Greetings!

President's Message

Hello,

Hope you are doing well.

At any given time, the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area hosts several high profile projects that make national news and re-shape the transportation industry's landscape. WDCSITE encompasses jurisdictions in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C., each with their own set of project guidelines and procedures set forth by their respective departments. In addition, several smaller scale projects apply innovative concepts along with core transportation engineering principles to provide turnkey solutions to a problem at-hand. In this regard, WDCSITE is introducing a "Project of the Year" award to recognize trend-setting efforts in the local transportation industry and would be open to all.

I encourage all government agencies, consultants, and other entities alike to submit their most innovative, compelling, rewarding, and beneficial projects for consideration of this award. Additional details about your submission for this award can be found on our website as well as in this newsletter. To allow for equitable consideration of submissions, please note that the scale and dollar amount of the project are not considered - it's the application of transportation ideals, innovation, and replicability of these principles that form the important evaluation criteria. While on the subject of awards, I wanted to remind everyone that last month, we started a brand new scholarship program. Please encourage any deserving students that you know to apply for this scholarship. Additional information about the scholarship program can be found on our website.

I also wanted to note that as of this month, VHB Metro DC, LLC and Volkert Inc, have joined WDCSITE as our newest sponsors. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome these two companies and once again thank all the WDCSITE sponsors for their continued support. If you or your firm would like to become a WDCSITE sponsor, please reach out to David Duarte for additional information.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions on how we can make WDCSITE a more resourceful professional organization, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone (703-220-2203).
Project of the Year Award

This award is given to a project that applied innovative methods and techniques to solve a transportation problem/issue for the overall betterment of the community. The project should clearly highlight the benefit to the transportation profession through greater understanding of a transportation issue and thereby providing effective and trend setting solutions using in-depth knowledge in the field of transportation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- The competition is limited to agencies/consultants and projects located within the WDCSITE geographic area: Washington DC, Maryland, Northern Virginia - Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William County
- Project should be able to highlight substantial involvement of at least one WDCSITE member
- Project may be of any type (study, design, or construction) or magnitude
- Substantial portion of the project must have been completed before August 15th of the year of submission for this award's consideration
- The committee will accept submission of projects that are work-in-progress. However, should your project be selected for the award, the same project cannot be submitted again for consideration the next two (2) years

CRITERIA FOR JUDGEMENT: Projects submitted for this award will be judged on the following criteria:

- Use of sound engineering principles with application of innovative solutions and ideas
- Social, environmental, and significance of the project to the relevant community/area
- Project complexity and net benefit of the project
- Technical value to the transportation engineering profession
- Dollar value of the project will not be considered in judging

SUBMISSION ITEMS:

- The submittal shall consist of a project description of no more than two pages that outlines its benefits (including graphics/pictures)
- Include the name of the agency/firm, project location and information necessary to judge the project based on the stated criteria
- Up to two additional pages of drawings/graphics will be accepted as an appendix (if necessary)
- Applicants are also encouraged to submit a technical paper about their project for presentation at the annual meeting

DEADLINE:
September 15, 2019.

Please reach out to Vivek Hariharan for any questions.
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.

Mid-Year Survey Results

WDCSITE is always looking to improve and engage its membership and the transportation community in a variety of different ways. We have had a vibrant 2019 so far and the WDCSITE leadership wants to build on this momentum for the rest of the year. As a result of this level of commitment, our section conducted a mid-year survey to gain feedback from our membership on their current experience thus far. WDCSITE strives to use this feedback to offer the best possible events, meetings, and activities for its membership going forward. The following are some of the highlights from the survey. We have an enthusiastic private sector, who was the largest contributing group to the survey. We also received valuable contributions to the survey from our public sector members.

Rating of WDCSITE Events

WDCSITE has held several events thus far in 2019. Based on the survey results, over 90% of the attendees indicated that the events were average or better, while 62% of survey respondents rated the WDCSITE events as "good" or "excellent".

Agenda at WDCSITE Events

The WDCSITE Area Directors and their assistant directors spend countless hours meeting together, volunteering and coordinating these events. WDCSITE leadership have received several emails and notes from membership showing appreciation for their efforts. The same sentiment has been echoed in the results of the survey - over 90% of the respondents indicated that they enjoyed the content and interactions from such meetings and presentations.

Type of Meeting

As anticipated, membership indicated that the two event types that WDCSITE should focus their energy on are presentations from industry experts and tours of client sites. In addition, membership conveyed how essential networking amongst peers in the transportation circles is to fostering partnerships and exchanging ideas. The survey results also revealed an inclination among members toward events that include attending conferences.
inclination amongst membership for events that include attending a sporting event, happy hour, or other social activities.

**Time of Day Preference for WDCSITE Events**

One of the major items of discussion within the WDCSITE leadership has always been about the timing and location of our meetings. Based on the results of the survey, the most popular time slot of our events is in the evening after working hours. The survey results also show favorable feedback toward lunchtime and afternoon meetings. Morning meetings were stated as the least desirable, which is understandable since most people prefer to be in the office to get their day started. Of late, WDCSITE has focused on meetings and presentations from various agencies and organizations in the DMV area during the lunch hours. Based on this survey, WDCSITE will also plan events during the evening hours to engage others from the membership.

