Greetings!

President's Message

Hello WDCSITE,

I hope this newsletter finds you in great spirits!

In this month's first update, I am happy to report on another new initiative for WDCSDITE this year. As mentioned in the January newsletter, the leadership committee finds it imperative for WDSCITE to foster an open conversation between the public and private sector professionals. Towards that, we have formed a new "Public Sector Committee." Abi Lerner (VDOT) has kindly accepted my invitation to chair this committee and spearhead its efforts. The Public Sector Committee will be composed of public-sector professionals from various levels of local jurisdictions, agencies and other public-sector entities. One of the goals of this committee is to develop a plan and initiative to encourage public-sector participation in WDCSITE meetings and events. If you are interested in joining or helping out this committee, please feel free to reach out to Abi Lerner or myself.

Secondly, I want to draw your attention to two upcoming meetings. The first meeting is the WDCSITE's Morgan State University Workshop and Technical Meeting on Thursday, March 7th. This event includes a resume review / interview workshop to help better prepare the student for any upcoming job opportunities. As seasoned professionals, this is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community and pass along our industry knowledge to help young, budding professionals. I hope you will be able to participate and encourage our student community. More information about this meeting can be found on the WDCSITE website or please contact the organizer Adam Greenstein.

The second meeting is the joint Mid-Colonial and Southern District ITE Annual meeting being held in Crystal City from Sunday, March 31st to Wednesday, April 3rd. This event is expected to draw transportation professionals from across 15 states with several interesting presentations, workshops, and social events. To register or find out more about this meeting, please visit https://2019.sdite.org/. Hope to see everyone there!

As always, I welcome all questions, comments and suggestions on how we can further improve WDCSITE.

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Upcoming Events

March
5 - WDCSITE / ITS Meeting at Morgan State University
31 - Mid Colonial & Southern District ITE Meeting in Arlington, VA

April
22 - WDCSITE Fairfax County Meeting

May
6 - WDCSITE Prince William County Meeting

To view the current job
further improve WDCSITE.

Sincerely,

Vivek Hariharan
2019 WDCSITE President

Baltimore Pedestrian Safety Technical Meeting Summary

The Baltimore Pedestrian Safety Technical Meeting meeting took place at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council in Baltimore, Maryland on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. The presenters were Paul Silberman (Sabra and Associates), Anyesha Mookherjee (MDOT SHA), Eric Sideras (MCDOT), Dustin Kuzan (Prime AE).

The meeting was well attended; WDCSITE had almost 60 attendees at this event, which is one of the largest events in recent history for the Baltimore Area. Paul Silberman, of Sabra and Associates, presented on work he did for MDOT SHA to prepare a pedestrian safety best practices guideline, and Anyesha Mookherjee, of MDOT SHA, elaborated on guidelines and other pedestrian safety planning/engineering initiatives at the Maryland state level. Along with Eric Sideras of Montgomery County (MD), the three experts answered questions as a panel from the audience, moderated by Dustin Kuzan, of Prime AE, on pedestrian safety programs in Maryland and the planned training program on pedestrian and bicycle safety through the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. This event served as a kickoff to that program, which will be coordinated with ITE, ASHE, and YPT.
To view the current job postings via WDCSITE, please click on the image above.

Volunteers

Are you interested in volunteering with events, meetings, & other activities with WDCSITE. We are looking for motivated enthusiastic individuals to further WDCSITE’s goal and make us the professional organization of choice. Please contact Jon Crisafi or Adam Greenstein to volunteer.

Topics and Speakers

We are always looking for fresh ideas, topics, and presentations. If you are interested presenting at a WDCSITE event, please reach out to Vivek Hariharan.

Presentations from all transportation and related disciplines are welcome.

2019 WDCSITE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vivek Hariharan
President

Future City Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition

WDCSITE has been involved with the Future City Mid-Atlantic Region competition for a number of years. This is a national, project-based learning program where middle school students (grades 6 - 8) imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Keeping the engineering design process and project management front and center, students work in teams to ask and answer an authentic, real-world question: How can we make the world a better place? The deliverables include a research paper, SimCity model, physical model, and presentation of their selected future city. This year’s theme was Powering Our Future, which challenged students to design innovative ways to power their future city that can that can withstand and quickly recover from the impacts of a natural disaster.

