Greetings!

President's Message

Hi WDCSITE,

I hope this latest edition of the WDCSITE Newsletter finds you healthy and safe! Over the past month the impact of the virus has affected many aspects of our daily lives in an unprecedented manner. It has put incredible stress on the healthcare system and I pray that all the acts of selfless heroism continue to save lives and inspire hope. We must all do our part to support the community and the industry. Thank you to all in the public sector, private sector, academia, and other transportation professionals for doing your best to work from home to deliver projects, education, products, and services to the community.

Although our industry is seeing an unprecedented lull in operations, it gives us an opportunity to look into the future and prepare more sustainable, resilient, equitable, and efficient transportation systems. Physical contact and funding are two vulnerable aspects of transportation. All agencies will see a reduction in funding, but I wonder how our Section's jurisdictions are coping with the direct impact on toll revenues. Living in Maryland, I've seen the gradual transition from cashiered tollbooths to E-ZPass and video toll impacted overnight because of social distancing. Now that tollbooths are empty, how will this impact tollbooths' future? It was very timely that MTA instituted contactless transit tickets through the CharmPass a couple of years ago. I anticipate that it will be only a matter of time before most of the nation's transit agencies go contactless as well. How else do you think transportation will change due to the effects of COVID-19?

In honor of the Mid-Colonial District ITE Annual Meeting that would have occurred last week, the Section wanted to honor the spirit of the Traffic Bowl by posing a trivia challenge. See below.

Regarding our regularly scheduled events, we realize that you all are interested in hearing about WDCSITE's next event. We are working through the disruption to bring you engaging topics and I can assure you that there will notice in the near future of our first virtual event. Our priority is to keep the Section connected.
Please stay safe and look forward to when we can start the journey to normalcy. Thank you again for all your work and for bearing with us as we adjust to different working conditions.

Cheers,
David Duarte
2020 WDCSITE President

Traffic Bowl Trivia Challenge - Question

QUESTION:
What is described as the theoretical speed of traffic when density is zero?

Scroll to the end of the newsletter for the answer!

COVID-19 Experiences: WSP Baltimore Traffic Team

By Adam Greenstein

With executive stay-at-home orders in Maryland and beyond, the WSP Baltimore Traffic team is utilizing numerous alternative communication methods to connect with clients. Much of our work is in traffic engineering design, so we are finding various innovative ways to keep projects moving so that they are ready for construction as soon as it is feasible and safe to do so. This includes conducting virtual Preliminary Investigation (PI) meetings using online imagery tools like Google Earth © and referencing previous information from sites where WSP has previously conducted work. We are transforming meetings and calls to include videoconferencing to maintain as much of the helpful face-to-face communication as possible, which provides communication of higher value and levels of understanding between stakeholders compared to phone calls.

Members of our team have also developed innovative, creative, and engaging ways to keep employees within our team, office, and region connected and lighthearted while working remotely. On what was supposed to be 2020 Opening Day for the Baltimore Orioles, our team held a brief video call to provide a mental and emotional break from work to and collectively view part of an old Orioles game through screen sharing.

All WSP traffic staff in our region participated in a creative bracket challenge, much like the one used for NCAA® March Madness. However, instead of employees voting on college basketball teams, they voted on songs that reflect the current situation of being socially distanced from family, friends, and coworkers.
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 Elisa Mitchell 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 David Duarte.

Presentations from all transportation and related disciplines are welcome.

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**2020 WDCSITE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

David Duarte  
President

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**Call for Webinar Proposals**

ITE International is asking its membership for their contributions on future webinars. The opportunity to present a webinar offers members a chance to share their expertise and experience while also earning PDH credits.

Webinar topics should fall under one of the two following categories:

1. The latest transportation practices and emerging transportation issue.
2. Skill development for transportation professionals.

Please visit the following link to learn about more about how to submit a webinar proposal.

Submit a Webinar Proposal

If your webinar idea fits better with a local audience, feel free to contact our WDCSITE Board to discuss presentation opportunities.

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**Call for Membership Feedback on COVID-19**

WDCSITE understands that this has been a challenging time for many people, including for our industry as whole. We want to hear your insights and stories on how the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed transportation in our region. We will highlight a selection of your stories in the next few editions of our newsletter.

Please make your submissions (or any questions) to Phil Koloski.

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**Meet-a-Member: Serese Aranha-Scott**

1. Please introduce yourself and tell us about your
My name is Serese Aranha-Scott. I am the Director of Highway and Traffic Engineering at Brudis & Associates, Inc. I've been working in the industry for over 25 years. My background varies in design and project management of several highway and traffic projects, including geometric improvements, roadway reconstruction, safety and resurfacing, signing and marking design, traffic studies, and maintenance of traffic design. I am on the Baltimore Programming Committee of WDCSITE.

