and Southern Arizona Chapter are excited to welcome Mountain District members to beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona in June! Standard registration runs through May 10, with late registration fees starting on May 11. Click [here](#) for more information and to register, and be sure to give yourself some extra time in Arizona - there's so much to see!



2026 ITE Mountain District Annual Meeting High Country Conference Center June 10-12 | Flagstaff, Arizona

Top 10 Reasons to Attend

#1 – The Grand Canyon

Visit one of the 7 natural wonders of the world – a mile-deep canyon with incomparable vistas.

#2 – Out of This World Views

Tour Lowell Observatory, where Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto in 1930. Flagstaff was recognized as the world's first Dark Sky City, making stargazing even better.

#3 – High Altitude Flagstaff Fun

Challenge yourself with zip lines and treetop adventure courses at Flagstaff Extreme or take a stroll at the Arboretum.

#4 – If You Like Transportation

With a thriving pedestrian-friendly downtown, over 50 miles of urban bike trails, Historic Route 66, impressive bus transit, and a historic passenger railway station, Flagstaff is a true multi-modal city.

#5 – Arizona Snowbowl

Located on Arizona's highest peak and a popular ski resort in winter, Snowbowl hosts summertime activities including summer tubing, gondola rides, and more.

#6 – Got Brew?

Fill up your Flagstaff Brewery Trail Passport in a town famous for its award-winning microbreweries.

#7 – Visit Downtown

Enjoy music and movies in Heritage Square, take a haunted tour, check out local shops, and dine at award-winning restaurants.

#8 – National Parks & Monuments

Multiple options are within a two-hour drive, including the Petrified Forest, Walnut Canyon, Montezuma Castle, Sunset Crater Volcano, Tuzigoot and Canyon de Chelly.

#9 – Visit the Ponderosa Pines

Mountain biking & hiking through the trees! Coconino National Forest is home to the largest stand of ponderosa pines in the world.

#10 – Beyond Flagstaff

Take a day to visit Williams (33 miles) with attractions like Bearizona and the Grand Canyon Railway; Meteor Crater (43 miles) one of the best-preserved impact sites in the world; or Sedona (33 miles) with its famous red rocks and abundant sight-seeing.

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Call for Articles

If you would like to submit an article for potential publication in a future issue of The Summit, please submit the information to communications@mountainite.org. In addition to the article itself, please include photos/images related to the article as well as an author photo and brief bio. Articles can be submitted at any time.

Call for Photos

We are always looking for photos! Send your potential cover photos (with location of the photo within the Mountain District) to darlene.yellowhair@psomas.com or your event or ITE Mountain District swag photos (taken anywhere around the world) to communications@mountainite.org. Please include your name and section/chapter with any submission. Photos can be submitted at any time.

Please note that The Summit will be published in February, May, August, and November. The change in schedule is aimed to provide ample time to summarize the Annual District Meeting for the Summer (August) issue.

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ITE Mountain District

Have a picture or update for us to post? Please send it to communications@mountainite.org

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO: LEADING TODAY, INSPIRING MAÑANA

I want to begin this letter by expressing how genuinely happy I am to see the recent growth of the University of New Mexico's ITE student chapter. For many years, the organization struggled to stay active, and when I first encountered it during my early undergraduate studies in 2020, it was just beginning to find its footing again through rechartering efforts. UNM showed a renewed commitment to transportation students with the hiring of our ITE faculty advisor, Dr. Nicholas Ferenchak. Dr. Ferenchak rekindled excitement for transportation engineering, engaging students in transportation design and helping rebuild a sense of purpose and direction within the chapter.

As time went on, the UNM ITE chapter slowly gained momentum through activities such as a Rail Runner field trip, volunteer work with the New Mexico Food Bank, and events that helped lift student morale. Like many student organizations, the club faced a significant decline in membership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even so, it remained resilient. During this challenging period, the chapter concentrated its efforts on reorganizing and strengthening its standing within UNM. Although there were fewer opportunities to engage students directly, committed student leaders continued to step forward, determined to keep the organization alive and growing.

In the years that followed, the organization continued to grow, and transportation student involvement on campus expanded in ways that were truly inspiring. Many students began publishing research papers through the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and presenting their academic work on a national stage. This momentum led to a new and meaningful tradition for the chapter: traveling to Washington, D.C., to share key research at the annual TRB meeting.

For many students, this opportunity was not only academically enriching but also deeply motivating, reinforcing their passion for transportation engineering and strengthening the chapter's presence within the broader professional community.



Today, the UNM ITE Student Chapter has become a true cornerstone of the School of Engineering. What was once a small, struggling organization has grown into a vibrant, respected, and deeply engaged community of transportation students. UNM's continued investment in transportation engineering has played a major role in this transformation, especially with the addition of new faculty members such as Dr. Carlos Rivera-Gonzalez and Dr. Lisa Losada-Rojas. Their expertise has broadened the academic and research opportunities available to students, strengthening the chapter's foundation and expanding its reach.

The chapter's accomplishments in 2025 reflect just how far UNM ITE has come. Students authored or co-authored 18 academic journal publications and delivered 42 presentations across local, regional, national, and international conferences. Six students presented at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., marking another year of national visibility for UNM. These achievements demonstrate not only academic excellence but also the chapter's growing influence within the transportation profession.



UNM ITE also reached new heights in student engagement, hosting 29 events throughout the year. These included seminars, research showcases, K-12 outreach, professional development workshops, and multiple conference participations. One of the most significant accomplishments was hosting the 2025 Student Leadership Summit, held in conjunction with the ITE Mountain District Annual Meeting in Santa Fe. The summit brought together 41 attendees for a full day of activities, including an NMDOT headquarters tour, a transportation planning game, a downtown Santa Fe walk audit, speed interviews, and an evening documentary screening. The event not only strengthened leadership skills but also fostered meaningful connections among students and professionals.



The chapter also expanded its presence on campus through events like the screening of *In the Name of Lithium*, which drew over 40 attendees and sparked thoughtful discussions about sustainability, energy, and transportation's environmental impacts.