The Mid-Atlantic Region encompasses schools from Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia and held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry in mid-January each year. WDCSITE is the proud sponsor of the Most Futuristic Ground Transportation Plan Award that is given to the team that demonstrates the most creative application of futuristic technology and scientific principles in the design,
operations, and management of all modes of ground transportation, that is safe, efficient, sustainable, and practical. John Rectanus from Wallace Montgomery, who has been the "Transportation Judge" at this competition for years and has mentored teams in the past, judged once again this year. The ITE Transportation Award winning team was AhiAhi Wahi from Pinnacle Academy (Oakton, VA) with their re-envisioned rendition of Fresno, CA that included a transportation system with bubble cars on tracks, underground road system, gyroscopic public and emergency transit system, delivery drones, underground maglev train, and "Fitcoins" as incentives to walk or bike. These kids are incredibly creative and smart beyond their years!

This is a great competition and super fun to participate in. We are always looking for volunteers every year to help mentor teams, judge (not just the ITE award) and help organize. Please contact John Rectanus if interested at jrectanus@wallacemontgomery.com and check out their website for more detailed information on the competition at https://futurecity.org/.

### Meet a Member: Neelima Ghanta, PE

1. **Please introduce yourself and tell us about your role in WDCSITE.**

   My passion for transportation started during an internship in a major metropolitan city in India where I spent significant amount of time in traffic. It made me realize the detrimental effects of inadequate transportation network on economy, public health and environment. I consider myself a plan-gineer who applies engineering principles and logical thinking to multi-modal transportation planning and traffic engineering problems. I enjoy dismantling and solving complex problems, building consensus, mentoring, and learning.

2. **Please tell us about your family.**

   I have been in Northern Virginia for 14 years and it has been my second home after my hometown in India. I live with my husband, daughter and a dog.

3. **Please tell us something about your hobbies and activities outside work.**

   I love cooking, dancing and painting with my daughter. Getting lost in a sci-fi book is the next best thing I love.

4. **Tell us briefly about your work - firm/organization, your role. What does your typical workday look like?**

   At HNTB, I play dual roles as a Project Manager and the Section Manager of Multi-Modal Traffic Operations and Modeling Group. I have been with HNTB for almost 8 years, and the most exciting thing about working here is the opportunities I get. Our team works on projects from all over the Country that are quite challenging and require out-of-the-box thinking. My typical workday
includes helping my team deliver projects, connecting with my clients to understand their most pressing issues, and playing an advisory role on HNTB projects around the nation. I push myself and my team to think about ways to understand the challenges of our clients and provide solutions that make their life easy and in-turn serve the needs of the community.

5. **What projects have you worked on that have had a big impact on your career or on a community?**

The project that had the most profound impact on my career is the Roosevelt Boulevard - Route for Change project for the City of Philadelphia. For a corridor where communities living along the corridor heavily rely on walking and transit, currently it takes almost 6 minutes and 4 signal cycles to get across the crosswalks at some locations. 14 percent of all the fatalities in the City occur on this one corridor. This was the most challenging project technically I have delivered, and it has redefined my approach towards transportation projects. The project was so complex that we had to first create a priority code that dictates what problems we can address and in which order.

Another project that has shaped my working style significantly was a statewide guidebook that I delivered for VDOT earlier in my career. It provides guidance to communities with their grassroots efforts to develop trails. Interacting with various communities and experts from different agencies helped me develop a guidebook that was effective. This project helped me understand the importance of communication and catering to an audience.

6. **What is your favorite WDCSITE, activity/event you have participated in and what activity/event/presentation would you like to see next?**

WDCSITE Annual Conference is one of my favorites as the panel discussion format helped understand each topic in a great detail. The topics discussed covered a wide gamut which kept the event interesting and thought provoking.

