Greetings!

**President's Message**

Hi WDCSITE,

I hope this latest edition of the WDCSITE Newsletter finds you healthy and safe. I stay focused and optimistic on the progress of society at all levels despite the ups and downs we've seen play out in our communities. Our role at WDCSITE is to engage our membership and continue to learn. We did so as we listened to Arlington County present a retrospective review of how they adapted to the changes that arose from COVID-19 impacts. Thank you to them and all presenters at the most recent virtual meeting. We're working on even more great content for you in the coming months.

As transportation professionals we are uniquely positioned to help address inequities throughout society. Not only do we interact with current and potential co-workers but we hold public meetings, release projects for public comment, and provide products and services for the public good. Therefore, it is our responsibility and duty to uphold our professional ethics every day. We stand by social justice and equity for all with a special emphasis towards the disadvantaged members of our society. Please treat all with respect and an open mind. Thank you. To read ITE's statement regarding social justice please click [here](#).

In our most recent Public Agency Participation Committee quarterly call, we heard enlightening feedback from various agencies regarding how they are coping during this time away from the office, with the potential of budget reductions, and with the opportunity to accelerate construction activities. We’re looking into how we can expand this conversation to the rest of the WDCSITE community. Stay tuned for more information.

If you are interested in working with the Board and Leadership groups to curate engaging topics for presentations or other resources, please reach out to any one of us. Our priority is to keep the Section connected throughout the year and I hope you can be a part of that effort.

WDCSITE would like to wish you a happy July 4th for you and yours! As always, please stay safe. Thank you for your extra effort during this time.

Cheers,
David Duarte
2020 WDCSITE President
ITE International Announces Virtual Annual Meeting

ITE International announces that the 2020 Annual Meeting and Exhibit, originally scheduled to take place in New Orleans, will be moving to a virtual platform. The event will include more than 30 technical sessions, thought leader perspectives on key topics such as equity in transportation and the utilization of big data/data analytics, more than 65 exhibitors showcasing products and services, and will feature more than 40 poster presenters. In addition, the program for the National Rural ITS Annual Conference will be integrated into the annual meeting, with a track focusing specifically on topics relating to rural intelligent transportation systems.

The schedule for the 2020 Annual Meeting and Exhibition is as follows:

**Tuesday, August 4th to Thursday, August 6th**
Starting at 11:00 AM ET
Plenary and Technical Sessions, Poster Presentations

**Tuesday, August 11th to Thursday, August 13th**
Starting at 11:00 AM ET
Plenary and Technical Sessions, Poster Presentations, and Workshops

**Tuesday, August 18th to Thursday, August 20th**
Starting at 11:00 AM ET
ITE Council and Committee Meetings

Registration for the meeting is now open! ITE members that register by July 1st are eligible for special rate of $199 for access to all programming. Please see the link below for additional information, including the meeting agenda, details about the technical program and registration, and the list of exhibitors.

ITE Virtual Annual Meeting and Exhibition

2020 Mid-Colonial District Annual Business Meeting on July 9th

The 2020 ITE Mid-Colonial District is holding its Annual Business Meeting virtually on

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 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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**July 9th** from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM EDT. There is no cost for ITE members to attend this event! The agenda is as follows:

- 2020 Annual Business Meeting with District Awards
- Technical Presentations:
  - Incorporating Data Driven Safety Analysis (DDSA) in Transportation Impact Studies by Dave Petrucci, FHWA
  - ITS Device Communications Alternatives by Alvin Marquess, Jacobs

One PDH will be offered for attending the Annual Business Meeting. Please see the link below to register for the event.

**Register for the 2020 MCDITE Annual Business Meeting!**

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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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**Arlington County Meeting Recap**

The Arlington County Virtual Meeting provided professionals with insights about the County's ongoing effort related to COVID-19 response and the latest transportation highlights in the areas of ITS, technology, and multimodal improvements. The meeting occurred at a time when Arlington County had just entered into their initial phase of reopening.