Outreach efforts extended beyond campus as well, with members participating in K-12 preview days, Safe Routes to School events, Bike Fiesta, and a quick-build workshop in Jemez Pueblo, where students helped construct a crosswalk and protected walking path for a community lacking safe pedestrian infrastructure.

It is through this collective effort, years of rebuilding, consistent student leadership, faculty support, and a renewed spirit of engagement, that UNM ITE was honored with the 2026 Outstanding Student Chapter Award. This recognition reflects not only the chapter's achievements, but the heart, resilience, and dedication of every student who helped shape UNM ITE into the thriving organization it is today.

Through all these efforts, UNM ITE has become more than a student organization, it has become a thriving community of scholars, leaders, and advocates committed to improving transportation in New Mexico and beyond. The chapter's growth reflects the dedication of its students, the support of its faculty, and the shared belief that transportation engineering can change lives and strengthen communities. Truly embracing the title of this article, "Leading Today, Inspiring Mañana".



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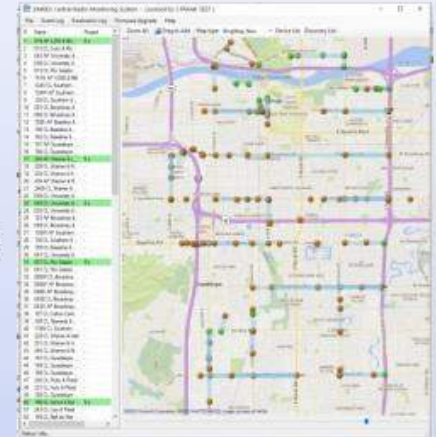
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CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

The Mountain District is currently seeking interested individuals for the role of District Administrator. This role is an appointed position that is responsible for providing continuity to the board over a number of years.

QUALIFICATIONS

The District Administrator must be a member of ITE and should have actively participated at a District-level (or higher) for more than 15 years.

Preference will be given to District Administrator candidates who have served as a District Board member.

Jenny Grote has been serving as the District Administrator since the founding of the Mountain District in 2020 (THANK YOU JENNY!) and we are looking to find someone to learn alongside her and be ready to fill her role when she steps down in 2027. Interested candidates can send their Letter of Interest to Lindsay Saner, Mountain District President (Lindsay.saner@kimley-horn.com) by **July 31, 2026**.

TPCB CHANGES COMING SOON

TPCB will be requiring 1 PDH in ethics training per three-year renewal cycle for all certificants (PTOE, PTP, and RSP) beginning with the 2027 renewal cycle. The proposal do so was approved unanimously by the board. One hour within a renewal period will satisfy the requirement for all certifications you may hold. ITE/TPCB will offer a free ethics webinar annually, but any relevant ethics training will be sufficient.

Coming in 2028 (tentative), TPCB will be launching a new certification, RSP2A: RSA Certified Professional. This will be a new credential within the Road Safety Professional (RSP) certification family, "recognizing practitioners who demonstrate advanced skills in conducting and leading road safety audits and in applying the highest level of formal safety analysis."



**Joint ITE International and Great Lakes
District Annual Meeting and Exhibition**

July 19–22, 2026 | Huntington Place Convention Center | Detroit, MI, USA



Detroit 26
Annual Meeting and Exhibition
July 19–22, 2026



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Y2K serves public and private agency clients from offices in Arizona and Colorado. We focus on the safety and the mobility of people, whether they travel by motorized vehicles, transit, bike, foot or shared mobility. Y2K offers extensive expertise in transportation planning, safety analysis and countermeasures, traffic studies, bicycle and pedestrian facility design, traffic engineering, microsimulation, traffic signal design, lighting design, and intelligent transportation systems. Y2K has the experience and expertise to innovate and provide context-sensitive solutions from concept to successful completion. Y2K plans, designs, and manages projects with one mission in mind - to provide value to our clients.



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- Performance Based Planning
- Master Plans
- Corridor



SAFETY

- Crash Analysis
- Proven Countermeasures
- Road Safety Assessments
- Intersection Improvements
- Corridor Improvements
- Systemic Safety Improvements
- Pedestrian / Bicycle
- Vision Zero



TECHNOLOGY

- Concept of Operations
- Systems Engineering
- Systems Evaluation
- Bluetooth/Wi-Fi Sensors
- Active Traffic Management



DESIGN

- Traffic Signal
- Roadway
- Lighting
- Pedestrian
- Hybrid Beacon
- BikeHAWK
- RRFB/CRFB
- Signing
- Pavement Marking
- Traffic Calming
- Traffic Control
- ITS



STUDIES

- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Traffic Operations
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Before/After & On/Off
- Origin-Destination
- Travel Time
- Parking
- Speed
- Capacity Analysis
- Crosswalk Warrants
- Signal Warrants
- Data Analytics



Spotted!

Send your photos with your Mountain District swag to communications@mountainite.org or darlene.yellowhair@psomas.com



New York City (top to bottom): Queensboro Bridge from Roosevelt Island, Tom's Restaurant of Seinfeld fame, and the Empire State Building lit up at night. Photos by Darlene Danehy Yellowhair, Arizona Section, Southern Arizona Chapter.



Editor's Note: While I will always enjoy sharing my photos with others, this feature will be much more interesting if others share their photos, too. Please contribute!! -DDY

All members should have swag with which you can take and submit photos (or pull up the logo on someone's phone) - let's see MDITE around the world!

