Greetings!

President's Message

Hello WDCSITE,

Hope you are doing well.

As we draw closer to the end of the year, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on upcoming WDCSITE activities. As you must have already seen, the 2019 WDCSITE Annual Conference and Business meeting is being held at the National Union Building on November 14th, 2019. David Duarte has done phenomenal work on setting up the agenda as the event chair. Should you have any questions or need any further details about this grand event, please reach out to him directly at DDuarte@jmt.com.

WDCSITE is also in the process of electing its Year 2020 board. For all those who are ITE members, you should have received an email from Burak Cesme with the ballot information. Please make your voice heard and help WDCSITE become a true representative of its membership.

Over the last couple of months, in coordination with various selection panels and committees, WDCSITE announced the 2019 section award winners. These awards enable WDCSITE to recognize outstanding contributions from professionals around the DMV area and showcase their work.

WDCSITE would like to thank Vanessa Aguayo (Fairfax County), Bala Akundi (Baltimore Metropolitan Council), Larry Marcus (Wallace Montgomery), John Rectanus (Wallace Montgomery), and Adam Greenstein (WSP) for serving on the project of the year award selection panel. In addition, WDCSITE would also like to thank Abi Lerner (VDOT), Emil Wolanin (Montgomery County), Owen Curtis (Curtis Transportation Consulting), Alek Pochowski (Kittelson), Krishna Patnam (AECOM), John Rectanus (Wallace Montgomery), and Seth Young (STV) for serving on the 2019 award panels. Lastly, Neelima Ghanta was instrumental in getting the WDCSITE Scholarship Program off the ground this year. This scholarship is aimed towards DMV area students to encourage their participation and involvement in WDCSITE and the transportation profession. The following are the 2019 award winners:
Morris J. Rothenberg Past President’s Award: Seth Young, STV
Amy Polk Young Engineer of the Year Award: David Duarte, JMT
Appreciation Award: Emil Wolanin, Montgomery County
Transportation Service Award: Bob Garbacz, City of Alexandria
Community Transportation Award: Kanti Srikanth (MWCOG) and Steve Kuciemb (WSP)
Project of the Year Award: **DDOT’s Guidance for Comprehensive Transportation Review. Submitted by Aaron Zimmerman (DDOT)**
Student Scholarship Program: Yeming Hao (University of Maryland) and Aref Darzi (University of Maryland)

Congratulations to all the award and scholarship winners. They will be formally recognized during the lunch hour of the 2019 Annual Meeting on November 14th. I sincerely encourage you to consider attending this event while also cheering on the award winners. Please view the agenda below and register for the annual meeting.

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).

Regards,
Vivek Hariharan
2019 WDCSITE President

Register Now for Upcoming WDCSITE Events!

**2019 WDCSITE Annual Conference and Business Meeting**

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019
Time: 8:30 AM to 3:40 PM
Location: National Union Building – 6 Floor, 918 F St NW, Washington, DC, DC 20004

Tentative Agenda:

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Registration with Breakfast and Networking
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM - Opening Remarks
  - Keynote: Jeff Paniati, CEO (ITE) and Monique Evans, Division Director (FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division)
- 9:30 AM - 9:45 AM - Networking Break
- 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM - Presentations & Panel Discussion on CAV
  - Moderator: Rakesh Mora (RK&K)
  - Speakers:
    - Katherine Kortum (TRB) - *TRB and CAVs*
    - Kwasi Donkor (Fehr & Peers DC) - *A Window Into the Future: Modeling and Responding to the Disruptive Effects of Autonomous Vehicles*
- 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM - Networking Break
- 11:30 AM - 12:10 PM - Award Presentation
- 12:10 PM - 12:45 PM - Lunch
- 12:45 PM - 1:15 PM - WDCSITE Business
  - President’s Message, Treasurer’s Report, Election Results, Officer
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

Call for Volunteers: Maryland STEM Festival

The WDCSITE Board is spearheading an effort to lead and participate in STEM events in our region with school students to increase youth awareness around transportation. You as WDCSITE members have a unique opportunity to participate in these activities through the Maryland STEM Festival, which is a month-long celebration of STEM all around the state that started on October 11th and will continue until November 10th.

One of ITE’s primary goals as an organization is to promote transportation to school students through STEM activities, while encouraging them to consider future studies and career paths in transportation and related fields. We would love to have you join us at these events to help engage students in transportation-related activities. Below are the planned events.

November 2 - 1st Annual Cambridge STEM Day - Cambridge

- Location: Cannery Way - 400 block of Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613
- Time: 9am-12pm
- Age group(s): all

Week of November 4 (date TBD) - Middle School Transportation Event - Takoma Park

- Location: Takoma Park Middle School - 7611 Piney Branch Road, Silver弹簧
- Time: 9am-12pm
- Age group(s): all

Register Now
November 9 - Morgan State University STEM Expo - Baltimore

- Location: Murphy Fine Arts Center - 2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
- Time: 10am-2pm
- Age group(s): all

Please contact Adam Greenstein (410-246-3843) if you would like to volunteer at any of the events.

2020 ITE Mid-Colonial District Annual Meeting - Call for Abstracts

The 2020 ITE Mid-Colonial District Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel from Sunday, April 19 to Tuesday, April 21 in Baltimore, MD.

To submit an abstract, click here and follow the instructions. The deadline for submission is Friday, November 15, 2019. For any questions or problems, please contact Burak Cesme.