**Location of WDCSITE Events**

Based on the locations of the events and understanding commute times in the Washington Metropolitan Area, WDCSITE leadership will plan future events with the mindset of enabling maximum participation and involvement from the attendees. Meeting location preference of the survey participants was mainly based on their own location of work and/or home. As expected, trends from the survey results indicated that people in Maryland and Northern Virginia generally preferred meetings and events in their area while Washington DC was the second most preferred location.

**Other Comments and Suggestions**

WDCSITE received several other comments and suggestions about ways to improve outreach to the membership. Such inputs are valuable for our section to move in the right direction. Several survey participants indicated that WDCSITE should focus on client facility tours and presentations related to trending transportation topics like ride-sharing and autonomous vehicles/connected vehicles. In addition, participants also indicated that presentations from department heads of various agencies would be beneficial to educate the transportation industry on ongoing hot button items while encouraging partnership with firms and other agencies who may have experienced a similar issue. Fostering a collaborative environment amongst our members is WDCSITE’s primary goal. The leadership will use the results of this survey, in concert with other innovative ideas, to cater to our membership.

We thank each and every survey participant for voicing their opinion. Oscar Gonzalez from VRE is the lucky winner of the $25 Gift Card for participation in this survey.
Gonzalez from VRE is the lucky winner of the $25 Gift Card for participating in this Mid-Year Survey. Congratulations!! WDCSITE will be reaching out to you with regards your gift certificate.

Register Now for the Upcoming WDCSITE Events!

**WDCSITE Technical Meeting at Montgomery County**

- Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2019
- Time: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- Location: Montgomery County DOT
- Address: 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg MD 20878

Tentative Agenda:

Technical Presentation by MCDOT Transportation Management Section Team about:

- Active Traffic Management Systems
- Adaptive Signal Technology

**WDCSITE/VASITE/YPT - Audi Field Event:**

- Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2019
- Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Location: Audi Field
  100 Potomac Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

Tentative Agenda:

- 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM - Registration/Networking
- 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM - Technical Presentations
  - Presentation 1 - Audi Field Transportation
  - Presentation 2 - Update on South Capitol Street Bridge
  - Presentation 3 - TBD
- 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social Hour/Networking (food/drink tickets/sponsored bar)
- 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM - Soccer Game (DC United vs. New York Red Bulls)

Meet a Member: Alvaro Calle

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

My name is Alvaro Calle and I am a...
My name is Alvaro Calle and I am a Transportation Consultant at VHB. I am originally from Lima, Peru, but moved to the U.S. at a very young age. I lived in downtown Boston, then moved around in Massachusetts before eventually moving to northern Virginia. I obtained my Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. I was involved in Virginia Tech's ITE chapter as a student and I am now one of the webmasters at WDCSITE.

2. Please tell us about your family.

My immediate family now lives in northern Virginia, and I have some extended family members who live in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Georgia. I still have many extended family members who still live in Peru. I have one older brother and one younger cousin. My uncle and younger cousin recently moved to the U.S, and it has been nice helping them get acquainted.

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

I love to play soccer, run, hike, and travel to many cities. I recently became a Capital Bikeshare member and am enjoying casual bike rides in DC and in the W&OD trail.

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

I joined VHB in January 2017 immediately after finishing grad school at Virginia Tech. My main roles are any projects involving traffic operations and design. My day-to-day activities include traffic signal design projects and traffic capacity analysis projects. I enjoy the fact that I can do a lot of field work; whether it'd be for data collection or site visits with a client. I am glad to have that balance between the office and the outdoors.

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

Two projects come to mind. One includes a traffic capacity analysis project that I conducted during my senior year at Virginia Tech. We were simply tasked to analyze the traffic operations of a signalized intersection that provides access to the Virginia Tech campus. One approach was really close to a pedestrian mid-block crossing that leads to a new off-campus apartment complex, thus causing long vehicle queues and congestion due to many students using this crossing. My group also analyzed removing the mid-block crossing to instead divert pedestrians to cross at the signalized intersection. During the presentation in class, we had Town of Blacksburg staff attend as panel members. The following semester, we heard and noticed that the Town of Blacksburg was moving forward with removing the pedestrian mid-block crossing from my presentation. It was great to see that further action and studies were taken that stemmed from one of my school projects.

The second project was while working on a traffic signal design plan at VHB. It was my first design project for the installation of a new traffic signal. After several months, it was great to see in-person the changes I had designed and proposed at the site.
6. What is your favorite WDCSITE activity/event you have participated in and what activity/event/presentation would you like to see next?

My favorite events/activities include technical sessions that also involve a sport outing or social event. As a consultant, it is also great to attend technical meetings where municipalities lead and present about the work that they are doing.