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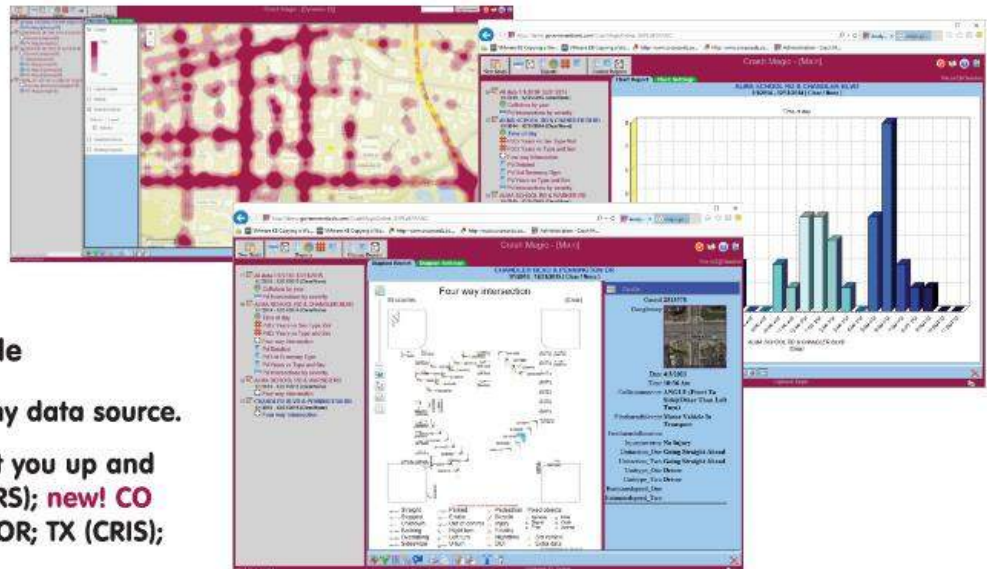
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Mountain District Committee Updates

Advertising Committee

Chair: Dillon McLain
(dillon.mclain@kljeng.com)

The MD Advertising Committee encourages District companies, vendors, and consultants interested in sponsorships, job postings, or other advertising opportunities to reach out to the Committee Chair. We also kindly remind existing sponsors to renew through the District website at their earliest convenience, and to contact us with any questions regarding the renewal process.

Annual Meeting Committee

Chair: Josh Saak
(jsaak@achdidaho.org)

Your 2026 LAC is hard at work in putting together a fantastic meeting in Flagstaff this (very late) spring! Registration is open for the Mountain District meeting June 10th-12th at the High Desert Conference Center. To register, check the conference page on the Mountain District website at the following link:

[ITE Mountain District - Meeting/Event Information](#)

Our 2027 annual meeting will be in Reno, NV as a joint meeting with the Western District. Many thanks to multiple members of the Nevada Section who are already helping to organize what will feel like a family reunion of sorts.

Looking even further in the future, our 2028 annual meeting will return to New Mexico as a joint meeting with ITE International in Albuquerque.

Service and Outreach Committee

Chair: Jennifer Rosales
(jrosales@ardurra.com)

The new Service and Community Outreach Committee needs community-oriented people who are excited about providing support at a district level by organizing resources, and community outreach activities that can be done as a district or at section levels. We want to learn what the sections are currently doing that are successful and what struggles they have had, and how the district-level committee could work towards a solution.

Mountain District Committee Updates

Communications Committee

Chair: Devin Moore

(Devin.Moore@Kimley-Horn.com)



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ITE Mountain District

First of all, THANK YOU to Melissa Gende, who has served as our Communications Committee Chair for years and another THANK YOU to Deanna Haase who was our first Chair! It is my honor to now serve at the Chair, and we have an opportunity for you! Are you looking for a way to give back to our ITE Community? Would you like a small role with a big impact? Have we got the role/opportunity for you! Please reach out and let us know. We have at least 4 roles right now that we'd like to fill immediately on our committee and we can use your help/support. No previous experience needed, just need to be willing to learn and help! And if you have a friend who you think should help - send us their name and we'll extend an invitation! Email me at Devin.Moore@Kimley-Horn.com.



For those who don't know me - my name is Devin Moore, I'm a devoted husband and father of four, and I've been involved with ITE since I was a student. For me, ITE has truly been a community where I've built friendships, found mentors, and learned a lot. Over the years I have had many opportunities to give back and serve my fellow members, and that has been fulfilling to me. I am passionate about efficiency and the importance of the member experience in ITE. For most, ITE is experienced at the Section or Chapter level, although that experience can be enhanced through impactful District leadership. Come join our District Communications Committee!

Mountain District Committee Updates

Student and Younger Member Committee

Chair: Victoria Edington
(victoria.edington@stantec.com)

As board transitions happen and school years come to a close, please keep in mind that we always want to hear from you! We are also available to provide support and guidance for student chapters and younger members, and we are always looking for new committee members. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions or if you want to get involved.

Membership Committee

Chair: Sanjay Paul
(sanjay.paul@mobilitymatrixllc.com)

Remember that we have a standing open call for Member Spotlights! If you would like to be featured or would like to recommend another member for the Member Spotlight in the Quarterly Magazine, or if you have any other ideas or want to volunteer for the committee, please contact Sanjay Paul.

Awards Committee

Chair: Ati Abad
(atefeh.abad@atkinsglobal.com)

Feel free to reach out any time if you are interested in getting involved with the committee or if you have any questions about any of the awards.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Chair: MariaAngelica Deeb
(mariaacafe2002@yahoo.com)

Six applications were received for the 2026 DEI scholarships offered for those attending the ITE Mountain District Annual Meeting hosted by ITE Arizona and located in Flagstaff, June 10-13, 2026. The winners will be contacted in May and recognized at the Annual Meeting.

And the winners are:
Khandaker Arafin Islam
Mariana Livon Al-Rihani
Daniel Pineda-Agudelo
Jasmine Wilson

In addition, the DEI committee will host a DEI welcome session to provide an opportunity for attendees that have not had the chance to interact with the ITE Mountain District Board to share time on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, with members of the Board. Attendees will be able to ask Board members questions and participate in a trivia contest. More to come! (Hint..... Prepare and get to know the Board).