Dr. Hui Wang, the Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau Chief for the County, spoke about the latest transportation trends (travel, safety, etc.) during the pandemic and the County’s actions and solutions to COVID-19. Joshua Nicholas, the ITS and Streetlighting Manager for the County, shared the latest ITS and technology highlights in Arlington. Jon Lawler, Project Manager at the County, and Jon Crisafi, Senior Engineer at Kittelson & Associates, presented the Army Navy Drive Multimodal Transportation Improvement project.

Below are screen caps from the meeting's presentations.
Takoma Park STEM Event Recap

On Friday, May 29th, volunteers from WDCSITE held a virtual STEM event with middle school students from Takoma Park, MD. We had over 25 students attend, and many of them asked great questions and were excited about our interactive event format. We talked about complete streets, including issues relevant to their town, and connected and automated vehicles.

Our volunteers included Lawrence Marcus, Eric Tang, Sogand Karbalaieali, and Richard Easley. We also got great planning help from John Rectanus, Carole Delion, and others from the Maryland State Highway Administration.
We look forward to holding more virtual STEM events and hope that we can host in-person events soon! Select slides from the presentations can be seen below.
Meet-a-Member: Richard LaShier

1. Please introduce yourself and tell us about your role in WDCSITE.
   My name is Richard LaShier. This year I became a university liaison to my alma mater, University of Maryland, College Park.

2. Please tell us about your family.
   I grew up in the Baltimore area, where most of my family still lives. I am the oldest of 4 brothers. Two of them live in Baltimore, and two of us have since moved to DC and Northern Virginia after college.

3. Please tell us something about your hobbies and activities outside work.
   While lately I have become much better at television binging, another of my regular activities is running. In a normal year, I train and run in about 10-20 different races ranging from 10k to full marathon distance. I am also a big Orioles fan and many summer weekends would find me back at Camden Yards.

4. Tell us briefly about your work - firm/organization, your role. What does your typical workday look like?
   I am a Traffic Engineer for JMT in our Herndon, VA office. My main focus is in design, and a typical day may see me designing or reviewing signing, striping, ITS, or traffic
signal plans. My work is mostly for the Northern Virginia localities and VDOT, where last year I worked as full time staff augmentation in Fredericksburg District and I continue to support them remotely now. I have also enjoyed working on design projects in other states like North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

5. What projects have you worked on that have had a big impact on your career or on a community?
One of my first projects as a new engineer was the Jones Branch Connector in Tysons, VA. Though it was a relatively short roadway and bridge over the Capital Beltway, it had a little bit of everything - signing, signals, bike lanes, ITS, tolling, and transit considerations. Those 2-3 years of working on that project formed the foundation of my design experience going forward. The project itself is now finishing construction and will improve access and congestion in that densely populated area.

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 event so far was last summer’s meeting at Audi Field, where after the technical presentations we got to take in a DC United soccer game as a group afterwards. I am looking forward to future similar events like this that promote engaging discussions of ideas and ongoing work in transportation while also providing a fun social opportunity highlighting local attractions or organizations.

7. When and how did you get involved with ITE and how has your involvement in ITE, especially WDCSITE, helped your career?
I was encouraged from the very beginning of my career 8 years ago to become a member and get involved with ITE, and my initial involvement was with the Virginia Section (VASITE). Over the past 5 years, I also increased my participation with WDCSITE, as I was impressed by how active the chapter was with local events and meetings. This has introduced me to so many people in our industry, allowed me to improve on my networking, and even in a couple cases given me the opportunity to meet future coworkers!

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?
Like many, I am curious what long-term impacts, if any, this year’s shutdown and teleworking shift will have on transportation patterns, from traffic volumes to transit ridership. I am also interested in seeing what new and innovative designs can be implemented, particularly in urban and suburban areas, to improve safety for pedestrian, bicycle, and other alternative transportation types (rideshare, scooters, etc) that are becoming more and more prominent.

9. What advice would you give to a young transportation engineer?
Be open minded and always willing to take on new tasks, even if you think you do not have enough experience yet, because you will learn. Some of the best experiences in my career so far have come from taking on assignments I initially had doubts about. Also, don’t hesitate or be shy about getting involved with groups like ITE - there is never a better time!

New ITE Members

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

New Members
William Stroud
Laura MacNeil

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