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

I first got involved with ITE when I was a student at Virginia Tech. I participated in the traffic bowl competition and attended several section and district meetings. I am at VHB because of all the networking at these ITE events. Moving back to the DC area, I began participating in local WDCSITE events, which have allowed me to learn and grow as a young professional.

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 am interested in seeing more progress in multi-modal systems and facilities. This can range from innovative designs to improve the throughput of many facilities to ongoing research about focusing on the operations of other modes such as pedestrians and transit, instead of passenger vehicles, in many urban areas.

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

I would encourage a young professional engineer to engage themselves in organizations such as ITE to build their network. Also, I believe it is important to maintain that relationship with an organization by being involved in a committee or a leadership role.

DDOT Bike Tour Recap

WDCSITE partnered with DDOT to organize a bike tour of key bike facilities within the District. The tour, guided by William Handsfield, (DDOT Bicycle Program Specialist), Clarence (Trey) Dickerson (DDOT Deputy Associate Director), Aaron Goldbeck (DDOT Sustainable Transportation Specialist) and Anthony Cassillo (DDOT Policy Analyst) involved about a 6-mile ride along the First St, NW Cycle Track, Pennsylvania Ave, NW Cycle Track, 15th Street, NW Cycle Track, and the Metropolitan Branch Trail—all in the rain! During the tour, riders had the chance to learn about new design concepts, constraints, conflicts and innovative strategies to produce a safe, complete network for cyclists and pedestrians. The highlight of discussion included the Florida Ave NE bike lane project, as it will reduce vehicular travel lanes and provide protected bicycle lanes.
Joint WDCSITE/WTS Technical Meeting and Orioles Game Recap

WDCSITE held a joint technical event with the WTS Baltimore Chapter at WSP’s Baltimore office with presentations on highway safety and intelligent transportation. Cameron Abedi of JMT discussed MDOT SHA evaluations of systematic countermeasures for wrong-way driving crashes. He highlighted two case studies, focusing on major initiatives MDOT SHA is undertaking to mitigate the risk of some of the most severe crashes possible on the state road network. Sushmita Mitra of MDTA highlighted the development and implementation of their ITS strategic plan. This included the process for prioritizing elements for implementation, preparing for CAVs, integrating unmanned aircraft applications, planning for electric charging stations, improving work zone safety and mobility, and managing information.

After the presentations, several attendees enjoyed a baseball game at Camden Yards between the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Nationals, getting a good look at major construction on Howard and Pratt Streets along the walk to the ballpark. Juan Ferman of MDOT SHA threw out the ceremonial first pitch, and, through a stroke of luck, we got free hot dogs!
2019 Pedestrian Safety and Bus Service Design Meeting Recap

WDCSITE held the Pedestrian and Bus Service Design Meeting as part of the Professional Enrichment Program training series through the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). ITE obtained grant funding from the Maryland Highway Safety Office to provide trainings on pedestrian and bicycle safety through efforts by the SHSP's Pedestrian-Bicycle Emphasis Area Team (PBEAT) - this was the first official session offered through the grant.

Tom Hewitt discussed major topics on bus service design and how they impact pedestrian safety in the Baltimore region covered by MTA service. This included stop placement and design, accessibility and legibility of information, how to prioritize system improvements, and communicating with stakeholders. The information shared was based around the new MDOT MTA Bus Stop Design Guide, which incorporates concepts from the NACTO Transit Street Design Guide. An interactive game was held at the end of the event to encourage attendees to practice what they learned.
Reliability’s impact on Pedestrian Safety

- Where are high busy streets?
- Where is bus stop waiting time high?
- What is the impact on reliability of fixed route services?
- How much is reliability affected?
WDCSITE Scholarship Program

WDCSITE is introducing an annual student scholarship intended for future transportation professionals. This scholarship aims to recognize students for their hard work, while encouraging them to fulfill their remaining course work in Transportation Engineering/Planning and pursue a career in the field of transportation. This scholarship is designed to provide financial support to students who have demonstrated extraordinary interest in the transportation field.

Two undergraduate or graduate students will be provided scholarships in the amount of **$500 each.**

Please reach out to Neelima Ghanta for additional information. Please find the supporting background information, application, and referral form at the links located below:

- Background Information
- Application Form
- Application Referral Form

Pennsylvania AV Summit

WDCSITE members are invited to attend the Pennsylvania AV Summit, which will take place from September 4-6 at the Kalahari Resort in Pocono Springs, PA. The Summit will provide a great opportunity for practicing professionals to learn about developments in the Connected/Automated Vehicle space, as well as network with fellow professionals and make new connections in the emerging field.

See the links below for information regarding registration, conference location, and other details. If you have any questions, please contact Bradley DiCola.

- Pennsylvania AV Summit - Home Page
- Registration Page

Current Job Openings

The following job opportunities are posted on the WDCSITE Job Portal.

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<th>Company</th>
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<tr>
<td>VOLKERT</td>
<td>Mid-to-Senior Level Transportation Engineer</td>
<td>Hari Thaker</td>
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2019 WDCSITE Sponsors
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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, Krishna Patnam & Philip Koloski
Newsletter Committee