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

MaríaAngélica Deeb, PE, PTOE, RSP1, PTP, ENV SP

The District's Welcoming Session as a Living Expression of DEI

A truly welcoming session is far more than an icebreaker or a polite formality. It is a deliberate act of inclusion—a moment where the Mountain District, through its DEI committee signals, through its behavior, that every person belongs, every voice matters, and every perspective enriches the collective work ahead. When we embrace and host a welcoming session with intention, we are not just opening a meeting; we are modeling the core principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in real time. A welcoming session affirms diversity by acknowledging the breadth of experiences, identities, and backgrounds in the room. Instead of assuming a single narrative or default perspective, it creates space for people to bring their full selves into the conversation. This is where diversity becomes visible—not as a statistic, but as a source of strength. When those attending the Annual Meeting for the first time, or even those seasoned, hear their identities, lived experiences, and professional journeys recognized, they understand that their presence is not incidental; it is valued. It also embodies equity, because a well-designed welcoming session levels the playing field from the very beginning. It ensures that no one enters the space at a disadvantage due to unfamiliarity, hierarchy, or social norms. By clarifying expectations, inviting participation, and setting a tone of psychological safety, the session reduces barriers that often silence underrepresented voices. Equity is not only about distributing resources; it is about distributing opportunity—and a welcoming session is the first opportunity many people have to engage meaningfully. When we intentionally create that access, we are practicing equity in action. Ultimately, hosting a welcoming session is an act of stewardship. It demonstrates that we care about OUR members, how they experience our work, and how they see themselves within our shared mission. It is a small moment with outsized impact—a moment where DEI principles move from policy to practice, from aspiration to lived experience.

The Power of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Advancing Vision Zero and National Safety Principles

Achieving Vision Zero—the commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries—requires more than engineering excellence or policy alignment. It demands a transportation system built on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as foundational values. National frameworks from NACTO, ITE, FHWA, and USDOT consistently affirm that safety is not merely a technical outcome; it is a social contract. A truly safe system recognizes that people experience streets differently based on age, ability, income, race, language, and access. When transportation agencies embrace DEI, they unlock the full power of the Safe System Approach and move closer to a resilient, just, and life-affirming mobility future.

Diversity strengthens safety planning by ensuring that the experiences of all road users—children walking to school, older adults navigating crossings, people with disabilities using mobility devices, transit-dependent riders, cyclists, freight operators, and drivers—inform design decisions. NACTO's guidance emphasizes that streets must serve people first, and that diverse perspectives reveal risks and opportunities that traditional engineering analyses often overlook. When communities are authentically represented in planning, the resulting designs are more intuitive, context-sensitive, and protective of vulnerable users.

Equity is not an optional enhancement to safety; you cannot have safety without equity. USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy and FHWA's Safe System Approach both highlight that systemic disparities—historic disinvestment, lack of sidewalks, unsafe crossings, high-speed arterials cutting through low-income neighborhoods—create disproportionate exposure to harm. Addressing these inequities is essential to reducing fatalities. Equity-driven safety planning prioritizes communities with the highest risk and the least historic investment, ensuring that improvements are not only effective but just. This includes equitable funding distribution, culturally responsive engagement, and data practices that illuminate disparities rather than mask them.

Inclusion ensures that every voice is valued in shaping solutions. ITE and NACTO emphasize that inclusive processes build trust, strengthen community ownership, and lead to designs that reflect local identity and aspirations. Inclusion also expands the definition of “expert” to include parents, students, elders, transit riders, and people who walk or roll daily. Their insights help agencies identify barriers, refine alternatives, and co-create interventions that are both technically sound and socially grounded.

Safety also cannot exist without resilience. A resilient transportation system anticipates change—climate impacts, demographic shifts, economic transitions—and adapts to protect people under evolving conditions. Equity and resilience reinforce each other: when all road users have safe, reliable, multimodal options, communities become more adaptable, healthier, and economically stable. Designing for resilience means designing for everyone, especially those most affected by disruption.

Ultimately, giving opportunities to all road users—safe crossings, accessible sidewalks, reliable transit, protected bike facilities, traffic-calmed neighborhoods—is an act of social equity. It redistributes access to opportunity, supports public health, and strengthens community cohesion. When transportation systems embrace DEI, they move beyond compliance and toward transformation. They create streets that honor human dignity, protect life, and build a resilient future where safety is not a privilege but a shared right.

We create innovative solutions
to improve traffic flow...
and drivers' dispositions.

ENJOY THE RIDE.



We're Olsson, a nationally recognized engineering and design firm that adds purpose to every project we create. In ITE's Mountain District, we have offices in Denver, Loveland, and Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Phoenix and Chandler, Arizona, to meet every transportation need of our clients. **olsson.com**

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Transportation News

Is the US Counting Traffic Deaths Incorrectly?



While most countries count measure traffic deaths per capita, the United States has continued to evaluate traffic deaths per vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The VMT-based metric has long been used to supposedly account for American factors such as the physical size of the country and resident's love of driving. However, if US crashes were measured by capita, the fatal crash rate is more than twice that of peer countries.

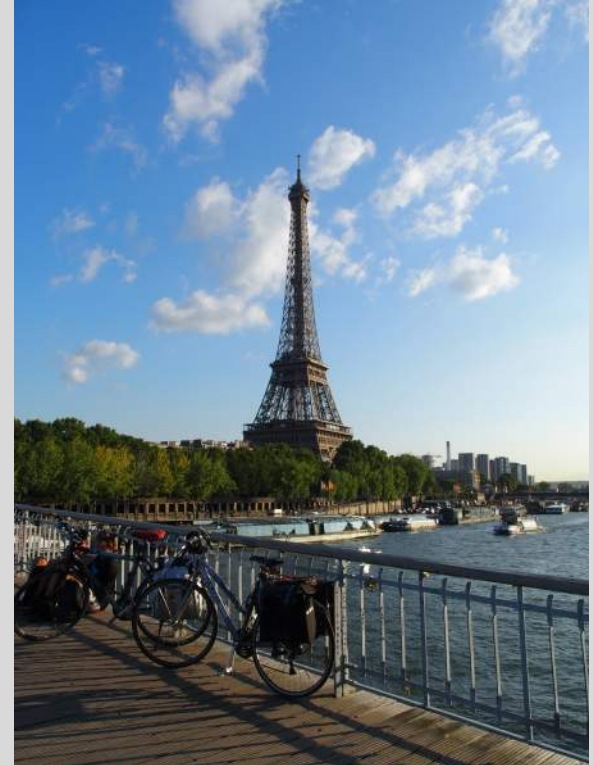
Choices such as living close to your job or taking transit to commute can reduce

your miles driven and therefore reduce the chance of being in a crash. However, with the US's current metric, the risk of driving is considered unchanged for any given mile of driving, so alternative options are not seen as being necessary or even beneficial.