2. Please tell us about your family.
I've been married to my husband, Anthony, for 22 years. He's a high school assistant principal. We have three great children/young adults - 2 sons and a daughter. One college junior, majoring in mechanical engineering. A college freshman studying digital cinema in L.A., and a high-school freshman. Time flies - so enjoy them. We're fortunate to have our in-laws and most of our siblings living locally.

3. Please tell us something about your hobbies and activities outside work.
Outside of work, I try to stay healthy by walking and doing reformer pilates. I also enjoy puzzles and problem-solving games, home improvements (painting, decorating, gardening), and decluttering. Finally, it's always great to catch up with family and old friends over dinner or even group texts.

4. Tell us briefly about your work - firm/organization, your role. What does your typical workday look like?
I work for Brudis & Associates, Inc. (BAI), and have been with BAI for over 3 years. Having previously worked at a very large firm, I appreciate the diversity in the client-base and contracts at BAI. I am the Director of Highway and Traffic Engineering at BAI. My role is to oversee the project staff and contracts of BAI's Highway and Traffic Divisions. My typical duties include project management, staff supervision and coordination, technical project reviews, budget reviews, technical proposal development, and marketing pursuits.

5. What projects have you worked on that have had a big impact on your career or on a community?
After working on a lot of plan mark-ups and cross-sections, my first traffic engineering assignment was an Areawide Traffic Signal Systemization project for MDOT-OOTS-TEDD. The purpose of the project was to systemize several signalized intersections to promote platooning and reduce emissions. I designed several new and reconstructed traffic signals, adding interconnect cable and master cabinets. I became very familiar with the MUTCD and State guidelines through regular use and also learned about safely performing field work, signal equipment, wiring, quantities, estimates, etc.

Another project that had a big impact on my career was the MOT design for MD 355 at Cedar Lane - Advanced Utility Breakout Contract. This was one of the BRAC projects near NIH. MDOT-SHA decided to perform the extensive utility relocation ahead of the actual roadway work. I became involved during Final Review and was tasked with managing the MOT design for the utility relocation. The work was on a six-month schedule, involved regular partnering and numerous consultants. The challenge was to create adequate workspace to install multiple utilities within a

Adam Greenstein
Secretary / Treasurer

Jon Crisafi
Washington DC Area Director

Elisa Mitchell
Baltimore Area Director

John Rectanus
Financial Assistant

Vivek Hariharan
District
challenge was to create adequate workspace to install multiple utilities within a high-traffic area with limited space and limited work hours. We developed temporary traffic control for 6 “Work Areas” (plus sub-phases). The “Work Areas” created more flexibility for the contractors to install individual utilities based upon the location of the work rather than what utility was being installed. The MOT design also had to accommodate pedestrians with a temporary path and maintain truck access at NIH.

I was really proud of the work I did on these projects. I was responsible for my work and gained a lot of confidence while learning the full scope of the work. To this day, I still remember many of the details of those projects.

6. What is your favorite WDCSITE, activity/event you have participated in and what activity/event/presentation would you like to see next?
I attended a combined WDCSITE/WTS event. One of the presentations was about using signing with embedded LED lighting to address wrong-way collisions. The presentation was really informative.

With recent initiatives from MDOT, like Context Driven and the Pedestrian Best Practices Guidelines, I’d like to see a future WDCSITE presentation that look at the cost-effective ways to incorporate these practices for projects that are already in design.

7. When and how did you get involved with ITE and how has your involvement in ITE, especially WDCSITE, helped your career?
I joined ITE once I started working. I have not been very active over the years. As my children have gotten older, I’ve been able to get more involved and attend more events. So far, this participation has resulted in more personal networking and led to my involvement on the Programming Committee. I am looking forward to doing more.

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 would really like to see progress on some sort of automated enforcement or smart-car technology as it relates to preventing (disabling) distracted driving with cell phones/texting. All of the industry’s safety efforts to improve visibility, messaging, etc. for multimodal users will be pointless if drivers are not looking at the road. I know there are privacy issues, but safety is first.

9. What advice would you give to a young transportation engineer?
My advice to young transportation engineers would be to begin your involvement in professional organizations as early as possible. The exposure and networking are invaluable as your career progresses. If you do not want to be on officer, at least consider participating on a committee, volunteering, or attending events for information and for fun. Also, do not hesitate to ask questions when you start your career. Your questions will lead you to truly understand your work and the project’s purpose and improve critical thinking and project efficiency later. Finally, respect your colleagues and be ethical... it is a small world and you will likely cross paths in the future.

New ITE Members
WDCSITE would like to offer a warm welcome to the following new ITE members.
WDCSITE would like to offer a warm welcome to the following new ITE members in our section!

New Members
Edna Gomez-Rosario
Barbara McCann
Kate Norris

WDCSITE is happy to have you aboard and looks forward to your future participation.

- Traffic Bowl Trivia Challenge - Answer

  ANSWER:
  Free-flow speed

  Tune in next week for another round of the Traffic Bowl Trivia Challenge!

- 2020 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, Eric Tang, & Philip Koloski
Newsletter Committee