Project Change Management Panel Discussion at DDOT

WDCSITE held a panel discussion on project change management at DDOT headquarters.

The four panel members were Christine Sherman Baker (Arlington DOT), Soumya Dey (DDOT), Greer Gillis (GDS), and Abi Lerner (VDOT). All four are thought leaders, mentors, long-term ITE contributors, award winners, engineers, and planners who have served various communities in the Washington DC metro area. Additionally, the panel represents the diversity of the communities we serve as transportation professionals, in terms of gender and race.

The panel first touched on their transition from a technical to a managerial role.
They all agreed that it was a gradual process of learning. By seeking help from mentors, soliciting input and feedback from their team, developing trust in small increments, and most importantly, asking their team insightful questions, they became effective managers. Additionally, the learning process never ends.

Then, they delved into how management differs between public and private sectors. Both sectors want to get things done. The panel acknowledged the challenges that professionals face when working the public and private sector and how both sectors approach project changes.

Lastly, the panel and the audience agreed that as an industry, we need to do more to prepare budding professionals about project management. The consensus was that once a young professional enters the industry, they should seek opportunities to manage small tasks, develop scope/fee/schedule, and evaluate post project performance to understand how projects change.
Maryland STEM Festival - MAKER Day and Takoma Park Event

The Washington DC Section of ITE engaged students in Maryland over the last 2 weekends as part of the Maryland STEM Festival.

On October 12th, we worked with staff and volunteers from The NEXT Education as part of the STEM Festival MAKER Day in Columbia, MD, to give students the opportunity to test out model autonomous vehicles, take them apart, rebuild them, and even program them using computer coding!

On October 19th, WDCSITE volunteers led interactive activities for middle school students in Takoma Park, MD, focusing on multimodal transportation planning and roadway safety. Students learned to plan transportation facilities for all modes within given budgets and learned how perception and reaction times, combined with speed, impact a driver's ability to avoid crashes.

Still to come - ITE volunteers, both from WDCSITE and from our Morgan State University student chapter, will be working with students at the MSU STEM Expo on November 9th!
MCDOT RFI for MD 355 BRT Implementation

Montgomery County Department of Transportation is seeking information and feedback from engineering consultants, contractors, financiers, concessionaires, and other relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit on MD 355 with a focus on innovative project delivery, including private financial participation, novel design, construction, and operating strategies. Responses to the RFI are due by December 6th.

For more information, please visit the following website:

[RFI: Implementation of BRT on MD 355](#)

Meet-a-Member: Eric Tang

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

Originally from Toronto, Canada, I completed my undergraduate and graduate studies in civil engineering at the University of Toronto and at the University of California at Berkeley respectively. I started my career in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to the DC area in 2012. I currently assist with WDCSITE's
2. Please tell us about your family.

My girlfriend and I have been busy following college football. Luckily, we're not from rival schools.

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

If you don't see me at the office or at a meeting, you'll likely find me coordinating alumni events for my schools or at a sporting event. I support Washington squads so long as they don't conflict with my hometown Toronto teams. What a run by the Nationals to the World Series!

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

I am a Senior Highway Safety Engineer with VHB Metro DC, LLC and my experience has mainly revolved around the development, implementation, and evaluation of transportation safety plans and studies for federal, State, regional, and local agencies across the United States. Outside of safety planning, I work in other topics such as data quality, data integration, transit access, livability, and wayfinding.

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

Developing guidance documents for clients such as the Federal Highway Administration has been one of the more rewarding activities during my career. Showcasing best practices and introducing step-by-step procedures for practitioners on how they can improve their projects, policies, and initiatives have provided meaningful results.

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

The annual conference is the premier event of the Section with interesting discussion topics and plentiful chances to interact with your fellow peers. I highly encourage all of you to attend the upcoming event on November 14!

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

As much we try to filter through mass mails daily, it was through emails like the one you’re reading now that I learned of the interesting events and opportunities that WDCSITE offers. Getting involved with WDCSITE has helped to expand my network in the Washington area.

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?

We've seen in recent years the introduction of ridesharing, dockless bikes, scooters, and shared mopeds. The rapid introduction of new mobility options has...
and shared mopeds. The rapid introduction of new mobility options has challenged policy makers, engineers, planners, and the public alike to integrate these in a transportation system that was developed over decades. It will be interesting to continue to see the progress of how policies and regulations are adopted by various jurisdictions. What new mobility option will come next?

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

Participate in committees and subcommittees within the greater transportation community. Whether it be ITE, the Transportation Research Board, your local community transportation organization, an advocacy group, all will provide multidisciplinary perspectives that will enhance your knowledge of topics and also to understand the variety of stakeholder viewpoints.

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**9th International Visualization in Transportation Symposium: A Better View**

Please join the National Academy of Sciences for the 9th Annual Visualization in Transportation Symposium. The theme of this year’s symposium is *A Better View*. This symposium will explore the opportunities and challenges of visualization in the diverse transportation industry while presenting examples of how visualization is giving us a better view of problems, solutions, and communication strategies with our colleagues and the public. The keynote speaker on Day #1 of the event is the Senior Civil Designer for the Walt Disney Imagineering, Design, and Planning Studio; the presentation is titled “The Mouse and the Think Tank”. Please see the link below for registration details.

**Register Now!**

**Job Postings**

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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, Eric Tang, & Philip Koloski
Newsletter Committee