Paris is for People, Not Cars

Ok, so the title is not entirely correct. However, over the last 12 years, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo pushed forward plans which have drastically reduced pollution, have made neighborhoods more livable, and have generally improved quality of life in Paris. (If you're curious about the numbers, levels of multiple harmful pollutants in the air have fallen by 50% or more in the last 20 years.) Hundreds of streets have been redesigned to trade vehicle lanes for bicycle lanes, and to replace parking spaces and pavement with trees and green space. More than 900 miles of bike lanes now exist in Paris, and over 300 streets have been closed to cars in front of elementary schools, making areas safer and reclaiming public space for the city's children and families.

Following years of pushback on her drastic changes, Mayor Hidalgo easily won reelection in 2020 and seized what became an opportunity during COVID when the streets were virtually empty. Rue de Rivoli, previously a heavily-traveled vehicular roadway, now carries over 20,000 cyclists per day. A 2025 referendum to close 500 more streets in front of schools passed with 60% of the vote, and Mayor Hidalgo's former deputy mayor won the mayoral election, so people are clearly on board with the changes.



Read more [here](#) - it's inspiring!

Transportation News

More Pedestrian Zones Coming to the United States

In 2026, six major pedestrianization projects will take place, reclaiming vehicular spaces for people. A few of the projects, including those in Houston, Kansas City, and San Jose, will welcome World Cup fans with pedestrian-focused spaces, then will continue to serve residents into the future. The full article is [here](#), but below are some highlights:

- Sunset Dunes in San Francisco
 - This 2-mile, 50-acre coastal park is the largest pedestrianization project in California's history. The park will replace a former highway.
- Monroe Street in Detroit, Michigan
 - Located in Greektown, Monroe Street is being redeveloped as a civic space which will serve everyday use as well as large-scale events.
- Main Street in Houston, Texas
 - Main Street has long been a transit corridor, but is now being reinvented as a seven-block pedestrian promenade through downtown. The **Main Street Promenade** will include plazas, outdoor dining, shaded walkways, and public spaces for lingering.
- 18th Street in Kansas City, Missouri
 - The **18th Street Pedestrian Mall** project has long been coming, and with the World Cup on its way, is finally happening. This project will remove curbs, gutters, and on-street parking, but will still allow vehicular traffic at the center.



Photo Credit: Downtown Houston+

"Freedom to Drive"

Moving in the completely opposite direction from the last two stories, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy launched the *Freedom to Drive* initiative last month. The idea is to get rid of vehicular congestion by widening existing roads and building new roads, despite years of evidence and numerous studies showing that widening roads only encourages more driving and ultimately makes congestion worse. The Secretary emphasized the Trump Administration's commitment to "moving away from the 'stop-and-go' policies of the past and toward the high-performance, high-efficiency solutions of the future."



The Secretary also states that "we will make our roadways the envy of the world again by maximizing existing roadway capacity" and asks governors to identify chokepoints and outline actions which focus on "expanding and maximizing roadway capacity for driving."

If the Paris story tells us anything, vehicular capacity is no longer something to envy, nor is it what people actually want (whether they realize it or not). Safety should always come first, and people should always be more important than cars. Moving vehicles and freight safely and reliably will always be important, but a vehicle-only focus is not the best solution for our roads.



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Section/Chapter Updates

Colorado/Wyoming



Hike and Happy Hour

We had a great time at the Hike and Happy Hour event on the beautiful North Table Mountain in Golden! It was a beautiful afternoon! Thank you to everyone who made it out for the hike! We ended the hike at the New Terrain Brewing Company for happy hour!

ITE Vendor Show

Thank you to all who participated in **ITE CO/WY Section** Vendor Show! The Vendor Exhibits and Technical Sessions were a success! What a great day!



Multimodal in the Mountains

A Western Slope Transportation Event

Friday, April 10th 2026

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



COLORADO WYOMING SECTION



Advancing Western
Advancing Transportation

ITE and WTS Western Slope Event

The ITE CO/WY Section & WTS Western Slope event focusing on Multimodal in the Mountains was held April 10, 2026, at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs. The event included an optional technical tour of the area, luncheon, presentations, and networking opportunities.

The event brought together transportation professionals, local agencies, and community leaders to share lessons learned and practical strategies tailored to Colorado's Western Slope unique context.



Section/Chapter Updates

Colorado/Wyoming Section cont'd

Rae Stephani representing ITE and Marijean Frymoyer representing WTS welcomed attendees. Presentations included an Introduction to eBikes by Benedict Wright with Bicycle Colorado; Eagle Valley Case Study by Claire Noble with Eagle County, Kim Greene with Vail Health, and Dominik Scriver with the Town of Eagle PD; Aspen Case Study by Brian Long with City of Aspen, Aaron Pool with City of Aspen and Lee Malik with Aspen PD. A Panel Q & A was moderated by Chloe Ward, PE. There was a funding and implementation panel featuring presentations by City of Glenwood Springs, Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office, Eagle Valley Trail, CDOT and DOLA.

A huge thanks to Rae Stephani, Kari (McDowell) Schroeder, PE, PTOE, Chloe Ward, PE and Marijean Frymoyer for being on the planning committee and making this event happen. CO/WY ITE is in the process of establishing its own Chapter on the Western Slope and thanks WTS Western Slope for co-sponsoring this great event with CO/WY ITE. We are grateful to all of our sponsors who without them we wouldn't be able to put on such great events.



University of Wyoming Student Chapter

The University of Wyoming student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) held officer elections on April 16 in anticipation of graduating members transitioning out of their roles. The newly elected leadership team includes Sean Peter Castaneda as President, Estiak Ahmed as Vice President, Menuka Jayalath as General Secretary, Merina Giri as Treasurer, and Afia Anzum as Marketing Secretary.

This incoming group will guide the chapter's activities and initiatives for the upcoming academic year, continuing to support student engagement, professional development, and collaboration within the transportation engineering community at UWYO.





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Welcome to ITE!

The following members joined ITE and the Mountain District between February 2026 and April 2026. Welcome to all!