7. **When and how did you get involved with ITE and how has your involvement in ITE, especially WDCSITE, helped your career?**

As engineers, we tend to focus more on the technical elements and I would like to see ITE do more events that focus on non-technical skills that are essential. The upcoming workshop our chapter is doing in Maryland on resume development and interview prep is a good example. That would be a good event to hold in Virginia as well, for budding professionals. I also think workshops on project management and change management would benefit both public and private sectors.

8. **What topic (besides connected and autonomous vehicles) are you most interested in seeing progress in the next 10-15 years in the transportation industry?**

I have been attending ITE events since 2008. After having served on the board for WTS few years ago, I decided to take an active role in ITE. The audience of WDCSITE are the people that I have worked with over the years in various capacities and in the various chapters across the US. It is fulfilling to see that ITE has a strong presence in Virginia.
capacities or people who do similar things as myself. So, I find it quite fulfilling to engage with and give back to ITE.

9. **What advice would you give to a young transportation engineer?**

Multi-modal transportation planning. We must think of mobility as more than just cars. Even though most of us are not able to make policy changes, we often develop the vision for a corridor 10-20 years into the future. I heard this famous quote, "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it" which stuck with me. We as planners and engineers must measure the effectiveness of our proposals on ALL modes of travel. It is a simple step but one that is most overlooked.

10. **What advice would you give to a young transportation engineer?**

- Seek challenges and opportunities that put your out of your comfort zone.
- Focus on learning and doing your very best.
- Seek critical and constructive feedback.
- Be dependable.
- And finally, if you don't have an advocate and/or a mentor, get busy and find one!

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### 2019 Mid-Colonial & Southern District Joint Annual Meeting

The joint Mid-Colonial and Southern District Annual Meeting is being held from March 31 to April 3, 2019 at Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. This event is anticipated to include participation from transportation from over 15 states. The annual meeting includes numerous excellent technical sessions with engineering and planning tracks, a golf event, a much anticipated social event sponsored by the Associated Business Division (ABD), spouse/guest program, and a half-day professional development seminar.

**When:** March 31 - April 3, 2019
**Where:** Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA 22202

All information including the schedule, list of technical programs, information about travel and accommodations and sponsorship can be found at the conference website: [https://2019.sdite.org/](https://2019.sdite.org/)

- Early Bird Registration has been extended to Friday, March 8, 2019
- Book your hotel in the MCDITE / SDITE block, which is open until Saturday, March 9, 2018
ITE Diversity Scholarship

ITE recently announced the debut of the ITE Diversity Scholars Program. **We need your help getting the word out in your communities and to high school students about this opportunity.** If you are doing a STEM program in your area or going out to talk to students, including college students who may have siblings or know of younger people who could apply, please bring the flyer attached with you.

The purpose of this program is to increase underrepresented populations participation in the transportation profession by supporting increased diversity at the undergraduate level. Diversity in transportation is critical as practitioners seek to fully understand the transportation needs of communities in the development of equitable mobility improvements to many areas of our society.

There are 4 cornerstones to this program:

- Financial support (a total of up to $20,000 in scholarship support: up to $4000 annually per student for up to 5 years of undergraduate enrollment)
- ITE Student Chapter engagement
- Mentoring
- Internship Opportunities

This program is open to any U.S. high school student of African-American; Native American, Alaskan, and Hawaiian; or Hispanic/Latino heritage with an interest in a career in transportation and seeking to study transportation engineering, planning, or in a related-field at a school with an established ITE Student Chapter. All of the eligibility requirements and application information are on [www.ite.org/diversityscholar](http://www.ite.org/diversityscholar).

2019 Candidates for International Board

ITE INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS are Open!

[Click here](#) to find additional information on the 2019 ITE International candidates. Voting is currently underway and closes **March 14 at 12:00PM EST**. Ballots have been emailed to members (2/13/19).

Please cast your vote prior to the deadline. If you have not received a ballot, please reach out to ITE Headquarters to verify your membership status and to get a unique voting link.

Current Job Openings

Following job opportunities are posted on the WDCSITE Job Portal.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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2019 WDCSITE Sponsors

We would love to hear your thoughts / comments / suggestions on the newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to our newsletter committee!
Thank You,

Dana Slone and Krishna Patnam

Newsletter Committee