Arizona Section

Danial Chekani, University of Arizona,
Ph.D. Student

Payton Cooke, WSP

Erubiel Guerrero

Maryam K Gilak, Arizona State
University, Student

Zachary Matz, City Of Peoria, AZ, CIP
Project Manager I

Blake Warner, Wilson & Company

Colorado/Wyoming Section

Anas Alhadad

Sean Castaneda, University of Wyoming,
Student

Andrew Cordova-Domingu, University of
Colorado Denver, Student

Molly Day, City of Longmont, Associate
Planner

Alex Donaldson, City of Longmont,
Senior Civil Engineer

Hunter Graalum, University of Colorado
Denver

Alex Green, HDR

Julie Hagerman Melear, University of
Colorado, Student

Gabrielle Hernandez

Jennifer Hewett-Apperson, City of
Longmont, Principal Planner

Alden Jenkins, City of Longmont, Senior
Civil Engineer

Colorado/Wyoming Section cont'd

Nathan Jones-Meyer, City of Longmont,
Principal Planner

Philip Joseph, Olsson

Ahmed Kayali, University of Colorado,
Student

Abdoullah Kebe, University of Colorado,
Student

Anna Kramer, University of Colorado
Denver, Student

Daniella Nietzen, City of Longmont, Civil
Engineer I

Ben Ortiz, City of Longmont,
Transportation Planner

Grant Penland, City of Longmont,
Planning and Development Services
Director

Cooper Riddell-Brosig, Galloway,
Madeline Schad, University of Colorado
Denver, Student

Emily Serrano, University of Colorado
Denver, Student

Phil Taylor, City of Longmont, Senior
Planner

Vivan Vovan, Matrix Design Group,
Project Engineer - Transportation

Jasmine Wilson, University of New
Mexico, Student

Liz Young Winne, City of Longmont,
Vision Zero Coordinator

Welcome to ITE!

The following members joined ITE and the Mountain District between February 2026 and April 2026. Welcome to all!

Idaho Section

Bordyn Grieser, City of Hayden,
Streets Crew

Dulci Kau, City of Hayden, City
Engineer

Ty Kovatch, City of Hayden, Public
Works Deputy Director

Allyson Orihuela, Boise State University,
Student

Kevin Selzer, City of Hayden, Streets
Superintendent

Eric Shanley, P.E., Lakes Highway
District

Alan Soderling, City of Hayden, Public
Works Director

Montana Section

Taylor Kasperick, Performance
Engineering, Project Manager

Sennett Pizzolato, Milwaukee School of
Engineering, Student

New Mexico Section

Md Shafiul Islam Akash, University of
New Mexico, Student

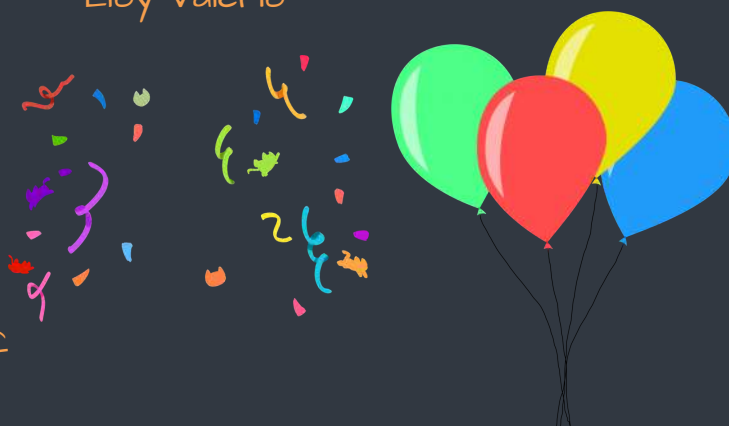
Shahab Biazar, City of Albuquerque,
City Engineer

Barsha Khanal, University of New
Mexico, Student

Tyler Pennington, Parametrix

Daniel Pineda Agudelo, University of
New Mexico, Student

Gabriel Sanchez-Ramos, New Mexico
Department of Transportation,
Eloy Valerio



WELCOME

Welcome to ITE!

The following members joined ITE and the Mountain District between February 2026 and April 2026. Welcome to all!

Nevada Section

Kian Ansarinejad, University of Nevada
Las Vegas, Student

Sana Arshad, Nevada Department of
Transportation

Christopher Bell, Nevada Department
of Transportation

Sandeep Bist

Jonathan Cole, Project Engineer

Eric Harmer, Nevada Department of
Transportation

Kelly Norman, City of Carson City,
Senior Transportation Planner

Stephen Patchan, Regional Transp.
Commission of Southern Nevada,
Transportation Planning Manager

Jesse Patchett, Patchett Design Group,
LLC

Darix Rossetti-Busa, University of
Nevada Las Vegas, Student

Melvin Sjostrom, CA Group

Casey Sylvester, City of Carson City,

Joseph Thomason, Quality Counts,
Operations Manager

Utah Section

Jordan Arrowchis, Utah Department
of Transportation, Procurement
Signal Engineer

Levi Burr, Traffic Engineer

Kenzie Coulson, Walker Consultants,
Project Manager

Samantha Farnsworth, Brigham
Young University, Student

Cedar Hopwood, Utah State
University, Student

Amy Kollman

Daniel Martoma, Brigham Young
University

Mara Osumo, Brigham Young
University, Student

Nick Parkes, Kimley Horn

Laura Stevens, Salt Lake City
Transportation Division

Daniel Takashima

Carter Walker, Utah Valley
University, Student



Welcome

Member Spotlight - Haynes

In each issue, we will highlight members of our District. This month, we have Margaret Haynes from the New Mexico Section, Chris Milner of the Arizona Section, and Michael Sanderson of the Montana Section. Margaret is up first!

1. How long have you been a member of ITE and why did you join?

I didn't realize transportation engineering was my calling until I started working in private consulting. Then, seven years later, I found a home in traffic engineering working in District operations for the Department of Transportation. It is now 2026 and I've been working in traffic operations for over 10 years. I have been a member of ITE since January of 2017.

2. What is your favorite ITE memory or when/where was your favorite ITE meeting?

I attended NM ITE Section luncheons often when I was a young professional. I attended my first Mountain District Annual Meeting last year in Santa Fe, NM. The agenda was full of topics applicable to my day-to-day activities in traffic operations. The people who attended the ITE meeting had a passion, similar to mine, but different experiences. I was looking for new ways to increase the safety of my roadways and these attendees were implementing new ways of doing that. I was also delighted to meet colleagues in-person, some of whom I'd only met virtually, (e.g. I had no idea how tall they were). Connecting with others in-person is so much more valuable to me than virtual meetings. It took a pandemic for me to have gratitude to shake a person's hand.

3. Who do you work for and what do you do?

I am an engineer working on behalf of the public. I have been working for the New Mexico Department of Transportation for over 14 years and am the Assistant Traffic Engineer for District Three. District Three is the most urban District in the state, including the largest city and the largest Metropolitan Planning Organization in the state. This position has offered me many learning opportunities including maintenance of districtwide pavement markings (interstate to principal arterials to collectors), maintenance of districtwide signing (single post mounted to interstate signs on overhead structures), transportation design, traffic signal analysis, review of traffic impact studies to address safety and capacity, safety studies, speed studies, design plan oversight, private development oversight to include access approval and off-site mitigation identification. In operations, I have the ability to implement studies and try new things regularly. Being a public servant has been a very fulfilling career.



Member Spotlight - Haynes cont'd



4. What do you love most about Transportation/Traffic Engineering/Planning?

I love that traffic engineering is always evolving and bringing new learning opportunities. There are no projects that are identical and no projects that can blindly be solved by following a single table or a single equation. Engineering judgement plays a large role for any engineering project, thus I am certain that AI can't take my job anytime soon. Working as a public servant means I respond to questions from observant residents in my community and address safety concerns. Each request is unique as it comes from a perspective of that individual's expectations and experiences. What may appear to be a standard simple fix, may not address a constituent's specific needs without a thoughtful discussion with that person.

5. How do you define success?

I define success as being authentic to myself in all my environments. I recognize I am human, and just like the constituents calling me, I can only make the best decisions with the tools I have at that time. I look for tools and evolving ideas, I ask colleagues about their applicable experiences, I listen to podcasts, I attend trainings and I listen to others. I do my best to make the most sound and fair decisions. Whether the outcome is as I expected or not, there is progress in all decisions I make. I am true to holding myself accountable for my decisions, and correcting whatever may be needed, and for the most part, no decision is absolutely permanent, even permanent paint ;)

6. Who inspires you?

I am most inspired by people I encounter who are willing to make changes and take risks. They are for example the assertive mothers that balance family needs and work in traditionally male dominated fields. It is the engineer who said, "when in doubt, roundabout". It is the engineer that was yelled at in a public meeting and maintained their calm and confidence. It is the executive leader that places engineering needs before political demands. It is the elderly woman brave enough to call and ask for an audible crosswalk for her needs. It is the designer who said, "there's more than one way to decorate a cupcake." Following a norm is easy, it's those that travel against the grain that benefit from the biggest rewards and those are the people that I'm drawn to and inspire me to be myself. I feel like our old engineering ideas, especially with distracted driving at its highest, we all need to change to see the change. I believe the engineer that said that traffic safety is a public health issue was absolutely correct and I'm inspired to do more.



Member Spotlight - Haynes cont'd

7. What's one new thing - either industry-related or not - you learned in the last month?

We have been limited to testing the right turn on yellow flashing arrow due to our aged infrastructure. The cabinet needs to be a TS2 with a Cobalt controller and if the intersection already operates with eight phases, the available outputs will not be sufficient. Due to older software, we would need to disable the conflict monitor because it would not be a standard overlap. Doing so would mean that if a wiring fault or controller malfunction were to occur, the intersection could continue operating without alerting maintenance staff to a potential conflict. Thus, if something like a dual indication occurred, the intersection would not go into flash mode.



8. What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

I recently took interest in beekeeping thanks to my husband. Our last attempt to save the hive was a queen named Bee-yonce. We believed in her, but her workers and drones did not.

9. What's the last book you read or movie you saw?

With a full-time career, an entrepreneur husband, and two curious young humans, I tend to multi-task often. I listen to the Hubberman Lab podcast on a regular basis. I enjoy learning the science behind improving my health and overall performance mentally and physically. I have learned some techniques to improve my posture (a standing workstation) and quiet my mind (less screens and less social media) and reduce my overwhelm, especially when I have 300 unread emails in my inbox. [I'd like to give a shout out to all who have been patient waiting for a response from me.]

Member Spotlight - Milner

Next up, Chris Milner!

1. How long have you been a member of ITE and why did you join?

I joined ITE in 2005 as part of the Iowa State Student Chapter of ITE because I was interested in the guest speaker topics they had and free pizza also sounded nice 😊

2. What is your favorite ITE memory or when/where was your favorite ITE meeting?

As a young engineer I was provided the opportunity to present at the 2011 ITE/IMSA Spring conference. It was surreal presenting alongside the principal author of the first edition of the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual while being moderated by the founder of Lee Engineering, Jim Lee. Presenting with these accomplished veterans of the industry early in my career was something I will never forget.

A very close second was the time ITE hosted a meeting in Prescott. After the meeting I went rock climbing and it was amazing.

3. Who do you work for and what do you do?

I work for TYLin and lead our active transportation design team across the southwest. I serve as project manager for most of the projects I'm involved with, but also get to serve as a technical advisor for projects across the country.

4. What do you love most about Transportation/Traffic Engineering/Planning?

I really enjoy delivering solutions that enable people and places to connect through safe, direct, and intuitive facilities. My experiences commuting by bicycle, walking, running, and transit have inspired me to serve members of our community who use modes other than a personal automobile.

5. How do you define success?

Success in my career is defined by trust. Trust is key in several aspects of my line of work – with clients, public, and my coworkers. If a client trusts me to be their technical advisor then I've succeeded. When trust is built with members of the public and/or key stakeholders that leads to successful project outcomes. Within my workplace trust has been essential to achieving goals within our team, office, and practice.



Member Spotlight - Milner cont'd



6. Who inspires you?

Within my personal life I'm inspired by my wife because of her selfless service to our family. She's always there to meet the needs of our children and is my foundation. She does all of this without any recognition for her tireless dedication. Professionally, I'm inspired by many of my coworkers including Allison Sadow, Ryan Wozniak, and James Barr to name a few. They inspire me in different ways. Allison for her passion to ensure design is human-focused and to be willing to challenge clients to consider design solutions they aren't comfortable with. Ryan for his dedication to always evolving technically and identifying approaches to serve our clients, communities, and projects in the most effective way possible. James inspires me because of his servant leadership style. Even as a leader of hundreds of staff at our company, James is still humble enough to get in and do the dirty work as needed to meet deadlines and serve clients.

7. What's one new thing - either industry-related or not - you learned in the last month?

I really liked this concept I recently read about and it's an equation so all the engineers out there should like this: $\text{Happiness} = \text{haves} / \text{wants}$. If you decrease the denominator (what you want) your happiness increases 😊

8. What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

I've had 16 different children be placed in my home through foster care and the oldest one now has his own son, making me a foster grandpa.

9. What's the last book you read or movie you saw?

I recently saw the movie 'Song Sung Blue' and it was fantastic! I'm probably a little biased though because I have fond memories listening to Neil Diamond on cassette growing up.



Member Spotlight - Sanderson

Last but not least, Michael Sanderson!

1. How long have you been a member of ITE and why did you join?

I joined ITE about 30 years ago when I was a student at Montana State. I was just starting a master's degree in transportation. We didn't yet have a student chapter at MSU, so my graduate advisor took me and several other transportation students to the Intermountain Section meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. After that, the rest of the story kind of writes itself. It was hard not to get hooked by the welcoming atmosphere and great people at the Jackson Hole ITE meeting.

2. What is your favorite ITE memory or when/where was your favorite ITE meeting?

I have a lot of wonderful ITE memories. Many great people, great places, and great times – too many to describe, and some I probably shouldn't! That said, the Intermountain Section meeting in Jackson Hole will always be my favorite. So many great memories there.

I was the LAC Chair for the 2005 Western District meeting in Kalispell, Montana, so it has a special place in my heart. Also, the 2018 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, the year I was International President and got to announce that the International Board was moving forward with the initiative that would lead to the creation of the Mountain District, is a meeting I will never forget.



Danielle Scharf, Michael Sanderson, and Alyssa Reynolds in Jackson Hole, 2007

3. Who do you work for and what do you do?

I am currently the CEO of Sanbell. I spent many years working as a traffic engineer, but now I spend my time leading the growth of Sanbell. I led Sanderson Stewart for many years in Montana, but starting in 2023 we became Sanbell and now have 14 offices across the western United States. We've had a lot of exciting growth over the last few years that keeps me very busy!

Member Spotlight - Sanderson cont'd

4. What do you love most about Transportation/Traffic Engineering/Planning?

The thing that drew me to transportation in graduate school is the thing that I still love about it today, and that's the humanity of it. The impact we have as transportation professionals on people's daily quality of life. Transportation planning is community planning, and vice versa – they can't be separated. How we plan and build our transportation systems defines in many ways how people spend their lives. What could be more important than that?

5. How do you define success?

My ideas about success have definitely changed over time. There was a time when I'm sure my younger self idealized success that was more centered on climbing the ladder and earning measures of achievement as others, as society, might see it. At some point, I realized that that was never going to be fulfilling because there's always going to be another rung above you. There's always someone better, faster, smarter, richer, more accomplished...and on and on. It's the proverbial hamster wheel – tiring and ultimately pointless. Once I realized that, success for me came to be defined by the impact you could make. Are you making a difference for people, and, in particular, for people you care about? If you can do that, make a difference for people, and do it in a way in which your kids will be proud of you, I'm not sure there's a higher version of success.



6. Who inspires you?

I'm inspired by people in small and big ways all the time – people I read about, leaders I know and admire, and regular people I observe around me – it's those small acts of grace and kindness, a really wise comment, an infectious positive attitude. The most inspirational people in my life right now, though, are my own kids, Quinn and North. They are incredibly smart, kind, compassionate, worldly young leaders, who are achieving things that I couldn't have imagined when I was their age. They give me a lot of hope for our future.

Member Spotlight - Sanderson cont'd

7. What's one new thing - either industry-related or not - you learned in the last month?

I recently read a great little book called *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* by Carlo Rovelli, an Italian theoretical physicist. (My son studies astrophysics in college, if you were wondering why I was pleasure reading a book on theoretical physics!) Rovelli taught me that the difference between past and future only exists when there is heat. The concept of time, as humans perceive it, that the future is distinguishable from the past, only exists because of the phenomenon that heat transfers from things that are hotter to things that are colder. A swinging pendulum will eventually slow to a stop because heat is lost through friction. This same concept is applicable to every other observable phenomenon in the universe. In other words, without heat transfer, the concept of time would not exist. Mind bending! I guess I should have paid more attention in Thermodynamics class!



They've been teaching there for a thousand years! And I just read a wonderful little book (only about 60 pages) called *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*, by Walter Isaacson. Isaacson is famous for writing some great biographies on Benjamin Franklin, Leonardo Da Vinci, Steve Jobs, and others. He wrote this book to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The sentence – “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Isaacson breaks it down word by word. Our founders started a good thing. I hope we can find our way back to those ideals.

8. What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

I played lead trombone in a jazz big band in college.

9. What's the last book you read or movie you saw?

I usually have several books going at once! I just finished *The University of Oxford: a Brief History*, by Laurence Brockliss, so I could learn more about the place where my daughter is currently a student.



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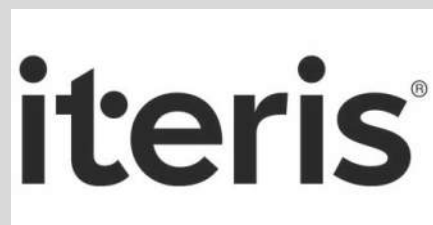
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